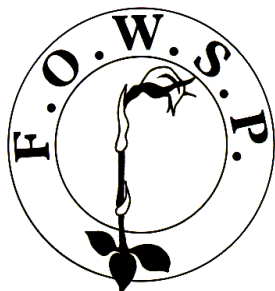


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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



Going, going..... ..GONE!

Editor's Corner

AS THE WEATHER GETS COOLER, FOWSP activities only increase. Seeds to sow, plants to prick out, cuttings to make, revegetation areas to maintain and every where weeds to control. As well the nursery is aging and many things need replacing.

Much work and many hands have been required to remove the decaying hot house above in preparation for something much needed by the nursery at present. Turn straight to page 9 to find out the progress of the new building to be placed in this site. More importantly to find out how YOU CAN HELP.

On page 2 a reason to be optimistic about the future comes from one of our youngest members. Also Jan reports on the chook workshop.

Carol tells us about progress of the revegetation project on Lower Orchard Track on page 3 and about

one of the early emerging fungus in this area.

Gray enlightens us about another TAG day at Naughtons and Kel has some news about some "shady" characters in the nursery on page 4. Also Kel has obtained funding for another year of week-end activities. See page 7 for this.

One of the things that makes FOWSP work so well is the way many members pitch in where needed, with whatever they are capable of doing, often without being asked. Often this work is not evident to the casual observer. For just one outstanding example see page 8.

To all active FOWSPians, keep up the good work, keep sending in your photos and news, and of course, enjoy the newsletter.

Linda

Deadline for June 2013 edition newsletter is

Friday *May 25*, 2013

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



Well Done Mitchell!

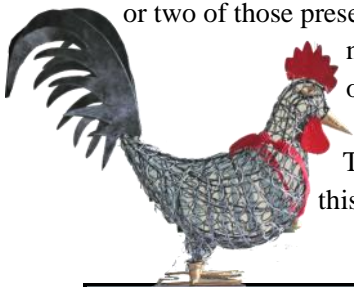
Many of us know 9yo Mitchell (left) who has been coming to FOWSP with Julie Bishop since he was 2. At his recent visit Vicki Hooper learned that in 2012 Mitchell and two class mates won "Young Scientist" of the year for 7 to 8yos. The category was energy and environment. They built a model solar powered house and charted their results over 3 weeks to demonstrate how the sun can be used to light a home. Their prize was \$3,000 for their school (Laburnum Primary School) and \$500 to share between the three boys. Congratulations to Mitchell and his classmates! Knowing about your efforts makes our future look brighter.

KEEPING CHOOKS

ON THURSDAY 11th April, a small group of Fowspians, and several visitors, were treated to a 2 hour seminar on the hows and whys of keeping chooks at home. Maria Ciavarella,

clearly a great chook lover herself, entertained us with a lively account of all aspects of keeping chooks, including types of chooks, feed, housing, protection from predators, and importantly, local regulations regarding the keeping of chooks at home. Maria, who has her own company called "My Green Garden" was presenting this talk on behalf of "Sustainable Gardening Australia". Only one or two of those present already had chooks, but judging by the number of notes being taken and the number of questions that were asked, there may soon be a lot more chooks in local backyards.

Thanks to Manningham Council for funding this very enjoyable presentation. *Jan*



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Warrandyte Festival in March

Diane Baird, John Baird, Alison Thom, Marion Thomson, Gloria Moore, Jan Davies, Jan Falconer, Peter Kennedy, Geoff Speedy, Marie Krause, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook, Antje Bauer, Catriona Young, John Young, Don Sanders, Jan Smids, Sybille Ims.
 Artur Munchow—trailer pick up and delivery
 Jason Paton and Peta Cumming—trailer setting up

Saturday 6th April's volunteers were

Diane & John Baird, Jan Davies, Fay Jenkins, Christine Andell, Jan Falconer, Lyndy Gilbert, Ken Crook
 Peter Curry- trailer pick up and delivery

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 imsb@netspace.net.au** *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

Future market dates are: *Saturday 4th May, 1st June and 6th July.*





An April TAG on Orchard Track by Carol Page

A HARDY BAND of volunteers set off in the rain to the lower end of Orchard track. The plan was to replace guards and stakes around plantings from previous years that had been munched badly by Warrandyte members of the Macropod family and deer. We used taller stakes and new guard material that was supplied on a roll. Some plants had not survived the mastication, others struggled to hold or produce a leaf or phyllode.

Some such as *Goodenia ovata* (Hop Goodenia), *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses), and *Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush) from 2011 were flourishing. Of last year's plantings many of the *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* (Round-leaf Pomaderris) had been badly affected.



"*Pomaderris vacciniifolia* is endemic and vulnerable in Victoria and regionally endangered in greater Melbourne" (WSP plant list 2002/2003). The Nursery has a lovely specimen growing in Frogland. It flowers October to November. The other species we lavished our care on were *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Manna Gum) and *Callistemon sieberi* (River Bottle-brush).

Despite our hiatus for a welcome morning tea we accomplished a lot, even needing a second delivery of stakes.



We felt very virtuous gathering up the old scattered guards and leaving a sizeable stack of damaged stakes for firewood; very useful on those cold winter days in The Folly. Another 'mission accomplished'.



AND ALSO ON THIS DAY a ring of the saprophytic fungi, *Marasmius oreades* was spotted (by Carol) amongst the grass on the Yarra River side of the track amongst mostly *Acacia dealbata*. They are common in grassy areas and open forest ground. "The mycelium of the fungus expands outwards in its search for food and the fruit bodies appear each season in expanding rings, often known as fairy rings. Sometimes the growth of grass in front of the mycelium is stimulated and then suppressed behind the mycelium, giving rise to circles of suppressed or vigorous growth resulting in multiple rings". (A field guide to Australian Fungi – Bruce Fuhrer 2005). They have a distinct umbo and are a light tan in colour which fades with age. They were probably accidentally introduced from the Northern hemisphere.

"*Marasmius oreades* seem to have the ability to resurrect after death. Most fungi are finished when they dry out. They cannot revive even when given adequate water. Apparently *Marasmius* species are able to withstand drying out because they have a high concentration of trehalose (a type of sugar) in their cells. Trehalose protects living tissue against the effects of desiccation, preventing damage to cells as they dry out. When a *Marasmius* is rehydrated, the trehalose is digested as the cells take up water and revive. It has been demonstrated that the fungus is actually alive, not just swollen up". (CD Fungi in Australia 2012) Carol

A word about Naughtons Reserve TAG 4 April 2013 from Gray

NEAR TO MY home and dear to my heart is *Naughtons*-named after the former owners of this land: Lois and Mervyn Naughton - gunsmiths and important figures in Warrandyte history.

As a boy I used to shoot rabbits here, which seems extraordinary now, but in those days there were only three or four houses in Pound Road. I also used to build huts, sleep in them overnight and light cheery camp-fires. I feel sorry for today's children who are not allowed to do any of those things....



As a TAG [Thursday Activity Group] with rangers Janaya and Kylie we recently had a 'blitz' on weeds in Naughtons; concentrating on *Acacia retinodes* and *Pittosporum undulatum*. These are both 'natives' but not local plants; the 'Pitto' has the potential to crowd out everything else, especially in the moist gullies.

Another success was the removal of a large patch of *Crassula multicava* - a succulent which had spread following dumping of garden refuse.

Janaya has plans to follow up this TAG by offering her students the opportunity to keep up the good work - the success of any TAG is of course dependent on relentless 'follow up' work!

SHADY CHARACTERS

Here are some creepers which do not mind that tricky shady/damp spot in the garden

Ivy-leaf Violet - *Viola hederacea* - Prostrate stoloniferous mat-forming herb. Prefers some shade and moisture.
 Purple flowers in: Jan, Feb, Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.
 Positions: Semi-sun, Shade.
 Soil Types: Well-drained, Moist.
 Uses: Banks, Rockery/Cottage, Wetland/ponds



Forest Hound's-tongue - *Austrocy-noglossum latifolium* - Scrambling perennial herb.
 White flowers in: Sep, Oct, Nov.
 Position: Shade.
 Soil Types: Well-drained, Moist.



Bidgee-widgee - *Acaena novae-zelandiae* - Prostrate creeping herb to 10cm. (BEWARE BURRS!)
 Flowers in: Jan, Oct, Nov, Dec.
 Flower Colour: Green
 Positions: Full-sun, Semi-sun, Shade.
 Soil Types: Well-drained, Moist.
 Uses: Banks, Rockery/Cottage, Wetlands/Ponds

Kidney-weed - *Dichondra repens* - Creeping perennial, mat-forming herb. Quick growing creeper. Prefers some shade and moisture
 Flowers in: Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.
 Flower Colour: Yellow-light
 Positions: Semi-sun, Shade.
 Soil Types: Well-drained, Moist.
 Uses: Banks, Wetlands/Ponds

Some other species which are also available at the nursery include:

Lagenifera stipitata Blue Bottle Daisy 5 to 25cm high and adaptable to moist well drained soils with mauve flowerheads Spring and Autumn (left)



Pratia pendunculata Matted Pratia, a perennial herb prostrate forming mats. Flowers white or bluish-mauve and are 5-8 mm long. Found in swamps and

damp shaded forests. Indicative of fresh-water environments (right).



Kel

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2013			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Nursery Manager</u>	Josh Revell
			Nursery Phone	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
				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		Enquiries:	1300 764 422
Sybille Ims	9844 1335 or 0405 500	Market trailer	Website:	www.fowsp.org.au
278	imsbs@netspace.net.au		Contact:	info@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 **Book early as places are filling fast.**

Thursday 23rd May 9.30 am Yarra Brae –trek through the heart of the gorge. Follow the Yarra River downstream through one of the most remote and least accessible parts of the Warrandyte Gorge. This walk involves a creek crossing and off track walking, but the reward is well worthwhile. Distance: 8 km
Time: 5 hrs

Rating: Difficult Note: BYO lunch and ample water.

Thursday 27 June 9.30 am Currawong and the Mullum Mullum Creek wilderness. Currawongs tag-line is "the best little wilderness in town". We will traverse Currawong from south to north to find out why, and then return along the riparian corridor in the west side of the creek.

Distance:6.5km Time: 3hrs Rating: Moderate



Manningham City Council's Boomer Revolution Program,



Includes two of the Heart Foundation walking groups for "Baby Boomers" that explore some of the area's fantastic flora and fauna. If you're a "Boomer" and are interested to join in, please visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/boomer for all the details. If you'd like to start up a walking group of your own and showcase the wonderful work of FOWSP to potential new members, Manningham City Council would love to hear from you on 9840 9323.

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

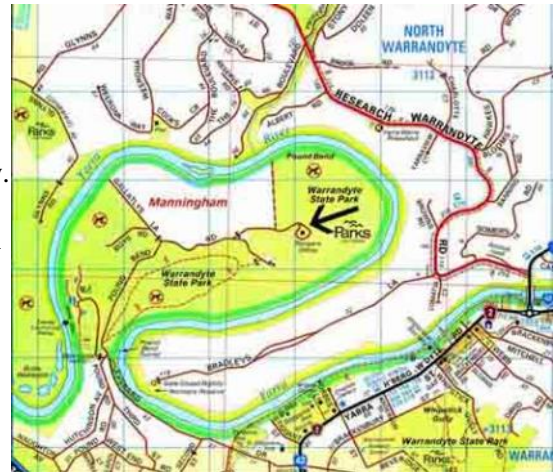
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 2012

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 8th 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 **the field sessions must be booked and can only be booked at the seminar.**

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

For further information phone Lyn Meredith 9840 9326

Wednesday 8th May *The Physiography of the Yarra Valley Foundations:* presented by Dr Neville Rosengren, Honorary Associate at La Trobe University This seminar will describe the physical environment of the City of Manningham in the wider context of the Yarra Valley and the Port Phillip Sunkland. This region has been in and out of salt and fresh water, covered by kilometres of ice, blanketed in dust, stretched and compressed, lifted and tilted before *Homo sapiens* did their bit for it. The presentation will describe geological units, examine the development of the modern Yarra River system as a major landform and carry you from the earliest known times to a prognosis for the future from the perspective of an earth scientist.

Field Trip: Bus tour Mt. Lofty—Yarra Bend Park Thursday 9th May- 10 am to 3 pm; OR Friday 10th May 10 am to 3 pm Join Dr Neville Rosengren for this extended field trip from Warrandyte to Dights Falls, where examples of some of the geological, structural and landform elements, as discussed in the 'Physiography' seminar, will be seen. BYO picnic lunch.

Wednesday 5th June —*Mosses and Liverworts:* Presented by: Dr Matt Dell – Principal Botanist, Biosis Pty Ltd (Melbourne). Mosses and liverworts are plants which occur in almost all vegetation types playing a vital role in soil conservation, seed germination and nutrient cycling. This seminar will cover moss and liverwort distribution in Warrandyte and how land uses influence and affect associated vegetation change for these life forms.

Field Trip: Mosses and Liverworts Saturday 8th June- 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Dr Matt Dell will lead a walk through the Pound Bend reserve to discuss landscape elements that provide moss and liverwort habitats. A number of commonly occurring species will be identified together with factors influencing their presence.

Weekend Activity Group (WAG) Goes Ahead

FOWSP has been successful in its application for a Manningham City Council Small Grant Program Grant to fund our Weekend Activity Group events. Without the support from Manningham we would not be able to fund this program. FOWSP will be hosting a range of “hands-on” weekend activities within the Warrandyte State Park this planting season with re-vegetation efforts to include the picturesque Yarra River and adjoining river terraces. These areas are ecologically significant as they support local habitat for protected flora and fauna species. FOWSP are aiming to regenerate parts of the State Park from previous land uses such as orchard cropping and house sites and increasing the biodiversity of the area by planting locally sourced plant species grown at the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery. Come along and try your hand at planting some trees and give nature a hand, even planting just a few trees can help make a difference.

Sunday 26th May, at 1 pm to 3 pm Re-vegetation and Weeding at Boys Rd (Meet at Pound Bend Reserve Car Park, other end to canoe ramp)

Saturday 22nd June, at 10 am to 12 pm Maintenance and Planting at Boys Rd (Meet at Pound Bend Reserve Car Park, other end to canoe ramp)

Propagation Workshop - Saturday 6th July, 2013 at 10 am to 12 pm (Meet at Nursery)

National Tree Day Propagation Day - Cannot make it down Thursday mornings, why not try our weekend propagation day on Saturday 27th July, 2013 at 10 am to 2 pm (Meet at Nursery)

National Tree Day Planting - Sunday 28th July, 2013 at 9 am to 3 pm BBQ and Kids activities provided (Meet at Nursery)

Sunday 25th August, at 1 pm to 3 pm, Planting at Pound Bend Reserve, near the tunnel car park

Check out our website www.fowsp.org.au for what to bring and where to meet. Please RSVP for catering purposes to friendsofwsp@gmail.com or on 0408317327

Thanks to Kelly for applying for this grant and organising these events.

TAGS (Thursday activity groups) & WAGS (Weekend activity groups) 2013

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.15 am for a 9.30 pm departure. 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
Thurs.	02/05/2013	9.15 am~12 noon	Boys Rd. Pound Bend	Weed removal and maintenance of reveg. areas	Kylie/Warren	Moderate
Thurs.	16/05/2013	9.15 am~12 noon	Lower Orchard Track	Planting and maintenance	FOWSP	Easy
Sunday	26/05/2013	1 pm to 3 pm	Boys Rd. Pound Bend	See detail above	FOWSP	Easy
Thurs.	6/06/2013	9.15 am to 12 noon	Lower Orchard Track	Planting and maintenance	FOWSP	Easy

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.

Check the website for any changes at <http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php>

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

There was trouble at the nursery... Photos from Jason



Not only was the water unsuitable for drinking, pipes were leaking and had to be shut down, so no water for plants. *Who ya gunna call? Pipe Busters, or in this case Jason.*



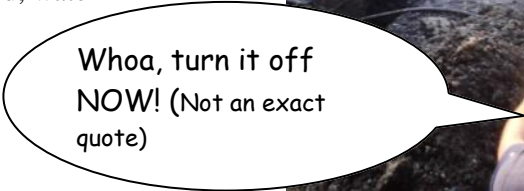
How does he work blindfolded?



Never one to be afraid to hop in, with a lot of digging, the problem or problems were found and fixed.

By the time he was finished, water flowed freely.

Great thanks to Jason



New FOWSP resource centre - a cause for celebration



May and June will be very exciting months at FOWSP. After 5 years of preparation and planning we will finally have a basic but secure and all weather building for storage of education materials, seeds and the equipment needed to manage the business side of the nursery and other FOWSP activities. Already the site has been cleared of the propagation house that previously stood on the building site. As I write the building sits at Holmsglen TAFE in final stages of completion.

Those who frequent the nursery either as customers or volunteers will be aware how difficult it can be for Josh and nursery assistants to carry on with business in crowded and inclement conditions. Computer and paper work, keeping records, adding up sales and making change, in the midst of joyful clutter of potting soil and plant cuttings, is challenging. Even more so at times when the wind and rain blow through scattering all and sundry. At times, for first aid purposes, there has been no option but to allow the ill person to lie on a blanket on the ground.

While basic, this building will offer a significant and necessary improvement to the functioning of all at the nursery and is also important for health and safety of staff and volunteers.

FOWSP is building this new office/education centre out of our own funds. Like most building projects, costs have mounted above original estimates. As a result our financial situation will be temporarily stretched. The past couple of years have seen a number of one-off capital expenses to provide infrastructure for the future of the nursery

We also face expenses with the required updating of our watering system before late spring 2013.

At a meeting in March, the committee looked at various ways to increase our financial security. It is im-

portant to ensure that staff and volunteers will be able to continue with the vital aspects of the work on our nursery in providing local indigenous plants for local revegetation

YOU CAN HELP us achieve all this in any of the following ways:

- offering constructive ideas to committee members
- making donations to FOWSP via a staged membership facility for which details will soon be announced
- donating specific items for the new building that are not covered by our small furnishings grant, (check first to see what we need).
- Purchasing a case of Goodwill Wine with FOWSP label. FOWSP will receive \$20 for each case purchased. More information soon.
- Participate in the Manningham Monster Charity Raffle. Tickets sold by FOWSP will net \$1.50 each to FOWSP and 50c to the charity fund. Contact Artur for tickets.

More News from Committee

New Rules for Inc Assoc.: the proposed updated constitution changes ,to comply with important aspects of the new model rules from the government will be placed on the website, with hard copies available to members on request. (see Artur)

Nursery Report

- A major leak in the nursery watering system meant that Jason and Josh needed to spend a large amount of time to achieve a partial fix. It is noted that much of the system is 20 to 25 years old and will require some fairly expensive repairs and upgrading. This will be needed before next summer and should be done as soon as funding allows.
- The first quarter, the nursery has produced 13,700 plants.
- Sales are up and many orders are ready as well as new orders being taken.
- Propagation course had few but keen attendees.
- Nursery computer has had to be replaced urgently.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14th May

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

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

Email photo bonus page



These sawfly larvae* (left) were found rapidly devouring the leaves of nursery tubestock *Callistemon seiberi*. I took five home to raise with a hand full of *Callistemon* branches. Once I got home, I found that my small shrub of *C. Seiberi* had hundreds on a medium shrub. I found them interesting and attractive in small numbers but not so in large numbers. Except for the five, all have been removed by hand to give the young plants a chance. I have checked several non-indigenous *Callistemon* in the neighbourhood and they don't appear to be infested.
 **Pterygophorus cinctus*.

Linda



Barbara Coker has sent along this photo of a Blue Banded Bee in the tomatoes. These bees are excellent pollinators of tomatoes because of their ability to buzz pollinate, a skill not shared by honey bees.

This tiny jumping spider, is probably the White Banded House Jumper. It was posing on an old terracotta pot.

Robert Whyte who identified it for me says it is probably one moult from adulthood and "cute". More information can be found: http://www.arachne.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=2550

Linda



Lyn Meredith sent in these photos that have been identified as most probably *Oxycanus dirempta*, one of the Ghost or Swift Moths. These tend to emerge after rain leaving their dried pupal case protruding from the ground. Lyn thinks water from her garden may have stimulated this one.



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