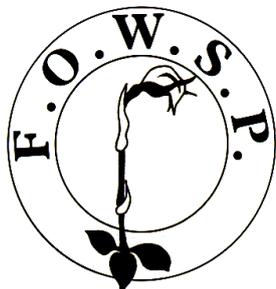


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

IT HAS BEEN HARD to concentrate on producing this newsletter with news of the terrible earthquake in Christchurch just coming through. Our thoughts are with the people effected as they have recently been with those closer to home suffering from floods and cyclones.

This month has been a bit moth-eaten perhaps caterpillar-eaten. First Eucalyptus leaves are eaten on page 4 and also Hardenbergia seeds and leaves on page 8.

Read about February TAG activities on pages 3 and 4 and an incidental TAG moth on page 7.

Joan Broadberry shares a confession and some useful information on page 2.

Trees for Life is a verbal offering on an important topic from Steven Katsineris.

For the first time I know of, the Warrandyte Market was a wash out on, the 5th of February. This has stimulated Joan Broadberry to work on a wet weather policy so that people will be informed if cancellation occurs.

I have had some feedback that the photos in the newsletter have been a bit too small. Probably a side effect



Belinda and Jan collect a sample the aquatic invertebrates in the Yarra River near Stanbrae. more on P.3

of trying to fit everything in. I have tried to make most of them a bit bigger this time.

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue. Please enjoy and send in your article, snippets and photos for the next one.

Further to Annette's cicadas on page 2 of the February issue: It is apparently usual that cicadas are quite pale on emerging from the final moult. The colouring and patterns that are indicative of species develop a over time. Likely species are Cicadetta or Pauropsalta

Deadline for April edition newsletter is Friday 25th March, 2011
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

The Confessions a Very Slow Learner

Photos and text by Joan Broadberry

IT HAS BEEN A PITIFULLY slow learning curve. In fact it has taken me over 60 years to embrace responsible cat ownership. I have always loved having pets around, particularly cats. We grew up with them and they have been constant companions in my life. I know some readers will feel similarly, but others will loathe everything to do with cats. So be it. Among FOWSPIANS there are many who will readily point out the damage that cats do to wildlife. They are quite right; cats are incorrigible natural predators and maybe this article should discourage keeping them at all. Nevertheless, it is a fact that a great many Melbournians do possess cats and will continue to do so.

Animal ownership was rather a haphazard thing when I was young. Cats and dogs wandered into our homes and, without much fuss, we looked after them. I don't remember vaccinations, regular vet checks, catteries or kennels. Society was different. For example, it was commonplace to see dogs running free in the street when I was a child. Stray dogs, doing unmentionable things, regularly disrupted Monday morning assemblies at my primary school as we stood, right hand over left breast, chanting. "I love God and my country" These days it is very unusual to see a dog unattended in the street. Times have changed.

Even in that post world war II era, my family's cats were desexed. It was probably not a common practice in Melbourne's inner suburbs in the 1950's and a starting point in responsible pet ownership. However, right up until the 1990's our cats were completely free to roam both day and night I guess most people treated their animals in a similar fashion. It was just the normal thing to do. By the 1980's my cat was outfitted with a collar and two bells. Eventually I found a type of bell that would ring at the slightest movement. Not a big step, but it was something.

I acquired a black and white kitten in 1996 and made another stride forward. That moggie, who died last year aged 14, was brought in at dusk every single evening of his existence and slept in the house. It was my job to find him and I took it seriously. In fact I am probably on every Neighborhood Watch list within a 5k radius. I had many hilarious experiences. For instance my torch sometimes accidentally lit up a car containing a cuddling couple. I would mutter, "Sorry – just looking for my cat", and slink off. I can imagine their reactions, "Silly old perv!"

During the last few years I have become aware that things can be done differently. Council by-laws have also altered. I live in Manningham, but Nillumbik requires cats to be confined between the hours of 7.30 pm and 6 am. My neighbour and good friend owns two greatly loved cats. When I first met her, one of them lived indoors but the other was allowed out during the day. For some years now, both her (now different) cats have been kept within the house at all times. I see them often and judge them to be happy and healthy.

FOWSP visited the property of wildlife carer Adrianna Simmons a couple of years ago. I was surprised to learn she owned cats, but it was so. The caged runs built for her cats were the first I had ever seen. They made a big impression on me.



Just before Christmas we acquired a kitten. She is our very first inside cat. She has her own custom built, netted area outside, reached via a cat door in the laundry window. It was professionally built by someone I found through the internet. I have had fun "furnishing" it with cat adventure toys. These are all homemade from bits and pieces I found in the shed, although it is possible to buy all sorts of accessories for the enclosure. There is a financial cost involved, but our last cat also cost us big time. Even conservatively calculating a \$200 vets bill for each fight or accident, and factoring in one incident a year, we are miles ahead with the enclosure.

I readily admit that my journey has been far too slow. But similarly to our attitudes to seatbelts, drink-driving and smoking, we can and must change. I am happy to risk being criticized in the hope that my experiences will resonate with others. If anyone would like to see the cat enclosure I would be glad to show it to them. Phone 98461218 or email joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au. But Gray and others of the extreme anti-cat persuasion, no hate mail please!!

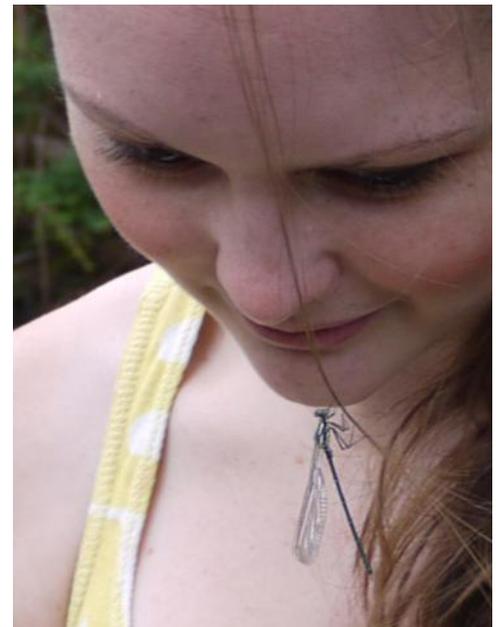


TAG at Stanebrae: full of surprises

3rd February 2011 reported by Linda Rogan

COOL CLOUDY WEATHER caused a change of plans from trapping terrestrial insects to aquatic insects as part of a Water Watch activity. Belinda and Jan waded in to net a sample of aquatic invertebrates for inspection. Belinda emerged from the overhanging Acacia dealbata with a small invertebrate clinging to her hair (see photo R). Give Gray a pun punch next time you see him.

Kelly carried out the testing for water quality, probably taking longer than usual because of questions from “helpers”. (photo below)



“Damsel in dis tress”, Gray said it.
Linda recorded it.



Gray and John (below) busied themselves with plant guard and stake removal and later some vigorous weed removal. Others inspected the petri dishes for types of critters and COUNTED them for the record. A task requiring good eyesight and patience.



The results gave this part of the Yarra, on this day, a good rating for water quality.

I was busy photographing a big hairy legged spider in a Red Box Tree when Carol and Gray called out “Come have a look at this”. As I ducked under the limbs of a rather large Acacia tree, I could see something large and silvery grey on the trunk.

More on page 7...



Sweeneys Flats (end of Sweeneys Lane Eltham) from Parks Vic info sheet

- Originally inhabited by members of the Wurundjeri people and still significant to their descendants.
- Thomas Sweeney, former convict, purchased this land in 1840s and established hawthorn hedges, a small part of which remain.
- Includes lush bushland and a billabong with important habitat for many native animals.

TAG – Sweeney's Flats Eltham,
Thursday 17th Feb.

THREE energetic women accompanied Cam Beardsell to this regenerating bushland beside the Yarra. Cam has been working on the site for some time eradicating blackberries and the object of today's exercise was to cut and dab some of the many desert ash* plants that have been growing vigorously since the block was slashed. In a short time we made quite a difference but not without



Photos by Carol Page



some mishaps. The bull ants in the region are very large, very vigorous and very numerous. We disturbed several nests and all except one of us were bitten at least once. There are still coto-neasters, hawthorns and many more

desert ashes to tackle and there will be another TAG there soon. *Jan Falconer*



***Desert Ash** photo from Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet Ranked 39th worst weed in the Yarra Ranges .pdf available from

www.yarraranges.vic.gov

Gum Leaf Skeletonisers



Questions have been asked about these hairy little caterpillars that are attacking leaves of gum trees. Pat and Mikes Flying Colours, p.77 identifies *Uraba lugens*. The pointy bits at the head end are actually head capsules from previous moulting which are retained by the growing caterpillar . Forestry Tasmanias Information sheet 4 on Gum Leaf Skeletonisers gives the following information:

Controlling damage

Natural control

The larvae are parasitised by small wasps and flies that emerge from the pupae. Removing leaves with egg batches or young larvae by hand will reduce the damage, especially of small trees. DO NOT TOUCH the larvae or their hairy moult skins because they cause severe skin irritation.

...most broad spectrum insecticides will kill it,...However, it also kills most other insects including the natural enemies.

Damage to large trees is seldom serious and tends to be more in the lower limbs as the insects are weak flyers.
For small vulnerable trees, wear gloves when removing by hand. .
If you must spray, do so with care, using the least toxic organic spray available.

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 and 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
Sybille Ims	9844 1335 or 0405 500 278		

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on the first Thursday of the month from 9.00 am to 12. 30 pm. Either meet at the depot (sharp at 9.00 am for TAG activities only, or on site by arrangement.). LEARN some vegetation management skills and help improve some special sites in the Park. Just tag along with the Thursday Activity Group (TAG). Activities are cancelled on Total Fire ban Days

3rd March **Glynns Road** Weeding

17th March **Boys Rd** weeding

7th April **Webb Street Timber Reserve** Woody weed removal

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 eepad-min@manningham.vic.gov.au

Bookings are essential as places are limited: request meeting place information at booking

PROGRAM

24th March, 9.30 am Thursday **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)

28 April, 9.30 am Thursday **Pound Bend Ridge to River**, Warrandyte

Up to the top of Pound Bend Ridge, along the management track, view both ends of the historic tunnel then follow the river track to our starting point, keeping a look out for koalas in the Manna gums along the way.

Distance: approx 3.5kms Time: approx 3 hours Rating: moderate (some foot tracks).

This school holiday walk is suitable for reasonably fit school age children.

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.

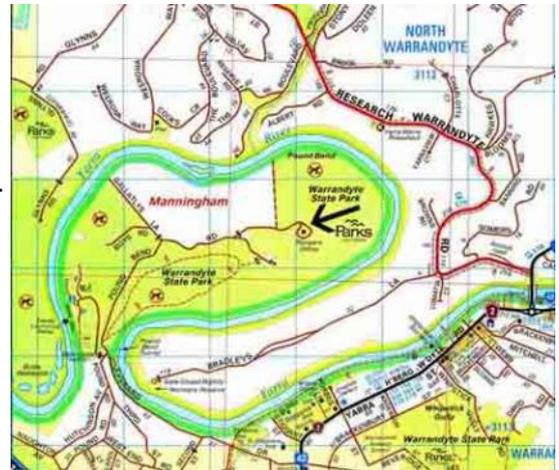
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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



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Prices 2011
Members \$1.50
Non-members \$2.00

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

6th April Indigenous cooking with Damien Styles, Charcoal Lane

4th May Landscape changes and impact on local birdlife Murray Bouchier

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*

Nillimbik

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

Saturday 19 March 10:30-3:00 Outsmart Your Weeds with Randall Robinson bookings and info 9433 3316

Sunday 27th March WaterBugs at Edendale 10:00-12:00noon Bookings and info call 9433 3316



Many Thanks to

Diane and John Baird, Marion Thomson, Brian James, Lyn Douch, Ken Crook, Lyndy Gilbert, Joan Broadberry and Peter Curry for volunteering to help with the Warrandyte market trailer in February. However, on Saturday 5th the heavens opened and the entire market was washed out. Over four inches in my rain gauge. We are currently looking at a wet weather policy to cover any future deluges.



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

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

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*

(Continued from page 3)

When first seen this beautiful creature pictured right was still opening its wings. At first I thought it was a Hepialid moth that would have emerged from the ground after-feeding on the tree roots.

However Peter Marriott identified it



News from the Committee

- FOWSP members are asking council to pursue traffic calming for Gold Memorial Drive
- Several more volunteers are needed for the market trailer at the Warrandyte festival.
- We expect some Manningham visitors for 2 Thursdays in March.

Nursery Report

- Indigenous ranger Hadyn is working in the Nursery growing yam daisy for planting wet land
- Many orders coming through – some for reveg at Kinglake or Strathewan
- Labels for significant plants will be marked with status on a statewide level
- Walks graded easy, moderate, difficult– every 2 -3 weeks.
- Thanks to Lyndy for catering for Thursdays

Rangers Report

- One staff member working with Sporting Shooters Association for fox control in northern part of park – to start in next few months
- Widespread but fairly minor damage after rain – lots of work to assess and then repair – volunteers could assist with reporting damage
- Emergency assembly point – for people working at the nursery (not for public) Josh to ask Jodie for a map for induction process
- Burns -looking for opportunities to do – could be doing as early as next week – engaged a university study to look at value of burns

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 8th March 2011

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

as a Cossid moth that would have spent its larval stage boring through the wood of the wattle tree.. This is one of several species informally called the Wattle Goat moth.

This particular one is *Endoxyla literatus*.

There was a lot to learn from this TAG at Stanebrae.

Thanks to Mel Coupar for the line drawings
And Peter Rogan for proof-reading this month

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

What's Eating the Hardenbergia

By Linda Rogan

LATE DECEMBER, Fowspians gathered seed from the lush *Hardenbergia violacea* that covers the bank near the parking lot. Many pods were infested by small caterpillars that were consuming the seeds. I took a small handful of infested pods home and placed them with a few stems of *Hardenbergia*, in a plastic container with a light cloth over the top. I first noticed a green caterpillar amongst the pods, larger than the ones inside pods. It apparently fed on the leaves I'd provided. On 27 Dec I photographed this caterpillar attached by its rear to cloth. (below)



The next day the caterpillar had surrounded itself in silk. By mid January, I photographed its pupa and also a smaller pupa that was also attached to the cloth.



The first caterpillar turned out to be the *Chrysodeixis* sp. (Below.) a generalist leaf eater.



Soon small moths (left) emerged from the second pupa and others amongst the pods. A 10x magnification with

our new electronic microscope showed the detail. Peter Marriott has told me these are *Etiella behrii* (Pyralidae, Phycitinae). They are an agricultural pest in peanuts and other members of the Fabraceae family. In our case, the best control is probably the removal and destruction of the infested seed pods.



Trees for Life.

To combat climate change,
stop clearing native forests and plant more trees.

To combat soil erosion,
stop clearing native forests and plant more trees.

To combat flooding,
stop clearing native forests and plant more trees.

To combat salinity,
stop clearing native forests and plant more trees.

To combat damaging winds,
stop the clearing of native forests and plant more trees.

To improve air quality,
stop the clearing of native forests and plant more trees.

To filter and purify water,
stop the clearing of native forests and plant more trees.

To preserve habitat
stop the clearing of native forests and plant more trees.

To protect wildlife,
stop the clearing of native forests and plant more trees.

To provide shade and shelter,
stop the clearing of native forests and plant more trees.

To cool the earth and lessen draughts and fires,
stop the clearing of native forests and plant more trees.

Trees generate oxygen, filter and clean the air
we breathe.

We could not exist without trees; they are essential to life on earth.

Steven Katsineris,

“I SPY”

By B.G



Kelly in Crete

Kelly Wooster, our Facebook and e-mail contact, has a ‘hidden’ past. Kelly was away for three years, during which time she was a ‘logger of turtles’. She spent two weeks in Crete monitoring nests and was in Athens for three weeks dealing with injured turtles. What other experiences can Kelly relate?

Tasman Tramping

Not only has our Prime Minister been to New Zealand, but Jan, FOWSP committee member, will be over there very soon doing the classic walks: – Milford Sound, Routeburn, Able Tasman Walk and Queen Charlotte Walk (Marlborough Island).

Present and Past

Jocelyn Hunter was helping to prick out *Pomaderris vacciniifolia*. Jocelyn, a primary emergency teacher, went to the Port Fairy Folk Festival last year. She enjoys music, Euro and Jazz and “plays a bit of piano, flute and accordion. Jocelyn is Brenda Hunter’s daughter. Brenda was a FOWSP member some time ago and is now living in Geelong.

New Notices

There is now a small, new whiteboard in the nursery shelter area. It is specifically for “pricking out” information, and recording same.

Bountiful informative Belinda tells us that:

There is a recycling bin and a rubbish bin at the nursery (now labelled). If the bins are incorrectly filled it causes problems for the rangers and council.

The volunteers/staff at the nursery have developed a questionnaire sheet asking people what they are doing, and what tasks they want to perform etc. Hand these back to Josh, Annette, Kelly and Belinda or if completing it electronically, please press “submit”.

Gloves and tea-bags are being left around (in a wanton manner). Into the general rubbish bin please.

Some new secateurs have been donated. All the snips etc need to be cleaned and oiled after use. A rag and oil are now provided.

Swallowtail sighted

Sharon informed us that around 10th February this year, she saw a Chequered Swallowtail Butterfly, “hanging around Pound Bend Roadside ... settled down for the evening attached to an old stipa seed-head.” (It feeds on Cullen). Location: on the pedestrian path over the road, opposite the new house, next to the main entrance to the Park Depot.

Short story (sad)

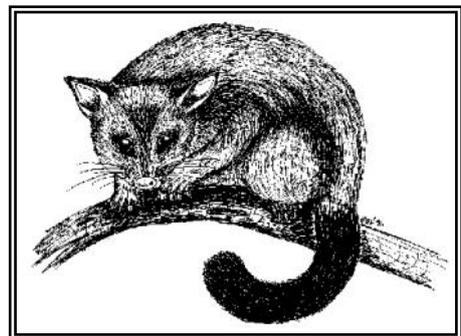
On the morning of 25th January last, we found a Brush-tail Possum sheltering on the corner between our concrete steps and brick wall, resting on the dead fern fronds. Its eyes were glazed and there were ‘blowies’ around. As we weren’t used to handling native animals, I rang several refuges and within half an hour a couple from Croydon came over, carefully lifted the possum and took it to a vet.

Another half hour later, the lady, Nancy, told us that the possum had a baby in the pouch still hanging on, but it had been dead for a few days. The vet said the mother had probably been hit by a car or fallen. She had to be ‘put down’.

We live in Towerhill Drive, urban Ringwood and I didn’t expect to be so emotionally affected by the animal’s plight.

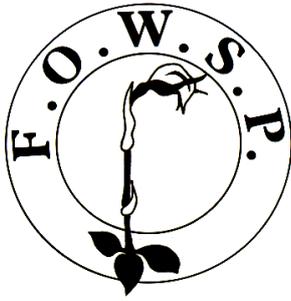
Next night
Under stars so bright
I mourned
Two of nature’s creatures
Gone for eternity

The wildlife rescue couple were Nancy Russell and her husband. *Nancy’s animal shelter*. Croydon 9725 6675. They rescue possums, kangaroos and wombats.



Ken Again

Ken Crook, one of our regular helpers, is leading a walk for the VNPA on Wednesday 6th April 2011. It is an easy seven km historical walk, encompassing HMAS Cerberus at Crib Point. (Limit 20 people). In May, Ken will lead an eight km walk in Warrandyte State Park.



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Splendid Ochre Trapezites symmomus

Commonly found near its food plant, *Lomandra longifolia* this is the largest of our skippers, barely smaller than a Cabbage White. This is the first year I have seen and photographed this beautiful skipper. This was one of several in the gully where Wildcat Link Track climbs away from the Gold Memorial area. We also saw some in treetops on top of Fourth Hill. In Victoria it is seen from January through March.

March 2011 Volume 29 no. 2

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

Email photo bonus



Peter Marriott's clearer photo of the larva of *Chrysodeixis* species similar to the one on page 8.



Bruce Fuhrer's photo of one of the Common Imperial Blue Butterflies that are now colonising the *Acacia acinacea* in his garden. The reddish fluid at its posterior shows this is probably a recently emerged adult expelling its meconium. Bruce's is the first colony I have seen on this species of *Acacia*.



Carol Pages orchid photos from a February trip with the Native Orchid Society.

Spiranthes australis above
Cryptostylis subulata right



Linda Rogan's photo of a *Gendua* genus probably *punctigera*. I have collected some of the eggs shown on the grass head here and am hoping to hatch and raise.



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