



Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests (Mount Alexander Region) Inc.

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Dear Friend of the Box Ironbark Forests,

This is a gentle reminder that FOBIF subscriptions are now due. A membership form is included with this letter. Subscriptions (\$10 for individuals, \$15 for households) can be paid by cheque or by bank transfer, as specified on the form.

On behalf of the FOBIF Committee we wish you all a good Christmas....and offer a few things to think about over summer:

- The 2013 walks program is in preparation, and will be sent to members towards the end of summer. We're always in the hunt for new walk leaders, so if you're that way inclined, please contact us at one of the above addresses. We can help with advice and support in planning and running a walk.
- As the fire season develops, we urge members to take a close interest in fire safety issues, and to pay attention to fire management practices in their particular neighbourhood. Most DSE fuel reduction exercises carry with them a responsibility to look after the environment, and we believe that the best way to ensure that this responsibility is taken seriously is to look closely at how each burn is managed.
- Detailed information on fire plans and policies—and in particular on the 'five per cent target', can be found on www.fobif.org.au
- For the latest Connecting Country news, go to www.connectingcountry.org.au
- If you haven't already done so, you might want to catch up on the following recent posts on www.fobif.org.au :
 - Managing our waterways: myths, dangers and ways and means
 - The government ditches the Royal Commission Monitor's recommendation that the five per cent target be revised
 - Comeback: the bush sees off the cup moth caterpillar
 - The painful experience of getting patronising lectures from our representatives
 - Some burning statistics

And if you occasionally wonder if it's worthwhile fighting for the health of our bushlands, check out our photo gallery for reassurance.

Sincerely
Bernard Slattery
Bronwyn Silver
for the FOBIF Committee