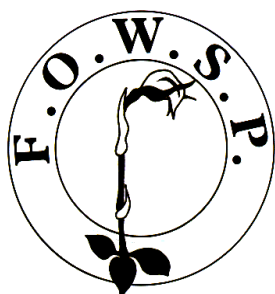


# Friends of Warrandyte State Park



## 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/Incorporation No. A0024890C

### Editor's Corner

Cathy's glimpse of her Tassie holiday has stimulated some of the rest of us to share some of our favourite finds. You will find some key hints from Carolyn, Don and myself on pp. 5, 8, 9.

I seem to have developed problems with my outlook email system which is causing me all sorts of headaches but hopefully with some help this newsletter will reach FOWSPians.

Page 2 reports on a recent TAG .

On page 3 I answer some questions about Frogland's roosting bees.

On page 4 a glimpse of the TAG crew at Boomers.  
Pages 6 and 7 show a few items ferreted out from Nillumbik and Manningham's environmental pages.

Please enjoy this newsletter.

*Linda Rogan*



Cooling off near Horseshoe bend tunnel  
See story p. 5

### FOWSP celebrates 40+ years

Last year was FOWSP's 40th year of voluntary work with production of local provenance indigenous plants for Warrandyte State Park and the greater Warrandyte community and so much more . It is time for us to celebrate.

When: Sunday 2 April from 1 pm at the Folly  
Join us for an informal BBQ  
Please bring salads to share and drinks  
Further details will be sent by email closer to the event.

**Deadline for April edition newsletter is  
Friday 17 March 2023**

**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**

### Mixed event at Endeavour Bank

For our first TAG in February, we had a kind of mixed media event: down at Endeavour Bank some Taggers continued removing drain flat sedge (in order to give *Carex chlorantha* a fighting chance) while seed-collection was going on nearby.

Judith and Don cut down the weedy sedge, while Brian, Robyn and David weeded around plants that were put in on National Tree Day.

This hard labour was rewarded and punctuated by a return to the nursery for a delicious Lyndian morning tea.

It was so lovely to see how everyone was so enthusiastically engaging in animated conversations - a wonderful consequence of a great morning tea.

Towards the end of the day, after a return to the *Carex chlorantha* rescue site, one of the volunteers noticed a new weed.

Cathy recognised the plant as horehound, having seen it on overgrazed pasture at Wonga Park, and Cam independently identified it as *Marrubium vulgare* (aka horehound).

Cam has undertaken to spray it next week! (It's all go, go, go round here!)

This small localised infestation is probably a result of a well-intended attempt to remedy the poor condition of the local kangaroos by bringing in fodder (but, as Malthus pointed out back in the 19th century, the dynamics of population growth are relentless and cruel).



*Marrubium vulgare* (Lamiaceae)

The common name has nothing to do with whores or hounds - the hore bit is from hoar, as in hoar frost; referring to the frosty appearance of the foliage, due to water-conserving hairs on the leaves, and the hound bit is a corruption of an archaic word for a type of herb. Yes, it was part of the armamentarium of herbalists of old, which isn't surprising given its distinctly medicinal smell.

A more cheerful use was as a substitute for hops in home-brew!

Stay tuned - I'll let you know how the eradication of this interesting interloper goes.

Gray

Ed note: One bug does favour horehound: the orange and black horehound bug *Agonoscelis rutila* (photo right).

The horehound bug is a native stink bug which sucks the sap of the horehound plant, causing wilting of new shoots. ... they may also swarm on a variety of other trees and shrubs.

There is also a plume moth larvae, small green caterpillars, that severely damage the plant's growing tips as they feed. These are being used on Kangaroo Island SA as part of a biological control effort.



### More on Frogland roosting bees

Thursday mornings in January and February have had an extra attraction in Frogland. That is the clusters of native bees which have been hanging around on the cool overcast mornings. Several volunteers have come down to see these bees and lots of questions have been asked.

#### Are these really bees? They are so tiny.

Yes, most native Australian bees are much smaller than honey bees.

#### Where is their hive?

In Victoria, native bees are solitary and don't live in hives. Instead almost all are solitary bees. That means each female bee makes her own burrow in the ground or else uses an existing hole in wood or hollow stems. Generally male bees don't stay in these burrows.

#### So are these all male bees?

Yes, these are male bees of the *Austronomia* subgenus.



#### How can you tell they are males?

The most obvious thing for this species is that the antennae are longer. In this group of bees the hind legs also have distinctive enlarged joints.

#### Why do they cluster so tightly together?

We don't know for sure but it could be to help keep warm. It could be that it gives them a degree of protection from predators. It might make them look more like dead plant materials in some cases.

#### What preys on them?

Likely birds. Also toward the end of the summer, I often see praying mantids waiting for them to fly into a roosting spot and in some cases, I think the mantises have cleared out small groups.

#### Do they sting?

Roosting bees are almost all males and male bees do not have stingers. Stinger in bees, ants and wasps have evolved from ovipositors so only exist in female Hymenoptera.

Let me know if you have more questions and I will answer them if I can.

*Linda Rogan*

**Always something of interest at Boomers**

Our TAG of 9th Feb was very welcome, as after quite a few weeks of summer weeding and maintenance, we joined Cam Beardsell at one of our favourite places- Boomers Reserve at Panton Hill. Enclosures protect rare and endangered plant species, so we split into two groups.

One group joined Cam on a trial project to screen fenced areas from weed intrusion, while the other group thinned out Cassinia which is overcrowding some of the enclosed areas. Cam is always informative and entertaining, and we welcomed the return of Lyndy's morning tea. Thank you Lyndy!



From left - Dave, David, Cam, Judith, Carolyn, Gray and Robyn enjoying morning tea.

**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.

27/02/2020	Fiddler Fence	PHIL	Cassinia thinning, fence removal – eco-burn prep. With assistance from fire team pending deployments.	Difficult
5/03/2020	Walert Creek	GRAY	Planting, maintenance	Moderate
12/03/2020	Haslam fence	PHIL	Cassinia thinning, leaf and branch removal.	Moderate
19/03/2020	Endeavour Bank	ARTUR	Grant fencing	Moderate
26/03/2020	Harding fence	PHIL	Cassinia thinning, fence work, leaf litter removal around orchids and charcoal work.	Moderate
2/04/2020	Walert Creek	GRAY	Planting, maintenance	Moderate

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 2023			OTHER FOWSP CONTACTS	
<b>Artur Muchow</b>	<b>0415 383328</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b><u>Nursery Manager</u></b>	<b>Josh Revell</b>
			<b>Nursery Phone</b>	<b>0408 317 327</b>
			<b>email <a href="mailto:nursery@fowsp.org.au">nursery@fowsp.org.au</a></b>	
<b>Lynda Gilbert</b>	<b>9844 0106</b>	<b>Treasurer and Membership</b>	<b><u>Park Office</u></b>	<b>03 8427 2132</b>
<b>Linda Rogan</b>	<b>0491 112 692</b>	<b>Newsletter editor</b>	<b><u>Newsletter assist and Librarian</u></b>	
	<b><a href="mailto:editor@fowsp.org.au">editor@fowsp.org.au</a></b>		<b>Gloria Moore</b>	<b>0402 285005</b>
		<b>Facebook Coordinator</b>	<b>Carolyn Noel</b>	<b>0409 901441</b>
<b>Gray Ardern</b>	<b>0418 190261</b>		<b><u>Market Trailer Jan Falconer</u></b>	
			<b>9844 1226 or 0419 872 096</b>	
			<b>email <a href="mailto:trailer@fowsp.org.au">trailer@fowsp.org.au</a></b>	
<b>Lyn Moore</b>	<b>0409 683 041</b>	<b>Wildlife rescue Victoria</b>	<b><u>Webmaster</u></b>	
	<b><a href="mailto:lynm333g@gmail.com">lynm333g@gmail.com</a></b>	<b><a href="https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/contact-us">https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/contact-us</a></b>	<b>Jason Patton</b>	<b>0402 121838</b>
			<b><a href="mailto:jason@parau.com">jason@parau.com</a></b>	
			Website: <a href="http://www.fowsp.org.au">www.fowsp.org.au</a>	
<b>Jeff Cranston</b>	<b>0418 396 647</b>	<b>Staff Representative</b>	FOWSP general enquiry number	
	<b><a href="mailto:legality@bigpond.com">legality@bigpond.com</a></b>		<b>1300 764 422</b>	
		<b>Lynda Chambers 0466 274421</b>		
		<b><a href="mailto:phenogist@gmail.com">phenogist@gmail.com</a></b>		

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, Lyn Moore

**Next Committee Meeting**  
**Date:** Tuesday 14 March  
**Venue:** Education Centre or via Zoom  
**Time:** 19:30 pm sharp

**Horseshoe bend tunnel, Victoria's longest...?**

This tunnel may look somewhat familiar, and yet different, to some Warrandytians. This tunnel from gold mining days can be found between Rawson and Walhalla and like Pound Bend Tunnel, was built to divert a river (the Thomson) from its bed to allow the riverbed to be sluiced for alluvial gold. At 220 metres long and 4 metres high its construction took from August 2011 to October 1912. *The day of the final blast to open the tunnel, a gala event, was a near disaster. Jack Hannaford, who had run the tunnelling project had four children and a wife (Clara) who had helped wheeling rock out on a cart. On this last day, Jack had allowed them to take 'one last ride on the trolley' but alarmingly the miner setting off the last blast was unaware. Arriving too late to stop the final blast from occurring, 'Jack had to scramble to safety, within moments of the channel blasting, water had flooded the Tunnel, sweeping his wife and children out of the exit and into the river. Fortunately, the story had a happy ending as Clara, being a good swimmer, was able to rescue them all, with young Emily needing resuscitation.*



The tunnel exit.

The walk down to the Tunnel zigs and zags about 5 times and starts under luscious cherry ballart trees. There were benches to ease the upward climb and welcomed shade along most of the way.

*Linda Rogan*

## 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.

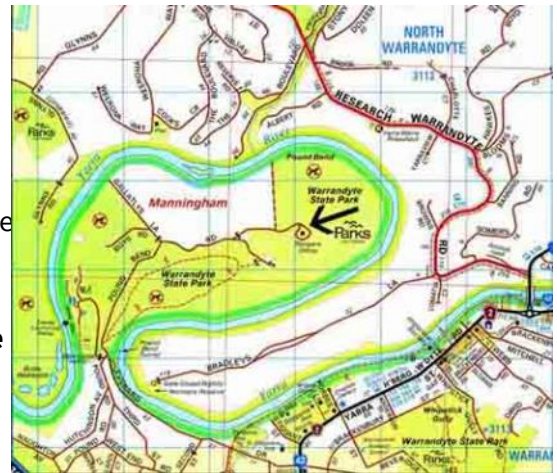
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and

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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## Selections from Nillumbik Shire Council Environmental Events

### World Wildlife Day - Planting for Wildlife



Join us at Edendale Community Environment Farm to learn about what you should plant to help enhance native wildlife in your garden. Learn about both habitat and food sources and meet some of our Gardens for Wildlife Volunteers. Council officers from our Environment and Biodiversity team will also be available on the night to answer any of your native flora and fauna questions.

**When:** Thursday 2 March, 6.30pm - 7.30pm

**Where:** Edendale Community Environment Farm

### Clean Up Australia Day: Sunday 5 March 2023

Clean Up Australia Day is a chance for everyone to get together and pitch in for the environment. Working together as a community, we can make a big difference to our local area.

Nillumbik Council supports this event by covering the disposal of the litter collected by community groups.

To get involved you can either:

- Register a new site and run your own clean up event (you will be sent a Clean Up Kit containing everything you need) or;
- Register to volunteer at an existing site in your local area.

If Sunday 5 March doesn't suit you then register an event any time of year. Please let Council know to ensure the litter is collected after your event.

### New walking group launches in Bunjil reserve

The Walking Group meets fortnightly to walk through the nature reserve, lead by a Volunteer Walk Coordinator. A social walking group is a great opportunity to get out and about and stay fit, whilst meeting other local community members, sharing knowledge of the reserve and of nature and spotting local wildlife.

**When:** Every Saturday morning, 9.30am - 10.30am

**Where:** Meet at Pantom Hill Living and Learning

## Manningham City Council Environment Pages

### Warrandyte Repair Cafe

#### Toss it? No Way!

**Sunday 5 March**

**10.30am to 12.30pm**

What do you do with a broken toaster? Or with a bike when the wheel runs out of tread? Or with a sweater full of moth holes? Toss it? No way! The Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association (WMI&AA) runs the Warrandyte Repair Café at the Mechanics Hall on the first Sunday of each month.

**Cost:** Free

**Where:** The Warrandyte Mechanics Hall Cnr Yarra St and Mitchell Ave, Warrandyte

**RSVP:** Not required



### Manningham Waste Drop Off Day

**Saturday 11 March**

**8.00am to 4.00pm**

Manningham Council will be hosting a free 'Waste Drop off Day' where residents can responsibly dispose of a range of materials that cannot be placed into household bins. This includes items such as computer and electrical equipment, polystyrene, CFL globes, paints, gas bottles, batteries and flattened cardboard.



**Cost:** Free     **Where:** Location provided on registration

**Bookings:** Essential via Manningham website

### Cleaning up Manningham

Clean Up Australia Day is happening on Sunday 5 March, come along and help keep our beautiful city clean. There will be three clean-up events across Manningham that you can come along and take part in:

[Warrandyte River Reserve](#), Warrandyte

Meet at Stiggants Reserve carpark

8.00am to 10.00am

[Ruffey Lake Park](#), Templestowe

Meet at the Boulevardde carpark

11.00am to 1.00pm

[Lawford Reserve and Tullamore Parklands](#), Doncaster

Meet at Lawford Reserve

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Everyone participating will be provided with gloves and litter collecting gear.

**A favourite holiday spot: Howqua and the Bluff**

Don and Carolyn share some happy snaps from a recent trip. In fact it was sent 'in a hurry from the summit of the Bluff, as we had a mobile signal there temporarily. ' And 'On the Howqua trail with a view up the valley to My Buller now, so again have a brief signal. '



Carolyn on summit of The Bluff with western view

And 'On the Howqua trail with a view up the valley to My Buller now, so again have a brief signal. '

We have been camped on the Howqua River well upstream from the hordes at Sheepyard Flat; enjoying some feral fishing (trout); enjoying smoked trout and fresh blackberry crumble. The prolific birdlife includes a pair of Peregrine Falcons on The Bluff summit. The alpine wildflowers and myriad butterflies (most of which would not settle to pose for photos) are eye-catching. See p. 11,.

We have taken the Howqua Valley walk via the river, and the magnificent 360



One of the fantastic river views

degree vista from The Bluff - taking in nearby Mts Buller and Stirling, Mt Cobbler and the Crosscut Saw to the north, and further afield Mt Feathertop and the Bogong High Plains, not to forget the scenes to the East and South.

Thanks to Don and Carolyn for taking time to share while hot on the track.



### A favourite campsite and its insects Seninis campground along the Tyers River

Seninis in late spring, summer (when not at risk of bushfire) and autumn has long been a favourite campsite for us. It is located on a thumb of land created by a river bend not unlike Pound Bend although much smaller. The campsites are informal and some areas are bollarded and grassy for tent camping only. However there are several sites appropriate for small caravans like ours to pull into. Camping is free and non-booked. However it is at the bottom of a very steep dirt road and not a good place to pull into if your towing vehicle is underpowered or your van too big.

The Tyers River is everchanging and log clogged but there is a nice swimming hole at the extreme end of the camp through a short rough track. Of course this is known to locals so there are often day visitors there. Nearly every campsite has a rough track a few metres through the bush down to the river side and many places are suitable for wading although some paths are becoming a bit overgrown with blackberries.

In summer visits from goannas are likely and one night this year I believe I spotlighted a phascogale. In the last couple of years I have found it an excellent spot for putting up a light sheet. Some of the insects attracted this time are found on p.9, 10.

Another attraction is the number of walks of varying length and difficulty easily reached from here by car. A regular favourite for us is taking lunch up to Mushroom Rocks which is one of the possible overnight camps (undeveloped) along the alpine trail.

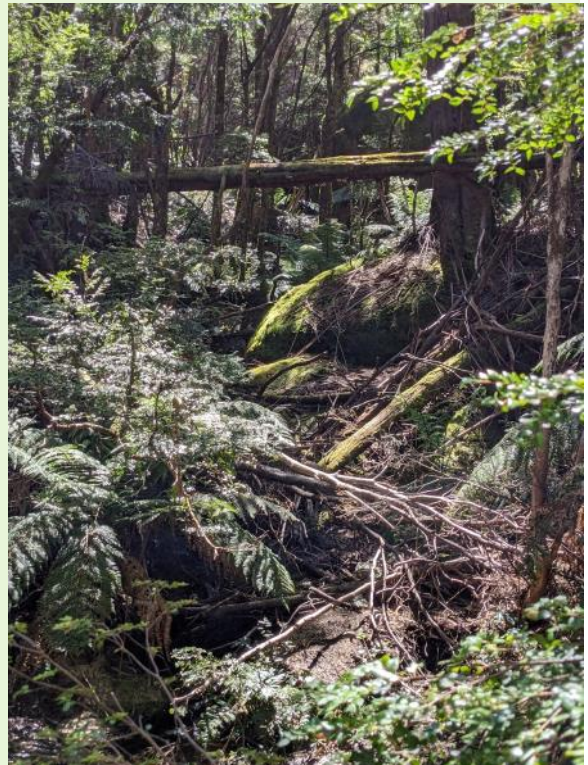
#### Walk to Mushroom Rocks

It is a short drive to the Mount Erica car park. In our younger days we walked from Mount St Gwinear to the Mount Erica car park but now are usually satisfied going up to Mushroom Rocks.

I love the moist beginning of the track through ferns and under myrtle beech where a lovely stream trickles and used to be a place to fill your water bottle. These days you may want a good filter on your bottle even for mountain water.

The last bushfires to pass through mean the upper part of the track is not as shady as it once was but also means the lovely rock shapes are more exposed.

*Linda Rogan*



#### Message from another friend of FOWSP

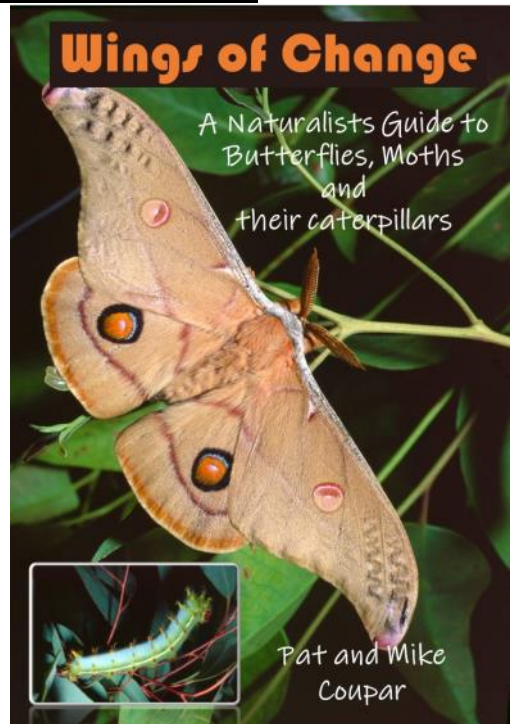
'... My friends and I love spending time at Pound Bend, so we are more than happy to contribute to your organisation. Happy for the funds to be spent however they might best benefit you.'

Best,  
Eric

**Wings of Change**

Sadly for FOWSPians, Mike and Pat Coupar will be apologies for our celebration on 2 April as they will be travelling and not in the Melbourne area. However they will bring a few copies of the their book published in 2021 on butterflies and moths and their caterpillars. They will be available in-spection and for purchase on 2 April unless they all sell out prior to that. I expect to have 10 copies on hand from late April so let me know if you don't want to miss out.

*Wings of Change* is not just a reprint but an expanded version of their previous book and is aimed at naturalists who are interested in learning how a caterpillar grows into a butterfly. This book contains most of the information of the first book, such as finding, collecting and rearing caterpillars. The 184 pp. includes additional families of moths and species of moths and butterflies. Each species includes common and scientific names, photos and descriptions of the caterpillar, adult and often both sexes where they are notably different.



If you are interested let Linda Rogan editor@fowsp.org.au know to hold a copy for you or email our treasurer Lyndy as follows: treasurer@fowsp.org.au with your name and postal address and Lyndy will arrange for you to pay **\$33 which will include postage** and arrange for the book to be posted from Mallacoota. This purchase will also benefit FOWSP who receive part of the purchase price due to the Coupar's generosity.

**Are your subs due??**

**Please check the message on the email you receive with the newsletter link.** If subs are due soon a message such as below will be seen in the email.:

'Please note that, according to our records, your Membership is due to expire on . Please click on the link below to re-new your Membership.

[http://fowsp.org.au/membership.php?member\\_id=&membership\\_renewal=Yes](http://fowsp.org.au/membership.php?member_id=&membership_renewal=Yes)  
Of course, if this matter has been attended to recently, please disregard.'

**FOWSP Membership Renewal Form**

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

.....

**Telephone no.** .....

**Email** .....

**Membership (family)**    \$30  
**Concession**                \$15

**Newsletter by email** (tick box)

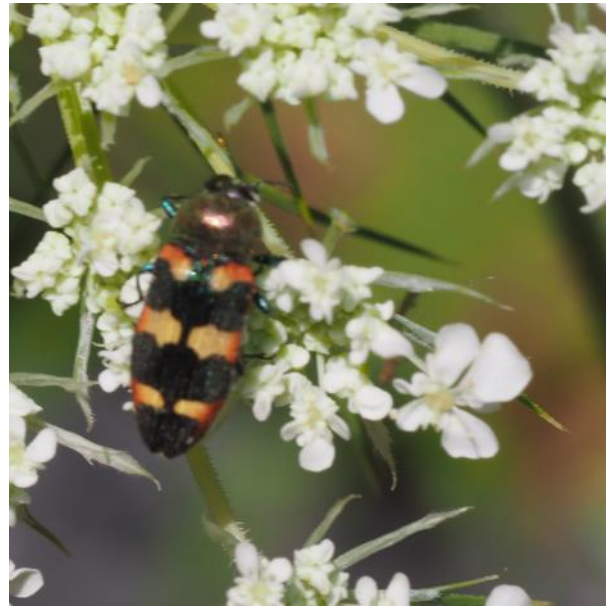
**Send to: FOWSP PO Box 220, Warrandyte 3113 or renew on the website [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au) with the option of direct deposit payment.**

## Email photo bonus page



Don says 'unknown (you may know) butterfly on Alpine Everlasting (*Xerochrysum subundulatum*)'. Editor: I think it is a lovely small radiating carpet moth *Chrysolarentia chrysocyma*, much prettier than its common name and looking like a butterfly.

Linda's photos from upper right:: Jewel beetle *Castiarina sexplagiata* on queen anne's lace, Yellow-striped Hunter *Austrogomphus guerini* both at Horseshoe Bend Tunnel near Rawson, False garden mantis *Pseudmantise albofimbriata* Which probably explains why there are no more bees roosting on this twig. Lastly below, a swift moth in the Abantiades genus at Seninis campground.



Yellow-striped Hunter *Austrogomphus guerini*



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



Bridge over the Tyers River just before Seninis campgrounds