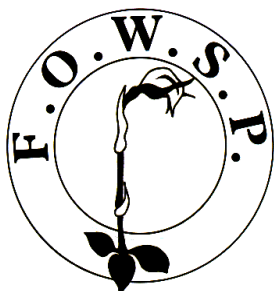


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

THE AGM ON 30 NOVEMBER was the last major event of a wonderfully successful and varied year for FOWSPians. I would like to repeat the thank you to all of our 350 members, many of whom contributed their skills and enthusiasm in greater and lesser ways. All are important, keeping FOWSP a vital force in the support of the biodiversity of Warrandyte State Park and associated parklands. At the AGM we farewelled Martyn Hiley (lost to Mallacoota) and welcomed two new committee members: Janice Falconer and Sybille Ims. Both have jumped in with both feet and their ongoing contributions are very welcome.

As shown in the photo to the right, members are never too young to participate.

Sadly, this year we lost one of our elder statesman Ray Clarke at age 99. Cathy Willis shares her memories of



Members preparing seed at the nursery.

Photo J. Broadberry

FOWSPians learning to identify insects at Stanebrae
More p 4.

Photo J. Broadberry



our friend on page 7.

Join Alwynne in both prose and poetry, for the delights of a spring wildflower walk on page 2.

Jody explains how an enthusiastic National Green Jobs Corp group have been assisting in Warrandyte State Park on page 3.

The Powerful Owl has been by Steven Katsineris spotted in the Hurstbridge area on page 4.

Martyn sends us some of the joy of Mallacoota on page 8.

Summer is here. Please remember to keep us informed of your discoveries and experiences, especially around the Warrandyte bush.

As always, enjoy the newsletter at least as much as we have enjoyed compiling it. *Linda*

Deadline for February edition newsletter is Friday 22nd January, 2011
contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au
or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

A Journey Worthwhile

By Alwynne Buntine

OUT AT THE PARK on Thursday recently, Annette had commented that friends had told her, the wild flowers at Mt Everard on the Kinglake– St. Andrews Road just out of Kinglake, were worth a visit.

Shortly after, my friends Irene and Bruce Fuhrer and I had decided we'd go to Bald Hill at the back of St Andrews to see if the grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea australis* and *minor*) were out in bloom as prolifically this year as we'd seen them in a nearby location, last year. However, when we got there, we were too early and they were only in bud. We did see other things though. Chocolate lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*) were plentiful along the roadside and there were Musky Caladenias (*Caladenia gracilis*) and the Black Anther Flax Lily (*Dianella revoluta*) in flower, with many other species still to bloom.

At this stage of our trip we were at the top of Bald Hill and the road behind us was steep enough to urge us to travel on to Kinglake rather than find a place to turn around to go back. Eventually we found ourselves at the Mt. Everard Reserve. Remembering what Annette had said, we stopped and started walking. It was indeed worth the stop. Blue Dampiera (*Dampiera stricta*) and Blue Pincushions (*Brunonia australis*) spread across the hillside in great swathes of blue, interspersed with Grey Parrot Pea (*Dillwynia cinerascens*), Silky Tea-tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*), Trigger Plants (*Stylidium graminifolium*) *Hardenbergia violacea*, Derwent Speedwell (*Derwentia derwentiana*) Small Grass Trees (*X. minor*) still in bud, *Chryscephalum semipapposum* Ridge form, Chocolate Lilies (*A. strictum*) Common Flat Pea (*Oxylobium obtusangulum*) and many others.

There were many other plants in bud which will flower later, so it should be an enjoyable encounter for quite some time to come.



From photo by
Annette Lion

Renewal

To walk in a wilderness garden with native
wildflowers about your feet,
Some that to you are common and some that
you rarely meet.

To gaze on this magical vista, in the warmth
of a fresh spring day,
Or sit with your back to a tree and wile the
time away.

To watch as moths and butterflies flutter
and dip to the flowers
And feel that you could immerse yourself in
this special place for hours.

To see a honeyeater flit from bush to bush,
Then perched on a slender branch, it into a
flower push.

To smell the musky perfumes wafting on the
breeze,
Carried to every single place, it exudes from
flowers and trees.

To stand with your back to everyday things
and be lost in a world that's new,
Is a pleasure that's here for everyone, but
enjoyed by only a few.

One of the most uplifting things to shed the
winter's gloom,
Is to spend a day in the bush when the wild-
flowers are in bloom.

Alwynne Buntine

Caitlins Rangers

SOME OF YOU might have spotted a crew of young people working away in the bush over the last five months and wondered who they were. Well with help from Parks Victoria, Chris Blackshaw from Holmesglen TAFE, the People & Parks Foundation and a group of 18 young people have, over the last five months, been able to gain valuable experience and knowledge working in the field of Conservation and Land Management. As part of the National Green Jobs

Corps initiative, the group of young people will be gaining their Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management at the end of a six month skills-based program. "It has been an absolute pleasure working with this group and their dedication and enthusiasm is outstanding" commented Mim Grundy, the crew's supervisor.



The crew have focussed their works at Caitlins Retreat, a Parks Victoria property in Laughing Waters Rd, Eltham South, where they are based. However, Warrandyte Parks Victoria Rangers have also had access to the group on several occasions and have made some huge inroads in some weedy places. The group have targeted Boneseed in the Warrandyte - Kinglake NCR; Pittosporum as pictured above at Fourth Hill; Briza at Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve; Agapanthus at Yarra Valley Parklands; Cootamundra Wattles in Morrisons; plus completing a clean up of the Saddle Dam Picnic area at Sugarloaf Reservoir. Having so many hands on deck has made such a difference. We thought would take our small team days to clean up but they swept through within the day, clearing the targeted weed as they went.

It has been great working with these young people and I am constantly surprised with how much knowledge they have gained. Botanical names roll off their tongues, and their curiosity about all creatures great and small is infectious. I wish this group all the best with their chosen careers and thank them for all their efforts in the park.

Jodie Davis - Ranger, Warrandyte State Park

Scented Sundew name change?

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS recently repotted the tubers of the local Scented Sundew plants that we have been



Scented Sundew in the nursery ,1st August 2010

growing in the nursery. For some time we have been calling these *Drosera whittakeri*. I found, on the internet, a copy of an article from *Telopea* 12(2) 147–165 2008.. This review of this group of Scented Sundew plants, has amongst other things, raised the Victorian form, previously known as *D whittakeri* ssp *aberrans* to species level. This action was based on a large number of features including the colour of the mature tubers, as shown in the photo at the right at repotting time.

For further information see

http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/95400/Tel122147Low.pdf or request a copy of the .pdf from Linda

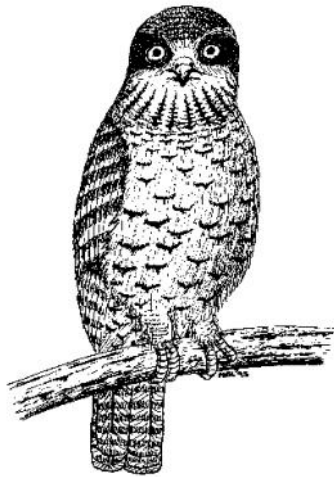


Tubers at repotting time 25th November 2010

The Powerful Owl.

By Steve Katsineris—Oct 2010

EARLY ONE MORNING while bushwalking on a secluded track beside the Diamond Creek in Hurstbridge, I looked up and was very pleasantly surprised to observe a Powerful Owl perched on a branch in a large Gum Tree near the trail. On subsequent bushwalks on this track I often saw this lone Powerful Owl usually roosting high up in the same tall tree. Then finally, one morning I saw two Powerful Owls perched together on a branch in the same Gum Tree. They were a strikingly beautiful sight, the larger male owl and its smaller female companion. The next day the Powerful Owls were alongside each other on a low branch in a different Gum Tree and I was able to get a very close look at of them. Since then I have frequently seen the pair of Powerful Owls perched together in one or another their favourite trees.



The area has numerous Eucalypt trees, with hollows which provide nest sites for Powerful Owls, and also their prey. Their major prey is medium sized mammals, mainly possums and gliders, predominantly the Ring-tailed Possum and Greater Glider. They also feed on juvenile Brush-tailed Possums, birds, small Rabbits, mice and large insects. This is definitely prime habitat for these nocturnal, night hunting owls to reside in.

The Powerful Owl is Australia's largest owl. They are well built with large golden eyes. The head is white/creamy to pale brown with dark brown patches under the eyes. The body plumage is primarily brown, with pale brown barring on the breast and belly. The beak is short, strong and curved into a sharp hook. The feet are big with huge brown talons. The sexes are similar, but males are usually significantly larger than females.

Powerful Owls nest in deep tree hollows, between 10-20m high or more and lay one or two white eggs in winter. They live permanently in pairs, roosting by day singly (within calling distance), in pairs or small family groups of 3 or 4. Within their territorial range, several roosting sites are used

The Powerful Owl is found along the east coast of Australia, from southeast Queensland, through N.S.W. to southwest Victoria. Their range used to extend into southeastern South Australia

Powerful Owls require quite a large home area to forage in, the size of the territory depending on the abundance of suitable prey. It is usually considered that approximately 500 hectares or more of mature forest habitat is needed to support a pair of Powerful Owls.

Powerful Owls are rare and endangered. The main threat to their survival is habitat loss through forest clearing for timber harvesting, agriculture and urban development. The decline of the species is a direct consequence of the loss of mature old growth trees that contain the essential deep hollows for the Powerful Owls to nest in and that their preferred prey (possums) also require to live and nest in. To try to protect the Powerful Owl, the Victorian Government has set aside habitat across the State to sustain 500 pairs of owls.

We are very fortunate to have at least one pair of resident Powerful Owls living and breeding in the bush in Hurstbridge. Obviously, the remnant forest areas around the rural fringes of Melbourne are still able to provide the necessary habitat of large trees with big hollows for nesting and enough substantial territory with plenty of suitable prey for Powerful Owls to survive.

Let's hope we can take the necessary steps to save this magnificent, threatened species from extinction by protecting sufficient habitat for it and its prey.. A very important part of this will be keeping the few remaining old growth forest intact

Insect Survey Methods Tutorial— Joan B.

Recently Belinda lead some of the nursery crew on an insect survey at Stanebrae Josh had set things up the day before, by digging a number of halved soft-drink bottles into the earth, marking their locations, and leaving them overnight. The next day we were shown how to check them systematically for invertebrates. Field guides and magnifying lenses were provided to help us identify our finds. It was very interesting to be instructed in the proper method of conducting such a survey. However, because no bait was not a great deal was trapped. A nice sighting was a Pallid cuckoo, perched and calling loudly, nearby



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**Market Trailer
& Newsletter** **Joan Broadberry**
98461218

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

Thursday Activity Group (TAG)

The schedule for the TAG working group will be worked out early in 2011. In general it will occur on the first and third Thursday of the month from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm. Either meet at the depot (sharp at 9.00 am), or on site. 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

To confirm the activity on a given Thursday contact the nursery on 0408 317327 after 8:45 am on the day. To enable volunteers to select activities according to their capability field activities will be graded E (easy) M (moderate) and D (difficult) commencing in 2011

Manningham City Council Environment Seminars 2011

Held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at will continue next year at

Currawong Bush Park- Mel 34 H6

For details check closer to the time on 9840 9124



2nd February 2011 Reading the Land with Dr Geoff Lacey, Environmental Engineer

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required

Supper provided



The Small spider Orchid from Fourth Hill
brings our wishes for a
HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAY SEASON to all FOWSPians,
From the editors and the FOWSP committee

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

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.

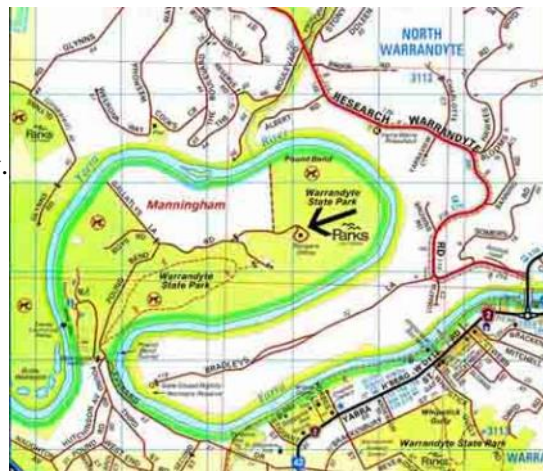
NURSERY OPENING HOURS

The nursery is open for plant sales (by donation) every Thursday.
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Sunday of each month
2 pm to 4 pm.

Holiday Schedule:

**Open Thursday 23rd December then CLOSED over
 Christmas and New Years.
 Reopens on Thursday 6th January 2011**

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



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Prices 2011

Members \$1.50
 Non-members \$2.00

Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan
 Joan Broadberry
 Mel Coupar (Line drawings)



Many Thanks to the November Market Volunteers

Diana & John Baird
 Alan Woolcock and Marian Kiewert
 Brian James & Joan Broadberry
 Linda Gilbert & Ken Crook
 Peter Curry (delivery & return of trailer)

Summer Policy: If on the Friday before the market the forecast Saturday temp. is **over 35°** - the whole market is cancelled.

Last market date for this year is Saturday **December 4th**. (Market December 18th, but no FOWSP)
 No January 2011 market. .



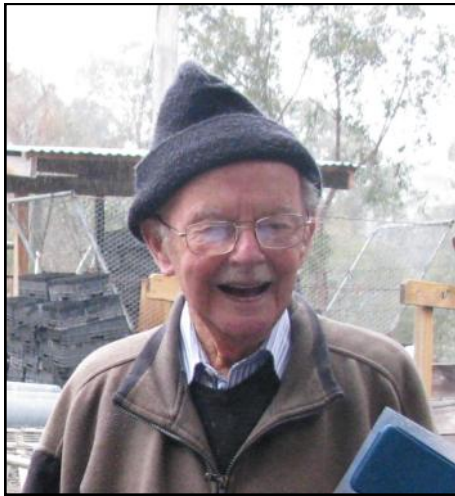
Markets are held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. Volunteers are rostered on in pairs for an hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2011 please email Joan Broadberry: joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au or ring anytime on **9846 1218**. *No knowledge assumed*

Memories of Ray

By Cathy Willis

We have received the sad news that Ray passed away on the 8th of November 2011

Ray Clarke joined FOWSP in the mid 90s when he was still a comparative youngster of around 80. He soon became a regular and an integral



part of the group. My initial impression of Ray was of a well presented, well spoken, quite reserved and very fit gentleman. As we worked together and I got to know him I grew to appreciate his generosity, enthusiasm and often rather cheeky wit.

Over pricking out sessions in the nursery, and monthly Koorong working mornings, we chatted about nature, sailing, model boats, bushwalking, travels with his parents as a child, camping trips with son Nigel in WA, life and the universe generally. Ray's interests were many and varied. He was very proud of his children, grandchildren and eventually great grandchildren and I looked forward to frequent news of them. Meanwhile he took an interest in my girls and took them on Christmas hamper runs for the Smith family. I heard about his volunteer work there and for the Polly Woodside and gathered that he had thrown himself into these activities and others after the devastating loss of his wife – his lifelong soulmate.

As a well liked and respected FOWSP member it was inevitable Ray would be asked to join the committee. His background in finance made him an obvious choice to take over as treasurer when the position became vacant. Coincidentally it was at a time when the group and nursery were growing fast and needed to get some good accounting practices in place. Ray whipped us into shape and laid the groundwork for subsequent treasurers to continue. His resignation due to difficulty hearing at meetings was a real loss to the group.

Once Ray gave up driving his visits to the nursery became less frequent. But his interest and input continued. In recent times Ray prompted the committee to take a good look at nursery layout and

News from the Committee

- Redesign of the Nursery going ahead with help from Dianna. Cathy to obtain planning permit – will require assistance from Parks to complete it.
- Grant applications - Boys Road grant has been obtained. Plan to be completed for 2011

Nursery Report

- Josh reported more people wanting to do field work, so TAG's going well. Activities will be rated Easy, Medium or Hard in 2011
- Gearing up for next year with some seed collection to take place.
- Nursery boxes have been disappearing so a gold coin donation will be requested from anyone taking one home

Rangers Report

- FiveProject Fire Fighters have started – there are two more to come.
- A slashing program will start shortly and spring fuel reduction burns will commence when the scrub has dried out a little.
- Janaya O'Dempsey has started recently with the Natural Values Management Team

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 11th January 2011

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 pm sharp

develop plans for a makeover. Even if it is not official, I think I'll dub the reworked entry point (as yet to be finalised) "Ray's gate". He'd probably get a laugh out of that.

One of my fondest personal memories of Ray is from a stinking hot day at the Koorong. Four or five of us had spent the morning mattocking out Yellow Iris along the river bank; exhausting for someone less than half his age. At the end of it we all stripped off our outer layers in preparation for cooling off in the swimming hole. Ray told us not to bother talking to him for a while and carefully removed his hearing aid before immersing himself in the cool water. I can still see his beaming face as we floated around. I think that illustrates one Ray's great qualities, his ability to throw himself into whatever was happening and get the very best out of it. Rest in peace Ray.

To the editor

Hi Linda,

I thought it would be nice to share with you a couple of special moments from Mallacoota that have happened since our move here in September. Unusually for me, I have been up at dawn a few times and caught this view across the inlet from our deck just as the sun was rising over Gabo Island. (Martyn's photo right)

Since arriving, Tricia and I have joined a casual walking group who take us on easy local walks. The second picture is of an orchid I found on the last walk a couple weeks ago. It took me

some time to identify it was a rewarding experience. What we had seen was Purple Diuris - *Diuris Punctata* (photo right)

Martyn



"No coarse hand of progress will ever tear from Mallacoota and its surrounds the mystic beauty that still clings to it like an enchanted veil, showing under the soft transparency of sky and air a loveliness amongst the rarest in Australia"

E.J. Brady 1869 - 1952 Australian poet and artist.

Climbing the hill (Fourth Hill) in search of seeds, but Gray appears sidetracked by a weed. For more see Walks/talks page 9.



Photo by Carol Page

Exciting Spider Find- Joan Broadberry

Now you must understand as a field naturalist I find spiders one of the most interesting of creatures. A little while ago I experienced an absolute "spider high". I was able to observe and photograph the amazing Net-casting spider actually hunting at night in my sister's backyard.

This spider weaves a small net out of silk and, hanging head down waits in ambush until an insect passes by. With great speed it throws the net over the insect, in this case a mosquito, and bags its dinner. *See photo below.* Read more about the Net-casting spider's fascinating life-style in the December issue of the *Warrandyte Diary*. Also p11 email extra



"I SPY"

By J.F.



Lunching with a Lady

Your regular "spy" Ben, was spotted recently lunching at Kuranga Bush Nursery with a woman. Was the woman his wife???

Home from Holidays

Welcome back to Betty and Albert who have recently returned from two weeks sight-seeing in Portugal and time in the UK visiting a 90 year old distant cousin, then following up on family history on the Island of Skye.

John Blake, with wife Fay, has just returned from a very wet extended caravanning trip to far north Queensland. The highlight for John was the sighting of some 200 broilgas in a paddock somewhere around Charters Towers.

Not really a holiday, but welcome back to Gray after his long winter sojourn in his northern home in Kuranda, far north Queensland.

Your correspondent recently enjoyed a camping holiday visiting 12 northern NSW National Parks. There were several highlights on this trip including watching spellbound for about 20 minutes while a lyrebird performed a magnificent routine just a few feet away in the bush. This was in the Washpool National Park.

In the Dorrig National Park we were lucky enough to spot two male regent bowerbirds, in full breeding plumage, their golden feathers glistening in the sun. In the Bald Rock National Park our timing was perfect. Almost all of the huge granite boulders that lie beside the walk to the summit of Bald Rock were covered in cascades of flowering *Dendrobium speciosum*. Another orchid highlight was found in the Border Ranges National Park. There is one walk through an ancient Antarctic beech (*Nothofagus moorei*) forest where these superb old trees absolutely drip with epiphytes of all kinds. One of these is the *Dendrobium falcorostrum* which grows almost exclusively on the Antarctic beech, was abundant and in full flower.

There are many beautiful national parks in NSW, all with something different to offer, and a trip like this is highly recommended.

Home from Home

A welcome visitor to the nursery recently was Martyn, back in Melbourne for a couple of days, after his

recent move to Mallacoota. Martyn and his wife have settled well into their new house and are enjoying getting to know the surrounding environment. They are particularly enjoying the view from their balcony.

Walks/talks etc.

Recent forays into the bush on Thursdays have included:

The Annual koala count – only one spotted by two teams covering a wide area. Where have they gone??

Fourth Hill seed collecting exercise (with Josh) A small group set off ostensibly to gather seeds, but the only ones we found ready for collection were Yam daisy

seeds. So having gathered enough in a short distance we enjoyed our walk, observing many flowering species. At one stage Josh spotted a large male samba deer crashing through the bush. Carol photographed some interesting looking caterpil-



lars (email bonus page) and Gray, perhaps unhappy at being back in Victoria, decided to kick the bucket – it wasn't fatal. (Carol Page's photo above and p 8)

VNPA Walks by Ken Crook

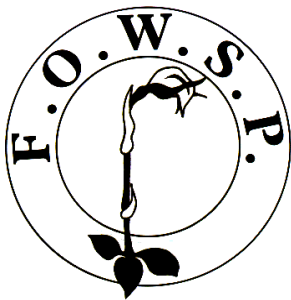
Ken reports that on two walks he conducted in September and October, one in the Kangaroo Ground/Panton Hills area, and one in the Blue Tongue Bend/Stanebrae area, there were the best displays of wild flowers he had ever seen. Ken was accompanied by a keen photographer whose photographs of some of the flowers seen can be viewed on flickr.com/vnpa/suzette.

Around the nursery

Alwynne and Alison have been doing battle with a rogue echidna who is very clever in foiling their attempts to keep him (or maybe her) out of the bed in front of the nursery. In spite of wire, logs and rocks being placed in the way this little marauder always manages to get through to what must be the tastiest ants in the park.

Sifting Seeds

Kelly, with friend Lucy, were spotted in the nursery sifting assorted seeds in preparation for sowing some time soon. Lucy has just finished her second year of wildlife and conservation biology at Deakin University and likes to help out when she can.



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Crane flies (Family Tipulidae)

Common along the Yarra at present, the extremely long proboscis on this individual caught my attention, being 4x as long as its body. Although most adult Crane flies do not feed, the presence of this elongated mouthpart may indicate that this one is from a group that does obtain nectar from certain flowers. Crane flies are Diptera, having one pair of wings and a set of halteres.
There are over 700 species in Australia. Linda

December 2010 Volume 28 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) \$20
Concession \$10

Newsletter by email (tick box) ☐

Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or existing members with unchanged contact details can use direct deposit. Details: BSB 633-108. Account: 136406907. Account name: friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc. Identify yourself by surname

Email photo bonus



Mature male Net-casting spider—At this stage of its life the spider no longer makes a net, but concentrates on reproduction.

Joan Broadberry



Small unidentified pair of spiders making webs on *Craspedia variabilis* at the nursery. Josh has noted similar spiders only on yellow flowers. The smaller spider, upper left may be the male.



Carol Page has photographed these 2 unidentified caterpillars on a recent Fourth Hill walk *See page 9* and these mating beetles, probably the Lycidae or Net-winged *Porrostoma* species. However poisonous Lycid beetles have many excellent mimics and may require magnified examination to confirm their identity.

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