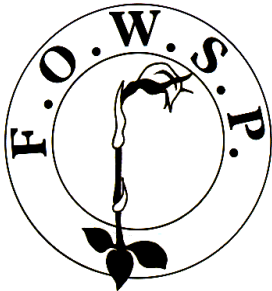


Friends of Warrandyte State Park



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

Another dry Autumn month but this time with the hope of significant rain in the first days of May.

It seems clear that drought will be on the cards more often in upcoming years so FOWSP has taken action to create a water buffer for the nursery. A hint is seen in the photo below. Just how, becomes clear on p. 3.

A sad but hopeful memo about lyrebirds and also a snippet about potential bird food are found on p. 2.

A small mystery and some reminiscences are found on page 4 and 8. Do you know when the FOWSP Folly was built?

We also look forward to July when we have a chance to participate in a special national



WHAT'S this oversized truck bringing?.p. 3



Celebrating 15,000 plants produced already for 2019

tree day that includes more than just planting. See more information on p. 7.

Those who visit page 9 will experience a range of reasons to smile all gathered from around the FOWSP nursery.

Lastly if you don't know what a *Psednura* species is, have a good look at the back cover.

Please enjoy this newsletter and remember to send in your reports and photos for June. *Linda Rogan*

Are you receiving your Newsletter by email? If so watch for the message below which will appear on the email along with the link to the Newsletter when your membership subs are due within the next 70 days***

Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on (relevant date). Please click on the link below to renew your Membership.

Of-course, if this matter has been attended to recently, please disregard.

**Deadline for June edition newsletter is
 Friday 24 May 2019 (every 4th Friday)
 contributions can be emailed to [Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au](mailto:Linda.Rogan@fowsp.org.au)
 or posted to PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113**

Menura Memo from Gray

In the last Newsletter I wrote: "Cam took us to the nearby Swedish Mine site where Cam, Bernie and Phil have erected a sturdy fence to protect lyrebirds. Apparently dogs have caused the demise of lyrebird chicks in the last two breeding-seasons, so Cam & Co have built this high and sturdy fence, which also functions as a safety-barrier around the 19th-century gold-workings." But as Cam recently told me, there is more to the story.

There are 19th Century records of lyrebirds [superb lyrebird: *Menura novaehollandiae*] in the One Tree Hill area, but none had been seen in living memory. However, after the 2009 fires, surviving lyrebirds dispersed from fire-ravaged Kinglake National Park, presumably in search of their food, which consists mainly of small invertebrates found on the forest floor and in rotting logs.

Some lyrebirds made their new home near the Swedish Mine, where they thrived and nested. In recent decades the forest here has recovered from the clearing, logging and fuel collecting that took place in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries,

Fire may have been instrumental in the dispersal of lyrebirds from Kinglake National Park, but lyrebirds themselves are ecosystem engineers - their energetic raking of the leaf-litter and soil changes the structure of the forest floor, speeding up the decay of forest litter and thereby reducing the amount of bushfire fuel.

A dog killed a female lyrebird in July 2017, early in the nesting season. In September 2018, a dog chased the male and fell into the mine taking the nest and chick with it.

Dogs are not permitted in this part of the Nature Conservation Reserve, but it is not possible for the Rangers to be present often enough to keep dogs out. The only solution to the dog problem was to put up a strong dog-proof fence around the known nesting site - and this is just what Cam, Phil and Bernie have done, and very recently lyrebirds have been seen within the fenced area.

Under a log on a dry autumn's day Mount Disappointment 14 April 2019

DESPITE the name of the location, a day out with the terrestrial invertebrates group of the FNCV is never a disappointment. About 35 km drive north of Whittlesea, the walk to the summit is flanked with tall tree ferns and passes through moist gullies before climbing a short distance to the top. The view is non-existent but one is greeted with an informative sign about the Hume and Hovell explorers who named the peak in 1824; they were also disappointed with the lack of a view. On this day most of our finds were under logs and could be seen as potential food for the lyrebirds discussed above. Seen here are a fairly common millipede, a cricket and a bark cockroach. The latter are female (L) and male (R) *Laxta granicollis*. The females were plentiful but Joan Broadberry was first to find this less common male.

Linda



Laxta granicollis female (L), male (R) approx. 25mm.



**FOWSP receives a very big tank
11 April 2019**

THIS 30,000 litre tank will provide an important water buffer for the nursery with enough water to cater for the plants' needs in an emergency for a week or more.

There were some tense moments while awaiting arrival of this tank, which was delivered on the back of an oversize truck. Would it fit under branches along the way to the Pound Bend area?

Everyone relaxed a bit when the skilled driver arrived and backed the truck precisely into place beside the tank bed which had been prepared.

Thanks must go to the Bendigo Bank who provided the grant.

Many thanks must also go to all the volunteers who helped by preparing the surface and positioning the tank and seeing things through to connection with the system and running water. This includes Brian, Gray, Don, David, Barrie and Judith with special thanks to Jason and Kelvin.

I will let my photos tell the story.

Linda



What has Allison, Artur and Marion so intrigued here?

ON THIS DAY the picnic table was loaded with exhibits of wildlife and its traces.

This included some carefully pinned insects entrusted to the Rangers by the Anderson family. I was told the insects were collected by the Anderson children during the late 70s early 80s in bushland along Bradleys Lane.

Both Tom and Jim's names were seen on the collections which they had sorted into groups such as Diptera (flies), Hemiptera (true bugs including cicadas), Hymenoptera (wasps, bees and ants) and Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies). One case is shown lower right. I wonder were these children members of a group called 'Little Buggers'?

Just what is in the divided plastic box?
See page 8.



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 trips to allow broader education on the topics. Bookings are not required for the evening seminars; however, bookings are essential for the field trips. Due to the popularity of field trips, bookings are limited to two field trips per person for the series. Attendance is required for the corresponding seminar to be eligible to attend and keep your booking for field trips.

Seminar Venue: River View Room, The Grand Hotel, Warrandyte

Time: Please arrive at 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start

Enquiries: 9840 9789

Please note the seminars and field trips will be cancelled in the event of extreme weather, including a Total Fire Ban or Code Red Fire Danger Day.

Wednesday 1 May Botanical Art and Environmental Communication with Botanical artist Karen Carter from RMIT. The tradition of botanical art, with its meticulous detail and scientific accuracy has long been a celebrated art form practised by artists and novices the world over. While botanical art remains fundamentally aligned with the botany and the process of plant identification, it is not considered a tool in environmental communications when presenting botany related conservation issues.

Botanical artist and communications lecturer Karen Carter will discuss why botanical art is perfectly placed to bridge the gap between botany, art and environmental communications.

Field trip 3 May 10am-1pm Join Karen Carter and develop your observational illustration skills to accurately depict botanical detail using graphite pencils. Plant specimens will be discussed with emphasis on features that should be illustrated for scientific identification. A complete workshop outline, which discusses equipment, basic botanical drawing techniques and further readings is included.

Location: The meeting point for this field trip will be provided when you attend the Botanical art and environmental communications seminar on Wednesday 1st May.

Booking: Bookings are essential as places are limited. Please email csadmin@manningham.vic.gov.au or phone 9840 9129 to ensure your spot.

Wednesday 5 June The brush-tailed Phascogale: A story of survival

If you live in or around Warrandyte, you may have encountered the elusive Brush-tailed Phascogale, or Tuan. This medium-sized marsupial has a large, black, bottlebrush tail and is listed as threatened in Victoria.

La Trobe University PhD Candidate Jess Lawton will discuss the biology and ecology of the Brush-tailed Phascogale, her research on the occurrence of this species in a modified environment, and how you can help this threatened species to persist.

FOWSP COMMITTEE 2019			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
Artur Muchow	0415 383328 myln@netspace.net.au	Secretary	Nursery Manager	Josh Revell Nursery Phone 0408 317 327 email nursery@fowsp.org.au
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Linda Rogan	9435 5806 editor@fowsp.org.au	Newsletter editor	Newsletter assist and Librarian	Gloria Moore 0402 285005
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Gray Ardern	0418 190261		Market Trailer	Jan Falconer 9844 1226 or 0419 872 096 email trailer@fowsp.org.au
Lisa Jenkins	0431 840 415 lisajenkins@stanfordalumni.org		Manningham Council Rep	Cathy Willis 0427 660 651
Carolyn Noel	0409 901441		Webmaster	Jason Patton 0402 121838 jason@parau.com
Kelvin Watkins	0488 039 774		Website: www.fowsp.org.au	
Jeff Cranston	0418 396 647 legality@bigpond.com		FOWSP general enquiry number 1300 764 422	

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, Lisa Jenkins
Mel Coupar (Line drawings)

Next Committee Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 14 May 2019
Venue:	Education Centre, Pound Bend
Time:	19:30 pm sharp

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.

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.

Thurs	16 May	9:00-12:00	4th Hill fenced sites	Preparation and planting	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	30 May	9:00-12:00	Chaim Court	Woody weeding/ planting	Moderate	FOWSP
Thurs	13 June	9:00-12:00	Endeavour Bank	Planting	Moderate	FOWSP

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 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.

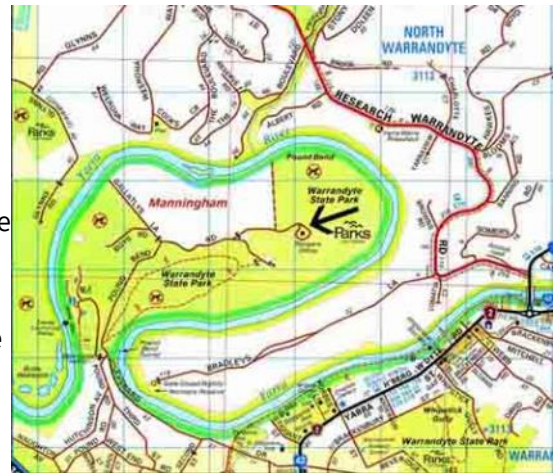
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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

Closed Christmas and New Years days.

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



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FOWSP/Manningham Thursday nature walks Leader: Cathy Willis



This series of nature walks will explore various sections of the natural areas of Manningham. Each walk is paced to allow participants to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of the area.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings will open two months before the walk date.

The meeting point for each nature walk will be provided at the time of your booking. All walk durations are approximate.

Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a hat and sturdy footwear. Bring a water bottle and snack.

Thursday 23 May, 9.30am Candlebark Park to Beasley's Nursery This walk follows the Yarra River along the flats and ancient flood plains to its confluence with the Mullum Mullum Creek, with the final section traversing Tikalara Park.

Distance: 5kms Time: 3 hours Rating: Easy

9:30 am Thursday 27 June Koornung Block and Osborne Peninsula From pretty Pigeon Bank Creek we walk downstream along the north side of the Yarra River, climbing to the spur line before circling back to our starting point.

Distance: 6.5 kms Time: 3 hours - Rating: Moderate to difficult

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.

Early warning for July

but not too soon to register.



C O M M U N I T Y M E D I T A T I O N + P L A N T I N G

Join Dr Belinda Christie and the Wilderness Yoga crew in celebration and community for a morning of reconnection. A gentle walk will guide us to the tranquil Yarra River, for meditation, mindfulness, and 're-wilding' practices, underneath sweeping gums. We will explore the wisdom of the season, bushfoods, and the river ecosystem, and see first-hand the glorious wild that previous community plantings have helped to restore. In partnership with National Tree Day, and the Friends of Warrandyte State Park, we will join in a mindful community planting, and help continue the legacy of our river-side kin.

Join us, and perhaps a kangaroo or two, in a celebration of our wild places.

S U N D A Y 28TH JULY

9.15 A M - 1 P M

FREE EVENT

Welcome chai + lunch provided!
Registration + full details online
belindachristie.com/nationaltreeday

with Dr Belinda Christie
Environmental Scientist + Meditation/Yoga Teacher

hello@belindachristie.com | belindachristie.com | @belinda_christie | @wilderness_yoga

See our full monthly schedule of Wilderness Yoga retreats online!

Can't make it the whole time? Join us for the planting from 10am, and leave when you need.



FOWSP MARKET TRAILER

Thanks to those who helped out on Saturday 6 April 2019
Diane and John Baird, Jan Falconer, Marion Thomson, Jeff Cranston, Christine Andell, Lyndy Gilbert and Ken Crook



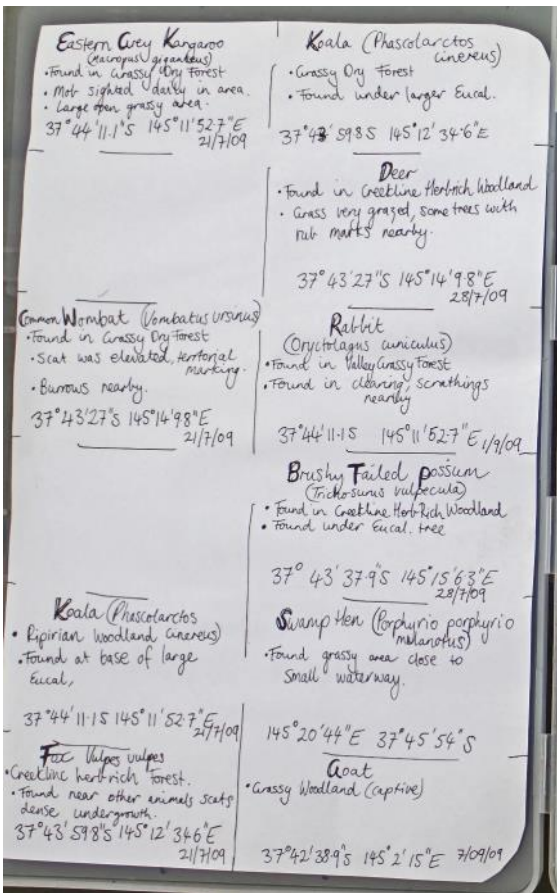
Special thanks to **Kelvin Watkins** who transported the market

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
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, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July 2019



From p. 4 Who's poo??

This is the item of interest to those on p. 4.

I've enlarged the labels for those curious enough to answer the question above.

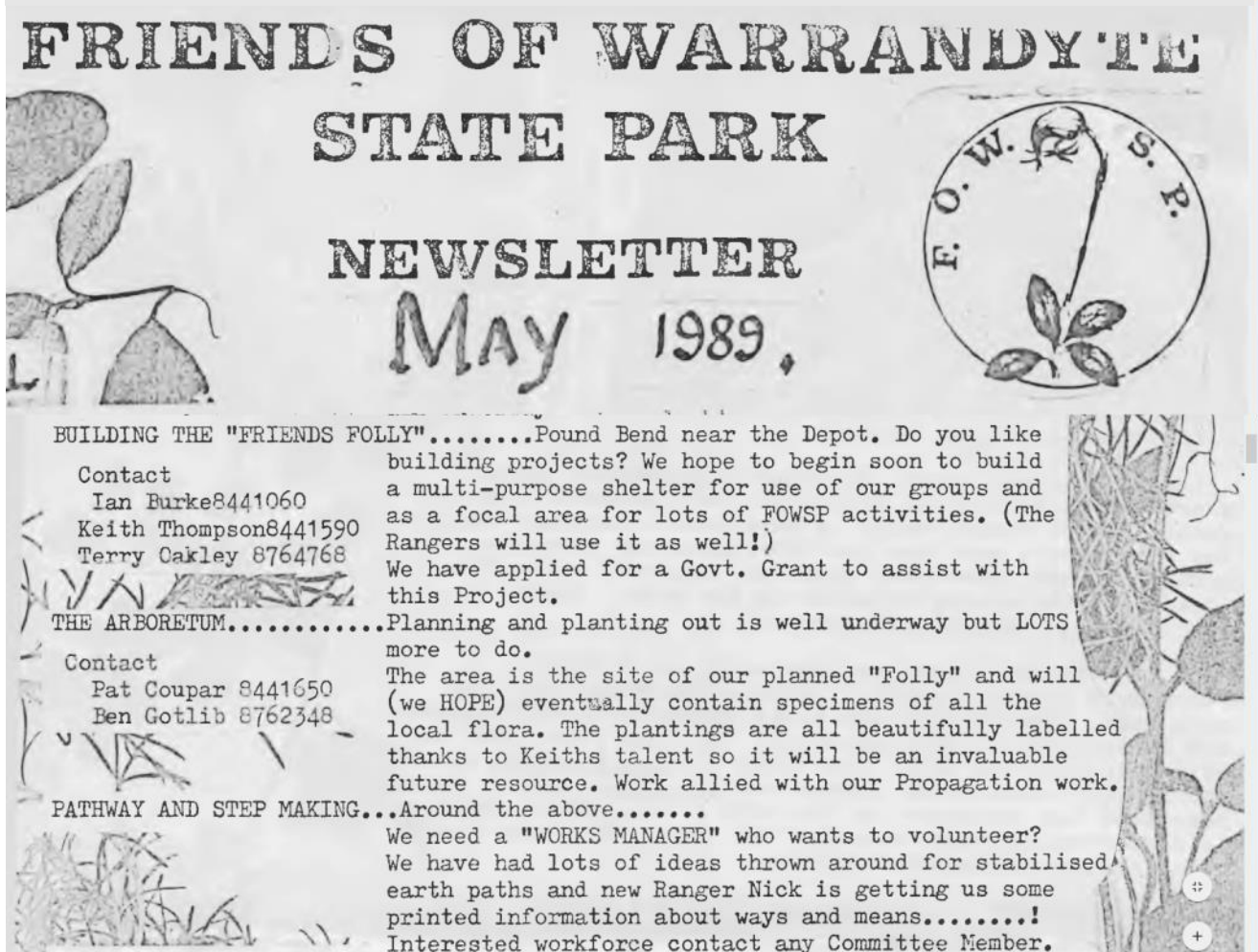
Kell Wooster's scat collection from her student days is still useful today. Notice the wombat poo 3rd down on the left shows some of the typical square edges. If you are interested in finding out why wombat's poo tends to be square look up National Geographic's *Why is wombat poop cube-shaped?* Published online in November 2018. It seems to have something to do with the variable elasticity of their intestines and the dry conditions they live in.

I let Kell know we were thinking of her and she answered "I love getting the newsletter, see(ing) all the good work that is being done... I do dearly miss the nursery and the amazing people there. Warm regards Kell"



Ten years ago, Kel labelled this collection

Just thirty years ago in the FOWSP newsletter
 Who in addition to Ben remembers this, the birth of the Folly??



The perfect cup of morning tea.

Melbourne is proud to be known as one of the premier coffee cities of the world.

FOWSP is helping to build a fabulous tea profile to match. Love the innovative use of plant tags.

Joan B.



And a drink and a home for the wildlife



The young 'roo below spent nearly 15 minutes drinking at the bath while FOWSPians went about their business near by and Mum kept watch from a distance. We all need the rain.

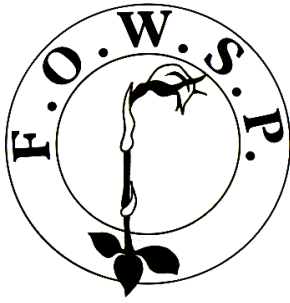
The caterpillar of the Dainty Swallowtail (above right) above was one of a few brought to FOWSP by Carolyn whose young citrus tree had more than it could support. They were adopted out to other butterfly loving FOWSPians.

FOWSPians celebrate...

...Don's (birthday) party (below) and three new volunteers (middle) and extra help on school holidays when Marion's granddaughter Lana can join us. .

Linda





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Gaudy grasshopper *Psednura sp.*

This creature, found in the rushes in a Candlebark Parkland dam on 3 March, tried to hide itself behind the rush stem it clung to, more cryptic than gaudy. Its strange blue eyes were remarkable to me. Returning to the dam on 11 April, I found several of these of various green and brown colour combinations. Only the pale green form had the blue eyes.

To confirm the sex and the species of these rather cryptic 'gaudy' grasshoppers, a friend will be examining three of them with a microscope. It seems the forms of the genitalia may hold the essential clue.

Linda

May 2019 Vol. 37 no. 4

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.

Newsletter by email? You will receive notification along with the email link when your membership expires within the next 70 days.

Email photo bonus page



Clockwise from the upper left:
A skink that was sheltering in the hose needed rescue from the bucket at Frogland.
A Parson's Band orchid bloomed in a pot at the nursery on 28 March and foreshadowed the smaller whiter ones being seen in the bush in April.
A mating pair of false garden mantids *Pseudomantis albofimbriata* were found on a leafless *Goodia lotifolia* in Linda's garden.
Pseudomantis albofimbriata brown form was found in Candlebark Park.
An echidna wandered the hillside near the Plenty River. Photos Linda Rogan



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

Pseudnura species
brown form
On a rush at
Candlebark dam.
Photo Linda

