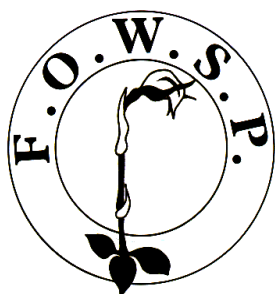


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) Inc. PO Box 220 Warrandyte 3113
ABN 94170156655/Incorporation No. A0024890C



Another step completed on the new education centre thanks to Jason, Kelvyn and their wonderful team.



What's the story of our bright new signs?
See p. 2

Editor's corner

Many Fowspians have returned from winter travels. This newsletter features some of the marvellous changes that greeted our return.

Sarah Q.'s story of the new signs and the first of her indigenous plant recipes claim page 2.

Joan Broadberry shares fascinating fossils of the Flinder's p.3.

Linda exposes the contents of an ootheca and a possible case of cannibalism p.4. Pages 4-7 are chock-a-block with activities of the environmental kind.

Alwynne shares sights of the gorgeous Kimberleys and stirs Linda's memory on p. 8.

Page 9 has some bits and pieces from around the nursery including a cameo appearance by Ben from I Spy. Lastly wildflowers dominate the bonus email photo page. Please enjoy and keep the good news coming.

Linda

Sunday 23 November

MARK YOUR CALENDAR The FOWSP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 23 November

from 5 pm. along with the grand opening
of the new Education Centre. (EC)

Come help us celebrate our new EC, a
dream come true via a lot of hard work,
by many people.

Watch this space for more details in
November newsletter..

Deadline for November 2014 edition newsletter is

Friday 24th October 2014

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Bright Sparks in our Nursery

Sarah Qualtrough

Recent visitors to the nursery will have noticed some bright new additions. It all began with the mysterious arrival of the Welcome sign, a mosaic landscape in Warrandyte green that Thursday morning regulars soon discovered to be the handiwork of local artist and FOWSP volunteer Carolyn Noel Vincent. Appearing next was the Water Plants sign, shimmering a silvery blue and dripping with beads. (p. 1)



With encouragement from the nursery staff, Carolyn arranged a workshop inviting other volunteers to contribute, and so it came to be. The signs are made from reclaimed materials and an abundance of glitter. Not only do they add some colour to the nursery and provide clear direction for customers, they also add a certain humour – the sedges sign for instance is accompanied by a razor sharp cutlass, while in the climbers section, a sparkling sign meanders high above the hardenbergia. Much thanks to Carolyn for her ideas, time, and of course her glitter.



And thanks to Faye and Sarah for adding their creativity to the mix at the workshop. Ed

From Sarah's kitchen, with love and indigenous plants

Sarah Q

Mentha australis, or River Mint, is a soft, sprawling herb that grows well in clay rich moist soils and is found locally along the river. Not only edible, it was traditionally used medicinally for coughs and colds, and rubbed on to the skin as an insect repellent. River mint can be used either fresh or dried, though use sparingly as its tiny leaves are packed full of flavour. River mint is delicious in tea or cocktails, dressings or as a marinade for fish and meat. I have tossed it through peas freshly picked from the vegie patch, and it makes a refreshing addition to tabouleh.

Native Mint and Macadamia Slice



Photo from Flora of Warrandyte

200gm dark chocolate (70% cocoa)

175gm Macadamia Nut Shortbread

40gm butter

2 tablespoons of honey

2 tablespoons native river mint

Line a pan with baking paper

Place the dried native mint in a saucer and add 2 tablespoons of hot water.

Leave to cool.

Combine 200gm dark chocolate (70% cocoa) with 40gm butter and 2 tablespoons of Australian honey in a stainless steel bowl over a saucepan of boiling water until the chocolate just melts and the ingredients are combined.

Remove from heat and stir in the native mint. Then fold in the packet of Macadamia Nut Shortbread broken into chunky pieces.

Pour mixture into lined pan and chill for 2 hours.

Slice and serve.

Recipe from <http://bushtuckerrecipes.com/bushfood/river-mint-2/river-mint/>

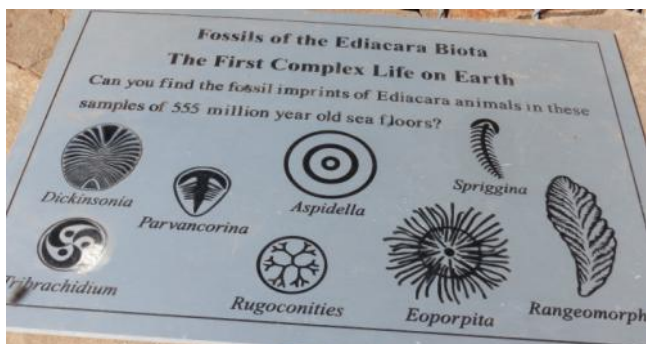
Geology can set your heart racing.

Joan Broadberry

I HAVE JUST RETURNED from an amazing trip to the Flinders Ranges organised by the Nunawading U3A geology class. I have been attending this excellent class for about a year on a Thursday morning, which unfortunately means I can seldom get to the FOWSP nursery.

The Flinders Ranges have been referred to as the 'cradle of life' and are the home to the Ediacaran Geological Period, 635-542 million years ago. This is the period immediately before the Cambrian. The Ediacaran Period's status as an official geological period was ratified in 2004 by the International Union of Geological Sciences, making it the first new geological period declared in 120 years. It takes its name from the Ediacara Hills where geologist Reg Sprigg first discovered fossils of some of the earliest life forms. The type section is located in the bed of the Enorama Creek, Brachina Gorge. Important? I am not kidding, this is about as mega as it gets!!

One of the Flinders Ranges National Park's most spectacular attractions is a self-guided 20 km long Geological Trail that passes through 130 million years of the earth's history in Brachina Gorge. With care, it is suitable for sedans. Detailed signage provides an insight into past climates, the formation of the ranges and, most fascinating of all, the evolution of early life. The trail is best travelled from east to west, starting with the oldest rock layers. It commences at the Brachina Gorge/Blinman Road junction. One of the first marked stops is at fossil stromatolites. These primitive, largely single-celled microscopic organisms, formed mats in shallow seas. Being photosynthetic they were responsible for building up the oxygen content of the atmosphere to a point where animal life was able to evolve. Living stromatolites can still be found at Shark Bay Western Australia.



Dickinsonia sp.

One of the most significant events in the history of life on Earth is recorded in a thin band of sandstone known as the Rawnley Quartzite. This contains the first evidence of multi-celled animals on earth at about 550 million years old. These very early life forms were soft

bodied and therefore did not fossilize easily. They are known collectively as the Ediacara Fauna and were discovered by Dr Reg Sprigg at nearby Ediacara in 1946. They are dominated by circular impressions which are likely to be jellyfish type animals or anchoring devices (holdfasts) of frond-like animals that lived on the floor of a shallow sea and were smothered by storm sand in a brief instant of time. They have been preserved as moulds or casts in the sand packed around them which eventually hardened to rock (Below L). The fossils are now seen as impressions on the bottom of sandstone slabs. They cannot be directly observed on the Geological Trail but some great examples are on display outside the Parachilna Prairie Hotel to the west and also in the Museum of Adelaide.

Other fossils marked on the geological trail are Cambrian trace fossils - the U shaped burrows of worms. Cambrian limestone also contains the first fossils of animals with hard skeletons. These include the cup-shaped archaeocyaths, which were probably filter feeders related to sponges, sea snails, cockle-like shells, brachiopods (lampshells) and extinct trilobites. These animals represented the most dramatic increase of diversity in the history of evolution known as the Cambrian Explosion. We were very excited to find and photograph wonderful archaeocyaths fossils in rocks located right beside the track.



Archaeocyath fossils

The Flinders Ranges in spring has much to offer. Unsurpassed scenery, wildflowers, walks, drives, wildlife, superb photography, famous South Australian hospitality, (quandong pies) and the internationally famous destination, Wilpena Pound. I might add that Brachina Gorge is also one of the best places to see one of Australia's most beautiful animals, the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby (below). However, I hope I have whetted your appetite to include some geology in your next Flinders Ranges adventure.



Ootheca contents solved, Mystery remains

Linda Rogan



This egg case (ootheca) was found on a Eucalyptus leaf in the nearby bush on April 27 and brought home for observation. Placed in a ventilated jar, nothing was observed in the weeks before we left for winter travel. I had been home a week before I got around to checking the jar on 14th of September. It was immediately clear that a lot of tiny creatures had hatched out unobserved. At first I thought that all were dead, probably starved (above R). On closer examination I found that one hatchling remained alive (R). This one appeared to be a healthy 1cm long Garden Mantis.

Has it survived by feeding on his fellow hatchlings?



TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

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

Difficulty ratings:

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

Thurs.	2nd Oct	9 am	4th Hill, Whipstick Gully	Woody Weeding	Ranger led	Difficult
Thurs	16th Oct	9 am	Rifle Range	Weeding floribunda	Ranger led	Moderate
Thurs	6th Nov	9 am	Blue Tongue Bend	Track maintenance and clearing	FOWSP	Difficult

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

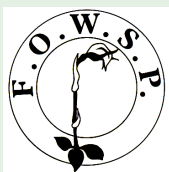
Difficult: Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.

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

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

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

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2014			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
editor@fowsp.org.au				9846 1218
Jason Patton	mobile 0402 121838	Webmaster and membership	<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	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u>	Caitriona Young
				9844 2842/0411478410
				thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk
John Blake	0418 329 937		<u>Facebook Coordinator</u>	Kelly Wooster
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774			
Sarah Qualtrough	0431 268 344		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. During the first half of 2014 we walked sections of the Yarra River through Manningham. In the second half of the year we will explore some of the tributaries on both the north and south sides of the river.

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.

9:30 am, Thursday 23rd October: Watsons Creek - Happy Valley Branch. The Watsons Creek originates in Kinglake National Park. One of the tributaries flowing in as its heads towards the Yarra River is Happy Valley Creek, which dissects the One Tree Hill section of the Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve.

Distance: approx 6kms **Time:** approx 4hrs **Rating:** difficult

9:30 am, Thursday 27th November: Koonung Creek - Donvale to Doncaster. Much of what was once the creek valley floor is now the Eastern Freeway. Surrounded by orchards and paddocks in the first half of last century, and subsequently developed as medium density housing, it still has valuable natural assets including relatively intact stands of vegetation. **Distance:** 5 kms **Time:** approx 2.5 hrs **Rating:** easy

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. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date.

Meeting points will be provided at the time of booking, to book call 9840 9124 or email eeepad-min@manningham.vic.gov.au

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.

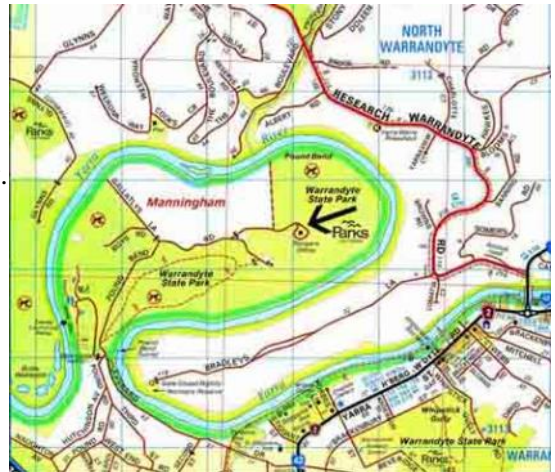
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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 days of severe weather and 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 City Council Environment Seminars 2014

The Environmental Seminars are held on the first Wednesday of the month.

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; but field trips must be pre-booked. This can be done before the talk, bookings are open now, however you must attend the corresponding seminar to retain your field-trip booking. Due to popularity of the field trips, bookings are limited to 3 trips per person per year.



Venue: Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.30 pm

Enquiries: For more information, please phone Lyn Meredith on 9840 9326. **Bookings:** Natalie on 9840 9124.

Wed 1st October: Snake Awareness presented by Sean McCarthy. We have been told that we live in a country of the deadliest snakes. What is the truth? Come along to an information session about these wonderful animals, find out what to do when you see them, how to avoid them and what to do if you do get bitten. Live animals will be present, with all venomous snakes in locked enclosures. If you wish, you can pet harmless pythons and lizards. This session will go for one and a half hours. Sean is Director of Snakehandler Pty Ltd.

Wed 5th November Living with fire in Manningham presented by Owen Gooding. Owen is the Vegetation Management Team Leader for the CFA and will discuss fire in Australia with social, cultural, ecological and historical themes. He will touch on fire behaviour; house loss, what is and is not worth doing; approaches to vegetation management; and planned burning to maintain ecological processes and protection of significant plant species

Thurs 6th Nov. Field Trip Visit a regenerating "autumn prescribed" burn site in Manningham with Owen Gooding. Observation and discussion will address how plants and ecosystems respond to fire, recognising fuels and how topography influences fire behaviour. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

Wed 3rd December Wurundjeri presented by Uncle Bill Nicholson. Wurundjeri man Uncle Bill Nicholson works as education manager for the Wurundjeri Tribe Council. In this presentation Bill will discuss traditional uses of food, fibres and tools. Past present and future projects that connect Wurundjeri to country and culture will also be discussed

Sat 6th Dec. Field Trip *Aboriginal Culture* with Uncle Bill Nicholson and Dave Crawford. Dave Crawford is an educator of ecology and traditional Aboriginal culture. In this field trip Dave will join Uncle Bill on a walk and provide a workshop opportunity for participants to try their hand at some traditional skills such as string making. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

Selected items from Spring Outdoors



Sunday 5 October, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

How to Grow and Propagate Your Own Indigenous Plants

Presented by Friends of Warrandyte State Park Nursery
Learn how to propagate your own plants from seed, cuttings and division. While the focus will be on Indigenous plants, the techniques are the same whether growing for revegetation, landscaping or your veggie garden. Tools, gloves and morning tea provided.

Cost: Free – donations to Friends of Warrandyte State are welcome

Where: Rangers Depot Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte

Bookings: Required 9840 9122

Sunday 5 October, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Waterway Wander and Wonders

Presented by the Yarra Riverkeepers

A walk-and-talk on a bush track beside the Yarra, guided by the Yarra Riverkeeper. Learn about the wonders of the river, its stories and wildlife.

Cost: Free

Where: North Warrandyte. Meeting point will be provided upon booking.

Bookings: Call the Yarra Riverkeeper on 0409 510 766 or email info@yarrariver.org.au

Sunday 26 October, 8.00 am – 10.00 am

Darebin Creek Bird Survey

Presented by Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC)

Learn how to survey birdlife in bushland, grassland, and wetlands along the Darebin Creek. A local bird expert will run through the survey method and help with identification of more difficult bird species. Bring solid shoes, weather appropriate clothing and your own binoculars if possible, but please don't bring dogs so as not to scare away birds.

Cost: Free

Where: Meet at corner of Dougherty Road and Liberty Parade,

Heidelberg West (Melway 19 E10)

Bookings essential: Call 9499 4454 or

email info@dcmc.org.au



Sunday 19 October, 7.30 am

Breakfast with the Birds

Presented by Banyule City Council and Birdlife Melbourne

Join experienced guides from Birdlife Melbourne for an early morning walk as they help to identify more than 70 species of birds. The walk will be followed by a light breakfast at the Old Shire Offices, off Beverley Road. Bring your own binoculars and wear comfortable walking shoes. Please don't be late.

Cost: Free

Where: Old Shire Offices, Beverley Road, Heidelberg (Melway 32 3D)

Bookings essential: Places are limited to 100. Call 9457 9816 or email kate.grinter@banyule.vic.gov.au

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday Sept. 6th.

Volunteers

Diane and John Baird; Jeff Cranston; Marion Thompson; Kim Cope;
Gloria Moore; Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook

Trailer transport John Young



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 in the future please contact Caitriona Young 9844 2842 or 0411478410 thefouryoungones@yahoo.co.uk

First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.

Future market dates are: Saturday Oct 4th, Nov. 1st and Dec. 6th

Gorges of the Kimberley

by Alwynne Buntine

ON A RECENT TRIP to the Kimberley I was lucky enough to cruise two of the many gorges in the area, these being Chamberlain Gorge and Geikie Gorge; both spectacular in their beauty and their differences. The first one was Chamberlain Gorge. Getting to the jetty to board the boat was no mean feat in itself, our large bus negotiating several hairpin bends to get to the departure point. Chamberlain Gorge is actually on private property, the El Questro cattle station, so it is not a national park. However it is well managed and run by special rangers who are employed by El Questro and the local indigenous people one of whom was one of our two guides on the boat.

The gorge is situated on the Pentacost River and is composed of high rocky cliffs metres tall, rising vertically from the river bed. The cliffs are all the colours of the outback, oranges, browns, blacks, reds and yellows and all shades in between. They show their beauty in the bright sunlight against the clear water of the river and the brilliant blue of the sky. Fading to purple and blue as the sun sets and the daylight disappears.

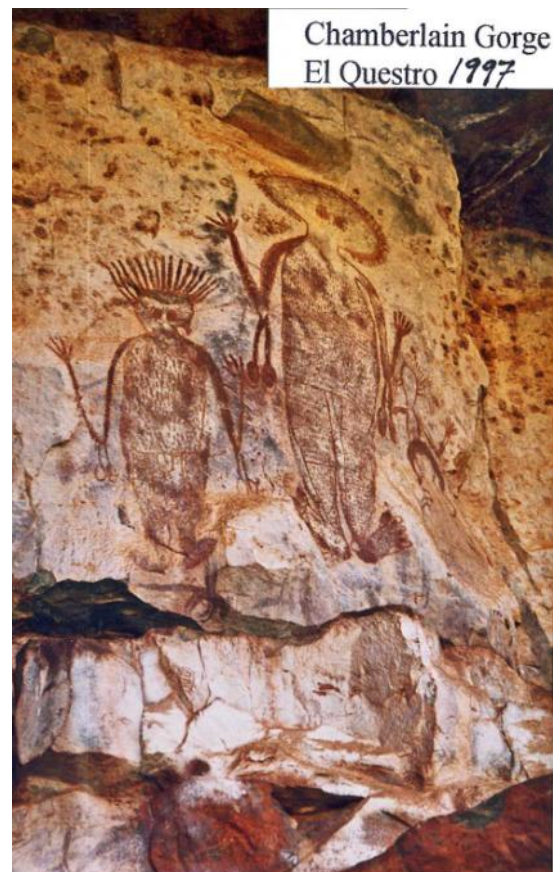
We cruised at a leisurely speed up the river giving us time to follow an Osprey who appeared to be nesting on a rock ledge far up the cliff walls; and to watch the rock wallabies defying gravity by climbing up the same sheer cliffs to graze on grassy plants and shrubs growing out of cracks and crevices in the cliffs. Our boat continued on to where a rock fall blocked the main flow of the river and the boat could go no more, (about 10kms I think). Here the river was deep and clear and we could see fish swimming metres below us. This is what we'd come for, to see the Archer Fish (*Toxotes chatareus*). The fish is a small black and white striped tropical fish found mainly in Queensland and S.E. Asia and also in Chamberlain Gorge. It is approximately 15-20cm. in length and feeds on insects. It has an unusual method of doing so. It swims close to the surface of the water and then spurts a jet of water from its mouth at an insect flying above the surface, thus catching it when it falls. The fish we saw were spurting jets of water one to two metres high. As we watched we saw catfish including an Albino one and huge Barramundi swimming at some depth below the other fish, the water was so clear.

At this point in our cruise, just before we turned to journey back, our bus driver Bob, pointed out some rock paintings on the wall of the cliff. As he did so, he explained that our guide, who was Aboriginal, wasn't allowed to, but was happy for Bob to do so.

The second gorge was Geikie Gorge this being situated on the Fitzroy River and is part of an ancient fossilized coral reef millions of years old. The cliff walls, being made of limestone, and being susceptible to erosions by the wind and water have been sculptured in the most amazing way. Great overhangs and huge caverns along the water's edge metres tall. When sailing under them you can't understand why they don't fall, they look so delicate and fragile. The walls of this gorge are not striking and colourful as the Chamberlain Gorge, they are browns and fawns and the coral appears as a whitish strip through the middle of it. There are many sand banks along the water's edge where we saw several freshwater crocodiles basking in the sun as we sailed past

The flood variations are huge in this river and are recorded on the centre post of the rotunda at the beginning of the gorge cruise. This rotunda is on the top of a hill at the rivers edge and a few years ago, the flood water were two metres above the roof of the rotunda so twenty metres above the river's edge. Some flood!

Each of these gorges are so different and yet so beautiful. We really do live in a remarkable and special country.



Alwynne's story reminded me of a trip Peter and I took some years ago to Chamberlain Gorge. I dug out this pre-digital photo which I have scanned. We had hired a tinny to explore the gorge. Could this be the art that Bob was pointing out? Linda

Happy 80th Birthday to Ben.



I scarcely recognised this handsome octogenarian until I realised what was missing: the hat! I have supplied that in the inset to assist all with recognition.

Sorry I missed the celebration Ben, but all my best wishes to you ~ Linda

Can you see the eight ducklings that were crossing the track near the rangers office?



Progress of the Education Centre



Back view of the Education Centre where rain-water tank has been installed.



A potential Occupational Health and Safety issue has been remedied by raising the trough and an associated bench to a convenient height.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14th October

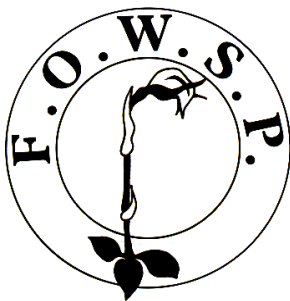
Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan,
Peter Rogan, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)



The floor has been sanded and sealed. Power is on, painting done and first of the fittings are in. These are just a few of the many important tasks quietly carried out by our fantastic FOWSP building team. They are aiming for full completion well before the exciting official opening day on Sunday 23rd of November.



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P.O. Box 220 **Warrandyte, 3113**



***Megachile ferox* Resin Bee
on Waxlip orchid**

One of the bees that can be found on flowers in our nursery, this resin bee may be one that has established a home in one of our bee bricks. They may choose a deep narrow hole in timber or stone. They mould a small ball of nectar and pollen (called bee bread) deep inside the hole and lay one or more eggs on it. Then they build a resin doorway across the hole, enclosing the nest in a small cell. Watch for them on warm days. For more information see Nature in the Warrandyte Diary for October. *Linda*

October 2014 Vol.32 no. 8

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 \$15

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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page



Wildflowers from the Pound Bend Indigenous Nursery under the new wildflower sign (p. 2)

Clockwise from top left: Trigger set on *Stylidium graminifolium*; *Indigofera australis*; *Pultenea gunnii* shrub with close up below and native bee; *Viola betonicifolia*; *Pomaderris lanigera*.

All except the *Pomaderris* are photographed growing in my garden.



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