



It's only natural: Ellinor Campbell with examples of fauna to benefit from the work of Angair members and, at right, colourful native heath in bloom at Anglesea.

Picture: John Conway 84645

Hinterland's helpers

ONE OF the region's long-standing environmental groups grew out of a botanical faux pas.

Teacher Edith Lawn was searching Anglesea heath for an appropriate subject for her students to sketch.

She noticed some large white spider orchids in bloom.

Not realising they were protected, she picked a bunch.

A local admonished Edith for picking the orchids.

Concerned at her error, she discovered the strong regard of locals for the flora of the area.

Edith thought more people should appreciate the rare heritage of flora and fauna in the Anglesea district.

After meeting other like-minded locals, Anglesea Airey's Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna was propagated in 1969.

**Join
the
club**



JOHN VAN KLAVEREN

Angair, as the organisation is known, is dedicated to protecting indigenous flora and fauna and maintaining the natural beauty of Anglesea and Airey's Inlet and their surrounding environments.

Angair volunteer Ellinor Campbell said the heath, in particular, offered a rich diversity of native plants, many rare or endangered.

"Anglesea heath is also home to several endemic plants not found else-

where – three orchids, the Anglesea grey gum and the Anglesea grevillea.

"There are also lots of small animals calling the heath home, many of them nocturnal and small, so they're unseen and often considered unimportant."

Ellinor said Angair was respected in the community for its history in protecting the environment, including early members physically preventing bulldozers from scarring delicate ecosystems.

"Compromises can be reached with development," she explained.

"We don't try to be protesters but talk with all parties when an issue arises.

For instance, Alcoa is working closely with Angair to revegetate mine areas more carefully.

"We prefer working with people rather than against them."

Angair's library contains an excellent collection of books, periodicals and other publications on a variety of natural history and environmental topics, providing a valuable resource for members and residents alike.

Angair advocacy has led to the acquisition and protection of areas such as Elizabeth Street Reserve, Ironbark Basin and heathlands at Urquhart Bluff and Anglesea.

The group's efforts have led to conservation covenants and national heritage listings protecting environmental sites in the area.

Angair lobbies governments on environmental issues and contributes to private and government studies on the area and its biodiversity.

Ellinor said anyone interested in joining the group could phone Angair on 5263 1085 or visit angair.org.au.