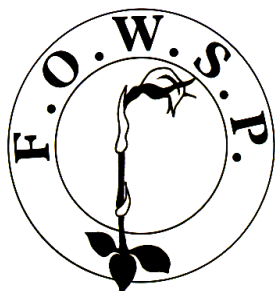


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
 ABN 94170156655/ACN A0024890C

Editor's corner

FOR THOSE OF YOU who missed out 2010 AGM, the photos by Carol Page on this page will give you an idea of the lovely evening you missed. (More AGM photos p11). As always the meeting was short and sweet and socializing was a priority. This year we had the pleasure of lively background music. Phoebe and Erin, pictured with violins below, played well chosen tunes including Australian bush. After a sumptuous meal we had the pleasure of hearing from Murray Bouchier, local naturalist and birdo, about changes in the local bird fauna in the 100 Acres Reserve. That's Murray in dark blue (being toasted by Gray?) in the photo upper right.

We think of our neighbours in Victoria, NSW and Queensland who have suffered from the floods. Locally the rains have brought nothing worse than increased weed growth. Many native plants have benefitted as well. It has been a very busy time for most FOWSPians.

On page 2 Annette shares some of her photos and excitement on seeing cicadas emerge.



Also held in December was the nursery volunteers and staff BBQ including WSP rangers. Check out I spy on page 9 for Ben's take on this gala affair.

A nursery mystery is solved on pages 3 and 4.

Also on page 4 I have tried to cover a little of what was seen and heard by those who joined Cam Beardsall on a walk in Glynn's Reserve.

Joan Broadberry looks back to 20 years ago in our newsletter on page 7 and reviews the new Live Local Plant Local from Nillimbik on page 8.

Jason, our IT expert, lets us know about additional information about our library and other search capabilities on our website.

Please continue to send in your observations and photos and enjoy this issue. *L.R.*

Deadline for March edition newsletter is Friday 18 February, 2011
 contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
 or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Annette's Excellent Adventure

By Annette Lion



THE DATE WAS 27TH DECEMBER and the weather was warm, about 28-30°C. It was lunch time. We were in Toolangi picking organic blueberries and we decided to go the 'Singing Gardens' also in-



Toolangi. They have a gorgeous open lawn area surrounded by some pretty spectacular heritage trees, both native and exotic. After our lunch was finished we



went for a walk to the water wheel in the river and that's when we spotted a marvelous spectacle of nature. The older kids were amazed and looked very closely at the hatchlings and were very interested at the speed they were stretching out their wings, which was slow but fast enough

to keep their interest. Also they loved the difference in colour of the cicadas. Not sure if that is gender related or not.

It was quite special and I remember Joan B writing that she was almost as excited to see some butterflies being born as she was birthing her own

child....I felt something like this too so was quite annoyed at the others wanting to move on when I had only taken 50 or so photos and had been watching for just 15 mins. I feel blessed and humbled to have witnessed nature at its best. It's truly amazing.



FOWSP seed collectors



A perennial task for the nursery is seed collecting. On this day the seed being sought were from Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*.



Photos by Carol Page

Mystery of the missing daisies

By Linda Rogan

IT WAS DECEMBER 23rd nearly Christmas, yet someone was stealing daisies from the nursery. About half the blooms of the Curling or Button Everlasting *Helichrysum scorpioides* had been snipped off at the neck.

A search revealed the likely suspect cowering in a silken shelter where it had pulled the leaves from several adjacent plants in a attempt at camouflage. (photo L)



I decided to take the tube stock involved home, place the culprit, shelter plants and all in a cage from a mesh laundry hamper, and observe until the identity of the offender was clear.

It was evident that this was a caterpillar but whether it was a moth or butterfly was unclear. At first it fed on the leaves rather secretly retreating to the safety of its shelter if I approached. And it grew. Early on the morning of the 27th of December, I noticed the caterpillar climbing boldly up the stem of the tallest daisy and stopping just as the base of the bloom (photo R)



Now I had a good look at the caterpillar and noticed the rows of branched spines all over its body. A check of the caterpillar shapes on page 20 of Pat and Mike Coupar's *Flying Colours* made me catch my breath. It looked most like a butterfly in the Nymphalidae family. Perhaps not a plain grey moth as I had assumed.



Five hours later the daisy, now hollowed out, had dropped to the floor of the cage and the

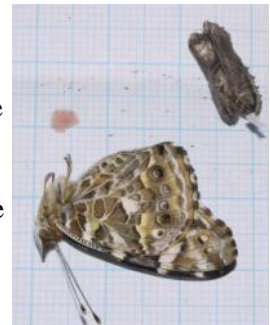
caterpillar was making his escape. (photo below L)

He proceeded up the mesh side of the cage and came to rest about 2/3 of the way up. I was rather busy over the next couple of days and didn't notice when he had shed his skin, but when I next checked on 29th December it was caught up in a few strands of silk it had thrown loosely about and the caterpillar was now a chrysalis. (photo R)



It showed some of the markings of the creature that was to come and now certainly made me think of a butterfly, but which one?

I transferred the pupa to a small jar and nothing much had changed by the time we were ready to go for a few days camping at Falls Creek. We returned a bit tired in the late afternoon on 10th January and I noticed something fluttering when I picked up the jar. Not wanting it to injure itself, I poked the jar into the refrigerator until I had time to deal with it and take photos the next day.



When I carefully tipped out the contents of the jar, the butterfly lay on its side as if dead and I noticed a red fluid on the floor of the jar. I feared it was injured or dead. Only the underside of the wings were visible but they looked somehow familiar. I later read that playing dead is a defence strategy for this butterfly and that it passes meconium, (first waste) on emerging and despite the appearance, this is not blood. Before I took many photos, the butterfly proved its health by spreading its wings and flying. So which butterfly was this? For those of you who don't immediately recognize the underwings, turn the page.

Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Glynns Reserve

A walk with Cam Beardsall by Linda Rogan

ON DECEMBER 16, the same day as the combined FOWSP and rangers break up BBQ, a group of keen FOWSPians and a visiting ranger accompanied Cam Beardsall on a walk through one of his favourite places.

The combination of Cam's enthusiasm and his vast knowledge of the plants, animals and history of this area left heads spinning, especially those who were trying to take some notes.



Early on he pointed out two timbers that are all that remain of a bridge that once joined Pound Bend to Glynn's orchard. (photo above)



Photo by Joan Broadberry

Some of the wetlands were fenced to protect them from the effects of grazing. (photo above) Others were left unfenced to allow access for all wildlife. This string of wetlands was created artificially some years ago and many of the plants had found their own way in. Others had been planted by Cam and vol-



unteers. Each provides a different habitat. One has been home to the Growling Grass Frog in the past.

I particularly noted the *Kunzea* still in bloom that is different from the run of the mill *Burgan*

Kunzea ericoides in that it doesn't sucker and retains its fruit. (photo above) Although it hasn't yet been officially named, it is thought to be a separate species and not too problematic in a way that *Burgan* may be. It was also a great attractant for various insects, including native bees and beetles.

I took particular note of a colony of Imperial Blue Butterflies that was established on a young *Blackwood Acacia melanoxylon*. The first I had seen on this species.

Near the end of the walk we stopped to gaze across the Yarra at Naughton's Cliffs. Not only is their formation interesting, but they may be home to a species of fishing bat and also a special little butterfly; a rare Ant-blue Butterfly whose larvae are taken into the byre of the Coconut Ant. Here they feed on the ant larvae. I plan to find more about this species, although two visits to the cliffs have not revealed signs of the Coconut Ant nor the butterfly.

If you look carefully in the right hand side of the photo below, you will see Gray's childhood cave where he played as a naked and free boy.



The thief of the FOWSP daisies: Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi*. Story on page 3



FOWSP COMMITTEE 2011		OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Jason Patton jason@parau.com	0402 121838	Webmaster & Membership	<u>Nursery Manager</u> Josh Revell 0408 317327
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u> 9844 2659
Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au	9435 5806	Newsletter Co-ordinator	<u>Librarian</u> Judy Green 9844 2096
Kelly Wooster	9844 2819	Facebook & email contact	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u> Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Koala Rescue</u> Julie Pryor 9722 1117
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Market Trailer & Newsletter</u> Joan Broadberry 98461218
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		
Jan Falconer	9844 1226		Website: www.fowsp.org.au
Sybillie Ims	9844 1335/ 0405 500 278		

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on the first and third Thursday of the month from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Either meet at the depot (sharp at 9.30 am), or on site. LEARN some vegetation management skills and help improve some special sites in the Park. Just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG).

The 2011 schedule will be announced soon.
Activities are cancelled on Total Fire ban Days

Fowsp/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. Meet 9.30 am **at the venue**. Walks held on the 4th Thursday of each month. These walks are paced to allow us to appreciate the natural history along the way. Call or email Natalie 9840 9124 ee-pad-min@manningham.vic.gov.au. Bookings are essential as places are limited: meeting place given at booking.

PROGRAM

9.30 am Thursday 24th February Mullum Confluence Meander, Templestowe
Along a formed path through the floodplains of the Mullum Mullum Creek to its confluence with the Yarra River, an area rich in indigenous and colonial history.
Distance: approx 4 kms. Time: approx 2 hours. Rating: easy (gently undulating made path)
Optional 2kms moderate (very steep short section) detour for the energetic on the return trip to include the historic Templestowe Hill Climb racing track.

9.30 am Thursday 24th March

Mt Lofty Circuit, Wonga Park One of the most recent additions to Warrandyte State Park, Mt Lofty was grazed by horses until the early 1990s. View revegetation works, natural regeneration after planned burns, along with some of the most spectacular views of the river. Distance: approx 5 kms
Time: approx 3 hours Rating: moderate (some steep sections)

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

We meet for propagation and other nursery activities every Thursday morning at 9.30 am at the Warrandyte State Park depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte (Melway 23 C10), unless otherwise stated below. Propagation takes place from 9.30 am to 12.30 midday.

No prior experience necessary -

There is always someone available to show you the ropes.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.

9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) and

the first Sunday of each month

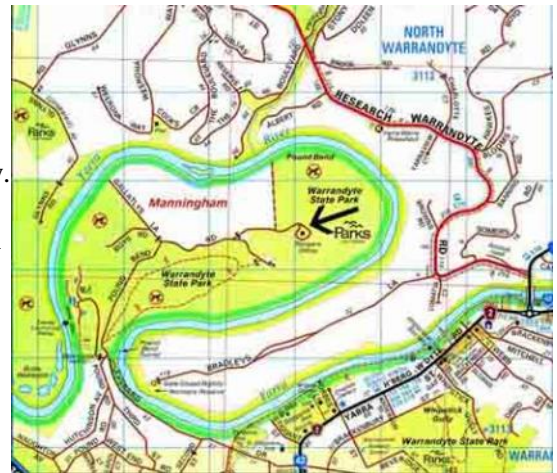
2 pm to 4 pm.

Nursery is closed to customers and volunteers on Total Fire Ban Days

Prices 2011

Members \$1.50

Non-members \$2.00



Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd
Reproduced from Melway Edition 36 with permission

Manningham/Nillimbik Environmental events 2011

Manningham Environmental Seminars are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at will continue this year at **Warrandyte Community Centre**, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 3113 Mel Ref. 23 F11

For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124

2nd February 2011 Reading the Land with Dr Geoff Lacey, Environmental Engineer

2nd March The Mallard x Pacific Black Duck Hybridisation with Dr Patrick-Jean Guay, Victoria University



Nillimbik

Saturday 26th February 10 am to 1 pm **Rabbit Control** Information Session
Bookings & info call Jackie Waring on 9840 9124.

Saturday 5th March 10 am to 11 am **Trapping Indian Mynahs** and then **trap making** 11am to 4 pm the same day. Bookings and info call 9433 3316



Many Thanks to the December 2010 Market Volunteers

Diane & John Baird, Mark & Margaret Hassell
Joan Broadberry, Brian James, Marie & Wolfgang Krause,

Next market dates are: **Saturday March 5th March, Warrandyte Festival, 19th and 20th March. No April market.** (



Summer Policy: If on the Friday before the market the forecast Saturday temp. is **over 35°**- the whole market is cancelled.

Markets are held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. Volunteers are rostered on in pairs for an hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2011 please email Joan Broadberry: joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au or ring anytime on **9846 1218**. *No knowledge assumed*

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP

FOWSP Newsletter Retrospective

-Joan Broadberry

I WAS RECENTLY in the library going through past copies of FOWSP Newsletters, checking that we had a complete set. I started to read some of the very early editions and thought that from time to time it might be interesting to our current readers to revisit some of the items. The following are from February 1991, exactly twenty years ago.

The committee was:

Marg Burke – Co-coordinator, Doug Seymour – Secretary, Anne Bedford – Assist. Secretary, Gail Roche – Craft Groups, Olive Walters – Propagation Assist., Mark Gardner – Groups Advisor, Ian Burke – Editor, Judy Thomson – Treasurer, Gay Harris – Social secretary, Pat Coupar – Propagation and Publications, Alec Manson – Works and Equipment Manager.

As well as wondering about the people I was also intrigued by the committee roles; very different to 2011. I guess I will need to talk to Olive and Pat.

A delightful article that caught my eye was entitled *Fascinating Facts from Flora*. Do I detect the pen of Flora Anderson?

Acacia dealbata

“Are the spokes of a wheel verticillate? A verticil is a whorl, i.e. a radiation from a common centre... Which bring us all the way from bicycle spokes to *Acacia verticillata*. So when you next look at the phyllodes of this wattle, you will see that it is arrangement of the phyllodes around the stem which inspired the name.



But we must stop dallying with verticils because there are no less than 17 (sic) wattles to deal with.

You were left in December contemplating *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), named because its trunk and branches are covered with mottled silver patches. Other patches of different colours are lichens. Dealbata = a white powdery covering.

Acacia mearnsii (Black Wattle) named after E.A.

Mearns, an American botanical collector

Acacia genistifolia has leaves similar to genus Genista.*

Acacia implexa (Lightwood) has twisted seed pods. Implexa = entwined.

Acacia leprosa (Cinnamon Wattle). At this point I find myself on the horns of a dilemma. One reference tells me that leprose refers to the leprose odor, while another that leprose = scurfy or scaly. It is your choice.

Acacia mucronata is more straightforward. The phyllodes of the Narrow-leaf Wattle have a short point. Mucro = a

News from the Committee

- At the 2010 AGM Sybil Ims and Jan Falconer were welcomed as new committee members
- Library list on line – Jason has completed – it is available to anyone who logs on but the book check out system is only available at the actual library for paid members. See p8
- Lyndy has grant for \$800 to continue to run the Environmental Program at two schools - Wonga Park and Park Orchards
- FOWSP/Manningham walks program will occur on the fourth Thursday morning of the month. See p5

Nursery Report

- A more formalised new and current volunteer induction process is to be put in place by nursery staff.
- Improved labelling is being developed and may include indigenous food plant information.
- Grant application for 2012 may be a combined one for works at Glynn's Reserve.
- Nursery staff request the donation of CLEAN, empty Vegemite jars for storage of seeds.

Rangers Report

- Slashing program throughout Warrandyte State Park and our Northern Reserves has started.
- Janaya O'Dempsey is our contact Ranger/

Next Committee Meeting

Date: 8th of February 2011

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

point.

Acacia myrtifolia (Myrtle Wattle) has the leaves similar to genus Myrtus.*

Acacia paradoxa (Hedge Wattle). Paradoxa = unexpected. Perhaps this refers to the unexpected wound if you get too close to the fine thorns.

Acacia pycnantha (Golden Wattle). Pycn(os) = dense, compact. Refers to dense flower heads.

Acacia stricta (Hop Wattle). Strict = of erect and straight habit.

Acacia ulicifolia (Juniper Wattle). Leaves similar to genus Ulex.*

Acacia vernicifolia (Varnish Wattle). Vernicose = glossy surfaced, as though varnished. From the French vernis = polished. Or from the Latin vernalis = season of spring.”

* A little more research came up with Genista = broom like foliage; Myrtifolia = leaves like Myrtle, a southern European shrub; Ulicifolia = with gorse-like foliage.

Letter To the Editor

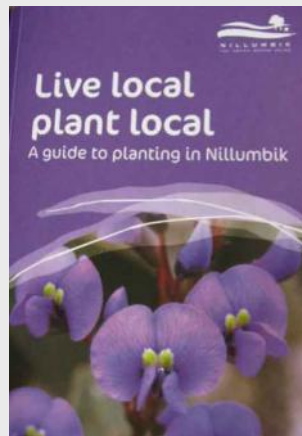
Reading the piece in the latest newsletter about Powerful Owls seen in the Hurstbridge area prompts me to pass on a sighting from a fellow committee member from a group of which I am Vice-President, *Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats*. Matt lives backing onto the 100 Acres Reserve in Park Orchards. One evening he videoed a Powerful Owl in a low branch over the backyard right above his dog, who was eating a meaty bone! The dog was oblivious, the Owl undeterred by the dog and intent on the bone it seemed. Quite amazing! I haven't yet seen the video, but look forward to it.

I sometimes work very late hours in my Warrandyte home office (not far from Pound Bend), and have on a number of occasions heard quite blood-curdling and drawn-out screaming from some sort of smallish animal. I have often wondered if this might be prey caught by a Powerful Owl.

Cheers,
Doreen Burge

Review - *Live Local Plant Local* A guide to planting in Nillumbik—free publication - Joan Broadberry

Live Local Plant Local, a free ninety page colour booklet, is the 5th edition of Nillumbik's guide to locally indigenous plants suitable for garden plantings. The update includes information to encourage sustainable gardening practices.



The table of contents lists these headings: "Creating your indigenous garden; Indigenous plants on your property; Tips for successful planting; Maintenance; Different plants for different situations; Where can I buy indigenous plants?; Indigenous plant list; Pest plants; Indigenous plants by common name; Further reading."

The bulk of the publication consists of the indigenous plant list. This well set out section, lists plants in seven groups: "creepers & climbers; herbs & groundcovers; lilies; grasses; rushes & sedges; shrubs; trees." Every plant is illustrated and briefly described under the following categories: "Size & habit; flowers and foliage; preferred growing conditions; and special comments."

When I read through *Live Local and Plant Local* I was very impressed with its straightforward easy to read style and its many ideas and practical advice for those

Message from Jason

As many of you are aware, FOWSP has an extensive library of around 335 books, about 310 of these are available for loan to members. Topics range from flora (and of-course, fauna) to weed management and invertebrates and beyond. The registry of our library books is now online through our website, under 'Who we are', then select 'Library'.

There are currently four search options on this page: By Subject; By Publisher; By Author; and using Partial Text.

The later, uses the text provided and searches anywhere in Subject, Publisher and Author.

For example, searching "gle" returns: Title: EARTH FIRST - THE STRUGGLE TO SAVE AUSTRALIAN RAINFORESTS (J Kendall & E Buidis); and Authors: Glen Jameson; Glen Saunders et al; J W Wrigley & M Fagg; and J.S. Glendinning.

There are also links in the results to enable further searching. Checking-out of books is still done in the normal fashion, by filling out the loan book in the library. Remember that books with a red-dot sticker are for reference only and should not be removed from the library. At this stage we are not intending to have the loan book online.

We now have a "What we do" page on our website, which is under "Who we are". Amongst the list there you will find electronic copies of various FOWSP pamphlets. The apparent reversal of the second page of these pamphlets IS intentional and is for duplex (two-sided) printing.

On our website 'Publications' page, you can now perform a text search on our range of .pdf documents. Having said that, it only applies to text within a file, not a picture. This will mainly apply to our back-catalogue of newsletters, which we hope to extend this year by scanning older

who want to make their gardens more wildlife and environmentally friendly. The publication is available **free** at the FOWSP nursery or market trailer. Phone Nillumbik on 9433 3111; nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Some of the photographs have been contributed by FOWSP members including Pat Coupar, Ant Owen Cathy Willis and a debt to Manningham City Council's Economic and Environmental Planning Unit's publication *Native Splendor* is acknowledged.

"I SPY"

By B.G



Friends fare

The day- Thursday 16th December 2010
The Time- Lunchtime
The Place- Warrandyte State Park

The quiet buzz of voices in the open air, sunshine, the aroma of "roasted beef", vegetarian fare and other victuals, and ample oesophagus lubricants. After a mornings work over fifty people were present, including the haut monde of Warrandyte State Park , at a gala event, the end of year "BBQ".

People present



Photo by Ben

FOWSP volunteers (all the regulars), rangers (on and off duty) in their smart uniforms, fire crew with caps and yellow top work clothes, a duo of I Spy, walk leaders and various other supports all gathered to celebrate the end of a fruitful year.

Among the dignitaries were Faye Williams, Chief Ranger of the Northern Melbourne District of Parks Victoria and Conrad Annal Ranger in Charge of Middle Yarra Park-

lands, and a smiling Jan Falconer of I Spy renown. (photo above left) (not present were parliamentarians, AFL players, mining magnates and media moguls)



Photo by Ben

Photographs were taken, Gray Ardern (photo left) made an informal presentation of gaily coloured parcels to several of our younger nursery staff, while people sat in a long crescent curve, eating and

enjoying the event.

Food Facts

Mention must be made of Peta Patton who performed a long and sterling job of cutting up



the meat whilst others ate. (photo right) Also Josh Revell who organised much of the preparation Plus all the others who helped Not to forget Colin Bromley for his post-



cooking advice on the need for a longer cooking time for large lumps of meat!

Facts on Faye

Faye Williams, Chief

Ranger Northern Melbourne District of Parks Victoria, revealed the after year 12 at a "local" school" she completed environmental science at Melbourne University then did her masters at Swinburne.

Her favourite animals are wombats and wedge tail eagles and Faye love the King Billie Pines in Tasmania and "the snow gums".

As you may guess she loves the Alpine areas and in fact her marriage in February was preceded a year earlier by a marriage proposal on top of the Western Arthurs Range in South-west Tasmania. (Can anyone top that?)

Faye cannot remember any parking fines, and currently drives a Festiva.

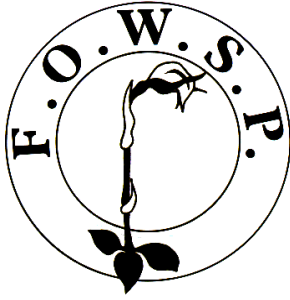


Silvereyes Song

"Melbourne University researchers found urban silvereyes are shifting their song to overcome city sounds of up to 80 decibels...heightening pitch, but slowing the pace as well....their country cousins who deal with backgrounds of 35 to 40 decibels have not made such adjustments"(AGE Thursday 6 January 2011)

Remembering Rangers

Several years ago I was given a gift, a DVD called, "The Thin Green Line", and I've only just viewed it. It was produced by Australian Park Ranger Sean Willmore and is quite sobering. I recall several years ago one of our FOWSP ranger handing out material at the first screening of the film at the Astor Theatre, St Kilda. I hope in future to recall many of the rangers I have met at WSP and write some small items about those I knew and their quiet dedicated activities.



**Print
Post**
346802/0005

**Postage
Paid
Australia**

REGISTRATION BY AUSTRALIA POST
PP 346802 / 0005
If undeliverable please return to
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc.
P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo

We were alerted to the presence of this large parrot when we heard its distinctive call as we were having breakfast one day in January. They are known to have a fondness for grubs in tree bark and this one was digging some out on a tree just over our driveway in Greensborough. It is one of the birds that Murray Bouchier noted as increasing in his area. This one left shortly after, perhaps tired of being photographed. A butcher-bird that had been watching at a distance, immediately moved in to collect any remaining grubs. *Linda*

February 2011 Volume 29 no. 11

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no.

Email

Membership (family) \$20
Concession \$10

Newsletter by email (tick box)

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or existing members with unchanged contact details can use direct deposit. Details: BSB 633-108. Account: 136406907. Account name: friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc. Identify yourself by surname

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus



Photo: Linda Rogan

More shots of the AGM and of the BBQ for the nursery . Photos by Carol Page except where marked otherwise.



View of Mackay's Creek near Falls Creek January 2011 by Linda Rogan



A sighting of the Chequered Swallowtail *Papilio demoleus* on Everards Track in south of Kinglake NP by Linda Rogan on 2 January 2011



Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows: lindarogan@netspace.net.au