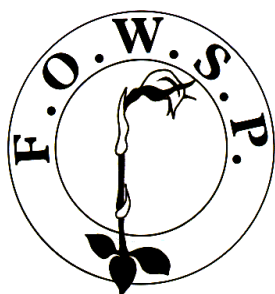


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

February seemed to finish far too quickly and I found myself on the newsletter deadline date with very little news. Perhaps exacerbated by the fact that I was away for two weeks in Far North Queensland. Thanks to Cathy, Lyndy, Gloria and Carol who answered my call for instant news after the deadline. By the way I have included some of my favourite Queensland photos on the email bonus page.

Lyndy has brought us a taste of the material presented by Dr. David Lindenmayer at the Landcare Victoria 30th anniversary last spring (p.2). On the same page, a far too brief chat with past Warrandyte ranger Steve.

On p. 3 we have Carol's Hymenoptera discoveries. I love seeing someone else take note of these small creatures. Also take note of Lyndy's announcement about the new defib unit at FOWSP.

Page 4 has Gloria's news about two new books in the FOWSP library. Don't forget to check out the wonderful resources there.

Cathy takes us along for a refreshing sojourn to the Alpine region with IFFA and lots of expertise on p. 7.

The review of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee needs attention from all who are concerned with conserving Victoria's natural treasures. If you haven't submitted already, see information on p.8. Also important information about the Yarra River Plan is on p. 9.

Now enjoy this newsletter but start to think about what you can contribute for April. *Linda*



It is always a pleasure to have a visit from Ranger Steve, previously of Warrandyte but now from Uluru.

Photo by Carol

The nursery will be open for Warrandyte Festival on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March 10am to 4pm both days. There will be a festival autumn sale with lots of plants on special.

**Deadline for April edition newsletter is
 Friday **March 24th 2017****

contributions can be emailed to Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au
 or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113

Celebrating 30 Years of Landcare in Victoria

ON 26 NOVEMBER 2016, LANDCARE, which commenced in 1986, celebrated its 30th Anniversary at Coldstream. Landcare was launched by Joan Kirner and Heather Mitchell.

Some 60-people came from various Landcare groups to listen to the Guest Speaker, Professor David Lindenmayer (photo right), and enjoy a convivial luncheon together.

David is a landscape ecologist and conservation biologist from the Australian National University. He has published 1052 articles and 41 books. He has been awarded the Eureka Prize, Whitley award and Order of Australia (2014). His speech, “Key Lessons about Revegetation and Remnant Vegetation” was very informative and inspirational, and the lessons have given new hope to farmers and landowners.



For 20 years, he has been working with a team of researchers in North east Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, monitoring interventions such as weeding, fox removal, grazing controls and plantings that occurred in 996 long term sites on private land. It was noted that new plantings and remnant vegetation interact in a significant way and the outcomes were more than the sum of the parts, which impacts on farm design. Vegetation affects bird life, depending on the amount of old growth and new plantings. Block plantings are more effective than strip plantings as they attract more wildlife. During the period 2012-2013, there was up to 4% increase in vegetation and as a result, an increase in species richness: magpies and brown tree creepers appeared; starlings and noisy miners were reduced. Partnerships formed between landowners and field staff who became part of the local community, involved in problem solving, monitoring and tracking interventions.

Samba deer have now become a significant issue and deer culling needs to be highly coordinated, but it is also a political issue which has to be addressed.

These interventions have proved that any landscape can be improved. There has been a significant impact on farmers – they are experiencing positive mental health benefits through environmental restoration - and better mental health has led to better financial outcomes for them.

Lyndy



ESP = Environmental Stewardship Project Photo supplied by Artur
<http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/p346093/pdf/ch03.pdf>

Ranger Steve and Frogland (Photo page 1)

Although his time for visiting was short, I enjoyed showing Ranger Steve the new pollinator garden with the active bee posts and taking a short walk in Frogland. Steve recalled the early days of Frogland particularly the building of the original fence. We are so indebted to all who started off what would have been a huge project back then, converting a weedy slope back to bushland with ponds. Without all their efforts, we wouldn't have the wonderful place we enjoy working in now. Steve reminded me that at that time there was a lot of experimenting and learning going on in bush regeneration. So thanks to Steve and many others who started the early Frogland Project back in early 1990s.

Linda

Carol's bees and wasps

Although Linda had seen and taken a photo of just the face of a large resin bee nesting in FOWSP bee posts on February 2nd, Carol was the one who got the first full body photo in mid February that confirms this is *Megachile lucidiventris*, (see photos right).

That is just the start of her Hymenoptera discoveries.

Carol's story:

I was partaking of a lunch of fish and chips kindly purchased by Jason. I stayed for lunch as I had been photographing the native bees at the post in the pollinator garden. I grabbed a towel hanging from a nail in the Nursery working area to use it as a large lap napkin – The nest was enfolded in the towel and it fell out.

Fortunately, I decided to investigate the contents of the nest hence this amazing discovery (photo right).

She says 'Being a latecomer to all things entomological, imagine my surprise to find Jumping Spiders – *Salticidae* family, in the single cells of the Mud dauber wasp nest along with the larvae of the wasps that would have been feeding on the spiders.

I see these nests everywhere, including behind the ladies toilet door but have never thought to investigate the contents before'.

Carol



DEFIBRILLATOR UNIT FOR FOWSP

Thanks to a grant kindly provided by the Warrandyte Community Bank (Bendigo Bank), FOWSP has recently purchased a state-of-the-art defibrillator unit through the Red Cross at a discounted price to not for profit organisations.

A Red Cross representative also provided free training at the FOWSP nursery to 40 of our members on 16 February.

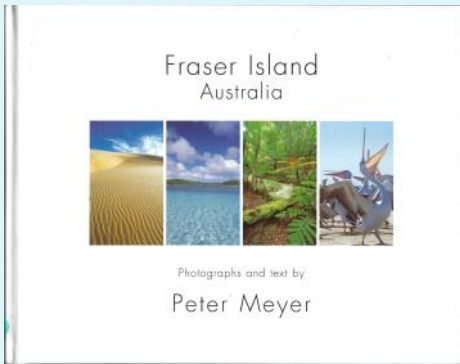
The lightweight yellow and black battery operated defib unit is located on the wall near the entry door to the Education Centre in the Warrandyte State Park. It is easy to operate as it provides voice instructions. The battery is designed to last for 4 years.

Hopefully, we will never have to use it, but it is a well-known fact that shock intervention is vital in the first five minutes of cardiac arrest if a life is to be saved. We are very grateful to the Bank for providing the finance for this unit. *Lyndy*



Bookchat with Gloria

RECENT NEW ARRIVALS



We are grateful to two of our members who have recently donated new books to our FOWSP library.

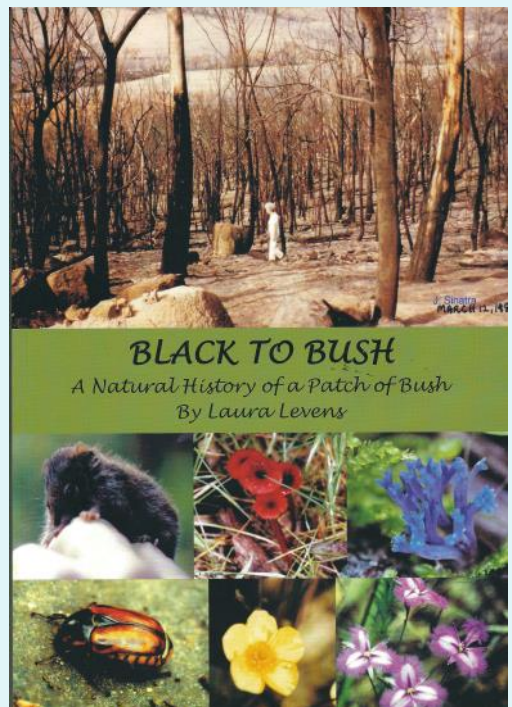
Following her holiday on Fraser Island in January, Lyndy Gilbert donated “*Fraser Island Australia*” – a delightful book with photographs and text by Peter Meyer. Lyndy’s report on her holiday was featured in last month’s Newsletter. She described the Island (which was listed as a World Heritage island in 1992) as the largest sand island in the world at 120km long x 24km wide, being home to more than 350 species of birds, 48 species of mammals, 79 species of reptiles and 23 types of frogs. Peter Meyer’s photos of common flora and fauna are magnificent. They are accompanied by snippets of his own philosophy about life. The book can be found in the “Environment” section of the library – reference No. EN576.

Marion Thompson donated the other book, “*Black to Bush – a Natural History of a Patch of Bush*” by Laura Levens. In 1979 Laura and her husband purchased a “bush block” of 8.5 hectares in the Shire of Cardinia and built a new home. Then on February 16 1983 came Ash Wednesday. Their home was destroyed and the block was razed. “The bush will recover and so can I” became her slogan, and after living on the property in a borrowed caravan and then a granny flat for three years, the Levens built an earth sheltered house. Month by month and year by year over the next thirty years, Laura recorded weather conditions whilst she observed and photographed many hundreds of species of plants, fungi, animals, birds, spiders and insects. Some new orchids have appeared; some plants have not been seen since 1984.

A personal chronicle proving the resilience of indigenous organisms as the bush regenerated from destructive bushfire, this book’s library reference number is FR1305.

Many thanks again to Lyndy and Marion for their thoughtfulness in donating these interesting books to our library.

Gloria



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

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------|--------------|
| Thurs | 2nd March | 9:00-12:00 | Naughton Ave | Woody weeding | Mod | FOWSP |
| Thurs | 16th March | 9:00-12:00 | Gold Memorial car park | Woody weeding with ACCA | Diff | FOWSP & ACCA |
| Thurs | 30th March | 9:00-12:00 | Lower Orchard Track | Maintenance | Easy | FOWSP |

Difficulty ratings:

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

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>

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

| FOWSP COMMITTEE 2016/17 | | | OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| Artur Muchow | 0415 383328 | Secretary | <u>Nursery Manager</u> | Josh Revell |
| | | | <u>Nursery Phone</u> | 0408 317 327 |
| | | | email nursery@fowsp.org.au | |
| Lynda Gilbert | 9844 0106 | Treasurer | <u>Park Office</u> | 03 8427 2132 |
| Linda Rogan | 9435 5806 | Newsletter editor | <u>Newsletter assist and Librarian</u> | |
| | editor@fowsp.org.au | | Gloria Moore | 0402 285005 |
| Annette Lion | 0414-249-729 | Facebook Coordinator | <u>Wildlife Rescue</u> | Adriana Simmonds 9722 2908 |
| Caitriona Young | 9844 2842 | Minute Secretary | | |
| Gray Ardern | 0418 190261 | | <u>Market Trailer Jan Falconer</u> | 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au |
| John Blake | 0418329 937 | | | |
| Joy Hick | 0418573916 | | <u>Manningham Council Rep</u> | |
| | | | Cathy Willis | 0427 660 651 |
| Kelvin Watkins | 0488 039 774 | | <u>Webmaster and membership</u> | |
| | | | Jason Patton | 0402 121838 jason@parau.com |
| Carolyn Noel | 0409 901 441 | | Website: | www.fowsp.org.au |
| Jeff Cranston | 0418 396 647 | Advisor to the committee | FOWSP general enquiry number | 1300 764 422 |
| | legality@bigpond.com | | | |

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, Gloria Moore
Mel Coupar (Line drawing)

Next Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday March 14th 2017

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: 7:20 for 7.30 start**

Enquiries: Lyn Meredith, 9840 9326

Wednesday April 5th—Our Wildlife Neighbours by John Harris

John will discuss the results of fauna surveys undertaken in Currawong Bush Park and 100 Acres Reserve in 2016. More than 70 species of wildlife were recorded during the brief survey including many birds, frogs, reptiles and ten species of mammals, including microbats. John is the Director and Principal Zoologist of Wildlife Experiences.

If you attend this event, you may also book to attend the **Saturday 8th April 7:30pm to 9:pm field trip: Night time spotlight and microbat survey walk with John Harris.** John will lead a spotlight walk around 100 Acres Reserve, looking for some of our wildlife neighbours and in recognition of Australasian Bat Night, he will attempt to trap some microbats to educate the attendees about these fabulous local animals and allow for a closer look at them.

Venue: Will be given at time of booking

Bookings are essential. Please email cepadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au to book.

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:

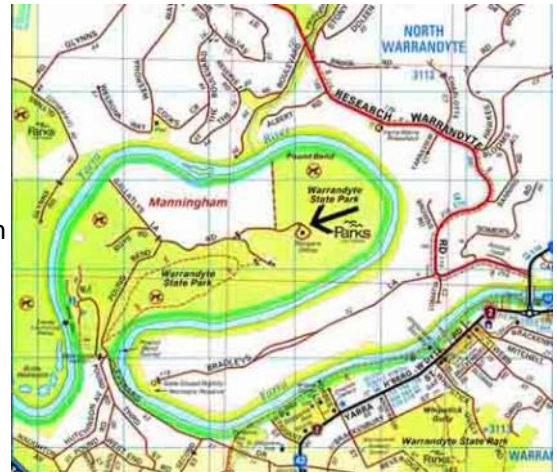
Thursdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm;

the first Saturday of every month, 9am to 2pm (to coincide with the Warrandyte Market) - April to November only.

**open for Warrandyte Festival on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26
March 10am to 4pm both days.**

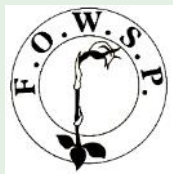
Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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



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Tubestock Prices: Members \$2.00 Non-members \$2.50



FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of free guided nature walks will explore a variety of local bush-land areas in Manningham and are 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.

Thursday 23rd March 2017 9:30 am Westerfolds Wanderings

The Westerfolds section of Yarra Valley Parklands forms part of a valuable habitat link stretching all the way from Kinglake National Park through to Yarra Bend Park at the city's edge.

Distance: 5km **Time:** 3 hrs **Rating:** Easy to Moderate

Thursday 27th April 2017 9:30am Longridge and Nilja

For more than 150 years Longridge farm was grazed by cattle. Now, under Parks Victoria management it is recovering with plant regeneration and the return of wildlife. The ridge offers spectacular views to the north and of the beautiful rapids of the Yarra River.

Distance: 5km **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.

IFFA Alpine Adventure

OVER THE AUSTRALIA DAY long weekend about 30 members and friends of the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association travelled to Falls Creek for an alpine adventure. The IFFA committee had booked out the very comfortable Viking Lodge with magnificent views across the mountains.

The first day we set off as a group to walk Mt Nelse. Of course in no time we were strung out over kilometres as people pursued their own interests. The group included ecologists, land management practitioners and naturalists with wide ranging areas of expertise, as well photographers, students, and those who just love the outdoors. Some of us congregated for lunch on a group of rocks beside a crystal clear alpine creek (photo right) to bask in the brilliant mountain sunshine and cool our toes in the water.



The wildflower display near the peak was spectacular (photo left) and we could see all the highest peaks in Victoria. At 1876m Mt Nelse is one of the top five. We could also make out Kosciusko across the border. Sadly we never found the “snowpatch” vegetation we were looking for, where snow was reported to still be melting and the Marsh Marigolds would be starting to emerge. We later found out we should have walked just a tad further around the side of the hill.

The next morning we set off to Mt Cope (1824m) to meet alpine ecologist Dr Susanna Venn. As we climbed to the spectacular craggy peak Susanna talked about some of her research including alpine treeline dynamics and how snow influences plant community patterns. All really fascinating stuff for those of us from the lowlands more used to dealing with lack of water rather than snow blankets!

(Continued on page 9)

FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 4th February 2017
***Diane and John Baird, Jeff Cranston, Catriona Young
 Christine Andell, Sybille Ims, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook***



Special thanks to **John Young** who transported the market trailer.

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 the future
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 4th, Warrandyte Festival 25th-26th March; and April 1st 2017

Submissions on possible reforms of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act are now due by 28 March 2017.



Background information:

- The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act was introduced in 1988. There have been no amendments to the FFG Act, despite over a decade of critique and review.
- In 2006 the then Labor government committed to improving Victorian biodiversity legislation, resulting in a White Paper, Land and Biodiversity in a time of Climate Change (2009). The White Paper never progressed to legislation and no further action was taken.
- In 2014, the Victorian Labor government again made an election promise with respect to biodiversity laws in Victoria. In Labor's 2014 election policy, a commitment was made to 'review the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act' and the ALP Platform 2014 committed to 'modernise threatened species protection to adopt world's best practice'.
- In September 2016, Environmental Justice Australia released a report[1] that provides solutions for how the FFG Act can be amended to protect and restore our natural environment.

The five key elements conservation groups are calling for in new legislation are set out in more detail in EJA's report.

1. **A fair go for threatened species:** Threatened species provisions must be retained in the FFG Act and overhauled so that:

All public authorities are required to comply with the provisions of the FFG Act to ensure that the provisions of the Act have greater effect across various spheres of government decision-making.

Current exemptions to threatened species protections removed to ensure they apply to all sectors – including forestry – and apply on private, as well as public land.

2. **Stronger stop and protect powers:** There must be greater clarity around when and how the government is required to act to protect threatened species (as opposed to the existing discretionary tools).

3. **A nature cop on the beat:** The compliance and enforcement provisions of the FFG Act need a major overhaul, including a new entity to monitor and enforce the provisions of the FFG Act and a range of penalties for non-compliance.

4. **Clear targets and timelines:** The biodiversity plan that is currently being finalised by the government must have a stronger legislative framework, including the requirement to have simple, measurable and ambitious 20-year biodiversity targets.

5. **Giving community power to act:** so that they are able to take legal action to protect threatened species and for the FFG Act to also establish a framework to enable regional communities to develop landscape scale restoration action plans.

For further information see the following:

https://envirojustice.org.au/sites/default/files/files/EJA_FFG_Act_reform_consultation_briefing.pdf

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/review-flora-and-fauna-guarantee-act-1988>

In order for these 5 key elements to be taken seriously, strong support from many groups and people who want protection for our flora and fauna, must be expressed as there is always pressure to just simplify the act so that it is easier for development to take place. Ed.

(Continued from page 7)

After a quick lunch break we were met by Dr John Morgan, who heads up the Plant Ecology Lab at La Trobe University. John showed us some magnificent multi-trunked 3000 year old snow gums, some of the most beautiful trees I've ever seen. These trees are very close to one of a dozen or so monitoring plots set up by the intrepid Maisie Fawcett in the 1940s which are still being monitored today. They were set up across the alps to monitor impacts of cattle grazing. (I highly recommend you look up this incredible woman – forget the Man from Snowy River, Maisie is the one who deserves a movie about her.) John explained the dynamics between grazing, fire, grass and woody shrubs.

We walked around delicate alpine sphagnum bogs to an area set up as part of an international climate change research project. As with all the walks and sites, this too prompted much interesting discussion. These discussions were one of the best and most stimulating aspects of the trip – so many knowledgeable and experienced people bouncing ideas and theories off each other.

We were blessed with magnificent weather and the clear night skies were perfect for celestial gazing and a wonderful astronomical talk on the balcony. The hard-core botanists were up late keying out plants while others just enjoyed catching up friends old and new.

Sunday morning we checked out and with a smaller group explored the strange geological feature known as Ruined Castle. As with all the walks there was always a hunt for rare species and new plants to puzzle over (photo right). By lunchtime we all headed off to various destinations, looking forward to the next IFFA camp. Many thanks to the IFFA committee for great organisation and to Susanna and John for giving their time to meet us. Keep an eye on the IFFA website if you are interested in joining the autumn camp. *Cathy*



Some good news about the Yarra

The Victorian Government, on 26th Feb 2017, released the Ministerial Advisory Committee's (MAC) report on the Yarra River and its response, the *Yarra River Action Plan*. That document and the MAC's report are available here: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/yarra-river-protection>

'The recommendations released and outcomes announced contain significant steps forward in protection and governance of the Yarra River system. Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) and Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA) have welcomed the announcements. I am of the view that our collective work with you during 2016 was instrumental in achieving many of the commitments in the MAC's recommendations and the announced policy. In addition to commitment to a proposed *Yarra River (Birrarung) Protection Act*, there are a range of other important commitments, on planning, strategy and institutional reform.

A key part of the Yarra River Action Plan is the early and ongoing involvement of the Wurundjeri Council, as the representatives of the traditional landowners of the Yarra and its catchment. This is an innovative and appropriate measure, and it is a first for a highly urbanised waterway.

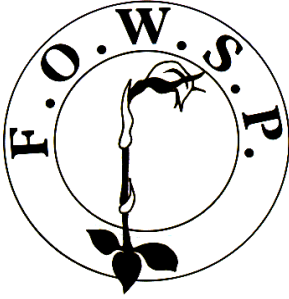
EJA will prepare a more detailed response to the MAC recommendations and Government's *Action Plan*.

Although a significant step forward, there is still a way to go before we have settled legislation for the Yarra River, as well as assess how this process might be used as a model elsewhere.

In the meantime, a joint EJA-YRKA media release is available here:

<https://envirojustice.org.au/media/community-expectations-high-of-a-world-class-law-for-the-yarra>.

Excerpts from Bruce Lindsay Lawyer, Environmental Justice Australia



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



Red-browed Finch or Firetail

This Australian bird is quite commonly seen along the entire east coast from Cape York to Mt Lofty Range SA. This one was photographed near Wondecla Queensland. However it may disappear where grazing is heavy and the shrub layer is cleared.

Like other weaver finches, it builds a large domed nest, with a side entrance, out of grass and small twigs. Nests are usually built 2-3 metres above the ground in dense shrubs. Nesting is communal. Both parents share nest building, incubation of the eggs, and feed the young together. Four to six white eggs are laid per clutch two or three times per year, between October and April. Juveniles are fully independent within 28 days.

Can you find a nest near you?
Linda

March 2017 Vol. 35 no. 2

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

FOWSP Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Telephone no. Email

Membership (family) \$30
Concession \$15
Newsletter by email (tick box)

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

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Email photo bonus page

Just a glimpse of some special sightings on the Tropical North Queensland in February



Photos from left **Top:** Macleay's Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo, Pheasant Coucal **Centre:** rare Monteith's leaf insect, Australian giant rainforest mantid, Lumholtz tree kangaroo, **Bottom:** *Corybas abellianus* or Nodding Helmet Orchid, Orange-thighed Frog, a leaf beetle in the genus *Phyllocharis* genus.

**Your photos can appear on this page (subject to space available) if you email them as follows:
editor@fowsp.org.au**