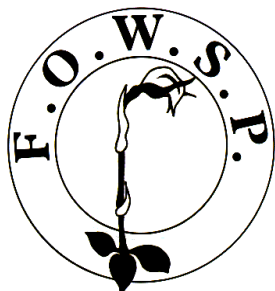


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

Editor's corner

AS PROMISED last issue we bring you the story of *Your Water, Your Future*, competition at Park Orchards Primary School held in November 2011. See photo right and pages 2 & 3. Full details are also on our website. This is one of the ways FOWSP is reaching the younger generation.

Page 4 is all about Sweet Bursaria growing in our nursery and also some of the fauna that depends upon it.



Josh and several members of FOWSP attended the seminar presented by David Smith, a Forest Pathologist and Forest Biosecurity Officer of DPI, on the current situation in regard to Myrtle Rust in Victoria. Myrtle Rust was first reported in Victoria smack in the middle of David's holidays and he has been working on it since then on an emergency basis. Although MR is currently controlled at the nurseries in Victoria where it has been

detected, it may have been spread into private gardens before it was identified at the nursery. It has also become quite prevalent in NSW and therefore it is highly likely to become established in Victoria in the future despite everyone's best efforts. The committee and staff at the nursery will be looking at ways we can reduce the risk in the FOWSP nursery and also during activities in the bush. Please note that we will be unable to accept donation of pots or return of any but the forestry tubes that originated from our nursery.

Three of our members, Patricia Blackburn, Steve Katsineris, and Julie Bishop have contributed photos and snippets about wildlife they have observed recently. See page 8.

What was the cause of these smiles at the nursery? (Photo left.) see I Spy on page 9

As always, keep us posted and enjoy...Linda



Deadline for April edition newsletter is Friday 24th March, 2012

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

Your Water, Your Future
 Park Orchards Primary School First prize winning posters
 For all winning posters see our website
<http://fowsp.org.au/competitions.php>



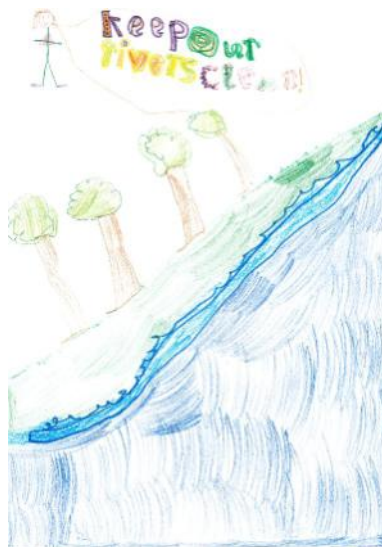
Grade 6 Winner



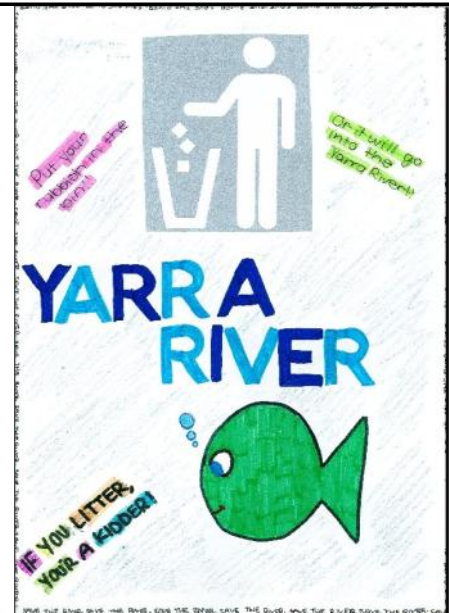
Grade 1 Winner



Grade 2 Winner



Grade Prep Winner



Grade 5 Winner



Grade 4 Winner



Grade 3 Winner

Your Water, Your Future

Park Orchards Primary School Prize presentation on 12 December 2011



Ian Penrose and Sybille Ims preparing presentation bags

In November 2011, FOWSP organised a competition in conjunction with Park Orchards Primary School. The competition was for posters for a “Your Water, Your Future” campaign. Entrants were required to design a publicity poster to raise awareness of the importance of looking after the Yarra River and its inhabitants, who are becoming endangered through the impact of litter.

All prize winners received a trowel, pencils, a book about the environment, FOWSP literature, pamphlets from YRKA (Yarra RiverKeeper Association) and other environmental organisations. They also received a voucher for a plant from FOWSP's indigenous nursery; all supplied in an Environmentally friendly shopping bag from Manningham City Council. The overall winners in each year group were also given a \$20 Australian Geographic voucher. FOWSP will fund library books, to the school, to the value \$450.

The prizes were also sponsored by Melbourne Water, and we thank them for their support.

We plan to continue these competitions in the future, including further schools in the Warrandyte State Park area.

We would like to commend all the students on their sensational efforts.

For further details and all posters that received a prize or commendation see <http://fowsp.org.au/competitions.php>



Students of Park Orchards Primary School, winners all



Newsletter team for this month were:

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Mel Coupar (line drawings)

From the Grass Roots (at the nursery) by Kel Wooster

The nursery currently have an abundance of *Bursaria spinosa* or **Sweet Bursaria** in stock. This small tree to large shrub can grow 3 to 6 metres and can be used as a screening, windbreak or even a hedging plant due to its spreading prickly nature. It can benefit from a bit of pruning and can also handle dry Warrandyte summer months as it prefers a full sun to semi shaded position.

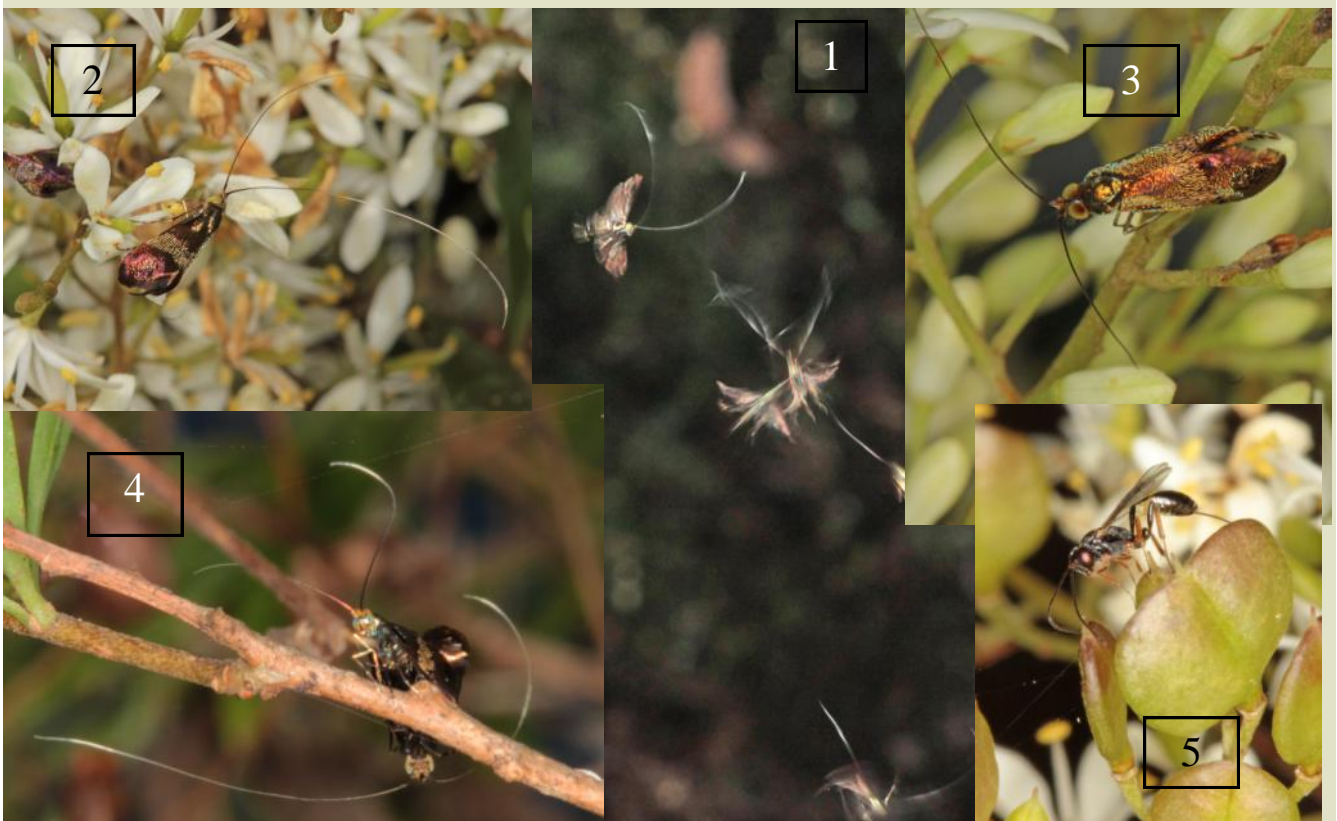
The terminal clusters of sweetly smelling white flowers, from December to February, are abundant and quite showy at a time of year when there is not much else flowering. They are great for attracting insects into the garden, as the nectar is an important food source for butterflies. *Bursaria spinosa* or **Sweet Bursaria** is known to be an important component for some extremely intricate ecological relationships between the Eltham Copper Butterfly and the *Notoncus* ant species. For more information about this check out Museum Victoria's page on the Eltham Copper Butterfly at <http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/infosheets/melbournes-butterflies/eltham-copper-butterfly/> Also see below.



Sweet Bursaria Fairy Moth by Linda Rogan

YOUR PLANT may attract the Bursaria Fairy Moth *Nemophora chrysolamprella* as in the photos below. First you may notice a cloud of tiny moths with very long antennae sporting in a group above your blooming plant. These are the males in their competitive lekking behaviour.(1) You might notice a tiny flash of metallic wings within the blooms. This may be a male (2) or a female (3). The male's antennae are noticeably longer than the female's. If you are very lucky you will see a mating (4). The female will then proceed to lay her eggs within the blooms and the larvae will develop inside the pods.

That is unless they become food for the young of a predatory wasp such as the Ichneumon wasp (5) that I observed checking out and ovipositing into the Sweet Bursaria pods..



FOWSP COMMITTEE 2012

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& Membership**

Treasurer

Newsletter co-ordinator

**Social media contact;
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Secretary

OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS

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9846 1218

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9722 2908

Koala Rescue **Julie Pryor**
9722 1117

Librarian **Judy Green**
9844 2096

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

Thursday 1 March - Boys Road weeding

Thursday 15 March - Koornong weeding

Thursday 5 April - Yanakie planting with a ranger

Fowsp/Manningham Thursday nature walks

Leader: Cathy Willis

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack. Meet 9.30 am **at the venue.** (*Location given when you book.*) Walks held on the 4th Thursday of each month. These walks are paced to allow us to appreciate the natural history along the way.

Thursday March 22 Pound Bend Ridge and the Yarra River 3.5kms, approx 2.5 to 3 hours **rating:** moderate
Enjoy the views from the ridge, visit the historic tunnel, see some of Manningham's most threatened species and return along the river under the shade of the majestic Manna Gums.

Thursday April 26 Ruffey Lake Park 3.5kms, approx 2.5 to 3 hours **rating:** moderate
Join Manningham's Bushland Maintenance Officer to learn about the management of indigenous remnant vegetation within urban parkland.

Places are limited and **bookings are essential:** 9840 9124 or eepadmin@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

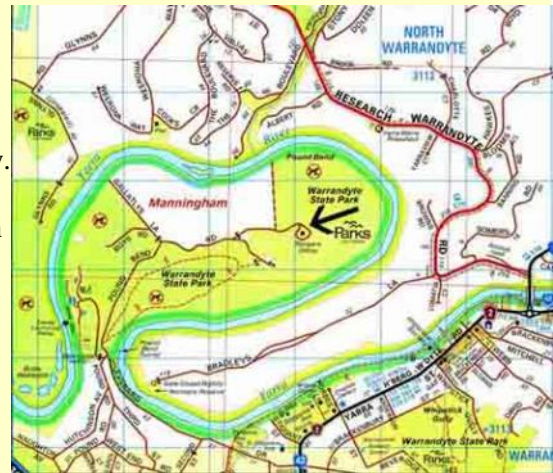
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 2012

Members \$1.50

Non-members \$2.00



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Due to the risks of **Myrtle Rust** being transferred to our Nursery, we are unable to receive pots OTHER than Forestry Tubes, which have originated from our Nursery.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this serious matter.

FOWSP Committee & Nursery Staff.

For more information on Myrtle Rust in Victoria see

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/forestry/pests-diseases-weeds/diseases/myrtle-rust>

<http://soln.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Myrtle-rust-symptoms1.pdf>

Manningham Environmental Seminars

are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm

at the **Warrandyte Community Centre,**

168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 3113 Mel Ref. 23 F11



Wednesday 7th March - Controlling Indian Mynas with Julia Gibson and Max Caithness of the Yarra Indian Mynah Action Group

Wednesday 4th April The Natural History of Manningham with historian, Dr. Gary Presland

For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*

Nillimbik

Saturday 17 March 10 am -1 pm Rabbit and Fox Control Information Session

Venue: Edendale, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melway 22 A1)



Saturday 31 March 10:30am -3 pm. Outsmarting your weeds

Venue: Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute Hall, 906 Arthurs Creek Road.

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

News from the Committee

- *Schools environment support competition* - An application for funding will be completed and schools will be approached to gain their support for this competition.
- *Healthy week in Manningham* - FOWSP is participating in this event. Members of the community have been invited to come to the nursery and assist as volunteers on Thursday 1st March..
- *Clean up Australia Day* - 4th March. ACCA has registered to conduct a local clean up as part of this program.
- *Redesign of nursery* - Manningham Council has approved the plans for a new building, and the TAFE has received the architects drawings and will provide a quote. It is hoped that the new building, to shell stage, will commence before too long.
- *Membership Packages* - Discussion is taking place about the content of an information package on FOWSP which will be given to all new members.
- *Activity calendar 2012* - Items are still being added to this list, and when complete the list will be circulated to all FOWSP members.
- *30th Birthday celebrations* - It has been decided that the celebrations will be held in conjunction with the AGM, which will take place on Sunday 18th November, 2012. A sub-committee has been established to organise the events of the day. Further information will be provided once planning is completed.
- *Warrandyte Festival 24-25th March*. The FOWSP market trailer will be located somewhere near the Manningham display. Anyone interested in helping out for one hour please contact Sybille Ims. (Details below)

Rangers Report

- Conrad has been acting as Chief Ranger - he is now back at Warrandyte.
- Repairs from last year's floods have been completed including path reconstruction in Tikalara Park and two board walks completed on the Main Yarra Trail
- Parks staff are now dealing with the Christmas day floods. Many paths and tracks that lost gravel during the storm are being repaired. As well, some mines in the Park were damaged. Advice is being sought on the best way to manage the risk this presents.
- One Parks team is about to start a rabbit eradication program
- Myrtle rust has been detected in some gardens around Melbourne, although not in WSP at present. A myrtle rust eradication program will managed by DPI..
- Burns are under consideration - the weather is conducive at present
- Good Neighbour Grants have been received - one for Blackberry control in Mount Lofty , Pound Bend and Wanneroo, and another for Patterson's curse, St John's wort and blackberry eradication in Yanakie.

Next Committee Meeting

Date: 13 March 2012

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out on 4th February- John and Diane Baird, (kindly opening the trailer), Jan Falconer and Brian James, Joan Broadberry and John Young, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook (kindly locking up again). Trailer delivery and retrieval: Peter Curry

The Warrandyte market is always 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 list for 2012, please ring **9844 1335** or **0405 500 278** email: **imsbs@netspace.net.au** Sybille Ims

Future market dates are: *Saturday March 3rd*
No FOWSP trailer at April market

Warrandyte Festival: Sat. March 24—Sun. 25th. ALL HANDS ON DECK. We will need 15-20 volunteers for the market trailer. Sybille would love to hear from you.

Patricia Blackburn reports on a small visitor to her garden

My son Chris took the photos on his iphone. As the bird was so docile he was able to pick up the bird who seemed quite unconcerned and not at all stressed. The comparison of bird to hand enables one to see just how small it was. After about half an hour we looked for the little chap and he had gone so presumably he did fly off. He had previously flown from one branch to another so obviously was quite OK.

I am sorry that I am not more able so that I could volunteer at the nursery or participate in any of your activities but I have to use a stick or walker to get around. However, I am a keen bird watcher from my numerous windows and will continue to look out for anything unusual.

WE look forward to hearing more discoveries through Patricia's windows. Ed.

Steven Katsineris reports an unusual find :

About halfway between Kilmore and Lancefield, I glimpsed something dead beside the road. While I'm used to seeing dead rabbits, foxes, kangaroos, possums and birds near the roadways, this animal looked unusual. I thought that it looked like a small possum, glider or other small marsupial. I was very startled to find the dead creature was a Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Phascogales are nocturnal and very shy and so are rarely seen. It was a great pity that my closest observation of a Phascogale was, regrettably, of a dead one. The open, grassy paddocks of this almost treeless area was a quite unexpected spot to find this forest and woodland dwelling inhabitant. Perhaps it was wandering about searching for suitable habitat to live. I took a couple of photographs and moved the dead Phascogale off the roadside.

Some simple things would help reduce such deaths. Principally motorists must drive carefully and slowly between dusk and dawn in specific habitat areas. Increasing efforts to make people more aware of the presence of wildlife in specific areas through measures such as more signage, education and publicity about the impact of traffic on Phascogales and other wildlife would increase the chances of endangered species surviving, as well as fostering greater respect for, and preservation of, all of our native wildlife.

This report has been edited. Ed.



Julie Bishop watches papernest wasps

Julie reports she has found it fascinating to watch the progress of these Papernest Wasps building their nest near the back of her house. See her photo below.

These appear to be Australian Papernest Wasps, probably in the *Polestes* genus from the family Vespidae. They build cone-shaped nests that hang from a single stalk like a Christmas bauble. In the top of this photo we can see eggs, laid by the founding female wasp.

The middle cells may contain larvae that the adults will feed with bits of caterpillars. The cells are capped with a white fluffy substance while the larvae pupate. See lowest row of cells.

Although not aggressive, the females will sting to protect their nests so need to be removed from high traffic areas. Special care should be taken by anyone known to be allergic. Information from CSIRO factsheet. Ed.



“I SPY”

By J.F.



TAG Team Tarries

FOWSP members recently participated in a very successful TAG at Glynn's Reserve assisting Ranger Cam Beardsall with the planting of many grasses and small shrubs in one of the wetland areas. This was followed by a leisurely cuppa, although the coffee was a bit grey and suspect.

(below) It was great to have Carol back to take some people photos.



Gray Away

Our resident travelling man, Gray Ardern, has been away again. This time travelling by train to Sydney to join friends doing some coastal sailing from Castle Crag to Jervis Bay. Sounds very pleasant.

Thursday Transport Troubles 1

Caitriona Young needed to be away early one Thursday morning but Caitriona's car stopped on the dirt road and could not be coaxed further. The clutch had "died". A call to the RACV was made. Meanwhile it was Fred to the rescue. He towed the Young vehicle to the a wider part of the road where it was met by the RACV truck, and it was towed away. The Youngs were without their car for a week but it is now back on the road sporting a new clutch.

Thursday Transport Troubles 2

The same day, John Blake found he could not engage his vehicle's automatic transmission.

A call to Toyota suggested the solution to fix this almost new vehicle might be to "rock it". John was somewhat dumbfounded by this advice but sure enough after some cool off time he did rock the vehicle and surprise, surprise, it did start.

Thursday Transport Troubles 3

Not to disappoint, when the writer got back to her car she found that she had left her lights on and completely flattened the battery. However, jumper leads were quickly produced and this

problem was short-lived.

Simon in the sun sifting soil for sowing seeds

One beautiful sunny day recently there was Simon, shirt off, hard at working sifting soil and adding sand to make a perfect fine mixture to allow seeds to germinate. The remaining coarser soil is used for orchid growing. Good work, Simon.

Farewell to "Friend" who goes full time

Kate Hamond, a regular Thursday morning volunteer at the Nursery, will no longer be available to join us. Kate's part-time position at the Banyule City Council has become a full-time position. Nice when the pay cheque arrives Kate, but we will miss you.

Running Repairs Required

Not so long ago Noel and Lee completed some very smart alphabetical markers for use in the Nursery. More recently they were spotted hard at work removing the original letters. It seems they were made of some laminated substance that disintegrated when wet. The markers are now looking resplendent with new metal alphabetical letters that should stand up to all sorts of weather.

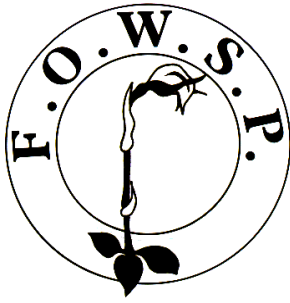
Bird watching Bonanza at Bellbird

Anyone interested in bird watching may be interested to know of a self-guided wetland walk in the Royal Park area. Trin Warren Tam-Boore (Bellbird Waterhole) is a new urban wetland designed to treat storm water runoff from the roads, roof tops and gutters of surrounding suburbs. The wetland creates a new habitat for wildlife, provides recycled water for use in Royal Park and cleans stormwater before it reaches Port Phillip Bay. Many birds and other wildlife can be seen. For further information google Trin Warren or Royal Park.

Birthday Celebrations at the Nursery

We know it's Josh's birthday and all wish him well but his age remains a mystery. Many thanks to Sybille Ims for baking a delicious cake.





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Spider-wasp family Pompilidae



This wasp, at the nursery, pursued and paralysed this Huntman spider. It proceeded to drag the spider through the leaf litter, to the top of a plant guard and down the other side; up the trunk of a Eucalypt more than a meter then dropped to the leaf litter below, either near its nest or perhaps abandoning the spider, as the wasp soon flew away. This group of wasps usually provide one large spider near each of its eggs for the larvae to feed upon.

LR

March 2012 Vol 30 no. 2

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30 (from 1 September 2011)
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.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus

Wildlife spotted on a TAG at Glynn's



Above, Our morning tea box is adorned by a colourful longlegged fly with patterned wings. I think Dolichopodidae family. This type of fly is often seen resting on smooth green leaves. Is this one colour blind?

Below, Chrysomelin leaf beetle having a rest on Jan's sleeve.



Photos by Linda Rogan



Catriona and Lyndy, two of the happy faces seen at the nursery in January



Bright yellow flowers amongst the Azolla ferns at the wetland at Glynn's. To find out more about them read the Nature Column in March Warrandyte Diary.

Photo by Linda Rogan



Thanks to Justin Welander for this aerial photo of the fuel reduction burn at Pound Bend

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