



Field Nats News No.189

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130
Telephone/Fax 9877 9860
www.fncv.org.au
email: fnnews@fncv.org.au

Editors: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218
Dr Noel Schleiger 9435 8408

Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Reg. No. A0033611X

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9 am-4 pm.

August 2009

From the President

Welcome to the August Field Naturalists News, with this piece being written from a motel room at Cocklebiddy, on the Nullarbor Plain of Western Australia. Hence, the photos this month are from my trip back from WA.

It was very interesting to attend the Geology group's June meeting to hear about the evolution of macropods, both from a morphological and genetic perspective. I plan to 'pop into' all SIG meetings and some outings during the year, so that I can gain a more thorough understanding of the activities of the SIG's. I would encourage all members to attend other SIG activities other than their preferred one, as there is much that can be learned from other SIGs about our own specialist areas.



Kunapalari Trilling Frog - Newmans Rock,

Wilson's Promontory

I have been contacted by Cr Jennie Deane from the South Gippsland Shire Council regarding the possibility of members of the Field Nat's running naturalist-type activities at the 'Prom' as a way of encouraging visitors back to the Prom after the recent fires, and also giving the visitors a better understanding of the natural world. If you would like to participate by leading an activity or for more information, please contact the South Gippsland Shire Council's Tourism Co-ordinator, Christian Stefani on 0419 894973.

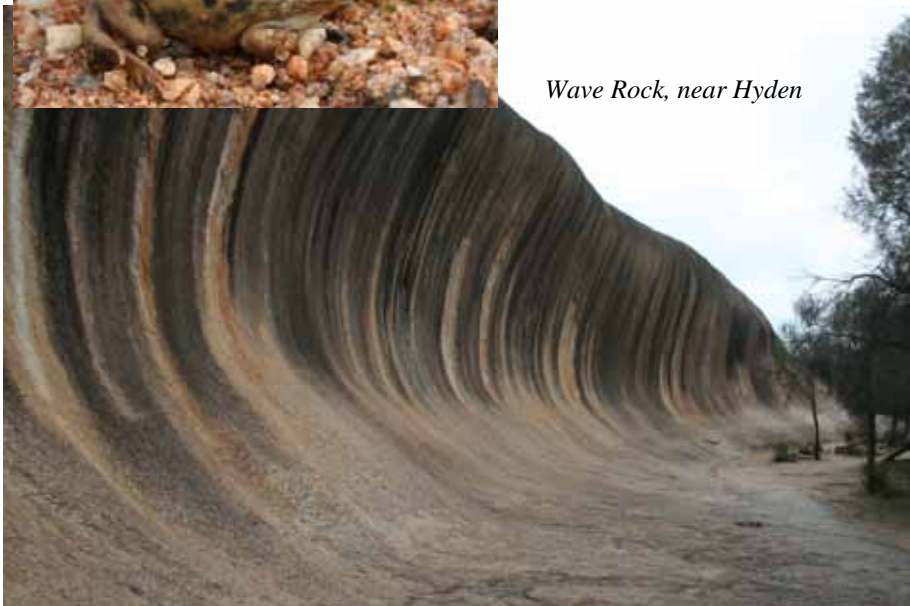
August General Meeting

The August Sunday afternoon General Meeting is approaching. (16th) with an invitation to all members to attend. Apologies that, as yet, we are to confirm our speaker.

Spring Festival

The City of Whitehorse "Spring Festival" is happening again this year on Sunday 18th of October and we are having a stall to publicise our activities. I would like each SIG to

Wave Rock, near Hyden



Deadline for FNN 190 is, as usual, the first Tuesday, **August 4th**. Printers 11th.

prepare a small display and for members to volunteer on the day to "person" the stall. Please let Hali know if you are willing to help out. There will be more information closer to the day.

John Harris
President

Index	Page
From the President	1
Calendar of Events	2
Members' observations	3
Geology Group— <i>Uplift of the Hoddle Ranges</i>	4
Fauna Survey Group— <i>Giffard Flora Reserve</i>	5
Fungi Group Reports - Forays: <i>Greens Bush; Coranderrk Bushland</i>	6,7,8
Biodiversity Symposium— Bats—Registration	8,9
Day Group Reports— <i>Tropical Fungi; FSG surveying</i>	10, 11
Congratulations: Library News	12



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are held at FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn at 8 pm., unless otherwise indicated. On days of extreme weather conditions excursions may be cancelled. Please check with leader.

August

Monday 3rd - Fungi Group Meeting - *'The origin of fungi'*. Speaker: Jurrie Hubregtse.
Contact Virgil Hubregtse (03) 9560-7775

Tuesday 4th - Fauna Survey Group Meeting - *Threatened Reptiles of Victoria*. Speaker: Peter Robertson.
Contact: Ray White 9308 3770 AH.

Wednesday 5th - Bat Group - Grey-headed flying-fox count. Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course carpark Mel 2D G7 at 5.30 pm.
RSVP by e-mail or phone Megan Davidson as a courtesy if you are attending.
9380 5062 AH: m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au

Monday 10th - Marine Research Group -Meeting - Dr Gary Poore from the Museum of Victoria speaking on *Shrimps, Prawns and Lobsters*. Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Sunday 16th - Winter afternoon -general meeting- 2 pm **speaker to be confirmed.** Contact FNCV office 9877 9860, office hours or email admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 18th—Collate FNN 190—1 pm in the hall. Many hands make light work. Contact Noel Schleiger, 9435 8408

Wednesday 19th - Microscopy Group Meeting – Speaker Anneke Veenstra, School of Life and Environment Science, Deakin University. *Gall forming insects on native plants*. Also demonstration of cameralucida. Contact: Philippa Sterpin 9598 3231 AH.

Thursday 20th - Botany Group—Meting- Bryophytes in Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's), of eastern Melbourne. Speaker: Matt Dell. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Saturday 22nd & Sun 23rd - Fauna Survey Group—Excursion -Rushworth. Check, repair and put up new nestboxes in Box Iron Bark forest. Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651—PRIOR REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

Fri. 21st deadline for
COE Oct-Jan '10

Saturday 22nd - Botany Group Excursion - Walk leader: Matt Dell meet at 9.30 am Ferntree Gully National Park, main carpark. In the morning we will look at some drier EVC at the southern end of park, and after lunch we will go to some wet forest. The excursion will cover ID techniques and ecology of bryophytes. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Tuesday 25th - Day Group - Speakers: Noel Schleiger & Dorothy Mahler, *Natural History of Ecuador (including Galapagos Islands)*. Contact: Gary Presland 9890 9288

Wednesday 26th - Geology Group - Meeting -The Invertebrate fossil record of Victoria Speaker: Frank Holmes. Fossil Collectors Association of Victoria and FNCV member Contact: Ruth Robertson 9386 5521 AH: rutherob@hotmail.com

Monday 27th—FNCV Council meeting. 7.30 pm sharp. Contact Hali Ferguson FNCV office hours 9877 9860; admin@fncv.org.au

Friday 28th - Juniors' Group -Meeting – 7.30 pm Annual Birthday Meeting: Dress-up /costume theme: *'Carnivorous Plants'*. Contact: Rob Knottenbelt 59671215



The policy of the FNCV is that non-members families pay \$5 per excursion and \$2 per meeting, to cover insurance costs. Juniors \$5 per family or \$2 per person.

Members' photos & observations

We are hoping to reserve a page in future issues of FNN for natural history observations and photos. It is just so easy these days to let us know what you have noted in your travels, your walks or perhaps your garden. So how about it? Thanks to all those who responded for the August issue. Please, next month share your sightings with us. Email: fnnews@fncv.org.au by 4th August



I have enclosed some photos from a naturalist cruise we went on from Broome to Darwin earlier this month. 65 passengers, 25 crew including three full time naturalist leaders – a wonderful experience. Photo 1: nest of an osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) pair, constructed on second highest level of lighthouse at Gantheaume Point, Broome. Photo 2: Western Giant Cave Gecko, *Pseudothecadactylus australis*, in cave at Hathaway's Hideaway. Species undescribed till last 20 years and first detected (reputedly) by cruise boat captain exploring the caves.

Photo 3: rescue of a large male Green Turtle *Chelonia midas* from Montgomery Reef. Turtle had been stranded on the coral reef that is exposed on low tide.

Best wishes Rob Wallis

Winter Search for Rare Penguins—Request to all FNCV 'Beach-Goers'

'Rare penguins' ('vagrants') are all species naturally occurring in Australia except the locally breeding Little (Blue or Fairy) Penguin. Well-documented rare penguin observations (with clear photos, field notes, date, locality, your names, contact details), also *all* dead specimens (no matter in *what* condition), are urgently required for inclusion in a 'Catalogue of Rare Penguins in Australia' under preparation and covering all of southern continental Australia.

Conditions this year (2009) are promising – *La Niña*, cooler seas, stormy SW weather. Winter records usually early June to late September; summer (moulting) from late October to end of March. Report living penguins to wildlife staff after carefully recording them. Collect fresh penguins for a freezer; decomposing ones go into several bags and newspaper sheets. Label package, tie tightly, inform me ASAP. Older records, field notes, photos, press clippings, etc., also needed to fill gaps in knowledge (right back to 1773). Members may look at *Tas. Naturalist*, **130** : 42 – 54, and colour insert, for a small paper and more complete request instructions.

Collect dead Little Penguins with bands or loggers, leaving them on the bird; inform Phillip Is. Nature Park ASAP. Please send your reports of live and dead penguins **on the same day** to Ken N. G. Simpson, Penguin Study Group, VORG, Melbourne. P.O. Box 420, Yarra Junction, Victoria, 3797, Email: spinebill4@bigpond.com

FROG CALLS from Cecily Falkingham

Ewings tree frog (*Litoria ewingii*),
eek, eek, creek, creek

Brown Froglet (*Ranidella signifera*),
crackle, crackle

Pobble bonk, (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*),
bonk, bonk

Spotted marsh frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*),
toc, toc, toc (like two stones being clapped together)



Geology Group

UPLIFT OF THE HODDLE RANGES

Speaker: Dr. John Webb, Environmental Geoscience, Latrobe University
Wednesday 27th May 2009

Our speaker, Dr. John Webb is associate Professor and Head of Environmental Geoscience at Latrobe University. He obtained his Honours and PhD degrees in Earth Sciences at Queensland University and his current research interests are: water geochemistry and hydrogeology; geomorphology and silcrete genesis. He kindly gave us a very informative talk on the development of the Hoddle Range in Gippsland.

The hills in Gippsland between the Princes Highway and Corner Inlet on the coast are popularly known as the Strzelecki Ranges, but in fact there are two ranges, the Strzelecki Range to the north-west and the more extensive Hoddle Range to the south-east, collectively making up the Southern Highlands. Between the two ranges, the Tarwin River flows south-westwards and the Morwell River flows north-eastwards.

These Southern Highlands were covered in dense forest before European settlement, but much has been cleared for grazing, and the open hills near Toora are now the site of a wind farm.

The sediments that form the Hoddle Range were deposited unconformably on Palaeozoic bedrock, starting with a thick sequence of volcanoclastic sediments in the Early Cretaceous. Erosion in the middle and late Cretaceous produced a relatively low-relief landscape by the early Tertiary, when Older Basalt covered the Cretaceous sediments and formed a barrier where the Hoddle Range is now.

During the mid Tertiary north-

flowing streams carried material from a granitic source in the vicinity of Mount Singapore on Wilsons Promontory. This source has been identified by the tin content of the heavy minerals deposited. Finer fractions of these sediments were deflected to the Gippsland Basin to the east and the Alberton depression to the south, where they are now covered by more recent sediments. The heavy minerals in the Tertiary sediments north of the Hoddle Range, within the Latrobe Valley Depression, indicate that these sediments had a separate source in the vicinity of Mount Baw Baw.

Probably between 4 and 6 million years ago, uplift and folding started. This was probably associated with the Kosciusko Uplift. Uplift was at a very rapid rate of 1.5 to 3 mm/annum. The Hoddle Range was uplifted as an anticline; the layer of Older Basalt on the top of the range has largely been eroded away to expose the Cretaceous rock, apart from a small cap, but Older Basalt is still to be seen around the edges of the range.

The Hoddle Range and Strzelecki Range have been shaped by strong structural controls set up initially by stresses associated with the separation of the Australian and Antarctic Plates. Tectonic movement was most intense during the Kosciusko Uplift and has now totalled 500 – 600 metres. Though uplift has slowed down greatly, the Southern Highlands are currently the most seismically active area in Victoria. At Morgans Beach near Cape Liptrap there is evidence of faulting and associated earthquake/s about 80 000 years ago. The earthquake this year in Korumburra is the most recent evidence of this activity. The strike of the main faults in the area is SW – NE and the Hoddle Ranges are delimited by the Yarram

Monocline and Fault to the south-east and Budgereef Fault to the north-west. The Waratah Fault that is so clearly exposed in the cliff at Walkerville is basically an extension of the faults on the southeastern side of the range.

In the early 1900s alluvial tin was mined in the upper reaches of the Agnes River and Tin Mine Creek, but the mines were only marginally profitable as the tin concentration was low. For most of the life of the mines, sluicing was the main method used, but a dredge was used for a while. Interestingly uplift had resulted in the tin deposit being at a higher elevation than its source in the vicinity of Mount Singapore.

John's interesting and informative talk about an area that is topical at the moment with the current interest in renewable energy and the recent earthquakes at Korumburra, was very well illustrated with diagrams and views from Google Earth. In addition John used very interesting graphics generated from publicly available data from space programs that has been processed by specialised software used by geoscientists. Anyone in need of further information about these programs could contact John.

David Gibson

Thanks to those who helped fold and label FNN 188

**Sally Bewsher
Joan Broadberry
Keith Marshall
Sheena Nichols
Ray Power
Rosemary Robb
Bob Rowlands
Noel Schleiger
Paul Stokes
Graeme Thomson
Victoria Aitken**



Fauna Survey Group

Survey Giffard (Rifle Range) Flora Reserve, South Gippsland.

6th- 8th June 2009.

The June long weekend saw the Fauna Survey Group visit this little known reserve to the south of Sale. We were accompanied by the local ranger, David Farrar, who is eager for us to explore numerous spots inland from the Ninety Mile Beach.

(There have already been two trips to the nearby Stradbroke Flora & Fauna Reserve). In addition, a member of the Sale



Ray White processing an Agile Antechinus, (inset)
Photos: Sally Bewsher



Field Naturalists joined us one morning, as did two local natural history enthusiasts.

We camped in a low-lying clay area in the centre of the reserve, which obviously carries water following rain. This region is in a rain-shadow, being in the lee of the Strzelecki Ranges and it was actually drier in June than it was during our reconnoitre in January. The weather was cool, so the fire quickly became a focus as we planned, cooked, ate, talked and warmed up.

The reserve is around 1,000ha and has a diverse range of plants, including *Banksia serrata*, Burgan,

assorted Stringybark species, Manna Gum, Swamp Gum, Acacia species, Xanthorrhoea minor, Lomandra sp., Austral Bracken and Hop Goodenia. Brad located a patch of Dwarf Kerrawang (*Rulingia prostrata*) which is endangered in Victoria. Some tiny Mosquito Orchids were seen at the camp site and various fungi were observed as we explored. Numerous sand dunes run roughly east-west, with swales and swampy

areas between them.

We concentrated most of our trapping efforts on some of the sand dunes, hoping that we may catch a New Holland Mouse, but to no avail. Two pitlines were dug and nine lines consisting of one cage trap and nine Elliott traps were put

in, some at each site. Four other lines were set near the campsite amongst fallen logs, bracken and sedges. However, despite our work, the only animals caught were four Agile Antechinus, found in Elliott traps up on the sand dune. These small but common marsupials are largely insectivorous. They have pointed noses and long claws for climbing. Upon release, the one I had trapped shot straight up a solid *Banksia serrata* and was observed clambering along the higher branches for several minutes.

On Sunday night five of us went spotlighting. The moon was nearly full and may well have hindered our attempts to locate nightlife, as nothing was seen by those of us who returned after about an hour. However, Brad persevered and successfully located some Eastern Grey Kangaroos, two Sugar Gliders, two rabbits and a Koala.

We have already planned another visit in November, when warmer temperatures will assist us in locating a wider range of fauna.

More interesting sites for trapping were found by those who went walking on Sunday morning and spring flowering will also add to the enjoyment of a second visit.

Sally Bewsher



Fungi Group



FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY 7th June 2009 Greens Bush (via Devils Bend Reservoir)

Baldry Crossing, Greens Bush, Mornington Peninsula NP

GPS reading at carpark: 38 degrees 25' 20" S 144 degrees 57' 33" E

When do you find mushrooms? This very simple question does not have a simple answer. One of the most exciting things about searching for fungi is their unpredictability. We might also ask: Is there really a 'fungi season'? Do some fungi species have earlier or later seasons? Are other factors more important than season? Should we be matching recent rainfall to findings? When we revisit our favourite sites at different times during the year we have an opportunity to start to build a picture of what fungi fruit when.

This was our second foray to Greens Bush this year (the last one being on 26 April) and it was interesting to note that we found many more species this time (94 species compared to 47 last time). On our April foray nearly a third of the finds (15 species) were growing on wood. This time, we found about the same number of species (13) on wood. However, many more of the June species (87% or 81 species) were found growing on the ground in soil or leaf litter. This suggests that the 'season' (particularly for the mycorrhizal fungi) had only just started in April, but was in full swing by June. We might also conclude that the saprophytic and parasitic fungi appear to be less seasonal and also longer lasting.

Only 14 species found in June were the same as we found in April. The species included *Agaricus* sp., *Amanita* aff. *armeniaca*, *Boletus* sp., *Coltricia cinnamomea*, *Fistulinella mollis*, *Hypholoma fascicu-*

lare, *Lactarius eucalypti*, *Lichenomphalia* sp., *Mycena cystidiosa*, *M. fumosa*, *M. viscidocruenta*, *Rickenella fibula* and *Russula purpureoflava*. With the exception of *Amanita* aff. *armeniaca*, which we have found only at this site, these species are fairly common in most locations. The species which we didn't find in June included *Amanita grisella* sp., *Boletus* sp., *Boletellus* sp., *Hebeloma* sp. and *Leucocoprinus* sp. Perhaps these latter species could be described as 'early fruiting'.

So what can we say of the 80 differ-



Amanita armeniaca

Photo: Paul George

ent species we found this time?

Cortinarius species (including *Dermocybe*) were much more plentiful (we only found 3 species last time). However, we were unable to identify 11 of the 16 species found. This is typical of our understanding of *Cortinarius* – there are just so many with undistinguished features.

Seven species of *Entoloma* were found (cf. four last time), including the distinctive *E. moongum*, *E. viridomarginata* and *E. panniculum*. That latter has a deep blue conical cap and the stipe is deep blue, paler towards the cap and flecked with white fibrils. This specimen keyed out easily to *E. panniculum* from Noordeloos & Gates (2009) 'Provisional Key to the *Entoloma* species of Tasmania'. However, Virgil's spore measurements are somewhat smaller than specified by Horak (1980). We also noted that in a number of our specimens the stipe is noticeably paler towards the top – a character we couldn't find described

elsewhere. So perhaps this is yet another *Entoloma* species – this genus seems to grow by the day!

Only two *Hygrocybe* spp. (*H. lewellinae* and *H. graminicolor*) were found, which is unusually few for this location, but then we didn't find any in April.

Russula spp. were more common – six species found including one from the *R. neerimea* group, which is distinctive for its dull orange/caramel cap and stipe and deeply grooved margin on the cap. No smell was detected, but they are variously reported to smell either sweet or foul! Six species of *Mycena* were found, compared to four in April.

We might suggest that *Cortinarius*, *Russula*, *Entoloma*, *Hygrocybe* and *Mycena* could be described as 'late fruiting' genera. This is a very simplistic analysis, but it shows that there is a lot more that we can learn about the seasonality of the fruiting of fungi. We should treat these 'conclusions' as hypotheses for future testing as we build up our collection of foray reports. Fungimap is developing a database of the geographical distribution and phenology of the 105 target species. Our observations can help to fill in the data for non-target species as well.

Nine Fungimap target species were found.

Thanks to Sue McLean for taking the field notes and to Virgil Hubregtse for the microscopical analyses of some of the specimens.

Paul George



Lepiota sp.

Photo: Paul George

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY Coranderrk Bushland, HEALESVILLE

21 June 2009



A large number of forayers, over 20, arrived to participate in the FNCV's first fungi foray to Coranderrk Bush Sanctuary. We were fortunate to have the assistance of several members of a local Landcare Group. At the Bush Hut, everyone scattered in smaller groups to look for fungi along the Badger Creek in *Eucalyptus viminalis* riparian vegetation zone, and back up in the drier area of the Flood Plain (*E. viminalis* FP) while in the afternoon across the creek and up the hill into the *Kunzea* zone.

One unexpected sighting was that of a *Tulostoma* sp., a small stalked puffball, the stem quite woody, found growing in the middle of a vehicular track, and, once noticed, it was seen all along the track across the creek. It is more usual to find these fungi in drier or more desert-like areas.

It was interesting that the majority of fungi were saprotrophic ie found on wood, of some sort or another. There were very few *Cortinarius* spp, despite being the largest genera of fungi in the world, except for the very distinctive slimy, purple *Cortinarius archeri*. No *Russula* spp. However, a row of four large stately *Macrolepiota clelandii* was found up the slope from the creek and characterised by a white/cream cap with dense brown scales in the centre which radiate out and thin towards the margin; the gills were free (not attached to the stem) and on the white stem was a membranous white floppy ring. As with many fungi, the name of this species is in flux, but it is probably *M. clelandii* rather than *M. konradii*.

It is important to look carefully at all the fungi. Near the *Trametes versicolor* growing on a log was another thin bracket with brown zoning on the top, and we assumed that it was another *T. versicolor*, but on careful examination it was found to have gills, not pores. The key in Hood (Ian Hood 2003, An Introduction to Fungi on Wood in Queensland), on macro-characteristics, indicated that it was *Gloeophyllum* sp. - *G. sepiarium* comes closest in colour, brown top and pale gills (Fuhrer no 393), but apparently it grows only on pines, either native or exotic, which was not the case here.



Lenzites sp. Photo: P. George

At the base of senescing *E. viminalis* and half hiding in shed bark was *Leucopaxillus eucalyptorum*. This species with a yellow-brown, flattened to depressed cap and off-white gills is distinguished by the mass of white mycelium at the base of the stem. Several *Hebeloma* specimens were found with sticky, fawn caps, pinkish gills and an off-white stem. This typifies all *Hebeloma* species, but this species was identified as *Hebeloma kammala* rather than the Ghoul Fungus, *H. aminophilum*, only on the grounds that there were no bones or animal remains present. A number of a very small *Mycena* sp. was found on bark. These had a minute white cap ca 1 mm diam. white widely spaced slightly decurrent gills and a yellow stem (ca 12mm long) becoming white at the top. A feature was the relative toughness of the tiny fruit bodies and hence a tentative field name (attributed to T May and B Fuhrer) of *Mycena* sp. 'marasmioides'. This most closely resembles *Mycena* sp. indet. A (C. Grgurinovic, The Ge-

nus *Mycena* in SE Australia, 2003).

On the slope leading up from the bridge over Badger Creek we found a number of puffballs with smooth shiny brown surface skin. These had no real stem, appeared to be growing on the ground and grew as individual fruit-bodies. A vigorous discussion ensued as to whether these were *Lycoperdon* sp. (possibly *L. scabrum*) or *Morganella subincarnata*. Although the specimens were not obviously growing on wood, they could have been associated with small woody pieces of litter. No final ID was reached; a further complication being that recent work has shown that *Lycoperdon pyriforme* should be classified as *Morganella pyriformis* (J Hübregtse, pers. comm). (Reference for the name change is: Kruger, D. and Kreisel (2003) "Proposing *Morganella* subgen. *Apioperdon* subgen. nov. for Puffball *Lycoperdon pyriforme*" Mycotaxon, Vol. 86, pp. 169-177.)

There were a lot of earthballs, *Scleroderma cepa* at all stages of development, from complete yellow balls to just the remains of the skin in the form of rays left after all the spores have been dispersed. Numerous *Rickenella fibula* were found in moss, mostly *Pseudoscleropodium purum*. As Bruce Fuhrer explained, this is a weedy, aggressively expansive moss running over everywhere and smothering native species. He showed us another moss, *Tayloria octoblepharum* whose spore dispersal is like that of a Stinkhorn fungus - by emitting a distinctly fetid odour, like rotting meat, flies are attracted to

(Continued on page 8)

Tulostoma sp. Photo: P. George




(Continued from page 7)
 the two-tone cigar-shaped spore capsules and disperse the large bright green spores that get attached to it. *Tayloria octoblepharum* is common in drier forests, often growing on old dung.


Small, gungy pieces of the rotted *Laetiporus portentosus* (White Punk), looking like old polystyrene were found around the bases of several *E. viminalis*. As its earlier common name Eucalyptus Punk implies, it is found exclusively on Eucalypts, and the disintegration of its fruit-body - which originally grew high on the trunk, with a brownish top and pale pores - was caused by invertebrate larvae. It is possible that we saw a fruit-body high on the trunk of *E. viminalis* in the Kunzea area. This species grows on living trees and causes brown cubic rot - some of this rot was noticed on a fallen branch.

One of the most curious specimens was the last recorded, when it was almost too dark to see in the woodland, was what looked like a *Cordyceps* sp. (Vegetable Caterpillar) BUT seemed very atypical - it was growing in wood (they usually parasitise pupating Lepidoptera caterpillars in the ground, and when it was dug out, extremely carefully, the insect, thought to be a beetle larva, could not be seen. The club-shaped fruit-body was long quite thin, for its length, and it appeared floppy where they are usually fairly rigid. It was collected for the Herbarium (RBG Melbourne) for study, and all will be revealed.....All is revealed the "Cordyceps" was the mycelium of *Laetiporus portentosus* which enlarged because it found a borer hole The hole and mycelium were exposed to us because the wood fell off from higher up the tree and shattered into several large pieces.

Thanks to Pat and Ed Grey for taking the field notes and writing the report. Additional notes were by Paul George.



Now Available on DVD for PC, Mac and standard players



A revealing expose of this beautiful butterfly, unique to Australia, found in Warrandyte State Park and many localised colonies in eastern Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

*Only \$8.00 plus postage
 All proceeds go toward habitat and biodiversity projects through Friends of Warrandyte State Park*

Order Form

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK INC
 ABN: 94 170 145 655

**No of DVDs.....@ \$8 each.....\$.....
 Plus Postage and handling \$1.50each
 Total _____**

Your Name & Delivery Address

Name.....
 AddressP/Code.....

Cheque/Cash payable with order.


Direct Deposit Payments
 BSB: 633-108
 Account: 136406907
 Account name: Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Inc

OR

Cheque Payments
 Cheque payable to: Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Inc.
 Mail to: FOWSP Treasurer,
 P.O.Box 220, Warrandyte, VIC, 3113



**Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
 Biodiversity Symposium 2009**






Bats


12-13th September

FNCV Hall
 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn

Come and be fascinated by these amazing flying mammals

Open to everyone, Families welcome!





For more information or a registration form contact the organisers:
 Lisa Evans lisanevans@hotmail.com and Ian Kitchen iankitchen@optusnet.com.au





Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

Biodiversity Symposium 2009 **BATS**

Sat 12th and Sun 13th of September 2009
Supported by the Australasian Bat Society



Registration Form

Contact Details

Name:	
Postal Address:	
Phone:	Email:

Attendance Details (please tick):

- Day 1 (tea/coffee and lunch provided) Evening Activities with Microbats (free with Day 1)
 - Day 2 (tea/coffee, lunch and BBQ dinner provided) Field Trip to Yarra Bend (free with Day 2)
- Option to purchase symposium T-Shirt (\$15): **S** **M** **L**

Special Dietary Requirements:

Cost:

Members (FNCV, ABS, Wildlife Carers):	One Day: \$30	Two Days: \$45
Non-members:	One Day: \$40	Two Days: \$55
Student Concession:	One Day: \$20	Two Days: \$35
Family Bookings: (2 adults with up to 4 children under 13)	One Day: \$90	Two Days: \$130

Total Registration Cost:..... \$.....

Payment:

*Please make cheques payable to *Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc* or please provide credit card details:

- VISA Mastercard

CARDHOLDER'S NAME:..... EXPIRY DATE:

Send completed form and payment to Biodiversity Symposium, FNCV, Locked Bag 3, Blackburn VIC 3130

DUE DATE: September 2nd

KEY REGISTER

I am currently updating the Key Register, so if you have a key to the Hall or a Master Key, could you please let me know I will need to know if it is just a Hall Key, under the building or a Master Key (a Master Key opens the office and the back store room). If you have a key, but no longer have a need for it, could you please return it to the office. If you are posting it, could you include your name with it.

**Thank you for your help,
Hali Ferguson**



TROPICAL FUNGI



Day Group

Bruce Fuhrer addressed the Day Group on Tuesday, May 26, 2009. His topic of tropical fungi was directed at a fungi foray he recently conducted in Queensland. Fungi there occurs after monsoonal rains. Fungal fruiting is quicker in the tropics. Wood-rotting and litter-rotting is the most common. Mycorrhizal fungi are rare. There are no species of Cortinarius, whereas this genus is most common in the temperate zone. Most common are the polypores and bracket fungi.

Bruce showed an example of *Marasmius* on a eucalypt leaf with a cap diameter 6-7mm. He said that many species of this genus are undescribed. Another genus which is well represented is the yellow *Hygrocybe* with cup diameters of 2-3cm, e.g. *H. cantherellus* has pale, ridged gills which anastomose. *Bovista* is in the puff-ball group. It is soft and spongy inside.

Cyathus is a "bird's-nest" fungus which produces its spores in peridioles contained in an open-nest structure. The peridioles are scattered by heavy water drops falling into the 'nest' as can be observed in the parks and gardens around Cairns, where very heavy rain can occur. The genus grows on well manured debris, e.g. *C. victoria* and *C. striata*.

Bruce showed slides of numerous tropical species some are listed. The page references refer to Bruce Fuhrer's book, *A field guide to Australian Fungi*.

Bruce showed many new genera and species yet to be described typical of tropical habitats, quite distinct from our warm temperate fungi. His photographic skill clarified greatly the diagnostic features of the various genera and species in tropical Queensland. Many thanks for an interesting presentation.

Reference: Fuhrer, Bruce--*A field guide to Australian Fungi*. 360p. Bloomings Books (Warwick Forge).

Reported by Noel Schleiger and Dorothy Mahler

	Genus and species	Common Name	Page, Fig. Nos.	Comments
1	<i>Suillus luteus</i>	Slippery Jack	195-299	Associated with pine plantations.
2	<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	24-10	As for No.1 but is now associating with native trees.
3	<i>Dictyopanus pusillus</i> or <i>Panellus pusillus</i>	Ping Pong Bats	153-229	Luminescent in darkness.
4	<i>Macrolepiota dolichaula</i>		118-174	Stem twice as long as the cap diameter. Likes warm conditions and grassy places.
5	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Banded shelf fungus	283 438b, 439	Extensive colonies on dead wood.
6	<i>Auricularia ludae</i> (<i>Hirneola auricular-judae</i>)	Jews Ears	289-448	Jelly fungus on dead wood in tropical and sub tropical forests.
7	<i>Tremella fuciformis</i> = <i>T. frondosa</i>	White jelly fungus	294-457	Very gelatinous texture. Fruit bodies form irregular lobed colonies < 80mm diameter.
8	<i>Clavaria amoena</i>	Yellow coral fungus	197-302	
9	<i>Microporus xanthopus</i>	Yellow Foot. Refers to the yellow coloured disc attaching the fruit body.	266-409	Yellow centre with purple and white bands on the funnels.
10	<i>Ramaria capitata</i>	Cauliflower Coral fungus	208-321	Branching fruit bodies with rounded viscid tips closely compressed like cauliflower texture.
11	<i>Amauroderma rude</i>	Woody pore-fungus	245-379	Funnel caps or brackets 150mm diam. With radial and concentric ridges, white pored undersurface, turns dark reddish brown when bruised.
12	<i>Marasmiellus affixus</i>	Little Stinker	120-176	Grows on dead bark and wood. Caps 15mm diam. on short lateral stem. Crowded fruit bodies cream-yellow. Strong unpleasant odour.
13	<i>Clavaria miniata</i> (<i>Clavulinopsis miniata</i>)	Flame Fungus	198-304	Fruit bodies 10cm high, sparsely branched, flattened or grooved, pink to bright red. White spores.
14	<i>Coprinus disseminatus</i> (<i>Coprinellus disseminatus</i>)	Dung Fungus. Ink Caps	41-40	Caps < 12mm diam. often appearing suddenly in large troops near old tree stumps or from underground decaying roots. Fresh caps are creamy yellow becoming grey, finally black as the caps auto-digest.
15	<i>Polyporus arcularius</i>	Coffin-pored Polyporus	268-414	Caps to 5cm diam. convex, or centrally depressed or funnel shaped on a central stem. Caps tough and leathery when fresh, brittle on drying. On dead wood, in forests.



Day Group

SURVEYING WITH THE FAUNA SURVEY GROUP

Sally Bewsher, one of the leaders of the Fauna Survey Group, spoke to the Day Group on Tuesday, 23rd June, 2009, on the work of the group and the way they survey fauna in Victoria. She gave an excellent slide presentation of the variety of animals that have been trapped on the various surveys they have conducted throughout Victoria in recent years.



SURVEYS

Every survey is done under permit from DSE, Parks Victoria and DPI. In some cases the Fauna Survey Group is invited by an environmental group to carry out the survey. Other surveys are of interest or are ongoing, e.g. Rushworth forest is surveyed twice a year. Accommodation is usually camping, but occasionally cabins.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment used includes Elliott traps which fold up. The Elliott trap has doors at both ends but one end is left open leading to bait inside. The animal is caught while feeding on bait which trips the door shut. Harp traps, which fold up compactly, consist of a bag and fishing line strung up on a frame. They may be set by a dam or along tracks. The bats hit the net and drop down into the bag beneath. Electronic scales are spring balances are used to weigh the animals. Funnel traps, spotlights, cages, tags and catch bags are also used on surveys. Processing equipment is stored in a backpack.

Colour tags are hung on bush foliage to mark where the traps are placed. Bait is usually peanut butter, honey and oats but may include smellier material like sardines from time to time. Ten large buck-

ets pegs, and polystyrene cups are used in constructing the pit line traps. A mesh fence follows the pit lines, connecting the buckets which house bait and a plastic cup for shelter. Animals run along the fence line and fall into the buckets.

ANIMALS CAUGHT

The Scalyfoot is a legless lizard which was caught in a bucket in a pit line. It has the appearance of a snake at first sight.

Geckos such as Beaded, Marbled, Wood and Spiny-tailed, are commonly caught in buckets or funnel traps which have an entrance and a drop behind— rather like lobster pots.

There are numerous different bat species caught eg. the Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*) which is about three finger-widths long. The forearm of the bats are measured with slide callipers. Gould's Wattle Bat is larger and darker. Scars from tears are sometimes noted on bats' wings. The Grey-headed Flying Fox or fruit bat was a third species shown

The group has a nest box study in the Rushworth forest. Here the nest-



Cage trap, bait, tags and folded Elliott traps

boxes are attached to the trunks of Box-ironbark trees. Sugar Gliders use the nestboxes, as do the carnivorous Tuan or Brush-tailed Phascogale,

which nestle in bark and leaves, and make a toilet in the corner of their nestbox. They are quick and it is quite common to find a Phascogale nest on top of a Sugar Glider's nest in the same nestbox.

Birdwatching is carried out by members to compile a bird list. Lizards (skinks) are commonly found underneath rocks. It is possible to see Swamp Rat runways in swamp vegetation.

On the beach Hooded Plovers, Straw-

necked Ibis, Sooty Oystercatchers, White-faced Herons, Purple Swamphens and Sooty Albatrosses have been observed. A stingray was swimming in the shallows.

In the Holey Plains area of Gippsland, Koalas and Lace Monitors (lizards) have been observed, while Wombats were found at Wilson's Promontory.

Sally showed slides of the Red-bellied Black Snake and Copperhead. Plants of interest were *Banksia prionotes*, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* and cycads in Western Australia.

Honey Possums are usually placid and are fed with a sugar solution after capture to restore energy reserves. The Broad-toothed Rat is fairly placid and examples were found in the Alps near Falls Creek. The Agile Antechinus and the Yellow-footed Antechinus, on the other hand, are lively when caught.

Reptiles shown were the juvenile Western Brown Snake, the Bandy Bandy with its black and white stripes, Jacky Dragon, the Alpine Water Skink, the Southern Water Skink, the Thorny Devil, and the Garden Skink.

Frogs portrayed were the Banjo or Pobblebonk, the Brown Tree Frog, the Striped Marsh Frog and the Spotted Burrowing Frog, *Helioporus albopunctatus* from Western Australia.

Final exhibits were of leeches and an Echidna infested with ticks. They looked like balls rounded like quartz pebbles.

The Day Group was most impressed with the diversity of animals throughout Victoria, thanks to Sally's presentation.

Noel Schleiger and Dorothy Mahler

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 189

Joan Broadberry
Noel Schleiger
Hali Ferguson

Congratulation and best wishes are extended to Helen and Mimi, former FNCV office administrators, on the recent births of their children. *Their emails are reprinted below*



Library News



Hi everyone,
We're delighted to announce the arrival of Olivia Therese on Friday 5th June at 10:18 pm, weighing 3.63 kg or 8 pounds and 49 cms long. We welcomed her home today, mum and babe settling in ok, thanks for the well wishes.
Regards, Helen & Hai

Recent additions:
Johnson, C. (2006) *Australia's mammal extinctions: a 50,000 year history*.

This was donated by the Fauna Survey group in memory of Bob Taylor.

Luhrs, D.E. (2009) *Hamilton Field Naturalists Club: environmental advocacy and action 1958-2008*.

Donated by the author.

Sheila Houghton
Honorary Librarian

After a long wait (well, 9 months to be precise) Phil and I are proud to introduce our son, James Hagen Scully. *(right)*. He was born at 9.32 am on the 4th June and he weighed 3.85kg (8 pounds 9 oz). We've had a rough couple of weeks since the birth; a week in hospital, and now just the whole getting used to a completely different life with child! Lucky for us he is a beautiful, healthy and placid child and we are loving the new addition to our life. Hope to introduce him to you soon. Love Mimi (Pohl) and Phil xx



Note that FNCV office hours are now 9 am to 4 pm on Monday and Tuesday, with the office being open some Fridays.

Don't forget that our new web address is www.fncv.org.au The office email address has also changed to: admin@fncv.org.au and FNN e-mail address has changed to: fnnews@fncv.org.au

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the FNCV.

Field Nats News 189



The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
Locked Bag 3 PO
BLACKBURN VIC 3130
Reg.No. A0033611X

**PRINT
POST
PP333964-0003**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**