

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

Editors Corner

Welcome back to FOWSPians and friends. Hope you all had a good break and had a chance to get out and enjoy our natural surrounds.

If, like our rangers, much of your time has been spent in fire control activities, your efforts in this difficult task are greatly appreciated. For the rest of us, this should be a reminder to be aware of potential fire dangers in the bush and also to be sure to have a personal fire plan appropriate to your location.

I'm finding, more than ever, that bushwalking and camping require extra planning and flexibility to change plans at short notice depending on the weather. It must be much harder for those who have to fit in with school and work holiday times.

This newsletter brings more than a tweet from the birds. We are thrilled to welcome a new contributor, Caitriona Young, who shares her love of birds observed during her regular walks along the Yarra River on page 2. We hope this will be an ongoing feature.

Joan Broadberry shares her mostly positive but also harrowing first experience crossing the bight as a seafaring birder page 3. Thank heavens all has ended well.

Find some words from Kel at the nursery on page 4: *Plan your Autumn planting.*

Many fascinating activities are listed throughout the



Seed collecting and cleaning out the "bugs" and chaff are important projects this time of year.

Pictured here are fruit collected from *Einadia nutans* and the brown insect on the right is a shield bug in the *Pentatomoidea* superfamily of insects.

Photos: Linda Rogan



newsletter as the year is back in full swing.

This is a great time to get yourself back in the groove, helping to preserve our biodiversity and learning about our wonderful flora and fauna. Hope to see you around FOWSP.

Linda

**Deadline for March 2013 edition newsletter is
 Friday 22nd February 2013**

contributions can be emailed to [Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au](mailto:Linda.Rogan@netspace.net.au)
 or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Bird watching along the Yarra

Caitriona Young

My (almost) daily walk along the Yarra is a delightful one. Imagine this: The bush is fragrant and relatively quiet. Then, suddenly, an eruption of birdsong leaves me enchanted. The binoculars are raised. Got you!

The following is an imaginative description of some of the birds encountered in December 2012.

In the early morning Thornbills, Scrubwrens, and Silvereyes search for seeds and insects. The Fan-tailed Cuckoo trills overhead. A White-throated Treecreeper spirals up a tree. A special thrill was finding a flock of Varied Sittellas. These are sweet little dumplings of birds which spiral down tree trunks, foraging for insects. This distinguishes them from treecreepers,



Varied Sittella
Photo: Murray Chambers

which climb up tree trunks in a similar pursuit.

Eastern Yellow Robins are elusive this year. In 2011 a nesting pair raised two chicks by the river. They may have moved inland because of vegetation clearance.

Parrots provide an improbable range of colour along the river. The raucous clamour of Sul-

phur-Crested Cockatoos mixes with that of Rainbow Lorikeets. Crimson and Eastern Rosellas fly past, swift as arrows. Four Musk Lorikeets perch and scan the area. These lorikeets are nomadic and I am lucky to have seen them.

Galahs, Noisy Miners and Red Wattlebirds chase Long-billed Corellas. Two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos stop nearby for a rest. A Sacred Kingfisher and two Kookaburras look on.

A Darter perches above the river. Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants hang out their wings to dry. A Pacific Black Duck with six chicks swim by. Wood Ducks feed on grass tips and a Dusky Moorhen picks along the further bank.

A Wedge-tailed Eagle holds a rabbit in its fearsome talons.

White-eared and White-naped Honeyeaters spend their time high in the canopy. Luckily, the white ears of the first and the red eyes of the second make them not too difficult to see. Two Yellow-faced Honeyeaters perch, conveniently, at eye-level.

The glorious songs of the Grey Shrike-thrush, the Golden Whistler and the Butcherbird mingle. It is a magical moment.



Eastern Yellow Robin Photo: Brian O'Leary

Two White-winged Chough parents watch over their beginner-flyer chicks as they hop and flutter from branch to branch.

Birds, many kangaroos, a wombat and a platypus have shared this walk with me throughout December.

Am I not lucky to walk in Warrandyte?

Bird list (ordered as per Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds)

Fresh Water Birds: Pacific Black Duck; Australian Wood Duck; Little Black Cormorant; Little Pied Cormorant; Australian Darter; White-faced Heron; Dusky Moorhen

Large Bush Birds: Wedge-tailed Eagle; Tawny Frogmouth; Spotted Turtle Dove; Common Bronzewing; Yellow-tailed Black and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo; Galah; Little and Long-billed Corellas; Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets; Australian King Parrot; Eastern and Crimson Rosella; Fan-tailed Cuckoo; Laughing Kookaburra; Sacred Kingfisher; Welcome Swallow

Small Bush Birds: White-throated Treecreeper; Superb Fairy-wren; White-browed Scrubwren; Brown Thornbill; Spotted Pardalote; Yellow-faced, White-eared, and White-faced Honeyeaters; Noisy Miner; Red Wattlebird; Varied Sittella; Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike; Golden Whistler; Grey Shrike-thrush; Grey Butcherbird; Pied Currawong; Australian Raven and Magpie; Magpie Lark; White-winged Chough; Willy Wagtail; Grey Fantail; Eastern Yellow Robin; Silvereye; Blackbird.

Grey Shrike-thrush Photo: Brian O'Leary



Exploring the Great Australian Bight

Joan Broadberry

With Carol Page and about 30 others, I boarded *The Spirit of Enderby* at Albany Western Australia on Sunday 2nd December 2012 for voyage across the Great Australian Bight to Hobart. The ship is originally from Russia and still retains her Russian crew. She is now in the hands of the New Zealand company, *Heritage Expeditions*, who run natural history based trips to remote parts of the world. Prior to docking in Albany, *The Spirit of Enderby* had taken a group of 50 birders to the little known Australian territory of Heard Island. Several participants in that trip were still on board and we eagerly soaked up their stories.

Most astonishing was that they had spent 25 days on the water against eight hours on land.



The seven *Heritage* staff, included a doctor and two chefs. They variously hailed from Canada, USA, France, England and New Zealand. Our four *Heritage* guides were experts on seabirds and marine life and some of the best birders in Australia were aboard. The eight day route to Tasmania was planned to roughly follow the continental shelf, keeping to deep water where we had the greatest chance of observing pelagic birdlife, (seabirds) and cetaceans, (whales and dolphins).

Despite her reputation for rough seas the Bight was on her best behaviour. I enjoyed everything about my very first experience of shipboard life. The nautical ambience. Being rocked to sleep in our compact and comfortable cabin. Delicious meals. Being away from all media. Sharing stories with like-minded shipmates. Wonderful skies, sunrises and sunsets. The ever-changing moods of the sea. The flying fish. We were allowed free access to the bridge which was warm with good forward views. However, due to the settled weather most people preferred either the 360 degree views from the, admittedly windy, top deck or a position near the waterline on the front or back decks.

Summer is not the best time to find seabirds. The majority of adults are on land at their nesting colonies raising families. Some days were quiet, but overall with so many pairs of expert eyes keeping watch, the birding was rewarding. In total 40 species of seabirds were recorded. Some days magnificent albatross followed the ship for hours. We were particularly fortunate with cetacean sighting. These included Blue Whales, Sperm Whales and

Long-finned Pilot Whales. An absolute highlight was over a hundred rare Southern Right Whale Dolphins. (Probably so named because they lack a dorsal fin as does the Southern Right Whale). Most enchanting of all were pods of Common Dolphins that surfed on our bow



wave in transparently clear water. (Photo above))

The trip finished a little early for me. Off the west coast of Tasmania on day seven I was on the back deck and was not holding on for just a few seconds that happened to coincide with largish wave. I fell. Unfortunately my head hit a sharp piece of metal and was cut deeply. I blacked out for ten minutes or so and woke in the doctor's surgery being stitched up. The staff had already radioed for a rescue helicopter to take me to the Royal Hobart hospital. The helicopter could not land on the ship so I had the experience of being winched up in the arms of a very calm and capable medic. I am now completely recovered and no, I am not put off travel by sea. In fact Carol and I are booked on another birding voyage to Ashmore Reef in October. However I will, as they say "keep one hand for the ship", AT ALL TIMES.



Watching dolphins surf on the bow wave.
All photos by Joan Broadberry

Plan your Autumn Planting

Welcome to a new year. If you made resolutions to revegetate your block of land or add more indigenous plants to your garden here are a few tips:

As Greening Australia, recommends “the cheapest form of revegetation is to encourage natural regeneration (germination of self-sown seedlings from existing or nearby vegetation) and this should be considered as the first option for re-establishing native vegetation”.

Planting of seedlings is also an option and the FOWSP nursery can help you out with species that are local to Warrandyte and surrounds. They are available in a variety of containers (including cells for grasses, tube stock or 6 inch pots for more established plants, orders preferred).

Greening Australia add that "Local native (indigenous) species, grown from local seeds or plant material are generally the preferred choice for revegetation. They provide the greatest range of long-term benefits because they:

- are best suited to the local conditions and can still fulfil all of the functional roles of farm trees and shrubs;
- maximise biodiversity in the local area;
- provide the best habitat for local wildlife;
- benefit the health of existing remnants;
- are well suited to regenerating without assistance;
- and will maintain the natural character of the local landscape."

Greening Australia has much more information which can be found at:

[PDF] [Revegetation Techniques—Greening Australia](#)

To find further information on what vegetation communities are present (or were formally present) on or around your property the Department of Sustainability and Environment have some great resources which can be found at through their website at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/> and searching under vegetation types or EVC.

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park (With thanks to Glen Jameson) have detailed different planting times in accordance to the site type. Although there are annual variations in weather conditions and a changing climate, planting times can vary. Below is a general rule only.

For planting on a hill crest or a northern slope, the best time to plant is between May to July (these sites may dry out more quickly than other sites)

For planting on a southern slope the best time to plant is between July and September.

For planting on lower slopes or on river terraces the best time to plant is between July and August (but try to avoid water logging).

For any wetland plantings, September to December is the best time.

So now is a great time to think about what you may want to plant in autumn 2013 and beyond, and to place your orders with the nursery.

http://fowsp.org.au/planting_guide.php

Happy planning, Kel

TAGS (Thursday activity groups) and **WAGS** (weekend activity groups) RESUME 2013

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.15 am for a 9.30 pm departure. WAGs meet at times given below, at the nursery beforehand or at the specified location. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle. Contact number: 0408 317 327

Day	Date	Time	Site of Activity	Activity undertaken	Leader	Difficulty rating
Sat.	02/02/2013	10am-12pm	Nursery	Propagation	FOWSP led	Easy
Sun.	03/02/2013	10am-12pm	Nursery	Propagation	FOWSP led	Easy
Thurs.	07/02/2013	9.15am~12pm	Office garden	Weeding maintenance	FOWSP led	Easy
Thurs.	21/02/2013	9.15am~12pm	Middle Yarra Mullum confluence	Weeding Maintenance	Bernie/Cam	Easy
Thurs.	07/03/2013	9.15am~12pm	Alexander Road	Woody weeding Desert Ash	Bernie	Moderate

Difficulty ratings:

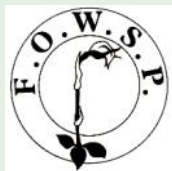
Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.

Moderate: Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present.

Difficult: Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.

Please note TAGS and WAGS will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are deemed hazardous.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2013			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			<u>Nursery Phone</u>	0408 317 327
				nursery@fowsp.org.au
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u>	9844 2659
Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter editor	<u>Newsletter assist</u>	Joan Broadberry
lindarogan@netspace.net.au				9846 1218
Kelly Wooster	9844 2819	Social media contact; facebook	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
				9722 2908
Jan Falconer	9844 1226		<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
				9722 1117
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
				9844 2096
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Webmaster & membership</u>	Jason Patton
			mobile	0402 121838
				jason@parau.com
Caitriona Young	9844 2842			
Sybille Ims	9844 1335 or 0405 500	Market trailer		
278	imsbs@netspace.net.au		Website:	www.fowsp.org.au



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks



Leader: Cathy Willis

This series of educational and interpretive nature walks explores some of Manningham’s most inspiring and interesting bushland. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. All times and distances are approximate.

Ratings:

Easy – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards.

Moderate – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards.

Difficult – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Meeting points will be provided at time of booking,.

To book call 9840 9124 or email eeadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

Thursday February 28 9.30am

Bulleen Park and Bolin Bolin Billabong.

An easy, shady walk along the Yarra flats and around Bolin Bolin. This area was prime grazing land for the early colonial settlers, but its heritage goes much further back in time as an important aboriginal gathering and ceremonial place.

Distance: 4kms Time: 2.5hrs Rating: Easy

Thursday March 28 9.30am

Koornong – a view from the other side

This section of Warrandyte State Park is in directly opposite Manningham’s iconic Jumping Creek Reserve. This much less visited reserve on the north (Nillumbik) side of the river offers a different perspective, with beautiful views of the river.

Distance: 3kms Time: 2.5hrs Rating: Difficult

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

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

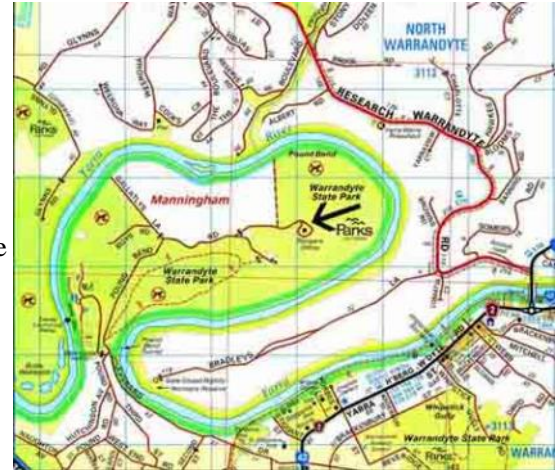
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 2013

Members \$1.50

Non-members \$2.00



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Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2013

The 2013 Manningham Environmental Seminars are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except May when it will be on Wednesday 8 May).

Many of the seminars will be complemented with field sessions to facilitate broader education on the topics. No bookings are required for the evening talks however RSVP must be provided for the field sessions which can only be booked at the seminar.

Seminars start at 7.30pm in the Chandelier Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte.

For further information phone Lyn Meredith 9840 9326



6th February Gone but not forgotten - Early Fauna of Victoria: presented by John Harris.

At the time of European settlement in Victoria, the faunal composition in Victoria was very different to what it is today. Of the 91 terrestrial (non-marine) species recorded in this state, 14 are no longer found here and five have become extinct altogether. This presentation will look at these 19; possible causes for their disappearance and attempts to reintroduce them. John Harris is a Fauna Ecologist and President of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

13th February The field trip to the Mount Rothwell biodiversity interpretation centre will lead participants on an evening walk to view species of high conservation value fauna. The area is the largest predator free environment in Victoria and offers a unique opportunity to view wildlife recovery programs in a natural and predator proof environment. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Participants must have attended the previous seminar. For further enquiries phone Lyn Meredith 9840 9326

6th March 'Wildlife Health Surveillance Victoria' is a faculty of veterinary science at Melbourne University. They investigate reports of sick and dead wildlife in Victoria to understand the health implications for wildlife and detect changes. This important work is completed because wildlife health can affect biodiversity conservation and ecosystem health. It can also have an impact on bio-security and the health of domestic animals and people. Pam Whiteley will present this subject discussing the benefits of reporting diseased and dead wildlife to better manage and understand epidemics for biodiversity protection.

Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

Sunday 17th February *Weed mapping and monitoring:*

Session 1: Community groups 10 am to 1 pm

Session 2: Private landholders 1:30 pm to 3 pm. **Bookings: 9433 3316 or book online.**



Sunday 17th February *Life cycle of the Eltham Copper Butterfly* 10:30am—12 noon.

With Andrea Canzano, zoologist and butterfly expert. **Bookings: 9433 3316 or book online.**

For entire the Nillumbik program see Nillumbik website Events Program

INVITATION TO TRY CANOEING

Often wondered what canoeing or kayaking was like? Have the kids just returned from camp raving about how much fun *they* had? Had your curiosity piqued by watching how successful our Olympic Kayak Team was? Has the Murray Marathon ever interested you?

If so....Join us at Canoeing Victoria's FREE COME & TRY Day on Sunday 10th February 2013 with a 45 min paddling sessions starting at 9.00 am and finishing at 4.00pm - bookings essential.

Venue : Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimons Lane Templestowe – Melways Ref: 33 F1



Ring the office to secure your spot or have a look at our Website:



**FOWSP commemorative crystal glasses available at \$40 per pair. Only 2 pairs available.
Please contact Lyndy on 9844 0106 if you would like to purchase them.**

The World in a Lunch Box with Dani Venn and Vasili Kanidiadis

Vasili Kanidiadis from the grassroots program Vasili's Garden and local Masterchef contestant Dani Venn have a unique passion for cooking and home harvest gardening. For **one night only** Vasili and Dani will come together and encourage us to forget pre-packaged 'lunchbox foods' marketed at kids and fast life-styles and inspire us to grow and prepare amazing, healthy, and delicious lunch box feasts.

Come along early and get to 'Know Your Neighbour' at the fantastic *Home Grown Food Exchange*. Bring along some of your home grown produce such as vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs and spices to exchange.

There will be great stories, recipe cards, discussions, tips, prizes and giveaways and the session may even finish with a Zorba dance celebration.

Date: Thursday 28 February 2013

Time: 6.45 – 7.00pm Registration and Home grown Food Exchange

At: 7pm Manningham City Council, Function Room 1 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster
Melway Ref: 33 F12

Bookings: Natalie – 9840 9124 **FREE** but bring your home grown food to swap.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out on 1st December 2012
(List will be in next issue)

The Warrandyte market is held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stiggants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs to (man/woman) the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2013 please contact **Sybille Ims 9844 1335/0405 500 278**
imsbs@netspace.net.au *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

Future market dates are: *Saturday February 2nd, March 2nd, and
Warrandyte Festival Sat & Sun. 23-24 March.*

Attention all members who like to:

- talk with FOWSPians and rangers,
- observe nature in their own patch,
- attend FOWSP and related activities

and

can put a few words together and/or photograph what you've learned, occasionally or regularly.



→ **You are needed as a contributor to the FOWSP Newsletter.** You'll find writing and photographing for the newsletter can be lots of fun.

Thanks to Ben and Jan who are both taking a well earned break from the I SPY column.



Contact the Editor, Linda Rogan at 9435 5806 or send in your contribution to lindarogan@netspace.net.au

News from the Committee

Redesign of nursery:

The slab for the new shed is in place - a working bee will be needed to put the shed up.

Nursery news:

- Seed sowing is well under way and seed collection is ongoing
- Orders for at least several thousand plants have been received from private people, from Parks Victoria, from Melbourne Water and from Manningham Council.
- A new 3 metre cantilever umbrella will be put in place to protect volunteers working at outside tables on Thursday mornings.

TAGs and WAGs - A meeting has been held with Parks Victoria staff and a list of activities has been prepared.

Warrandyte Festival - The theme for this year is - "getting to know your neighbours". FOWSP will participate once again and Nillumbik Land Care group will be invited to join with FOWSP.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12 February, 2013

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

A TAG Activity

Planting at Glynn's wetlands in November 2012. Locally sourced seeds were grown by the FOWSP nursery. Species included *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* valley form, *Bursaria spinosa* and *Rapanea howittiana*. This is an area where natural regeneration of these species is unlikely to occur. (See Kel's article p. 4)



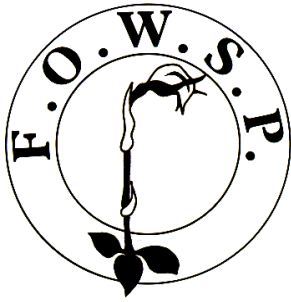
See page 4 for this month's TAG & WAG activities.



There is no shortage of food and plenty of good cheer at any FOWSP barbecue.

Pictures on this page are from the Thursday holiday break-up December 13, 2012.

It was great that the rangers could also join us on the day



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**Native Calophyllae Halictid Bee
*Lasioglossum calophyllae***

This tiny bee sat upon the blossom of a hound's tongue in the nursery. Each blossom is about 6mm showing that the bee isn't much bigger. The drop of nectar in her mouth is being stretched and evaporated to the desired consistency for her use in a process called bubbling. You can see the pointed tip of her tongue and her hinged mouth parts through the bubbling. *Linda*

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30 Newsletter by email (tick box)
Concession \$10

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website www.fowsp.org.au with the option of direct deposit payment.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page



This Caterpillar found at Boomers Reserve on 21st January,

fed on Red Box leaves and pupated on 8th February 2012. I found the adult, this lovely tan and pink moth, an *Arhodia lasiocomparia* on the floor on 16th January 2013. I realised that the rubber band that would have secured the cover on the pupal container had perished in the time it took the moth to develop and emerge so I need to find a more durable type of band for my jars in the future.



This Small Tongue Orchid, *Cryptostylis leptochylla* (left) was one of several blooming at Baluk Willam on 27 January 2013. The close-up (below) gives a good idea where this orchid got its common name. Cryptostylis orchids are all fertilised by the attentions of the male Ichneumon Wasp (*Lissopimple excelsa*) that mistake the smell and colour for a female.



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