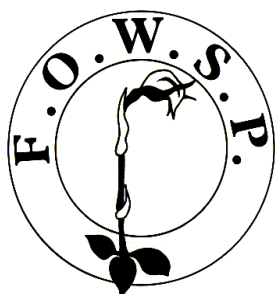


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

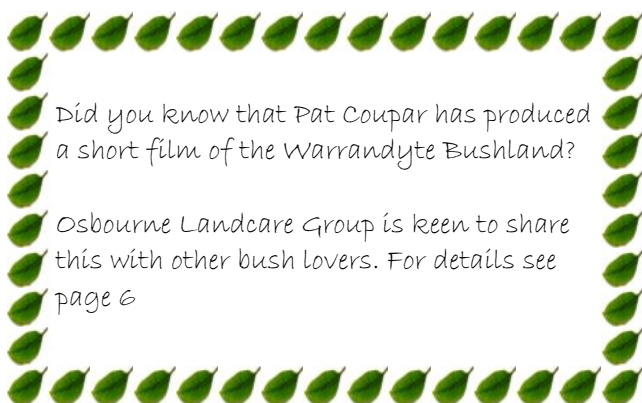
“MAY YOU LIVE in interesting times” is said to be a Chinese curse. For most of us the past month has certainly been an interesting time. Our thoughts are with those affected by floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

Fortunately for me, much that is positive and of interest has been occurring nearby. One pleasant surprise, when discussing my interest in butterflies and other insects with ranger David Van Bockel (co author of *Flora of Warrandyte*) was the revelation that his young daughter Talia has a keen interest in learning about these critters. That's Talia pictured on the right with some of her friends. I'm sure you will also enjoy learning more about Talia on page 2.



Also on page 2 Joan Broadberry indulges in some mild toilet humor and, as always, is informative.

The Warrandyte Festival attracted a lot of helpers in-



Did you know that Pat Coupar has produced a short film of the Warrandyte Bushland?

Osbourne Landcare Group is keen to share this with other bush lovers. For details see page 6

cluding some new to the trailer. The festival and the weeks plant sales were very successful thanks to the efforts of many. For Festival snapshots see page 8.

Ben Gottlieb gives us a synopsis of a talk on Tropical Fungi by Bruce Fuhrer as well as some information about this amazing naturalist on page 3. On page 7 Ben offers some insights from others about our Josh.

Meet a new FOWSP student volunteer and read about Annette's Bush Rat Dilemma on page 4.

It's great having so many different contributors and we are always happy to have more. So remember to tell us what's happening in your backyard and what you are doing to help our natural environment. Hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Linda Rogan, ed.

Deadline for May edition newsletter is Friday 22nd April, 2011

contributions can be emailed to [Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au](mailto:Linda.Rogan@netspace.net.au)
 or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Talia's Passion for insects

WE DISTINCTLY REMEMBER the day that we first saw Talia's love of insects. She was 18 months old when we lifted an old log in the garden to reveal all manner of creepy crawlies, Talia squealed with delight. From then on as a toddler and young child she was always bringing us living and dead insect treasures. Her interest has come and gone in intensity but has steadily increased over the years. For the last three years or so Talia has collected and looked after all manner of insects, spiders, snails and lizards.



The latest entomological excitement was the discovery of Emperor Gum Moth caterpillars at Lake Eildon. A supply were enthusiastically brought home to rear. Every day Talia watched and fed these very hungry caterpillars. She then watched cocoons being spun until all her 'babies' were hidden from sight.

After reading that it can take 4 months to 10 years for the moths to emerge there was much excitement when 5 weeks later Talia heard an interesting sawing noise coming from one of the cocoons. It was a wonderful sight to see the moths break free from their solid little homes and unfurl their wings. (photo above).



Desperate enthusiasm on the part of Talia led her mother, (that would be me!), to help build a giant enclosure to see if the moths would breed. Unfortunately, of those she

kept we have seen no offspring. However, she has learnt a great deal and will no doubt keep learning from and delighting in the fascinating world of insects also helping those around her to keep their eyes peeled for and appreciate them too.

Bronwyn Van Bockel

Twisted Toilet Tales

by Joan Broadberry

AS A KEEN field naturalist, there are two reasons I get up very early and race over to the toilets in the morning when camping. I had better explain.

On the recent Labour Day weekend I was with the field nats in the Beechworth caravan park. My observant sister Barbara, showed me an unusual moth she had found, where else but the on the wall of the ladies toilet! It was a male, quite large, with a wingspan of about 60mm. The moth's wings and body were coloured pale grey with a few randomly scattered dark spots and marks. The wings were ragged, and at first sight appeared to be unsymmetrical. The body was twisted strangely sideways. I picked it up to relocate it onto a better background for photos and the body straightened out. This moth was obviously impersonating a dead, dried-out leaf and doing it very successfully. It was the curved abdomen which contributed to my first impression of it being unsymmetrical. The unusual twist cleverly broke the visual bilateral symmetry characteristic of most animals.

Somehow the moth seemed familiar, and when I arrived home I found it illustrated on p42 of *Flying Colours*. Pat and Mike Coupar's wonderful book on moths is one of my most valued publications. I bought it in 1992, nearly twenty years ago, and it is still one of my favourite references.

The twisted moth, *Ciropetes obtusata* belongs to the



family Geometridae. The caterpillar feeds on eucalyptus and is a true looper with only two pairs of prolegs, one of which is the anal claspers. It pupates

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)
in the soil or leaf litter.

The lesson is, if you are a bug enthusiast, always keep an eye on the surrounds of the amenities block in camping grounds. This is a prime spot for exciting finds of moths and insects simply because the lights are left on all night. It is best to be there early so as not to appear too weird in front of too many people. Also in the quiet of morning it is often possible to have a quick check of the mens' as well!

TROPICAL FUNGI

reported by Ben Gottlieb.

The Place: Room 4, Federation Complex Ringwood

The Time: 7.30 pm. Wednesday 9th march 2011

The Organisation: Ringwood Field naturalists Club*

The Event: Meeting no. 595

The Audience: 33 members and visitors

The Speaker: Bruce Fuhrer

The Topic: Tropical Fungi

BRUCE began by speaking about fungi in general: their varieties, shapes, colours etc. He then focused on tropical fungi. These require very high humidity. "One of the main problems, while looking for tropical fungi is the 'wait-a-while vines'. They have almost invisible fibres hanging down, all of which have barbs, and you need to wait a while, while you pick yourself out of them." Another problem is that in clearings you may find a great mass of stinging trees, identified by their heart-shaped leaves. Plus



Photo composed of 2 photos taken by Ben Gottlieb

there are pythons and spiders and, worst of all, are the scrub mites found in rotten wood. When you stop the scrub mites find you. On arriving home you will find red welts around the top of your underwear."

Bruce showed well over 80 excellent slides, giving those present a glimpse of his encyclopedic knowledge, and many samples of his delightful ad-libbed humour. Many of the tropical fungi have pores underneath, instead of gills and the genera are separated by spore colour and morphology (shape).

Some examples were:

- An un-named variety with a pineapple-like texture
- *Austroboletus sp.*, with deeply furrowed glutinous stems
- Another which bruises pinkish to grayish, then when touched quickly changes to green
- "Jelly fungi", used in Asia as a component in cooking
- A trumpet-shaped, edible fungus with ridges underneath
- A species of *Coprinus* which sometimes appears with a mass of ginger hair.
- Luminous colonies attracting fungus flies. The flies have very bright red eyes.
- *Microporus sp.*, sometimes used ornamentally because of its symmetrical shape. It dries hard.
- Bruce once found a very rare fungus, but when he researched the literature to identify it, he realized he had previously identified in the Otways: so long ago he had forgotten.
- A cup shaped fungus containing "eggs". The spores are spread when raindrops land on them splashing them out some distance.
- *Phallus sp.* has a honeycomb structure and gives off the smell of decay to attract flies which then spread the spores.
- One fungus grows on termite mounds

The afore-mentioned are a small sample of the range of tropic fungi. Since 1978 Bruce has produced quite a few publications, some co-authored, some suitable for young people and other material to be used by teachers. He is a Life Member of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club and for 16 years lead the Juniors. For his 25 years of work in the School of Biology at Monash University, Bruce was awarded an Honorary Master of Science in 1988. A year later he was the recipient of the Australian Natural History Medallion. And his good work continues.

* The Ringwood Field Naturalists Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month in Room 4 of the Maroon-dah Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave. Ringwood (Mel 49 H10). Contact: Hazel 9876 3712 Website: home.vicnet.net.au/~rfnc. Correspondence : P.O. box 418 Ringwood 3134

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

A New Face and an Old(er) One



MEET PAUL ROGERS, a Masters student in Ecology from Melbourne University. On his first day as a volunteer with FOWSP. He helped Gray with the planting of some *Acacia implexa* in the site where a house used to be at the gate entry to the nursery. With Gray leading the effort, it was: 'one big weed out, one small tree in', until he had to come back for more trees

As Paul lives near the nursery, we can hope for his involvement in the long term.

Hats off to Gray for all the weed "murdering" he has done over the years. *Below* his hat is off to show off his yearly haircut. L.R.



Annette's Bush Rat Dilemma

WITH THE COOLER weather approaching we all want to snuggle in where it's warm and cosy, as do rodents. I've had chooks for many years and know that it's part and parcel that rats and mice come along with them. It is so worth it though. They are wonderful creatures that entertain, forage, clean up, produce eggs, fertilise, and are just great company. (I mean the chooks not the rats - although they have their place in the world too and are native to somewhere)

I have various methods of controlling rats/mice but at the moment I have the live traps out so then I can relocate their souls in a humane manner. I check the traps a few times a day but one morning when I checked there was a baby rat looking thing that was so damn cute that it made me hesitate. I just couldn't decide whether it was a black rat or native bush rat. So I took it along to work and the rangers had a good look at it. The wonderful Cam Beardsell was there and explained that the docile temperament was characteristic of our native rats. Also the ears were smaller and more on the side of the head. The biggest give away was the length of the tail. The black rat's tail is 1.5 to 2 times longer than the actual length of the body whereas the bush rat's tail is the same length or shorter than its body.

I was very excited and rushed home to release the poor baby that had already gnawed all the corn in the trap. Yippee! I have bush rats at home.... Now, how to control the black rats that are happily co-existing with their native cousins. Any suggestions are very welcome. Just come and see me at the nursery.

Annette Lion

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2011		OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Jason Patton jason@parau.com	0402 121838	Webmaster & Membership	<u>Nursery Manager</u> Josh Revell 0408 317327
Lynda Gilbert	9844 0106	Treasurer	<u>Park Office</u> 9844 2659
Linda Rogan lindarogan@netspace.net.au	9435 5806	Newsletter Co-ordinator	<u>Librarian</u> Judy Green 9844 2096
Kelly Wooster	9844 2819	Facebook & email contact	<u>Wildlife Rescue</u> Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908
Artur Muchow	0415 383328	Secretary	<u>Koala Rescue</u> Julie Pryor 9722 1117
Cathy Willis	0418 142297		<u>Market Trailer & Newsletter</u> Joan Broadberry 98461218
Gray Ardern	0418 190261		
Jan Falconer	9844 1226		Website: www.fowsp.org.au
Sybillie Ims	9844 1335/ 0405 500 278		

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 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

7th April **Webb Street Timber Reserve** Woody weed removal
21st April **TBA**
5th May **Pauline Toner Reserve** Environmental works

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**. Walks held on the **4th Thursday of each month**

These walks are paced to allow us to appreciate the natural history along the way.

Call or email Natalie 9840 9124 eeepad-min@manningham.vic.gov.au

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL as places are limited: *request meeting place information at booking*

PROGRAM

28 April, 9.30 am Thursday Pound Bend Ridge to River, Warrandyte

Up to the top of Pound Bend Ridge, along the management track, view both ends of the historic tunnel then follow the river track to our starting point, keeping a look out for koalas in the Manna gums along the way.

Distance: approx 3.5kms Time: approx 3 hours Rating: moderate (some foot tracks).

This school holiday walk is suitable for reasonably fit school age children.

9.30 am Thursday 26 May Jumping Creek Reserve to Warrandyte Village

Following the river we cross the Jumping Creek and continuing over rocky ledges and sheltered riparian forest. After a short section along a dead end road we complete the walk along the upstream end of Warrandyte Walk.

Distance: approx 3.5kms Time: approx 3- 3.5 hours

Rating: difficult (some sections of steep, narrow foot tracks) NOTE: this walk will involve a 4km shared car shuttle as the walk is one way.

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*

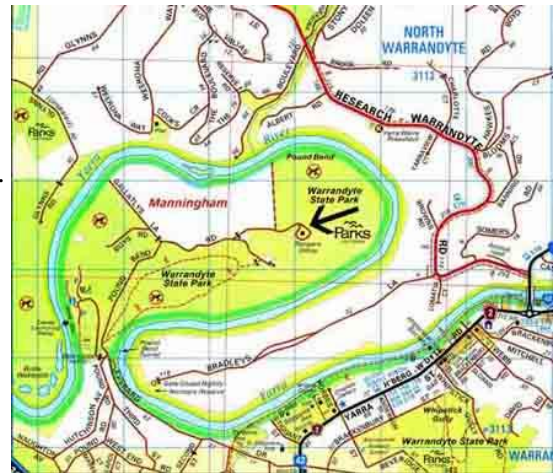
the first Sunday of each month

2 pm to 4 pm.

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

Prices 2011

Members \$1.50 Non-members \$2.00



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Manningham/Nillimbik Environmental events 2011

Manningham Environmental Seminars are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at **Warrandyte Community Centre,**

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

For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124

6th April *Indigenous cooking* with Damien Styles, Charcoal Lane

4th May *Landscape changes and impact on local birdlife*, Murray Bouchier

1st June *Understanding Fire in Our Local Environment*, Evan Thomas, CFA

Seminars are FREE. No bookings required *Supper provided*



MANNINGHAM
BALANCE OF CITY AND COUNTRY

Nillimbik

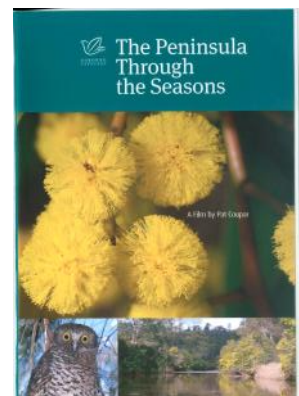
Wednesday 13 April 10-12 noon Live Water Bugs up close and personnel with Water-watch at the Eltham Library Bookings and info Eltham Library on 9439 9266



The Peninsula Through the Seasons A film of The Warrandyte Bush by Pat Coupar

Did You Know that Pat Coupar has made a short film of the Warrandyte bush land?

When the Yarra River flows through the Warrandyte Gorge country it is at its most picturesque. It also defines what is known as the Osborne Peninsula and helps to create a rich and diverse natural environment. This environment and Pat's attachment to and love of the Warrandyte bush, which she has worked to protect and preserve for many years, is displayed in this beautiful documentary titled "*The Peninsula Through the Seasons*."



Copies of the film can be obtained from Ann Penrose 98440934 or Ruth Rankin 98441959. COST \$5.



JOSH by Ben Gottlieb

*“They seek him here, they seek him there
They seek that man everywhere
Is he in heaven or is he in hell
That damned elusive Josh Revell.”*

Unable to pin Josh down for an interview, I surveyed the multitudes, people, workers, rangers, and others about Josh.

Here-in lieu of an interview are their comments: “very efficient”, “environmentally responsible”, “very friendly”, “good company”, “drinks coke!”, “we don’t see enough of him”, “very good at dealing with all the age groups and personalities in FOWSP”, “His enthusiasm and knowledge of plants is inspiring”, “infuriatingly disorganized”, “he is a great boss, very flexible, patient and understanding”, “incredible memory”, “a fund of information about all sorts of things, including nature, plants and places around here (WSP)”, happy to share knowledge”, “knows his orchids”, “very friendly and knowledgeable”, “very lucky to have him”, “hard worker when it comes to planting, he has a lot of love for plants”, “passionate plant geek, but really just one of the boys”, “flexible, knows how to keep himself well hydrated, as with plants”, “great”, “awesome”, “motivator”, “good bloke”, “kept a low profile for so long and has finally given in to publicity” – his birthday?

Well there it is, but we still don’t know his favourite foods, favourite poetry, film stars etc. Nor do we know all his travels, does he snore, which hairdresser he uses, what parking fines he has had and how he behaved at school????

Many years ago I SPY was the “Mystery Reporter”, interviewing members and rangers at WSP. But the Mystery Reporter has been unable to interview the Mystery Man!

News from the Committee

- Clean up Australia Day – done by Lyndy & Ken, and Artur's group – Canoe group did area around Mt Lofty
- Advertising at TAFE's and Uni's – Belinda and Kelly will place notices on boards advertising student placements via MYLN. Applicants will be accepted for placements at FOWSP and other landcare groups as space allows. Artur will work with Kelly

Nursery Report

- Manningham Day successful – 9 people attended each given 3 plants
 - TAGs – new system working so far – Working with Cam on intermediate days
- Because of humidity this year some plants not successful e.g. peas, but others more successful than usual and grasses very good. Some rare plants in
- Money starting to come in from orders, also advertising program and Festival
- Kinglake and St Andrews Landcare have been offered plants
- Have had 15 survey responses – 27 by email – a few more expected before they will be collated
- Annette away for a few weeks – Kelly filling in
- Problem with non-return of crates therefore we will commence a charge of \$2 per crate – effective immediately – to be repaid on return
- 25% deposit on orders of 25 plants or more – Cathy to write draft of proposal and email to everyone before implementation.

Rangers Report

- Flood damage continues to occupy time – some expenses to be covered by insurance – being co-ordinated State-wide
- Busy with planning and carrying out fuel reduction programme – 5 planned – 2 done so far – Fourth Hill effective, Black Flat and Sugarloaf still to come
- Jenny Hellyer finishes her 10 month short term contract this month
- Janaya O'Dempsey about to go on maternity leave for 12 months
- Urban weeds initiative and urban rabbit initiative – seeking funds to carry out both
- 3 crews away doing fuel reduction burns in other parts of the State
- PV can work with students through Green Jobs program for 20 people working with supervisors

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12 April 2010

Venue: Ranger Station, Pound Bend

Time: 19:30 sharp

Snapshots from the FOWSP trailer at the Warrandyte Festival 2011



Thanks to Joan Broadberry and Sybille Ims for organising volunteers for the trailer at the Festival

And many thanks to the trailer Volunteers for March and the Festival

FESTIVAL: Diane & John Baird, Linda Gilbert & Ken Crook,
Joan Broadberry & Brian James David Tynan, Lyn Douch,
Jan Smids, Sybille Ims, Carol Page, Marion Thompson, Anne Warren
Shan Schnookel, Linda Rogan, Marjan Kiewert, Alan Woolcock, Alison Thom
Christine Andell, Marie & Wolfgang Krause, Cathy Willis

MARCH: Diane & John Baird, Sybille Ims, Marion Thomson,
Mark & Margaret Hassell, Ken Crook, Lyndy Gilbert.
Peter Curry - delivery & return of trailer



Next market date is May 7th. No FOWSP trailer at the market in April

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 2010 please email Joan Broadberry: joan.broadberry@optusnet.com.au or ring anytime on 9846 1218.

“I SPY”

By B.G



Toad Tourists

“Researchers from Melbourne University, Sydney University and the University of Western Sydney.... found that toads outside fenced areas, (around water-holes), died within 72 hours.

“Cane toads have no biological mechanisms to store water, to which they need regular access. Farm bores are essentially the stepping stones that the toads were using to assist them into the dry areas”, said Melbourne University’s Dr Tim Dempster. “But by blocking access to water the toads could be kept out of the Pilbara and it could reduce the final range of the Cane toad in Australia by 38%”. Melb. Age, Thursday 24th Feb. 2011, page 11. quoted by Bridie Smith, from the Journal, *Proceedings of the Royal Society*

David to Dandenongs

Ranger David Van Bockel has been seconded to the Dandenongs as a fire operations officer. David will be based at the Sir Alfred Nicholas Gardens.

Rejoicing Josh

On Thursday morning, 3 March, Nursery manager Josh was greeted with a “happy birthday to you” song. An overlarge crowd was present as Josh quickly approached his cake – one blow and the three candles were out. Which birthday? Who knows? But see p7

Oil Odyssey

“Baby dolphins are washing up dead along the oil affected US Gulf Coast at more than 10 times the normal rate in the first birthing season since the BP oil spill disaster researchers say”. Age 24.2.11) Gulf Port Mississippi.

Healthy Helpers

Mid February, ten visitors from the Manningham healthy Lifestyle Week (MHLW), worked in the Folly in a seed sorting activity. They were first given a short talk by Belinda and then supervised by Artur in their helpful deeds. At morning tea, Lynn Meredith, Environmental Officer with Manningham Council spoke to FOWSP members about MHLW.

Newsletter team this month were:

Linda Rogan
Joan Broadberry
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Depot Departure

Ranger Jennie Hellyer is leaving WSP soon. Jennie, who has a B.Sc in environment from Monash Uni., has been on contract.

Pricking/Pulling out

- FOWSP member, John Young was found diligently pricking out *Themeda triandera*. John is a member of the North East(ern) Melbourne Orchid Society
- Roger Needham (from Park Orchards) was helping to weed grasses from tubes in the hardening off area.. Both Roger and John are keen bird watchers.
- Irene Wong was helping to prick out *Joycea pallida*. Irene came as part of the MHLW. She likes walking, swimming, talking, reading and surfing the internet. (And has a good sense of humour).

Come with Ken

FOWSP member Ken crook, will be leading a “medium grade”, 8 kilometre walk through WSP on Wednesday 11th May this year as part of the VNPA program. Coffee afterwards. Limit of 20 people. Ring Ken after April 11th 9844 0106. (\$8 for non-members). “Alongside the ancient Yarra rRiver. Glimpse kangaroos, wallabies, birds and echidnas and see historical artifacts.”

Further to the Field

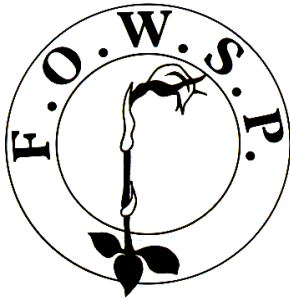
Did you know that the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. has 10 sub-groups: Bats, Botany, Day Group, Fauna Survey, Fungi, Geology, Juniors, Marine Research, Microscopy and Terrestrial Invertebrates. Visitors are welcome to all activities which cater for all levels of knowledge. FNCV office: 9877 9860, website: www.fncv.org.au

Relevant, recalcitrant or revanchist research?

“The Baillieu government returned cattle to the Alpine national Park under the banner of research into whether grazing reduced bushfires. Scientists have argued there is clear, peer-reviewed evidence that grazing does not reduce fire.” Adam Morton, Environmental Reporter Melb. Age 24.2.11, page 11.

Will ‘scientific’ research into whaling continue?

Thanks to the many FOWSPians who have been beating the pavement to deliver FOWSP flyers



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



Badge Spider (*Neosparassus Diana*) Joan Broadberry

A nocturnal hunting spider with a flattened body, (20mm), which builds no web. Its upper body is a delicate peach colour, with yellow eye spots. (see photo gallery p 11 -email version. On the underside is a stunning black, shield-shaped marking with two light blue spots. Hence the common name, Badge spider. As a hunter, the spider's first two pairs of legs are distinctly longer than the two hind pairs.

April 2011 Volume 29 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) \$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



Two of Talia's Emperor Gum Moth caterpillars. Photo by a Van Bockel.



Yarra River in flood
Photo by Jason Patton

A second photo by Belinda of Annette's baby bush rat featured on page 4



Joan Broadberry's photo of the upper side of the Badge Spider featured on the back cover.

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