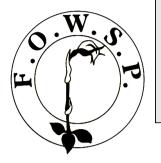
# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



# Newsletter

Website: www.fowsp.org.au

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

## Editor's Corner

ITS ALWAYS a treat to return to FOWSP after being away for a week or longer. My return from Queensland in February was especially so as during this two week period Lyndy had organised Jane Woollard to make a special presentation to FOWSPians of her new book pp. 2 & 3.

For this newsletter our new librarian Gloria has provided a book review of a book with one of my

favourite topics, native bees p. 4. It's a wonderful resource for all of us but especially for those who occasionally travel north of Sydney where the Stingless Bees can thrive.

Somehow I have managed to sneak in some observations of our local solitary bees roosting along Karingal Creek this summer p. 7 and a few plants from FOWSP and associated insects are filling most pp 8 and 9.

Artur has also given us a report on p. 8 of FOWSPian concerns that were discussed with a visitor.

A Sugar Glider, this one from Queensland appears on the back cover and a small bit of

Queensland colour will be found on the email extra page.

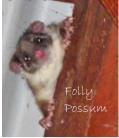


February smiles from Jane Woollard and Cam Beardsell and a special morning tea at the Folly. See why on the next two pages. Photo above Janaya; below Carol



Línda

Deadline for April edition newsletter is Friday 25th March 2016 contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113



#### A magic morning at FOWSP, Thursday 18th of February.

PEOPLE were gathering for a special morning tea when I arrived. Jane Woollard was to present her new book *Laughing Waters Road, art, landscape and memory in Eltham.* FOWSP's numbers were more than doubled by interested locals and PV staff all of whom had come on very short notice thanks to Lyndy's quick thinking and organisation (and wonderful morning tea).

Jane was introduced fondly by Cam Beardsell. He was animated and more talkative than usual except for when he is involved in one of his many conservation projects. He didn't

miss this opportunity to point out that the bushland area featured in Jane's book has lost at least 20 species of plant over the past 20 years, a pattern that unfortunately is seen in most nearby bushland areas. Before handing over to Jane he beseeched all present to take the fight for conservation of our precious bushland plants and ani-

mals beyond our important on ground activities and out to the politicians and wider community before it is too late.

In an early draft of material for her book *Laughing Waters Road: Art, Landscape & Memory in Eltham,* Jane Woollard describes her first meeting with the inimitable and knowledgeable Campbell Beardsell. The following is a taste of what she read to us.

On a spring day I meet ranger Campbell Beardsell at the Parks Victoria headquarters at Westerfolds Park. Cam is taking me on a tour of Killeavey, the section of the middle Yarra Parkland known as Morrisons. He has promised to show me the Rosella Spider Orchid colony that he has been tending in the bush. In the Parks Victoria propagating shed I find Cam chatting with a colleague as they prepare tube stock for another afternoon of planting at the nearby Bolin Bolin Billabong. When he sees me in the doorway with my notebook Cam's look of disappointment reveals he has completely forgotten about our arrangement. He has proved to be as elusive as many had warned me. Now that I am finally face to face with the elusive orchid expert, I stand in the Parks Victoria propagating shed like a stern head mistress



Solemn looks here reflect Cam's statement that 20 native plant species have been lost in the Morrisons/Laughing Water area in the past 20 years. Photograph Janaya O'Dempsey

waiting for bubble gum to be relinquished. I hold my ground, and do not offer to cancel or come back on another day.

We drive down the unsealed road that takes us into the property, thick bush on our left, through which Laughing Water Creek runs. Here a small tract of rainforest once thrived, until the high tension power lines were put through in the 1980s, and the bulldozer driver unnecessarily levelled this small lush patch of forest that ran along the creek. There was a large 'canoe tree' at the top of the hill overlooking the river, and that was pushed over too.

We park on the old house site, and I am busy setting up my digital recorder when Cam announces he does not want to be recorded. I cheerfully agree, but inwardly I am cursing, as now I will have to take notes, keeping biro, notepad, camera in hand while I walk over rough ground, make eye contact and think of the right questions to ask, remaining engaging because he might decide I am not worth the effort and take off into the bush. Cam worked here as an employee of the Department of Sustainability and the Environment in the 1980s. He got to know the Morrisons quite well. Beatrice Morrison was a passionate bird watcher, and keen to preserve habitat for the creatures that flourished at Killeavey.

My tour continues at an energetic pace. 'This is where the house was', says Cam as he steps briskly over the dimpled grassed area, spreading his arms as though he is swimming through the waves of history that ripple around us. 'It was a circular driveway. Beatrice Morrison planted those desert ashes after the '39 fire. ... Beatrice Morrison wrote in an article about the garden ...'The splendid oaks which shelter it (the garden) were all grown from acorns collected by my uncle from the Botanic Gardens.'

The Pin Oak now is desiccated and shattered – a casualty of the shift from growing in a private garden, watered everyday with water pumped from the river, to becoming the property of a government authority in the 1990s. The sprinklers were turned off, and the trees and shrubs had to fend for themselves, as the state headed into a decade or more of drought.

We walk to the edge of the garden and look down at the river. Killeavey sits high on a cliff forty metres above the Yarra. The river curls round the flats below the cliff - 'the peninsula' as the Morrisons called it. Standing on the stone steps where

#### **FOWSP** Newsletter

the back gate used to be. I trace the shape of the river as it curls around what appears to be a large island. Cam tells me that the Wurundjeri knew the river by its reaches. This reach was known as the Laughing Water. A few years ago Cam met with Wurundjeri elders on the river bank below Killeavey, and was told 'The river talks to us here', and that the name came from children laughing in the shallows as they herded the eels into stone traps on the river bend in eel fishing season. The name describes the laughter of children in the water, rather than from the sound of the water itself. Perhaps this rather genteel name for an Edwardian river home, may be a shred of the Wurundieri past, somehow surviving long after they had been moved further upstream to Pound Bend in 1851, and finally Coranderrk.

We get back in the ute to go and see the Rosella Spider Orchids, up to the top of the hill. In a small area of bush there are five sturdy cages, each with a delicate garden of small rocks and moss, and two or three delicate orchids in flower. It is a fantastical flower, a tender whimsical thing - it's head too large for its thin stalk. Cam is delighted to find that the orchids have pollinated and flowered without his assistance. He first saw these orchids at Dunmoochin, the artist Clifton Pugh's property in Cottlesbridge. Pugh had painted them, and took Cam to see the orchids and said. 'I'm going to do a book on orchids. Would you like to do a book? You tell me what this one is and I'll do a book with you.' Cam told Pugh: 'I think it might be a new one.' Cam explains that he started propagating the orchids in order to bring them back from possible extinction – he started with four he found at Dunmoochin and two from Morrisons. In a complex symbiotic relationship, the fungi, which cannot photosynthesise, rely on the orchid to provide nutrients, and the fungi assist the germination of the orchid seeds. Cam saw the small black bee that pollinates the orchid for the first time at Morrisons In 1992. The bee is quite protective of the orchids, and buzzes around while Cam is working on the colonies. I remark that this delicate dance between these three discrete organisms seems impossibly fragile. Cam is more positive about the survival of this intricate

co-operative floral and faunal relationship. 'As long as there's a park and we have civilised society the orchid will be here.' We kneel on the ground beside the caged colonies of pink orchids. I imagine Cam carefully constructing these miniature gardens of moss and stone, the small black bee buzzing above him in the dappled air, the shoots budding from the orchids' tubers as they make their slow progress through the earth to the sunlight. Time has settled we are no longer in a hurry as we watch the motionless flowers in their sturdy wire enclosures. 'This is twenty-five years of my life right here,' says Cam.

Many thanks to Jane for sharing these insights some of which didn't make it into the final edition of her book. Línda



A small part of Jane's audience. Photo Carol Page

#### Laughing Waters Road, the book was launched at Montsalvat in Eltham

ON SATURDAY 30 JANUARY Nillumbik Council launched this book. The weather was cool; just as well, considering over 500 people attended this very pleasant event where food and drink were plentiful. The Australian Government and Nillumbik Shire Council funded the book and it was designed by Wayne Rankin of North Warrandyte.

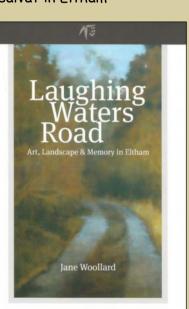
The dedication page is to our very own Ranger Campbell Beardsell OAM of Parks Vic who taught Jane to be "passionate about the environment of this special place" (p260). FOWSP members Val Polley, Linda Rogan and Ken Crook contributed to the content and photos.

David Wandin, Wurundjeri Elder, gave a Welcome to Country and officially launched the book after the Mayor of Nillumbik, Cr Hattam, made introductions. Jane Woollard followed with a brief outline of how she came to write the book (her very first) and read out loud the last paragraph which focuses on reconciliation and shared culture.

Jane declared in her preface that the book "has been formed by attending to the connection between rivulets of memories, creeks of hearsay, rivers of tales, the meanders of local legend and the deep, still pools of the archive." Very poetic!

Jane Woollard

The book is available from the FOWSP library or a copy may be purchased from Montsalvat Barn Gallery, 7 Hillcrest Ave, Eltham or Nillumbik Council website at this link: http:// www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Living-in/Arts-and-culture/Policies-and-publications at a cost of \$35. Lynda Gilbert



#### Bookchat with Gloria

#### "THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVE BEE BOOK - Keeping stingless beehives for pets, pollination and sugarbag honey". Tim Heard. (published 2016)

"What gladdens the human spirit as profoundly as the spectacle of bees visiting flowers? The colour and scent of the flower, in combination with the obsessive and often noisy quest of the bee, delight us. These encounters entertain us, enrich us and stimulate contemplation of the nature of life."

"Whether we are hiking in a nature reserve or relaxing on an inner-city balcony, we enjoy the beauty and wonder of bees, flowers and their ancient relationship. And the more we learn the better it gets."

Costa Georgiadis, ABC "Gardening Australia" comments,

"Native bees can change the world. They are a magnet that brings individuals, fami-

lies, schools and communities together in a different way. They are a non-intimidating member of the ecosystem that fascinates and motivates interest in the 'operating instructions' for our planet."

"Tim's work, distilled in this book, is comprehensive and engaging, and will whet the appetite of enquiry even more. It's the go-to piece in the field."

A warning to FOWSPians: I found this book full of fascinating information including some on solitary bees found in Victoria BUT the **stingless bees** discussed here are viable only as far south as coastal NSW. Ed.

Keeping native stingless bees is a hot topic in Australia for commercial, environmental and recreational reasons. In this book you'll find the complete guide to native stingless bees, written by an expert who has spent his lifetime intimately engaged with these unique creatures. Topics include:

Bee biology, behaviour, nesting, social life and foraging Building and managing your own native bee hive

Transferring a bee colony to a hive box and propagate hives

Identifying and dealing with pests

from hives Using stingless bees for pollination – from small gardens

All about sugarbag honey, including how to extract it

to commercial crops

A complete list of Australia's stingless bee species, how to identify them, their characteristics, where they occur, and recommended hives A readable summary of the latest research on native bees.

You can do something about the decline of pollinators by conserving (all) native bees.

Published this year, the book is richly illustrated with over 500 photos (including some by FOWSP's Linda Rogan), drawings and charts to aid your learning. It's available for loan from the FOWSP library – Reference No. IS717.

### TAGS (Thursday activity groups)

TAGS meet at the nursery at 9.00 am for a 9.15 am departure. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, and please bring your own filled water bottle. Contact number: 0408 317 327

Difficulty ratings:

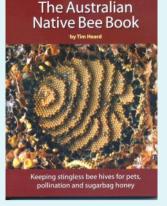
Easy: Even terrain, some light lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Few tripping hazards.

Thurs	3rd March	9:00-12:00	Boys Road	Maintain reveg area	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	17th March	9:00-12:00	One Tree Hill	Weeding sensitive area	Easy	FOWSP
Thurs	7 April	9:00-12:00	Gold Memorial car park	Woody weeding with ACCA	Moderate	FOWSP & ACCA

**Moderate:** Uneven terrain, light to heavy lifting, kneeling and bending involved. Tripping hazards present. **Difficult:** Steep terrain, light to heavy lifting, working in over-grown areas and lots of bending. Many tripping hazards and slippery surfaces present.

Check the website for any changes at http://fowsp.org.au/activities.php

#### <u>Please note TAGS and activities will be cancelled on Total Fire Ban days or when weather conditions are</u> <u>deemed hazardous.</u>



FOWSP COMMI	TTEE 2016	OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS			
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Jason Patton mobile 0402 121838 Webmaster and jason@parau.com membership			Wildlife Rescue Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908		
Annette Lion	0414-249-729	Facebook Coordinator	Koala Rescue advice onlyJulie Pryor0417587798		
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Caitriona Young	9844 2842	Minute Secretary	<u>Market Trailer</u> Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au		
John Blake	0418 329 937				
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		<u>Manningham Council</u> Cathy Willis 0427 660 651		
Jan Falconer	0419 872 096		Website: www.fowsp.org.au		
The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FOWSP					

Newsletter Team this month: Linda Rogan, Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting				
Date:	Tuesday March 8th 2016			
Venue:	Education Centre, Pound Bend			
Time:	19:30 pm sharp			

## **Manningham City Council Environment Seminars**

**The Environment Seminars are held on the first Wednesday of the month.** Many of the seminars will be complemented with field sessions to facilitate broader education on the topics. No bookings are required for the evening talks; however, RSVPs must be provided for the field sessions. Due to the popularity of the field trips bookings are limited to three field trips per person. You must attend the corresponding seminar to keep your field trip booking. **Bookings now open.** 



**Venue:** Bull and Bush Room at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte **Time:** 7.30 pm **Enquiries:** Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326

## Wednesday 2nd March An introduction to invertebrates with special reference to leaf litter fauna presented by Maxwell Campbell

This seminar focuses on the myriad of small invertebrates that live in leaf litter and the importance of this habitat in the ecosystem. Collectively referred to as cryptozoa, they constitute a major part of biodiversity and occur in numbers beyond census. Maxwell Campbell is a biologist, an educator, and has been an active naturalist for five decades. He will share his extensive knowledge of and experience with these seldom seen animals. This seminar session will run for approximately 1.5 hours.

## 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 every Thursday. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 1pm (to coincide with the Warrandvte Market) and the first Sunday of each month 2 pm to 4 pm.

Also closed to customers and volunteers on days of severe weather and on Total Fire Ban Days

Prices: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50 Copyright 2008 Melway Publishing Pty Ltd

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## **FOWSP/Manningham Thursday** nature walks Leader: Cathy Willis

This series of free nature walks will explore various sections of the Yarra River from the eastern end of Manningham in Wonga Park downstream to Templestowe.

Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack.

9:30 am Thursday 24th March 2016 Jumping Creek to Warrandyte Bridge Nature Walk On this walk, follow the river downstream, over the escarpment and then onto alluvial flats, through an old orchard and past some gold mining heritage in Warrandyte.

Distance: 3.5km Time: 3 hrs Rating: Difficult

Note that this walk will involve a four kilometre shared car shuttle as the walk is one way. 9:30 am Thursday 28th April 2016 Mt Lofty Circuit Starting at the sacred Wurundjeri Bukkertilibul dreaming site on Brushy Creek, this walk will head up to the highest point of Manningham, which has a view of the river and overlooks the start of the Warrandyte gorge.

Distance: 5 km Time: 3 hrs Rating: Difficult

All distances and finishing times are approximate.

Ratings:

Easy – Flat or undulating well formed tracks/paths with low tripping hazards. **Moderate** – May include some moderately steep or narrow sections or have higher tripping hazards. Difficult – Includes steep and/or narrow sections, slippery sections, or high tripping hazards.

Bookings can be made online and are essential as places are limited. Bookings open 2 months before the walk date. www.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-walks

The meeting place will be provided at the time of booking.

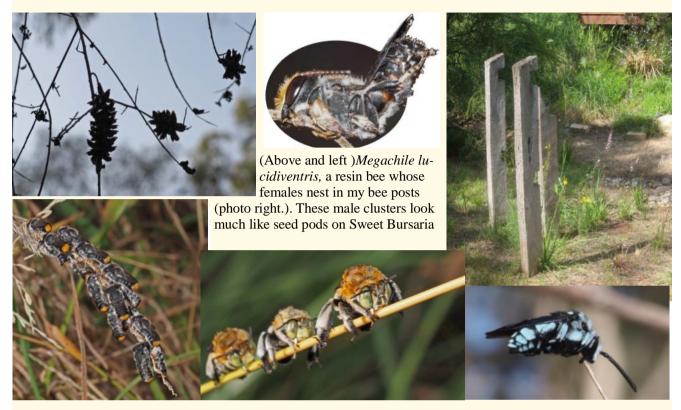
Please note that nature walks will be cancelled on a day of Total Fire Ban or extreme weather warning as Parks Victoria will close all local parks.





#### Bee's Business, of course

A PLEASURE FOR ME is observing large clusters or individual male native bees roosting on a cool summer's morning. Here are a few that I have photographed along Karingal Creek, Eltham, in the summer of 2015-16. These are some of the species that hang on to a twig with their jaws and tend to roost in an orderly pattern.



More resin bees, *Megachile ferox*, (above left) looked like a spray of buds on a grass stem. *Amegilla* species or Blue Banded Bees, often seen feeding in my garden and the FOWSP nursery, newly seen by me roosting along the creek this summer (above centre). Lastly Neon Cuckoo bee (above right) whose female lays her eggs in the *Amegilla's* nest. What roosting bees have you seen near you??



WE ARE STILL looking for an assistant for Jan who will also be away from time to time.

Also needed are people to join the roster to transport the trailer to and from the Market and the Warrandyte Festival in 18-20th March 2016

If you can help out, with either or for more information please contact Jan Falconer as in item below.

## FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 6th December 2016 Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Marion Thomson Christine Andell, Jan Falconer, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook



Special thanks to *John Young (took) and Jan Falconer (returned)* who transported the market trailer. The day was very successful with lots of enquiries and \$114 earned in sales at the market.

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 December or in 2015 please contact Jan Falconer 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au *First timers are always paired with someone more experienced.* 

Next market dates are: Saturdays, March 5th and April 2nd 2016

#### Olearia ramulosa Twiggy Daisy Bush has a honey sweet smell



Olearia ramulosa Twiggy Daisy Bush

IN SPITE OF THE DRY, often overcast ,January and February, several indigenous plants are doing well in my garden. The Twiggy Daisy Bush (photos left) is one. It's fragrance caught my attention and also the attention of many small butterflies currently in the garden and at least one predatory Assassin Bug. Occasionally I have noticed a visit by one of the Blue Banded Bees, although it doesn't appear to be their favourite.

This slightly untidy shrub has been found on Fourth Hill but is not common in the Warrandyte area. It is growing quite happily atop a small hillock in my partly shaded garden.

#### *Lycopus australis* Australian Gypsywort likes wet feet

AUSTRALIAN GYPSYWORT (photos next page) is plant with fragrant leaves and small white blooms in my garden at present. From FOWSP, I planted it in my rainwater pond that becomes a bog in the dry time of year. I have remembered to refill the pond from the tank whenever we have had a promise of additional rain. To my nose, the leaves of this plant smell like fresh pineapple. It also grows in the ephemeral ponds in Frogland. This plant is on the threatened species list in Tasmania and like many wetland plants, is significant in the Melbourne area. Although the flowers are tiny, I have observed Blue Banded Bees feeding on them.

#### Kevin Andrews came, saw and took a photo

On 29th October our federal Member came visiting our nursery. Five members of our committee (John, Kelvin, Jason, Gray and myself) welcomed Kevin and his assistant, Cristy Elliott, and showed him the nursery and Frogland.

We discussed our plan for a new watering system for the sales area. Unfortunately the Menzies' community grant round had just closed and we would need to wait for next year to be able to apply for that support.

We endorsed the new national declaration of feral cats a significant pest. Every night these cats kill a vast number of our native fauna.

We voiced concern that feral deer should also be declared pests due to the damage caused by grazing native plants and by their hooves in wet areas of the bush. The cost of protecting newly planted species against deer is three times more than our usual sleeve and stakes. We mentioned our concern that the support for rabbit and fox control in the

wider community has decreased and we continue to be concerned about the prevalence of rabbits but hope new developments in rabbit control by virus may assist.

We expressed our gratitude to the Rangers in our area but are concerned that their area of responsibility is ever increasing and staff numbers decreasing. According to recent Parks Victoria annual report the full time equivalent staff have been reduced by 18 % since 2011.

Kevin took it all in without comment.

At the end of 30 min visit we all stood happily for photo opportunity together, see photo above. Artur



# *Einadian nutans* Climbing Saltbush adds summer colour with red berries

SOME MAY NOT appreciate its sprawling habit but I do for many reasons. The berries are not only colourful but they are food for birds and were eaten by Aboriginal people. The leaves could also be eaten after boiling. They make a wonderful ground cover in dry areas, surviving hot temperatures and can be easily removed if something else is to be planted later. Importantly for me these saltbushes are the food plant for the native moths and butterflies such as the Chequered Blue *Theclinesthes serpentata* (below top right) in my garden.

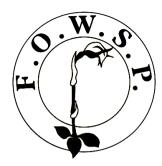
Another bit of bright colour that has recently caught my eye in my garden is the red-orange and black Bottlebrush sawfly. The photo below shows one sawing the edge of a *Callistemon* leaf to insert her eggs. I know it will only be a few weeks now before I will need to start hand removing the larvae from the smaller of my *Callistemon sieberi* River Bottlebrush, to ensure the plants survival.

Línda



Lycopus australis Australian Gypsywort from FOWSP in Linda's garden

*Einadia nutans* Climbing Saltbush above left *Theclinesthes serpentata* Chequered Blue Butterfly above right *Pterygophorus cinctus* Banded or Bottlebrush Sawfly right Page 9





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#### Sugar Glider Petaurus breviceps

Sugar Gliders are a recurring theme for me. First the gliders Josh photographed near Frogland in March 2015, second the discovery that two had made their home in a FOWSP cupboard in December. Thirdly observing Sugar Gliders feeding at Chamber's Wildlife Lodge in Lake Eacham, Queensland where the sugar trees are lighted and I was able to take this photo. The Queensland subspecies shown here is *longicaudatus* or long tail. Compared to Josh's photo the tail is longer and slimmer. I have yet to see them glide but apparently they can glide up to 90 meters. Look for these 'mostly' sweet gliders in my Nature column, Warrandyte Diary for March Línda

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form							
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Address							
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Telephone no	Email						
Membership (family)	\$30	Newsletter	bv	email (tick box)			
Concession	\$15		U				

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

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#### Email photo bonus page

#### Tiny Queensland finds February 2016 in a rather dry "wet"



I have left my finger in the photo for size on a couple of these shots. 1. First this brilliant small moth Carol helped me find is from the Lacturidae group, *Eustixis* close to *sapotearum* species. This one was near Lake Eacham. 2. I thought this must be a bug until a close look at the photo showed elytra or wing covers as in beetles. With that I was able to find Spiny Leaf Beetle *Aproida balya* in my Beetle book. It lives on Twining Wombat Vine *Eustrephus latifolius* and may mimic a grasshopper. 3. A tiny bee, *Homalictus murrayi* feeding on flowering Cordyline in a Julatten garden. 4. The tiny Eyelash orchid *Bulbophyllum macphersonii* not easily seen but lovely non the less.

Línda





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