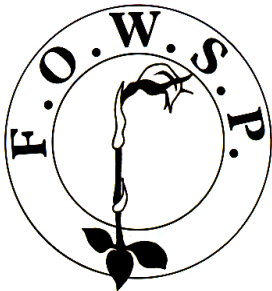


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's Corner

Another month has sped past and some of us are beginning to venture out a bit more as seen in the photo right. We are mindful that many FOWSPians who may be in the more vulnerable category for one reason or another will continue to be extremely cautious for some time to come and we hope this newsletter will help to keep in touch a bit. The news chain email that Lisa has begun is also helpful to many. Please contact her at lisajenkins@stanfordalumni.org if you'd like to join.

Lacking in announcements of upcoming events, this newsletter has some extra stories.

We are pleased that the second part of Pat and Mike Coupar's story starting on p.3 has some positive progress to report.



Marie well distanced and hard at work. See p. 7

Cathy Willis on p. 2 alerts us to some additional weeds we will need to keep an eye out for.

On p. 4 Kelvin shares a wonderful discovery from his North Warrandyte property. On the same page Linda has photographed some interesting plants in a reserve near her in Banyule.

See who visited Joy in May on p. 5.

Thanks to Josh for the nursery notes on p. 6 and be sure to check the updated plant list.

News from pricker-outers and plants cuttings ladies of FOWSP can be found on p. 7.

I know some of you are looking forward to Lisa's etymological wanderings in the *Acacia* world. They can be found on p. 8.

Note Don's late-flowering orchid find on the back cover and those of us who receive the electronic newsletter can wallow in the beauty of some colourful fungi found in Black Flat.

Please enjoy the newsletter and be sure to send in your best nature photos and conservation news for July.

Linda Rogan

Deadline for July/August edition newsletter is

Friday 19 June 2020

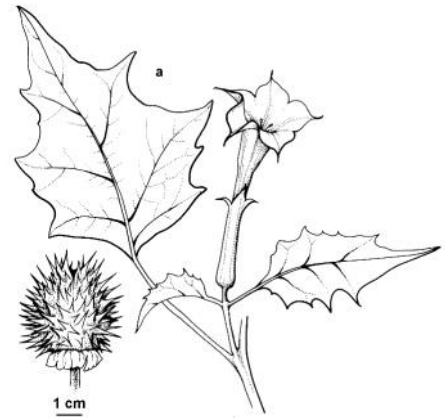
**contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

Weeds not playing by the rules!

Cathy Willis

In these days of social distancing it is disappointing to see some members of the plant kingdom invading our space. Three new weeds have appeared in the last month or so, never before seen in our patch.

First-up was found in Candlebark Park in Templestowe by Rangers Kylie and Jodie. Common Thorn Apple, *Datura stramonium* is described as a “stout herb” to 1.5m, native to Central America, commonly found in agricultural areas on sandy riverbanks. According to Kylie it grew astonishingly fast in a short time. It flowers mostly in summer. The fruit is very prickly and embeds itself in fur, socks, sleeves or anything that brushes against it. It came up profusely on the edge of a track after track works. Interestingly it also appeared in Plenty Gorge Park in a recently disturbed area around the same time. (A snippet from Gray – Indian servants used it as a household poison!)



Datura stramonium, flowering branch; capsule. Illustration: Moir, M., National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2020 Royal Botanic Gardens Board. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0



Mexican Love-grass *Eragrostis mexicana* is a very elegant tufted annual grass seen growing on two roadsides in Wonga Park and North Warrandyte. Another Central American, it germinates in bare areas in late spring and flowers late summer to autumn. A few ecologists were surprised we hadn't seen it here before, as it is not uncommon around suburban Melbourne, but less common elsewhere.

The trifecta of weeds came with just a single plant on the edge of the carpark above Pound Bend tunnel, spotted by Gray. He is familiar with this daisy, Cobbler's Pegs *Bidens pilosa* as a nasty weed in sub-tropical and tropical areas. Another Central American, and also an annual, this weed is recorded in every state except Tasmania, and is a weed throughout much of the world. There are so far only a few isolated occurrences in Victoria.

It seems there is a theme going here. All these are annuals, all from Central America and were found in disturbed sites,

Eragrostis mexicana
Photo: Clarke, Ina, , © 2020 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

possibly associated with vehicle movement and earthworks. The last two (a grass and a daisy) produce lots of light easily transported seed, and the Thorn-Apple has seed able to travel by attaching itself to things. I suspect they will remain occasional disturbed area weeds, however we can't rule out the possibility they will become more serious invaders. With a changing climate and confused seasons we need to remain vigilant. We want them to keep their distance!

I used Flora of Victoria as my main reference <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/search>



Bidens pilosa var. minor
Photos: Messina, Andre, © 2020 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

Part 2 Excerpts from:
Ten Metres to Touchdown continued
 By Pat Coupar
 (Long-time FOWSPian)

...

We have been extremely fortunate in being offered accommodation in a house just opposite our ruins. We knew the couple slightly as they came down infrequently, but we always had a chat when we saw them. They have been extraordinarily generous in allowing us to stay in their holiday house at minimal rent for as long as it takes. Luckily the view from the deck is out over the lake towards the ocean and Gabo Island and we are not looking across the road at the remains of our house.

Another bonus for us was the survival of our fruit cage and veggie patch, there were even plums on the tree and apples, pears and grapes ripening. A small area at the bottom of the garden had also escaped the flames, and that and the veggie patch gave me somewhere to work in the coming months.

In the early days the Mallacoota Community Facebook was a vital source of information. But as the weeks went on and people were getting angry and frustrated it became a matter of knowing who to trust.



There was one evening when we looked out towards the (Howe) range and the sky was glowing red – a small insight into what those who stayed in Mallacoota must have gone through on December 31st when the fire approached from the west.

Of course we felt sad. But it didn't last. There were many hugs. We were united in our planning to rebuild as soon as possible. But first we had to get back to Mallacoota and more importantly get back to our car at Merimbula airport. A good friend generously offered to drive us to Merimbula via Canberra as the Princes Highway was still closed. This was a twelve hour drive and another twelve hours back for him the following day – a mark of true friendship.

In those raw early days people were immensely thoughtful and generous. But it was the kindness of strangers in particular that brought tears to my eyes. We were in a supermarket in Yarra Glen queuing up to pay. At the check out we were asked if we would like to contribute to the Bushfire Relief Fund. We looked at her calmly and unemotionally said "actually we are victims of the bushfire ourselves, we lost our house". Before we knew what was happening the lady behind us in the queue stepped forward and offered to pay for our groceries. We thanked her very much and told her we were alright.



The Genoa river toward Wangarabell, its coffee-coloured water flowing gently through the scarred landscape.

We both accept the findings and warnings of climate scientists. We knew that after three years of drought and increasing heatwaves this beautifully forested corner of Australia would go up in flames sometime soon. And it did. We also knew that the worst scenario would be if it happened

(Continued on page 9)

A walk amongst the red box

Kelvin Watkins

Whilst out walking several weeks ago I was curious to discover what plant life was emerging in light of all the rain we have had.

Many species seemed to be popping up earlier than usual. There were leaves of Brunonia, Veronica, Scutellaria, and several Orchid species including abundant donkey



orchids, sun orchids, nodding and blunt greenhoods. I then noticed what I thought were some nodding greenhoods **in flower.**

On closer inspection the lack of basal rosettes and the large upright flower quickly ruled out it being nodding greenhoods.

I returned home to consult with Flora of Melbourne. This great reference led me to believe that the orchid was the large autumn greenhood, *Pterostylis* sp. aff. *revoluta*. I sent a photo off to nursery manager Josh. He and Cathy also confirmed that it was *Pterostylis* sp. aff. *revoluta*.

He also gave me a brief account of its history in Warrandyte. While this orchid has been seen in relatively large numbers in areas of Nillumbik and Banyule, (see photo in last month's newsletter) it has not been seen in Warrandyte for over 40 years. It has also recently been given its own name and is now known as *Pterostylis ampliata*.



Large autumn greenhood *Pterostylis ampliata* front view showing the labelum and how the light shines through the hood.

Large autumn greenhood *Pterostylis ampliata* Kelvin photographed on 1 May but looked as if there had been flowering for a week or so already.

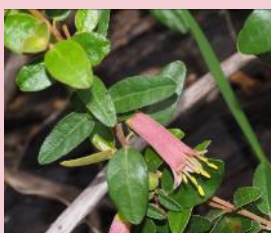
The things you find when out walking!

Orchids in Banyule

If you take a walk in St Helena Bushland Reserve and you have very sharp eyes, you may see the striped greenhood *Pterostylis* aff. *striata* and this pale green form of small mosquito orchid *Acianthus pusillus* (right).

Another plant found there with an interesting colour form is this pink flowering *Correa* (below).

Photos:
Linda Rogan



FOWSP COMMITTEE 2019			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell
			Nursery Phone	0408 317 327
			email nursery@fowsp.org.au	
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer and Membership	Park Office	03 8427 2132
Linda Rogan	0491 112 692	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian	
	editor@fowsp.org.au		Gloria Moore	0402 285005
		Facebook Coordinator	Annette Lion	0414-249-729
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer Jan Falconer	
			9844 1226 or 0419 872 096	
			email trailer@fowsp.org.au	
Lisa Jenkins	0431 840 415		Manningham Council Rep	
			Cathy Willis	0427 660 651
Carolyn Noel	0409 901441		Webmaster	
			Jason Patton	0402 121838
			jason@parau.com	
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647		FOWSP general enquiry number 1300 764 422	
	legality@bigpond.com			

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

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Gloria Moore, Lisa Jenkins

Next Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 9 June 2020
Venue: Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time: 19:30 pm sharp



Joy Hick noticed movement at her window and found this false garden mantis *Pseudomantis albobimbrata* determined to see what she was doing on May 27th. Or perhaps it just wanted to come in out of the cold.

FOWSP THURSDAY PROGRAM

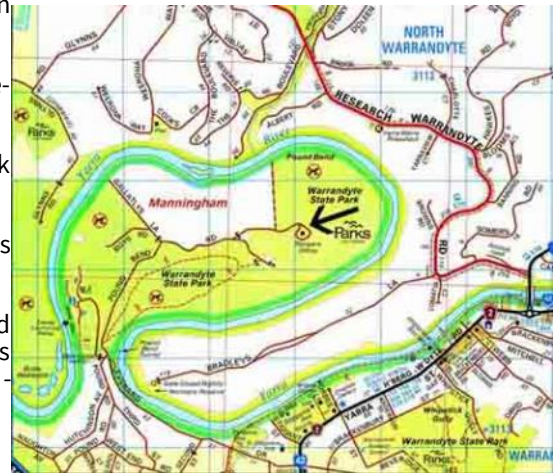
As you are aware, our nursery is closed until further notice. However we are continuing to work to provide the plants you need this planting season from now, until spring. If you wish to place an order please:

- 1) have a look at the stock list, available under publications/other on the website.
- 2) email FOWSP nursery email nursery@fowsp.org.au with the species and quantity required;
- 3) you will be contacted and given a cost, location and time for pick up;
- 4) be prepared to pay by credit card - we cannot accept cash at this time.

Please be aware that quantities will change as orders come in, and we will try to update the list as often as possible. As no volunteers are allowed on Parks Victoria land at this time, please be patient - staff are working hard to keep the service going.

Prices for tubes: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50

Nursery is currently closed to visitors and volunteers



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Nursery Notes during COVID restrictions

The stock list has been updated.

http://fowsp.org.au/docs/Other/FOWSP_Stock_List_for_Sales.pdf

"Aquatics and semi-aquatics are still available so please enquire if you have specific needs.

> Blunt Greenhood *Pterostylis curta* and Dainty Bird Orchid (photo below in Frogland) 6" pots are available for \$12 each. > No other 6" pots are currently available.



There are lots of new plants nearly hardened off for sale so we will update this list later in June. Meanwhile if you have specific requests please enquire at nursery@fowsp.org.au



Blunt greenhood *Pterostylis curta*
on display in full bloom at the nursery
22 August 2019 Linda Rogan



Some of approximately 750 plants pricked out on a Thursday morning at Carolyn's.

FOWSPians: spaced out pricking-outers



Hope you all caught Carolyn’s article in the May *Warrandyte Diary* p. 18 that told about the last small group pricking-out at her place just before the more strict lock-down. Five of us were delighted to have the opportunity to repeat this activity when visitors were allowed in late May. These photos may give you an idea of how well she is set up for this activity. I should mention that the first thing we saw as we arrived was a large plastic wash basin full of beautifully warm water for a soapy wash up before and after. In addition to good hygiene, it helped to thaw frozen fingers. Many thanks to Don and Carolyn for their hospitality.



Kelvin, Joy, Linda, Carolyn, Marie and Gray. Remember the other pricker-outer taking this photo was Don.

Cuttings collaboration

Not to be outdone, cuttings lady par excellence, Alwyn has kept the plant cuttings coming. Last month included many *Olearia ramulosa*, but the cooler weather means these need the heat bed so no more cuttings at present. However special plants being propagated include a few *Banksia marginata*, *Grevillea alpina* from Boomer’s Reserve and a natural hybrid *Correa reflexa x glabra* from Fourth Hill.

The latter required a visit to other well known cuttings ladies Irene and Marian to collect cuttings from their healthy *Correas* which came originally from the FOWSP nursery. Alwyn reports they are staying home and well, and keen for the time to come when it is practical to return to the nursery. We are all thinking of them as well.

Learning acacia species identification through their names

Lisa Jenkins

Acacia verticillata (Prickly Moses [also used for *A. ulicifolia*])-having whorls [the pinnates] (photo below R)
Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle)-whitened, white-washed (the general appearance) (photo below L)

When I began this research, I didn't know how much I didn't know. For instance, Linda pointed out after reading my piece last month that 'ulicifolia' refers to the 'folia' being 'ulic'-like and not because the whole plant is 'ulic'-like. Scientific plant names follow precise rules and when one knows both the pattern and the meaning of the words used, then the intended connection to the species becomes clear. And I began this wanting to understand the traditional European systems of classification because that's what we generally use.

But I've begun to think about the different systems of classification which are meaningful for those of us interested in indigenous plants. There are the bushwalkers'/gardeners' names, the scientific names we use at FOWSP for propagating.

'Then there are the systems used by the traditional owners. Those systems reflect, amongst other things, the use of a plant: A vast knowledge exists around the use of living things when alive....equally important is the knowledge of what once living things can be used for. For example, many plants are grouped together based on their use when they are no longer living: spear trees, string trees, shield trees, canoe trees, resin trees (and so on).'

<https://australiancurriculum.edu.au/TeacherBackgroundInfo?id=56826>

The stories of *A. verticillata* and *A. dealbata* illustrate these different systems. *A. dealbata* is notorious around the world as a weed and it became so because it's been used for afforestation and as an ornamental and in France as a source of essential oil for perfumes. I thought of it as a white blight that has unfortunately covered these landscapes. But then I became aware of its significance in Wurundjeri culture who call it muyan. Muyan flowers say that it's time to catch migrating eel and it's a reminder of elders. This has special significance for us because William Barak died when the muyan was in full flower and so it gained the name 'Barak's Wattle'. I thought of the belief among the Wurundjeri that the skin of ancestors becomes white when they died-was that why the plant was connected to elders, because of its white appearance?

A. verticillata was named thus by the French Charles Louis L'Héritier de Brutelle (1746-1800) and was accepted by the German Carl Ludwig Willdenow (1765-1812). Both these men were key in their countries' collection and identification of plants as a means of extending imperial power. Both botanists churned through the identification process, producing door-stopping works and massive herbariums-Willdenow edited Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum*, (which began modern classification and lists every then-known plant species) and his herbarium contained over 20,000 species. De Brutelle had a library larger than Joseph Banks' and produced *Sertum Anglicum* (English Garland) when he was working at Kew Gardens. He was there having fled a scandal about the rightful ownership of thousands of species collected in South America and which involved the French and Spanish governments and the English Navy, all keen for the profits to be made by 'owning' the collection and thus the species. The pressure on botanists at this time to find



potentially profitable species was immense, both because of money and national glory. '*Mimosa verticillata*' is nestled in *Sertum Anglicum* amongst the thousands of other plants de Brutelle studied in Kew including Australian plants that had been collected by either Joseph Banks or one of his associates. *Verticillata* is a straightforward name, a simple reference to the pinnates; as Brutelle was rushing through his work at Kew (he was only there for a short time), he must have taken the simplest, most obvious naming path at times in his haste to get the work done.

The difference between these two naming processes could not be greater.



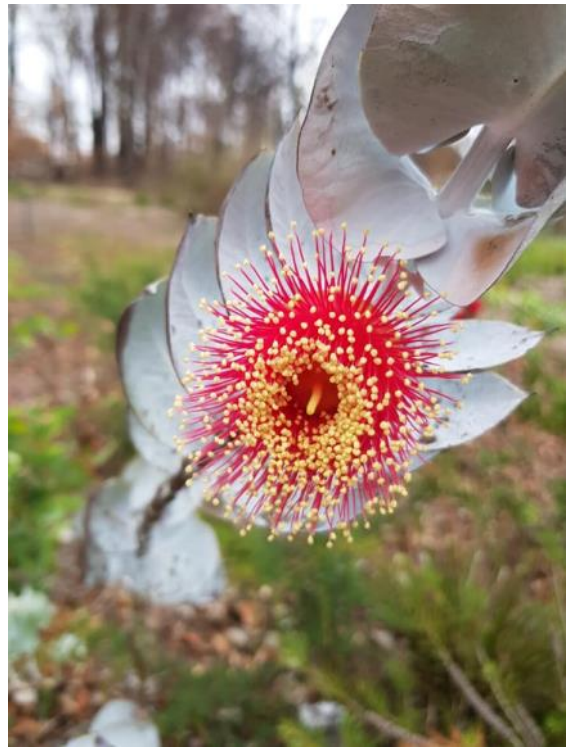
(Continued from page 3)

during the summer school holidays when thousands of people flock to Mallacoota. And it was. So, before we left Mike disconnected our three external hard drives complete with photos and videos of all our trips and put them in a box, along with a file of important documents to be left in the car at Merimbula airport.

And so to the turn off to Mallacoota, most of the forest on both sides of the road was utterly burnt. Incredibly it opened up vistas we had never seen before. Mangans Lake on both sides of the road. Wow. There were, in some places, strange mounds of soil like old diggings. Who knows. Even in those early days some of the eucalypts were showing signs of new epicormic growth up their trunk, grass trees were sprouting again and the occasional tree fern already unfurling a brilliant emerald new frond. And a wallaby at the side of the road managing to find something green to munch on.

So are we angry? How can we be in the face of such understanding and generosity from individuals, Governments and NGOs. Should there have been more fuel reduction burns? In the words of that Facebook post '*Nothing was going to stop this fire*'. The only feelings we have are of utter frustration that so little has been achieved worldwide to curb the predicted extremes of climate change that resulted in these massive bushfires and led to the suffering we and others have had to endure in Mallacoota. We have lived our professional lives in the world of science. It is our very best method for solving so many vexing issues. The findings of scientists must be accepted.

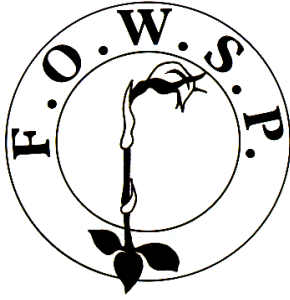
It was our decision to move to Mallacoota and we have no regrets. It is without doubt one of the best places in Australia to live. We love the natural environment, the rivers, lakes, ocean and forests. The community is small, only around 1000 residents and many retired like us. We always felt welcome. We knew we were moving to one of the most fire-prone regions in Australia if not the world. We knew that one day Mallacoota would probably be threatened by bushfire. That was the risk we were prepared to take and nothing that has happened will change our love of this place and its people.



Eucalyptus macrocarpa. A beautiful garden survivor.



This photo from about 26 April 2020 shows the Coupars block has now been cleared, as a friend said, 'Now ready for phoenix arising'.



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Rosy hyacinth-orchid *Dipodium roseum*

This orchid is a common favourite in summer but how many of you have found them in May? Don Vincent photographed this one not far from Pigeon Bank Lane in mid May 2020.

If you like big words your can describe this orchid as leafless, tuberous, perennial, saprophytic, mycoheterotrophic orchid. It depends totally on its relationship with fungi for its food and therefore is not successful in cultivation. Fortunately it is common throughout much of Warrandyte State Park so all we need to do is enjoy it.

Linda Rogan

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'Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on . Please click on the link below to re-new your Membership. http://fowsp.org.au/membership.php?member_id=&membership_renewal=Yes
Of-course, if this matter has been attended to recently, please disregard.'

June 2020 Vol. 38 no. 5

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

Email photo bonus page



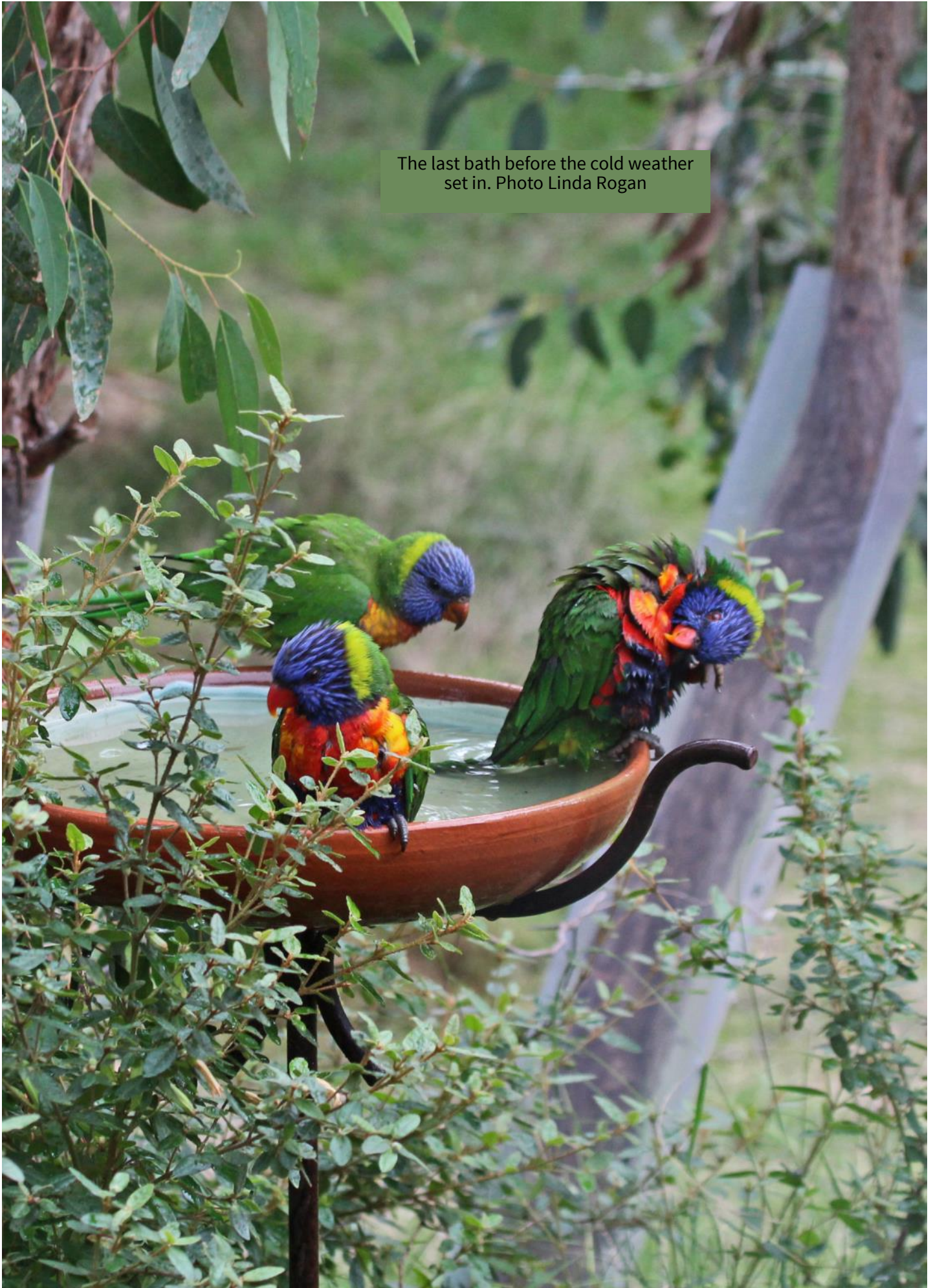
Colourful fungus from Black Flat

Josh has shared these brilliant photos of fungus seen in Black Flat this autumn. This area is a prime area for such discoveries after sufficient autumn rain. Josh forgot to give me the species names so we welcome any further input from 'fungiphiles'. Who knows?

The photo lower right show how many late season blooms and buds were on this rosy hyacinth orchid photographed locally by Don in mid May.



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



The last bath before the cold weather set in. Photo Linda Rogan