



NEWSLETTER, August 2006

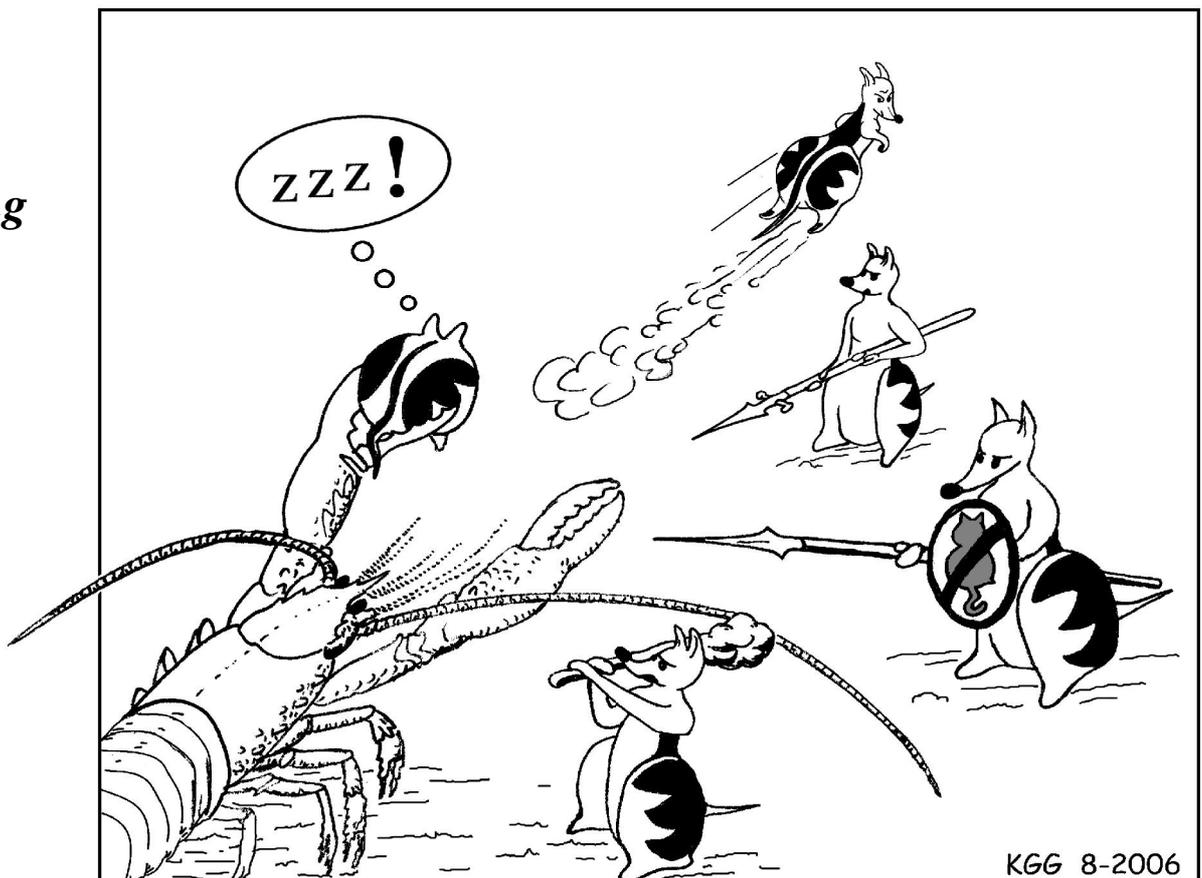
This is to tell you about a couple of changes to the program that we issued at the beginning of the year, and about some **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER.**

The first of these will be **next Saturday, 2nd September:** tree planting at **Kanawalla Rail Reserve.** We have now removed many of the feral pines, thanks to financial aid from Timbercorp and DSE, and we are going to plant native species on the denuded areas. If many hands turn up to make for light work, it shouldn't take long, and as it is close to Hamilton even busy people may be able to spare us an hour or two. We will meet at 9.00 am at the northern gate into the Reserve; this is on Hensley Park Road, a few hundred metres north of McFarlanes Road (about 6 km from North Boundary Road). If you turn up later, just walk south along the line and you should find us. Bring gloves, a hammer or mallet for hammering in stakes, and a packed lunch.

The second event is a camp-out at the **Fulham Streamside Reserve** on the weekend of **15-16 September**, with the dual purposes of looking at orchids and spraying weeds. Some people will be going on Friday afternoon, but those going on Saturday will meet at 9.00 am at the Visitor Information Centre. Other people may like to come for the day, on either Saturday or Sunday. Please bring a 1 litre sprayer (window-cleaning type) to enable you to spot-spray any African weed orchid or Sparaxis you see on your ramble through the bush.

Instructions for finding us are: Proceed 10 km north from Balmoral on Natimuk Road (i.e. the road to Horsham). Turn right onto Edgewood Road. Proceed 0.6 km to entrance on left. Down 1.75 km (without turning off) to Glenelg River. The camp will be 200m downstream (left).

*The
Crays
are
coming
!!!*



ASHES, ORCHIDS AND CRAYS

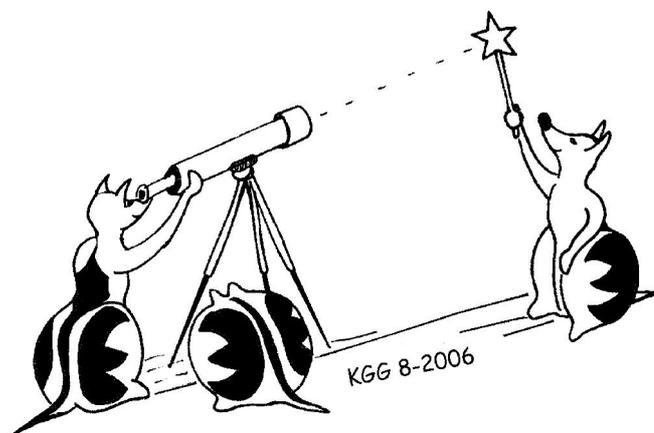
At our next Special Meeting, on **21 September**, Helen Anderson and Glen Dixon will be presenting “A snapshot of orchids, fungi and fire recovery”. Helen says: “Combine curiosity for nature, a tendency to photography and weekend wanderings and you end up with thousands of photos. We’ve selected a snapshot of orchids, fungi and fire recovery from our local area (Kanagulk, Black Range, Dundas, Southern Grampians) that will reinforce your wonder of things wild.”

This presentation should give us ideas for the excursion on the following **Saturday 23 September**, when we will be looking at fire effects in the **Grampians**. Remember that we are starting meetings at 7.30 pm, with the talk scheduled to begin at 8pm. For the excursion, we will meet as usual at 9.30 am at the Visitor Information Centre in Lonsdale Street.

For our **November Special Meeting**, the program lists John and Glenys Cayley talking about North Queensland. Instead, they will be talking some time next year, about the Simpson Desert, and on **Thursday 16 November** David Nichols will be talking about **Freshwater Crayfish of South-West Victoria**. David has taken an interest in these creatures for some time, and hopes to have some live specimens to show us.

GRASSES, GANNETS & GALAXIES

The remaining excursions for the year are as advertised in the Program although details remain to be finalised. On **October 21 to 23** (i.e. Saturday, Sunday and Monday) we will be able to join visiting “Friends of the Grasslands” to look at various grasslands in the district, including those towards Dundas and Woorndoo. There will also be a BYO barbecue in Hamilton on the Saturday night. And on the weekend of **18-19 November** we will go to Portland to see the Gannet colony and also, if all goes according to plan, to camp out and do some star-gazing. At this stage we plan to meet at the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 3.00 pm on the Saturday. If you cannot get to the meetings preceding these excursions, ring Yvonne for details (5571 2544).



CHRISTMAS will be here before we know it. Our annual Christmas gathering this year will be at the Nigretta Falls, on **Thursday 14 December**, starting at 6.00pm or whenever you can get there: BYO food and drink. As usual we shall have a **short AGM** at which we will elect the committee for 2007 and put together a draft program for the year. So please think about whether you can stand for a committee position (most of the current incumbents will be happy to step aside) and about what speakers and excursions you would like for 2007.

AUTUMN CAMP 2007

And speaking of 2007, the next SEANA (South East Australian Naturalists Association) Autumn Camp will be in the Otways, hosted by the Geelong FNC. The dates are Tuesday 7 to Wednesday 13 March. If you would like to attend for all or part of it, you need to reserve your accommodation (at Forrest Caravan Park) **NOW**, by sending a deposit of \$30 by 20 September. For details, ring Glenys Cayley (5573 4503) or Dave Munro (5577 2268).