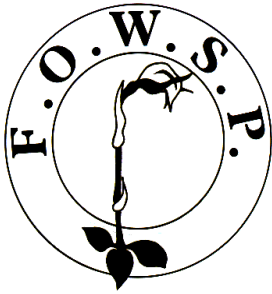


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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



Photo: J. Broadberry

Editor's Corner

Thanks to Jason for producing a fresh looking newsletter in November. It would not have been an easy task as he doesn't have the same program that I usually use.

The FOWSP AGM this year, coincided with the Climate Action Day organised by Australian Conservation Foundation and Get Up. Therefore FOWSP members, pictured above, enthusiastically displayed their support for strong climate action at this gathering at The Folly. Thanks to Gray who presented a

summary of FOWSP's year at the AGM. See p 3.

Also in this newsletter:

Lyn Meredith's Thank you to FOWSP p.2

FOWSP in action p. 4

Cathy Willis Planting in Summer? p.7

Joan Broadberry's Turtle101 p.8

And more..

This is a combined December/January Newsletter so expect the next one in February 2014. Let us know about your conservation activities and experiences over the summer and enjoy this newsletter.

Linda

Deadline for February 2014 edition newsletter is

Friday 24th January 2014

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au

Thanks FOWSP- your plants are topnotch.

THE CONSERVATION EFFORT for Manningham’s habitat corridor restoration and expansion requires many spokes of community input to set the vision in motion; many groups working for a common goal all connected but often unaware of who we are and where we complement each other. This is a little story with a common goal, the good of all, particularly landscape and life forms.



1. Frank and Josh search for niches where rare species can flourish



2. Baillon’s Crake: picture by Lyn Meredith taken at Frank’s Billabong

Combining these volunteer efforts, land stewardship, engagement and grant resources bodes well for our common goal. Thank you all FOWSP volunteers. Your vital role in the cog of environmental remedy is invaluable. Without the locally collected seed and the propagation of the thousands of plants of local provenance, habitat improvements would be reliant on distant, less local nurseries.

Residents are utilizing many grants and resources for environmental improvement. Here is a brief list:

- FOWSP, Candlebark, CRISP and Greenlink indigenous nurseries
- Manningham LEAF, RELEAF, fox control and rabbit control grants
- Wildlife carers and shelters
- Environmental contractors – for pest plant and animal control, and revegetation preparation and maintenance
- Landcare groups using habitat corridor grants applied for and administered by MYLN- thank you Artur - 5 years as coordinator working to keep groups strong
- Melbourne Water Stream Frontage grants, and Trust for Nature and Land for Wildlife agencies.



3. Frank’s neighbour Brian and Artur talk about the future planting



4. This 2012 Landcare planting, beside the billabong totalled 500 plants. Another 500 have been planted this year.

Frank’s property is an example of where a large area has been fenced off as a habitat zone. Some of you may know Frank but most you probably do not. These pictures are of his billabong along the Brushy Creek where Landcare volunteers and RELEAF grants are working to restore this magnificent patch of land. The really fabulous thing about Frank’s project is that he is adjacent to three other properties with a common goal to restore this creek habitat. Plans are afoot through the MYLN, LEAF and MW grants to plant a wide vegetation corridor. For those that are unaware of this project, I think it is important for you to know that propagation of these plants by the FOWSP volunteers will allow for this habitat corridor improvement and aid the planting of some rare and threatened wetland species in the near future.

Lyn Meredith

FOWSP 2013

as presented at the
AGM

BEFORE I summarise this year's activities and achievements, I'd like to thank Parks Victoria - and Conrad, our Ranger-in-Charge - for allowing us to play a small part in making Warrandyte State Park the wonderful asset that it is. We thank him and his hard-working staff for all the help and support we have had this year.

Our big planting project this year has been the Lower Orchard Track - Artur's 'baby'. There were six planting mornings there, including Bushcare Major Day Out and National Tree Day. On each of the latter two planting mornings there were over 50 volunteers, including a very large number of corporate volunteers. Hundreds of trees went in, and thousands of grasses.

At Boys Road there were three planting mornings, two at Pound Bend Reserve, and one each at Jumping Creek Reserve and Murundaka Wetland.

Murundaka Wetland is a project of Ranger Cam Beardsall, who has rehabilitated a riverside wetland that had been destroyed last century to make way for farming. Cam's achievements are remarkable and inspiring, so we felt privileged to be able to contribute a morning's planting there.

Every planting needs follow-up, and that is one of the main aims of our TAG [Thursday Activity Group] programme. Sometimes a TAG will take us into a more distant part of the Park network, perhaps even to a part of the Park that is not open to the general public. A woody-weeding day at One Tree Hill was such an occasion.

On Thursdays when there is no Ranger-led TAG, a group of us will do follow-up work, especially woody-weeding. At the moment we are concentrating on *Pittosporum undulatum* on the South side of Tank Track.

While the Woody Weeders are out in the bush, the main body of Thursday participants is propagating - plants in the Nursery! They play an indispensable part in producing the thousands and thousands of indigenous that come out of the Nursery every year.

Thursday mornings at the Nursery are also an opportunity for your Committee to get business done in between the formal monthly meetings. We are not chatting. Oh no! We are *networking!*

As you have seen, much has changed at the Nursery this year: the new Shade House is up, and playing its part in the production of all those thousands of plants. The New Shed, given to us by Parks Victoria is also up and in use; and where the Old Igloo once stood there is now a Pebbly Piazza. Very popular for the aforementioned Networking on a sunny Thursday morning.

Not so noticeable is the refurbishment of the Nurs-



ery irrigation system. In Jason's words, 'the rust particles were no longer holding hands and the waters gushed forth'. Fortunately he, along with Josh, was able to put in the very long hours of hard work to get the system working, in time to save hundreds of vulnerable plants from drying and dying. At least one Ranger pitched in to help.

With so much activity and so many members, [there are more than 250 memberships, most of them family memberships] it is essential to have trained First Aiders on hand, to which end a First Aid training day was again held this year.

On a cheerful topic: we have entered into an arrangement with Goodwill Wine [goodwillwine.co.au] who bottle good quality wine, much of it of local provenance, and label it with our familiar Nodding Greenhood motif. Part of the proceeds of the sale of every bottle goes to FOWSP - a truly enjoyable type of fund-raising!

Other fundraising included a sausage sizzle and stall at the local IGA, for which Lyndy, Sybille and Jan baked delicious goodies. This fund-raising and publicity stall was a great success, thanks to the efforts of at least a dozen members.

A recurrent publicity exercise is the Market Trailer; organised by Sybille and staffed every Warrandyte Market day by a dozen rostered members.

Lyndy continued to provide inspired morning teas on Thursdays - and she also put on New Member Afternoon Teas. At these, new members learn all about FOWSP over relaxed cuppa.

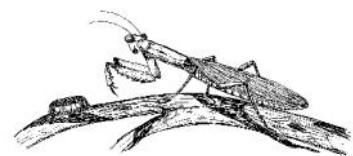
Lyndy also successfully applied for a grant of two 3.3kl rainwater tanks from Templestowe Rotary Club. Jason and Kelvin are currently installing them.

It may seem a bit odd to write about the Newsletter *in* the Newsletter, but I feel that we should acknowledge all the hard work that Linda and Joan put in month after month. Recently Jason acted as editor, in Linda's absence. He has also put past numbers online; going right back to the early days of FOWSP.

A final thank you and a very heartfelt one it is too, to Josh, our Nursery Manager, and his staff. It is no exaggeration to say that without Josh FOWSP would be much the poorer in every sense. Josh's knowledge, energy and skill result in the production of a very large number of indigenous plants. These plants are propagated for planting-out in the Park, and also for sale to members and the public. It is these sales that give FOWSP a degree of financial independence.

I know that I have neglected to give all the thanks that are due, but please forgive, and be assured that we really are grateful for all the help we have received this year. We couldn't have had such a productive year without every single one of your contributions.

Gray Ardern



FOWSP in action in November (just a sample)

I ARRIVED at FOWSP by 9:30 am on Thursday and was exhilarated to find three willing workers well into some badly needed remedial work in Frogland. Winter had dropped large branches on the fence and on the boardwalk, some of boards of the walk had deteriorated, weeds of enormous size as well as some over zealous indigenous plants were obscuring the path and I had suggested a working bee by email.

By morning tea, this work was either completed or had gone as far as we could for the day, with the exception of removing huge piles of weeds.



And the winner of the lovely blooming *Xanthorrhoea minor*, drawn by Belinda and Peta is John Blake. Did this help him decide to join the committee?

John Blake , Kelvyn Watkins, Sarah Qualtrough are greatly welcomed new committee members for 2014.

We hope to see them at the meeting below: *Linda*



We will require some materials to complete the boardwalk renewal project, (see below)

Thanks to Brian, Caitriona and Gray for jumping in so willingly to this project. If you'd like to help us in the future, contact Linda.

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 14th January 2014
Venue:	Ranger Station, Pound Bend
Time:	19:30 pm sharp

Thanks to Jason and Kelvyn for such a professional job installing this new watertank.

Special thanks to Templestowe Rotary for kindly funding this purchase.



-
- Needed for FOWSP projects:**
- Frogland:** Red gum planks to replace 10 to 20 that have deteriorated: 40mm x150 x 900mm or longer.
- Chicken wire mesh for a non-slippery surface .
- Native Bee Habitat Wall:**We also need some material for a bee habitat wall:
- Hollow Besser Bricks (up to 30)
- Sandy loam soil (a trailer load or more)
- Email Linda if you can help
- lindarrogon@netspace.net.au
-

This photo is a bee wall from Susanne Richards book *South Australian Native Bees, A glimpse inside their world*. I plan to build something similar for FOWSP. Her book can be purchased online: <http://www.susanne-richards.com/productpage.htm>

Or ask Linda.



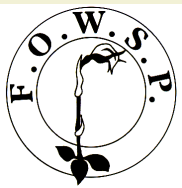
FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
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				nursery@fowsp.org.au
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Linda Rogan	9435 5806	Newsletter editor	<u>Newsletter assist</u>	Joan Broadberry
lindarogan@netspace.net.au				9846 1218
Jason Patton	mobile 0402 121838	Webmaster and mem- bership	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u>	Adriana Simmonds
jason@parau.com				9722 2908
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Koala Rescue</u>	Julie Pryor
				9840 1593
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		<u>Librarian</u>	Judy Green
				9844 2096
Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Meeting Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Sybill Ims 9844 1335 or 0405 500 278 imsb@netspace.net.au
John Blake			Email and Facebook Coordinator	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Social Media and Facebook Coordinator	
			Kelly Wooster	9844 2819
Sarah Qualtrough			Website: www.fowsp.org.au	

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

JOIN US on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am, (TAG workers only), to 12. 30 pm. Either meet at the depot, (sharp at 9:00 am for 9:15 start), 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

TAGS and WAGS will resume in February 2014.



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of educational and interpretive nature walks will explore various sections of the Yarra River from the eastern end of Manningham in Wonga Park downstream to Templestowe.

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 distances and finishing times are approximate.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. Meeting points will be provided at time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au

9.30 am Thursday 23 January Blue Tongue Bend Loop, Jumping Creek Reserve, Wonga Park A circular walk that follows the narrow river track upstream with stunning views, and then returns over the ridge, with rare plants and an old chapel to discover along the way.

Distance: approx 4kms **Time:** approx 3hrs **Rating:** difficult (some steep narrow sections of foot track)

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, narrow and/or slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

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

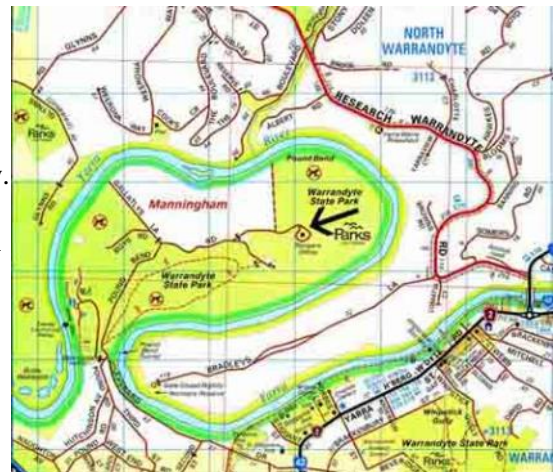
the first Sunday of each month

2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 1st Jan..2014 note change from 2013

Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



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Manningham Environment Seminars 2013/2014



The 2013/2014 Environmental Seminars are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except January when there will not be a seminar). 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 RSVPs must be provided for the field sessions.

Venue: Chandelier Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte

Time: 7.30 pm **Inquiries and RSVPs:** For further information, please phone Lyn Meredith on 9840 9326

Wednesday 4th December: Moths presented by Peter Marriott There are more than 1,000 moth species in Manningham and they form a central part of ecosystems through the area. Beautiful? Yes! Secretive? Yes! Useful? Yes! Pestiferous? Yes! Fascinating? Absolutely! Each species has its own niche and unique lifestyle and supports birds, bats and other small mammals, various wasps, flies and other insect parasites. Most have their own special plant species but there is much to learn by the careful observer - right in your own garden. Peter Marriott is the author of the Moths of Victoria series and travels widely in the state investigating the moth fauna.

Wednesday 5th February 2014 Owls response to the urban-forest interface presented by Hannah Grant. Urbanisation is a significant threat to biodiversity on a global scale. This seminar will present research to determine the impact of urbanisation on the distribution of the Southern Boobook, Powerful and Barn Owls within Melbourne's urban-forest interface.

Owls are top order predator species, and discovering the impact on owls of urbanisation may identify the risks to the broader ecosystem. Research investigating biodiversity trends in urban landscape is crucial for understanding the drivers of biodiversity loss and for producing informed planning decisions.

Field Trip Friday 7th February 2014 Our Night Owl Prowl presented by John Harris, President of the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria.

John will lead a night walk through part of the Mullum Mullum urban-fringe forest way to hear, and hopefully glimpse, owl activity. This two hour Friday evening walk will complement Hannah Grant's presentation earlier in the week. John will use owl recordings for call and response and we will delight in the balmy summer sounds of this urban forest. You must attend the seminar to be eligible for a place on this walk. *Bookings are essential*

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

Planting in summer? Surely not.

Cathy Willis

YES INDEED, there are some situations where it is appropriate to plant at the driest time of year. Where? Wetland fringes, bog gardens and ponds of course!

This is the time of year that wetland fringe and mud-flat riverbank plants have their opportunity to occupy the ground exposed by falling water levels. The chance only lasts for a few months so for many annual species it's a mad rush to germinate, flower and set seed before the water level rises again. Some longer-lived species use strategies such as layering or creeping to spread their range following the water down.

Similar things will probably be happening in your bog garden, pond or dam. And the weeds will try just as hard as the natives to take advantage. Why not out-compete them by bulk planting some local natives?

The nursery has a range of fringing plants to help you win the war. Flecked or Leafy Flat Sedge and Austral Gyp-sywort are taller, robust species, while Swamp Goodenia and Matted Pratia will creep around and smother the bare ground below. Dot some Matted St Johns Wort clumps amongst the ground covers for its bright green foliage and deep yellow flowers.


There are also true aquatic plants available to add a bit of habitat in the water. It is easier to plant while the water is shallow, so summer is a good time to add some Floating Pondweed, which you can plant directly into the mud, or in a pot

sitting on the mud. Free floating aquatics include; several Water-milfoils, and the bizarre carnivorous Yellow Bladderwort.

If you don't have a wet area in your garden you might think about creating one. You will find some good tips on page 20 of *Native Splendour* (available free from the nursery, Manningham CC, or download from the MCC website). Or, like me, start with an old ceramic laundry trough or bath. It's a whole new gardening world.



Matted Pratia (L) and Matted St. John's Wort (R) do well in a self watered pot. Photo: Linda Rogan



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out in the November Market
Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Jan Davies, Christine Andell, Gloria Moore, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook. Trailer by Peter Curry.

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 December 7th, February 1st 2014

Green Turtles 101

Joan Broadberry

THE LACEPEDES ISLANDS are a little known group of four islets lying off the north-west coast of Western Australia, about 120 km north of Broome. Unimaginatively, they are named West, East, Middle and Sandy Islands. The four are all low, treeless spits of coarse sand and coral rubble, vegetated by a few grasses and shrubs. Black Rats were eradicated in 1986, allowing the recolonisation of the islands by breeding sea-birds. They are also Western Australia's most important breeding habitat for Green Turtles and are designated an 'A class' nature reserve. On the journey back from a recent eight day bird-watching trip to Ashmore Reef, our group called in to West Island. The birdlife was spectacular, but is not birds I want to write about but turtles, or more precisely one female Green Turtle.

Our 20 berth boat, the Flying Fish II, had anchored overnight in the Lacepede's West Island lagoon. We rose before sunrise to be ready to go ashore at first light. As we walked up the beach we could see many turtles hurling sand over eggs or making their way laboriously back to the sea. Female turtles normally come to lay their eggs under the cover of darkness, but these tardy animals were still finishing their tasks at dawn. I was told later than something like 200 turtles per night come ashore. Suddenly I spotted a turtle lying helpless on her back and urgently called to some of the men to turn her over. When she was right way up I took a second look and realised that this female had only one rear flipper. The other was a healed stump. I felt an immediate bond with this animal, whose life we had probably saved, and wanted to see her safely back in the sea. As she painstakingly struggled the 20 metres or so to the water's edge I stood quietly and videoed her. The track made in the sand by the three flippers was distinctive and she stopped frequently, seemingly to rest. I almost cheered when she finally swam away. However, she did not get far before another turtle jumped on her back and there was a lot of splashing. They were obviously mating.

A few hours later when we were back on the boat and were heading for Broome, the captain gave me tutorial 101 on Green Turtle breeding and behaviour. Good nesting sites can be scarce and sometimes the animals try to clamber over each other. This was probably the way 'my' turtle tipped over. Her flipper had probably been bitten off by a shark or crocodile. Ensuring the continuation of the species is not meant to be easy. During our trip we landed on a number of islands and there were always a few dead turtles to be seen. Sometimes the turtles lose their way and, disastrously, head inland. They may become over-heated, exhausted or possibly get stuck against some barrier and be unable to progress. Only female turtles have to suffer the many hazards of coming onto land. Males are on a beach for a brief few minutes when they are hatchlings.

The Green Turtle breeding cycle is more complex than it first appears. The females have three separate sets of eggs developing inside them. These will be laid on three nights and each batch needs to be fertilized separately a few hours before laying. Hence the males waiting in the shallows. So my turtle might have had to face up to two more dangerous trips up and down the beach. Turtles breathe in a pattern suited to an aquatic lifestyle. Underwater they stroke with their flippers while holding their breath.

Then they stop moving, pop their heads up and take a breath. On land they hold their breath as they push through the sand, then stop (it seems like resting) and breathe.

Observing turtles of several different species was one of the absolute highlights of our wonderful trip. We often noticed their shadowy shapes darting past the boat. One had to be patient (and lucky) to grab a photo when a head surfaced for a quick breath. What a finale it was to be allowed to spend a morning on the Lacepedes Nature Reserve and witness their lives so intimately.



Green Turtle missing a back-left flipper



Some of eight Peron's Tree Frogs found in the stacks of chairs before the AGM, a yearly occurrence.
Photo Jason and inset Linda



Catjump Preschool presented FOWSP with a certificate of appreciation for the plants and advice provided to help in the creation of their butterfly garden pictured above.

WHAT'S THIS?

Kay asked Thursday morning workers to guess the purpose of these strange looking items (Right). Gray guessed they had something to do with Wombats.

The full answer can be found on the Mange Management website: <http://www.mangemanagement.org.au/>

It states,
"Mange Management is a group of dedicated and concerned individuals from varying backgrounds intent on treating and reducing the impact of mange on "Free Living Wombats".

The Department of Primary Industries Animal Ethics have approved a three year trial program which was granted in February 2012. Mange Management now has the treatment program up and running.

Mange Management welcomes the assistance of individuals, land holders, landcare groups, wildlife shelters and carers, bushwalkers: in fact, anyone who cares about the suffering of these wonderful native animals.

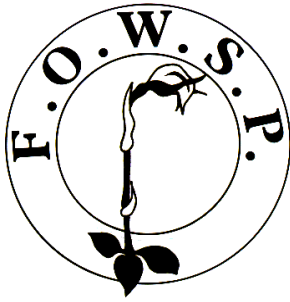
Spread the word."



Thank you

 to all who have contributed to the FOWSP newsletter in 2013.
 Special thanks to the editorial back-up of Joan Broadberry and Jason Patton.
 Enjoy the festive season and we look forward to hearing from all of you and some new contributors next year.
 Without contributors, there is no newsletter.
Linda





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Ptilotus seminudus or Rabbit-tails.

A beautiful, perennial, 10 - 20 cm in height. Found
in mallee bushland.
This photo was taken in September at Hattah-
kulkylne National Park in northern Victoria.
Joan Broadberry

December 2013/January 2014 Vol.31 no. 10

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$10

Newsletter by email (tick box)

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

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Email photo bonus page



The Jumping Creek catchment had an erosion stabilizing session and many tussock plants grown by FOWSP is now helping to stabilize the site.
Photo Lyn Meredith

Richard Thomson sent these photos of a Fungus Gnat on a Rufa group orchid.

Via the internet and BowerBird I learned this is a fungus gnat of the Mycetophilidae family.

A family of small flies, forming the bulk of those species known as fungus gnats. There are approximately 3000 described species in 150 genera but the true number of species is undoubtedly much higher. They are generally found in the damp habitats favoured by their host fungi and sometimes form dense swarms.

Ken Walker on BowerBird noted that close examination of wing venation is needed to take the ID beyond the family level.



Belinda at the nursery in August, September and October (above) and finally a change of weather on Thursdays in November (right)



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