

MEDIA ALERT

28 NOVEMBER 2011 – for immediate release



STUNNING ARRAY OF SPECIES FOUND ON NEDS CORNER STATION

Pobblebonk frogs and puffball mushrooms are just some of the species that are emerging in response to rains in the desert country of northwest Victoria where a team of Bush Blitz scientists are surveying Neds Corner Station in search of new species.

It's all part of the Bush Blitz program – a three-year partnership between the Australian Government, BHP Billiton and Earthwatch Australia that aims to document the plants and animals across Australia's National Reserve System.

The Bush Blitz team including scientists from Museum Victoria, Queensland Museum, Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens and University of New South Wales have found a stunning array of species:

- 100+ bird species including endangered species such as the great egret
- healthy populations of the fat-tailed dunnart, a tiny ferocious marsupial
- geckos, bearded dragons, shingleback lizards, skinks and sand goannas
- the threatened and highly venomous bardick snake
- giant huntsman spiders reaching 20 centimetres across
- colourful centipedes, giant rasping crickets and over 150 moth species
- tiny antlions with their giant jaws lying in wait at the bottom of their sand pits
- 41 plant species that are listed as rare, vulnerable or endangered
- the tinder conch fungus, that lives high on river redgums and was used by Aboriginal people to carry slow-burning coals for lighting fires.

The media are invited to come and see some of this amazing wildlife at an open day at Neds Corners Station, a 30,000 hectare conservation property managed as part of the National Reserve System by Trust for Nature.

BUSH BLITZ OPEN DAY AT NEDS CORNER STATION, MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER FROM 11:30AM TO 3:30PM. THE BUSH BLITZ CONTINUES UNTIL 2 DECEMBER 2011.

If you can't make it in person contact Karen Markwort to arrange an interview...0439 582 686.



- **HD video footage and high quality images of survey and wildlife will be available**



CONTACT: Parks Australia: Karen Markwort

Phone: 02 6274 2655

Mobile: 0439 582 686