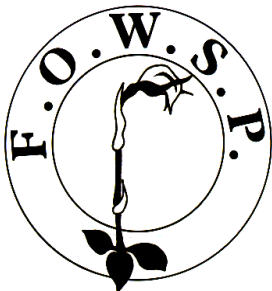


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## Newsletter

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au)

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

### Editor's corner

AS IN THE PHOTO on this page, FOWSPians enjoy spending many hours doing hands-on work to improve our natural environment, especially within the area of Warrandyte State Park and the Warrandyte-Kinglake NCR. Working together with other concerned FOWSPian is a great pleasure and a wonderful way to learn more about the flora and fauna.

It is therefore distressing to find that, "In spite of all the existing good policies and the hard work by the community, environment groups, Landcare and landholders, the health of the natural environment continues to decline in Victoria. We are now widely recognised as the most ecologically stressed state in Australia." For more information on this topic, see page 4.



Four FOWSPians fighting woody weeds.

On page 2 Joan Broadberry takes us along on a long delayed visit to The Camels Hump.



FOWSP's new banner, flying high in Warrandyte at the festival. Watch for more on it's creation in the next bulletin.

Across on page 3, Pat Coupar takes us on a journey down memory lane, (or boardwalk), in Frogland. After reading this you may wish to join us in creating Froglands future.

Bruce Fuhrer has photographed a truly lovely creature digging in his back garden. Check this out on page 7.

Can you identify the mystery eggs on page 8? Or, if you like, send us your own mysteries

Early reports are, that many FOWSPians, once again, greatly enjoyed participating in the Warrandyte Festival. We hope to hear more and have some photos available for a future newsletter.

It is my hope that this newsletter will help to inspire even more action to reverse the decline in Victoria's natural heritage.  
 Enjoy *Linda*

**Deadline for May edition newsletter is Friday 21st of April 2012**

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

# Procrastination

by Joan Broadberry

OUR HOUSE is built on the top of a hill in Templestowe, facing west. When the air is really clear, such as after rain, I can stand in my driveway and just make out the outline of the Macedon Ranges in the distance. Its most distinctive feature, the highest point, known as The Camels Hump, has beckoned for more than thirty years.

I love exploring the Victorian countryside and have travelled to many out-of-the way places. A lot of these trips take me west along the Calder Highway. This route passes close to Mt Macedon. Yet only once do I remember briefly visiting Memorial Cross Reserve and never that 'bump' on the skyline which is the Range's most recognisable landmark



View from the Camels Hump—looking west

At long last, this January I took the Mount Macedon turnoff, and, with fellow field naturalists, spent a very enjoyable day walking, geologising, bird watching and exploring parts of the Macedon Regional Park. Our guides took us first to an area near Sanatorium Lake Picnic Ground. A network of well signposted walking tracks wind among beautiful forests of messmate and alpine ash with a dense under-story of native shrubs. Although it was summer, due to the altitude, many were still in flower. Around the lake and along the creek lines, the gullies were rich with ferns and orchids. Birds were plentiful, with the highlight of our day being sightings of Blue-winged Parrots and a Rufus Fantail.

After lunch some of us made the short climb up to the iconic Camels Hump lookout. The path is steep, but at 1000 metres elevation, we were amply rewarded by superb views of neighbouring Hanging Rock. A short distance away, the Major Mitchell Lookout afforded more stunning views to the north-west. We also visited the Memorial Cross, delighting in discovering Cinnamon Bells orchids blooming by the track. Even in the afternoon haze the Melbourne CBD was visible and the surrounding countryside stretched out far, far below. Port Phillip Bay shimmered on the horizon.

Mt Macedon is relatively close to Melbourne and well worth many visits, especially in summer when it is significantly cooler than suburbia. The Range is a true 'island in the sky'; isolated by its height from the plains below. By the 1870's most of its original dense tree cover had been cut down. But the forests regrew and despite the damage done by the February 1983 (Ash Wednesday) fires, the Regional Park protects a wealth of flora and fauna. Mt Macedon's varied elevations support several vegetation communities, including wet forests and even, to my surprise, small patches of Snow Gum and alpine herb-fields.

Sometimes it takes a very long time to get around to something – procrastination! I can hardly believe that a destination combining geology, history, botany, bird-watching and the many cultural attractions of Mt Macedon somehow slipped under my field naturalist radar. But to make up for lost time, another expedition is planned very soon.

Cinnamon Bells orchid on the path to the Memorial Cross





## Frogland

### The Concept

ORIGINALLY 'Frogland' was to be a small part of a grand scheme to rehabilitate a large section of degraded bushland beside the entrance road to the rangers depot and nursery at Pound Bend. In particular, the area directly below the road had become a boggy repository for weeds that had invaded due to storm water run off from the road and nutrient-rich run off from the nursery. This resulted in luxuriant growth of introduced grass such as Yorkshire Fog, Sweet Vernal and the troublesome Drain Flat-sedge. The Red Box trees on this normally dry slope were suffering from too much water.

As well as creating a 'Frogland' from this weed-infested wasteland, the idea was to use the rest of the site as a rare plant orchard for some of the Parks locally endangered flora, so that seed could be readily harvested and plants grown at the nursery as part of the 'species enrichment program'. There were also plans to create a butterfly and moth food plant trail and develop an Aboriginal plant trail, complete with signs and brochures. Grand ideas indeed!

In 1992 FOWSP obtained a grant from Melbourne Parks and Waterways (now Melbourne Water) to fence the whole area. Frogland was Stage One.

### The Creation

With assistance from Park staff and their machinery, a large hole was excavated and allowed to fill naturally with water. On recommendation, to encourage invertebrates, a bale of hay was spread over the water and left for a few weeks to decompose. Large logs were hauled into place to provide habitat shelters.

The edges of the new pond were planted densely with sedges (*Carex* spp.) to help absorb the nutrients from the run off. Weeds were smothered with carpet underlay and wood shavings. Aquatic, semi-aquatic and a

variety of rare and significant species were propagated and planted out. It wasn't long before cheerful chirps, clicks and bonks were heard emanating from the pond. The frogs had found a haven.

A second grant was used to add another pond, below the first, and to build a board-walk to protect the delicate ground covers.

### The Custodians

DURING the first few years of its creation, 'Frogland' had a numbers of custodians – myself included. But people move on and the site fell into disrepair. In 2005 interest in 'Frogland' was revived with some new members keen to be take on the restoration process. That same year the WSP project firefighters carried out a cool burn to rejuvenate the native vegetation.

However, after a couple of years, unfortunately, interest in 'Frogland' waned as the main players moved on. Once again 'Frogland' was forgotten.

### The Current Crew

TOWARDS the end of last year concern for 'Frogland' re-surfaced thanks mainly to Linda Rogan and Gray Ardern and, despite my best intentions not to get involved (as our plans are to leave Warrandyte this year), I couldn't help but get inspired to have one last crack - twenty years on – at restoring 'Frogland' once more!

Many regular Thursday Fowspians have been only too happy to help and in the few months that we have been going, the crew has made a real difference. Blackberries, thistles and Fleabane, in particular, have been targeted as well as patches of Sweet Vernal and Panic Veldt-grass. In addition, several boxes of shrubs, grasses and sedges have been planted densely in the gaps.

Although the original pond is much overgrown and the board-walk in need of some repair, many of the rare species we planted all those years ago have survived and flourished. Most notably are two regionally significant species of sedge that are uncommon in the Park – *Carex brownii* and *C. fascicularis*, plus a semi-aquatic Mud Dock (*Rumex bidens*) that was rescued from the wetlands adjacent to Mount Lofty before it became the Heritage Golf Course.

Of course there is much still to do, but it seems that 'Frogland' for now is having a boom time. It is my hope that someone will revisit those original concept plans and the dream for a rehabilitated bushland complete with plant trails, signs and brochures will, one day, become a reality.

Pat Coupar

The FOWSP committee has received the following well researched statement from Matt Ruchel of the VNPA. We fully endorse the statement and felt many of our members would also like to read and perhaps take action on these issues lest all our future wildlife viewing will be like the LBP pictured below from Museum Victoria. Also see <http://www.vnpa.org.au/> for more information about our parks and wild areas.

## Save Our Precious Habitats!

### *Joint Statement on Native Vegetation Rules & Saving Victoria's Remaining Natural Habitats and Wildlife*

**Strong controls on the clearing of native vegetation are critical to the health of our natural heritage, ecosystems and the survival of threatened species, as well as bringing many other benefits to the community.**

**As community-based groups, representing thousands of Victorians, we are deeply concerned about the State Government's proposed review of the Native Vegetation Management Framework.**

**We want to see it strengthened, not weakened, leading to a 'net gain' in habitat.**

Numerous independent scientific reports to government, including the Victorian Catchment Condition Report (2007),<sup>1</sup> Victorian State of the Environment Report (2008)<sup>2</sup> and most recently the Victorian Environment Assessment Council, Native Vegetation Investigation (VEAC 2011)<sup>3</sup> have all identified that loss of native vegetation is the key contributing factor for ongoing decline of the health of our natural environment. They have all reinforced the need to retain, protect and enhance remnant native vegetation.

In spite of all the existing good policies and the hard work by the community, environment groups, Landcare and landholders, the health of the natural environment continues to decline in Victoria. We are now widely recognised as the most ecologically stressed state in Australia.<sup>4</sup>

#### **The statistics are stark:**

- More than half of Victoria's original native bushland has been cleared, including 80% of the native vegetation originally found on private land.
- A third of Victoria's major streams are in poor or very poor condition.
- Two-thirds of our wetlands have been either lost or degraded, and nearly half our major estuaries have been significantly modified.
- The highest number of threatened species in any one region in Australia occurs in north-western Victoria.<sup>5</sup>
- 44% of Victoria's native plants and 30% of our native animals are extinct or threatened with extinction.<sup>6</sup>
- Approximately 1,600 ha of woody vegetation and 3,000 ha of rare grassy native vegetation continue to be lost annually. Only a small proportion of this is matched by offsets<sup>7</sup>

Overall, retaining remnant native vegetation is cheaper and more effective than revegetation alone. Native vegetation also provides a whole range of environmental services such as clean air, fresh water, pollination, flood regulation, soil retention and carbon sequestration. These benefits are worth many millions of dollars to the community annually, and need to be thoroughly assessed both ecologically and economically before balanced decisions can be made on changes to regulation.

In Victoria, vegetation clearing on private land is largely controlled through Native Vegetation regulations in the Planning and Environment Act (1987) and the Native Vegetation Management Framework. This provides for a 'duty of care' although we recognise that many landholders have gone beyond this.



**Stuffed and Mounted**  
Leadbetter Possum specimen  
Image Heath Warwick  
Source: Museum Victoria

(Continued on page 8)

**FOWSP COMMITTEE 2012**

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**Sybillie Ims** 9844 1335/0405 500 278    Market trailer  
imsbs@netspace.net.au

**Webmaster  
& Membership**

**Treasurer**

**Newsletter co-ordinator**

**Social media contact;  
facebook**

**Secretary**

**OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS**

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**Newsletter assist**    **Joan Broadberry**  
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**9722 2908**

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**9722 1117**

**Librarian**      **Judy Green**  
**9844 2096**

Website: [www.fowsp.org.au](http://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 5th April**      Alexander Road Desert Ash removal

**Thursday 19th April**      Orchard Track Planting

**Thursday 3rd May**      Koornong Weeding

## 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**, (*disclosed when you book*). Walks held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

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

**Thursday 26 April**—9.30 am Ruffey Lake Park Walk

Distance: 3.5km Rating: Time: 2.5 hrs Moderate meeting points will be available at time of booking.

**Thursday 24 May**—9:30 am Stane Brae walk

Distance: 4km Time: 2.5hrs Difficult (includes some steep and narrow track sections)

Places are limited and **bookings are essential:**  
9840 9124 or [eepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto: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

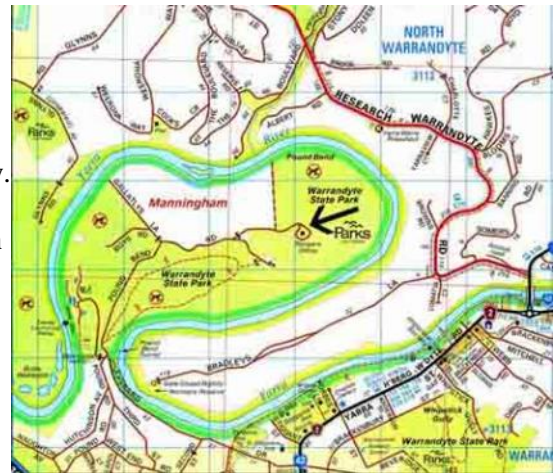
2 pm to 4 pm.

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

### **Prices 2011**

Members \$1.50

Non-members \$2.00



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## *Manningham Environmental Seminars*

are held on the **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** of the month at 7.30 pm at the **Warrandyte Community Centre**, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 3113 Mel Ref. 23 F11

**Wednesday 4 April** - *The natural history of Manningham* with historian Dr Gary Presland

**Wednesday 2 May** *Remnant Bushland in Manningham* with ecological consultant Dr Melanie Birtchnell

*For full details check closer to the time on 9840 9124*

**Seminars are FREE. No bookings required** *Supper provided*



## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER



Thanks to those who helped out on 3rd March- John and Diane Baird, kindly opened the trailer Sybille Ims, Brian James, Joan Broadberry and Lyn Moore Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crooks kindly locked up once again  
*Trailer delivery and retrieval: Peter Curry*

### **And also thanks to all who assisted on the Warrandyte Festival weekend:**

Alison Thom, Marion Thomson, Bernie Van Lith, Anne Warren, Kelly Wooster, Christine Arundel, Jan Falconer, David Tynan, Marie Krause, Marjan Kiewert, Cathy Willis, Ken Crook, Lyndy Gilbert, Jan Davies, Sybille Ims

*Also a big thank you to Artur for picking up and returning trailer and the plants during the festival and Jason for printing signs and also helping set up on Friday.*

The Warrandyte market is held on the first Saturday morning of the month from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm at Stiggants Reserve. Volunteers are rostered in pairs (to man/woman) the FOWSP information trailer for just one hour. If you are interested in being on the market roster for 2012 please contact **Sybille Ims 9844 1335/0405 500 278** [imsbs@netspace.net.au](mailto:imsbs@netspace.net.au) *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.*

**FUTURE MARKET DATES: 7th April (Easter Saturday), 5th May, June 2nd, July 7th.**

## News from the Committee

**Redesign of nursery** - Still waiting on a quote for the new building.

**30<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations** - The sub-committee formed to plan this event, (scheduled to take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2012), has met and plans are underway. More information will be provided as it comes to hand.

**Schools Environment Support competition:** A funding application has been completed for this activity. When funding comes through two schools will be invited to participate for this year.

**Market trailer roster for Easter Weekend** - The market will fall on Easter weekend this year. The FOWSP trailer will be in place as usual and volunteers are required to fill the roster. The nursery will be open as usual over the Easter break.

**Welcome afternoon tea for new members** - Invitations have been sent to all new members and this new event, which will take place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, has been advertised on Facebook.

**Maternity Leave** - Nursery staff member, Annette Lion, commenced maternity leave earlier this month. Her new baby is due in April.

*Flora of Warrandyte* - The Committee now has the original seven folders of this publication in its possession and there is a bound copy in the fire-safe in the Parks Victoria office.

## Nursery Report

**Myrtle Rust** - The nursery is not accepting anything other than forestry tubes which were purchased from the FOWSP Nursery, while myrtle rust is a threat.

**Stock Plants** - There are currently 10,000 plants in the nursery. Although people are picking up their orders well it is hoped that many more plants will sell over the Festival weekend.

***Eucalyptus nortonii*** - specimens of this very rare plant are available for sale (to members only) at the nursery at present.

**The TAG activity list** has been completed for the year. The activities will be advertised as they fall due.

### Next Committee Meeting

**Date:** 10 April 2011

**Venue:** Ranger Station, Pound Bend

**Time:** 19:30 pm sharp

## Bruce Fuhrer's Lovely Leioproctus Bee *Leioproctus amabilis*

family Colletidae, subfamily Paracolletinae.

Bruce was lucky enough to observe this beautiful Leioproctus bee digging in his garden.

Little is known about the nesting of this particular species but females of this subfamily mostly nest in the



ground. After lining the chamber, they lay an egg on a ball of pollen moistened with nectar and seal the chamber. Shortly after it is laid, the egg hatches, the larva consumes the food provided, then enters a resting stage until it is time for the new adult to emerge, commonly a year later. When the time comes for the adults to emerge, the final larval stage turns into a pupae shortly before hatching as an adult.

In this photo we can see the female's brush of stiff hairs on the tip of her abdomen. This species may have a range of metallic colours on the abdomen.

Thank you Bruce, for sharing this photo

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

## Whose eggs are these, found at Mt Lofty?



I think I know but I am waiting to watch the young emerge and reach adulthood for confirmation. Any guesses?? Hint, the leaf is from a mistletoe, Ameyema pendula pictured on the right.



If you think you know or if you have other photos of interest. email [lindarogan@netspace.net.au](mailto:lindarogan@netspace.net.au)

*(Continued from page 4)*

Many of the signatory groups are involved in restoration and protection activities to address the clearing of the past, and **we do not want to go backwards.**

To this end we support the following four key elements in any revised Framework:

- 1) **Net gain policy** - that there should be “*a reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a net gain*”.
- 2) **A three-step approach** to assessing native vegetation – that is, ‘avoid clearing, minimise clearing, offset clearing’, with an emphasis on **avoiding**, particularly for high conservation significance areas.
- 3) **Like for like** - offsets are to be as close as possible in vegetation type to the lost vegetation, or an even more threatened vegetation type, and should only be an option of last resort.
- 4) **A robust, sophisticated and transparent vegetation quality assessment methodology** undertaken by a qualified assessor to a high standard.

**We request that any review of the Native Vegetation Management Framework should:**

1. be undertaken in an **open and transparent manner** and involve extensive consultation with all sections of the community, including conservation and Landcare groups
  2. be **informed by the best available ecological science** and policy approaches, including an assessment of the economic value of vegetation and the services it provides, not just the apparent regulatory cost
  3. **aim to improve the key elements of the existing framework**, including net gain, the three-step approach (especially ‘avoid’), like for like for offsets and robust assessment methods
  4. improve the monitoring, transparency and accounting of vegetation offsets
  5. include **no further exemptions** for clearing
  6. contain **stronger incentives** and education for land holders
  7. be informed by an **overarching State policy** for the recovery of the health of our natural environment
- be supported by a commitment from government for **better funding and support** for improved implementation

<sup>1</sup>Victorian Catchment Management Council (2007) Catchment Condition Report, Victorian Government.

<sup>2</sup>Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (2008) State of the Environment Report, State of Victoria.

<sup>3</sup>Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (2011), Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation: Final Report, March 2011.

<sup>4</sup>Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002 National Land and Water Resources Audit

<sup>5</sup>Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (2011), Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation: Final Report, March 2011

<sup>6</sup>CSIRO, 2004, *Environmental Sustainability Issues Analysis for Victoria*

<sup>7</sup>Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (2010), Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation: Discussion Paper, June 2010., p135



## “I SPY”

By B.G



### Propos Aprons

A recent survey as revealed that FOWSP members purchasing aprons with flora and fauna motifs show the following preferences:

Correa	7
Owl (Tawny Frogmouth)	5
Kookaburra	5
Red Box	3
Wattle	2
Cockatoo	0
What does this all mean?	

### Walking in Warrandyte

Joan, Margaret, Val, Shirley and Franciska were a small group of walkers from Mooroolbark who walked through Pound Bend, then along the Yarra track to the WSP Depot, where they lunched and returned via Everard Drive, back to Warrandyte shops. Three hours in all.

### Water, Water Everywhere

According to Ranger Kay Williams, the park area had its highest rainfall since pre-1995. Warrandyte and the Northern suburbs have had very high rainfall recently.

### Conservation Comments

“What has happened in Victoria?”

- “Individuals are now allowed into the Murray River National Parks to take timber for firewood. No government EVER before in Victorian history has made decisions that undermine and weaken our national park legislation,
- Allowed logging of Sylvia Creek, near Toolangi, one of the few areas in the Central Highlands that escaped the Black Saturday Bushfires.
- Enforcing of a 5% state wide burn target by 2014— with no commitment to the auditing and scientific monitoring of fuel load targets”
- Read more in (*Growing Australia* Vol 55.1 No 218 March 2012. Page 40 Neil Marriott, Conservation Officer of the Australian Plant Society.)

### Time to Re-tyre

Jan Falconer was performing a “reconnoitre” for a future walk in the Big Pats Creek area, past Warburton. She thought that “the cars slightly different mobility was due to the road condition” and did not realise a rock was stuck in the tyre, which slowly demolished the tyre. DO NOT ask her how much the damaged tyre cost to replace!

### Rangers not Resting

In the March Newsletter, Conrad, Ranger in Charge, reported on much work being carried out after floods and

storms. Many minor tasks also occupy the Rangers attention. Rangers Colin Bromby and Justin (Juz) Weylander have mowed the Main Yarra Trail (for access and fire maintenance); removed rubbish dumped at One Tree Hill; removed graffiti on Normans Reserve Flood Sign: Removed the Information shelter at Mt Lofty (Witton Reserve) removed and replaced “totem” discs at Mt Lofty and Whipstick Gully and various other tasks.

### Friends Facets

Julie Bishop, one of our long-time members, like most people in FOWSP, has interesting facets in her life: Every Warrandyte Market Julie runs a small stall selling hand-made bags using furnishing off cuts (leather and fabric)

Keith Jardine who claims recklessly “there is no skill in driving trains” actually completed his apprenticeship as an Electrical Fitter and Armature Winder at the Preston Tram Workshops and claims, “I did the electrical testing on the (then) new trams”

Peta Cumming is a “locomotive Engineer” and can drive five different types of Melbourne’s electric trains.

If you want to know how long it takes a driver to check and prepare a train before he/she takes it into the suburban system, you’ll be surprised

### Visitors Visit

Early March Robin Gillespie and friend Martha (from Papua New Guinea) arrived “to look you over” at the nursery.

Robin Gillispie is President of the Anderson Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group.(ACCALG).

### “Labour” Leave

Annette, one of our several best nursery staff started maternity leave just before the Labour Day Weekend in March. Annette hope to be back about October.

### Brief Briefing

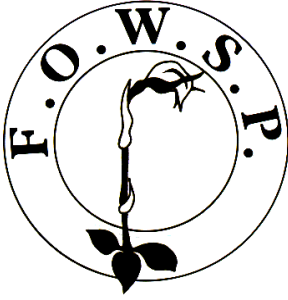
Joan Broadberry, assistant newsletter editor was born in Australia, lived in Melbourne, Cohuna and Mansfield and spent a year overseas travelling in 1977. Joan says she speaks English, basic German and Strine. Her ambitions (not fulfilled) are to see 700 Australian bird species, to visit Germany for an extended period and go to the most remote places in Australia, including revisiting the Simpson Desert.

### Store Sighting

Tuesday 20th March, sighted in Safeway Croydon were Don And Barbara Cameron. Don was the instrumental in building the wooden box for wet-land plants at the end of the hardening off area in the nursery. An also replacing, repairing and improving the old post holding up the roof and netting at the nursery (many years ago).

### Technology

“Technology will save us, if it doesn’t wipe us out first.” (Pete Seeger —one of the mainstays of American folk singing for over five decades).



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**A Jewel Bug from the family Scutelleridae**

These two were from a group that emerged from the litter in the rangers indigenous garden when Jan was weeding. I believe they are nymphs and. I am not certain of the species at this stage.

Many colourful bugs from this family are emerging at this time of year. Many are native but some found in vegie gardens may be exotic. Their bright colours mean they are sometimes called Harlequin bugs but they are a different family. See the email extra for images of *real* Harlequin bugs in the family Pyrrhocoridae .  
*Linda Rogan*

**April 2012 Volume 30 no. 3**

**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)                      Newsletter by email  (tick box)  
Concession                      \$10

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

*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper*

**Email photo bonus**

Joan Broadberry's travels

Mt Elephant is near to the town of Derrinallum in western Victoria. It is a perfect scoria cone rising 240metres above the surrounding volcanic plains with a crater 90 metres deep. Mt Elephant is the highest of the Western



District volcanic cones with a distinctive profile some have likened to the back of an elephant.. There is a walking track to the top which takes about an hour. The Black-shouldered Kite was photographed from the path up



A different slant on life. Linda and Gray at the top of Langi Ghian  
Photo by Peter Rogan

Another native bug *Dindymus versicolor*. Like the one on the back cover , it is sometimes called a Harlequin bug but these are from a different family, Pyrrhocoridae. Although native, these are usually considered to be minor garden pests



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