



Trevor (left) with an illustration of an *Atrax robustus*, a female Sydney funnel web spider and Jim holds *Selenocosmia crassipes* (means hairy legs) female North QLD whistling bird eating spider.

Along came a spider - but which one?

► Biologist, botanist and zoologist, Trevor Hawkeswood, traces his interest in the natural world back to a particularly pretty 'bird'. "A girl I liked at school had a book called What bird is that? So I got a copy from my mother and I think that's where it all started," he laughed.

But not where it finished. Trevor's new book, *Spiders of Australia* – an introduction to their classification, biology and distribution, published by Pensoft, is a comprehensive look at the eight legged creatures that populate our yards and houses... and terrify many.

"Spiders don't worry me," Trevor said. "I'm terrified of snakes. Most spiders are very harmless and useful for keeping other insects at bay." And this North Richmond resident is no stranger to these other insects or the pen for

that matter. He already has two books under his belt, *Host Plants of chrysomelidae* (golden beetles) and *Beetles of Australia*. "I like to keep scientific jargon to a minimum, so the books are perfect for the general public," he said.

This latest tome details around 200 spiders and contains 160 photographs and illustrations. "The coloured illustrations are one of the highlights of the book," Trevor said. Another local, Jim Turner, of North Richmond, is responsible for these detailed additions. Jim, an author in his own right, is a naturalist from way back and works regularly with Trevor, studying plants and insects. Information on *Spiders of Australia* can be found in The Book Nook, George St, Richmond or visit www.pensoft.net and check out the new releases.

Ruth Hart