

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP

MINNAWARRA BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

OUTLINE OF DAILY ACTIVITIES

Weather plays a large part in any field work, so any program may be modified to account for this, but an outline of the day's activities is as follows.

Because of the presence of "die-back" (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) in the adjacent park equipment is provided for **boots are to be cleaned of mud and sprayed** before and after entering each site.

Inspection of the traps commences at **8.00 am** each day. This involves going to each of the 8 sites in the scrub by 4 wheel drive and checking the various traps. At each of the sites 6 pitfall traps (sunk permanently into the ground) are opened for 4 days and nights, when a small fence is run along the ground above them. Small mammals and reptiles are caught this way. At each site there are also 15 Elliott traps, small aluminium boxes that snap shut when a small mammal runs in. The bait is a mixture of peanut butter and rolled oats. At each end of each line is a cage trap for larger animals. Usually more than 100 small mammals are trapped each survey. The animals are weighed, sexed, marked or microchipped and released. The traps are inspected again around **3.30 pm**. After the last trap round the pit traps are closed, and the others collected and cleaned up for next time.

Bats are recorded with an Anabat and trapped in a harp trap if the conditions are right. It may be possible to go spot-lighting.

If there is time and energy left after all this, there are walks through the adjacent Springmount Conservation Park, or removal of non-native plants from the Heritage Area.