



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No.207

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
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Patron: Governor of Victoria
Prof. David de Kretser AC

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

April 2011

From the President

Welcome to this April edition of the Field Nat News. What an interesting summer we experienced this year around Melbourne, our wettest summer with rainfall over 300mm and only three days with maximum temperatures over 35°C. But whether you can hold this summer up as an indicator of climate change, only time and more statistics will tell.

Many species took the opportunity to have a second breeding season, not just birds. Ian Kitchen from the Bat Group reported that at the February Organ Pipes NP bat nest box check, many Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*) were carrying young. What has been less than ideal for many, has had positive spin-offs for many of our native species.

Natural disasters keep rolling in.

Firstly the flooding over much of eastern Australia, bushfires in WA and now earthquakes in New Zealand. From a geological point perspective, I am very glad that Australia

is not near tectonic plate boundaries like those that run through NZ. I think I could cope with floods and fire but not with earthquakes. It was with much relief to receive news of Joan Broadberry's safety, while on holiday in NZ. Apparently she was in Christ-

church when the earthquake struck.

On behalf of the FNCV, I would like to extend our thoughts and well-wishes to members and their families who may have links to family and friends in that part of NZ. The field naturalist "family" is a large one, so these thoughts extend to members of the naturalist fraternity in New Zealand also.

Community Finding Fauna

The results are in from the first of the three planned, post-fire surveys conducted with (Arthur Rylah Institute, (ARI), Birds Australia VicGroup and Bird Observation and Conservation (BOCA). An expanded report can be found on p8.

Below: Flash photo of Common Wombat visiting bait station taken by remote sensing camera.



New Roof

As this FNN is goes to print, a new roof is being installed on the club rooms. It is a fairly complicated process, requiring the asbestos roofing to be removed and then

(Continued on page 6)

Due date for FNN 208
Monday 4th April. FNN will go to print on the 12th April, collation Tuesday 19th.

The capture and handling of all animals on FNCV field trips is done strictly in accordance with the club's research permits.

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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.

April

Monday 4th - Fungi Group—Meeting - Mushrooms, microsatellites and other molecular markers: a study of Australian *Laccaria*. Speaker: Elizabeth Sheedy. Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 5th - Fauna Survey Group—Meeting - Dale Nimmo, Research Fellow at Deakin will speak to us on "The effect of fire in the mallee on reptiles". Contact: Ray White 9308 3770 AH.

Sunday 10th - Fungi Group—Fungal Foray -10.30 am Greens Bush, Baldry Crossing (MEL 254 G6) Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Monday 11th - Marine Research Group—Meeting - Speaker to be announced. Contact: Leon Altoff for details 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Wednesday 13th - Bat Group—Grey-headed flying-fox count— Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course carpark Mel 2D G7 at 5.45 pm. RSVP by email or phone (as a courtesy) Megan Davidson.9380 5062 AH; m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au

Sunday 17th - Fungi Group—Fungal Foray - 10.30 am Upper Yarra Reservoir Reefton (MEL 612 U2) first car park, Doctor's Creek walking track. Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Monday 18th FNCV Council Meeting (early because of Easter) -7.30 pm. Agenda items and apologies to Hali 9877 9860 (office hours), or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 19th—Collate FNN 208 About 1 pm in the hall. All welcome. Contact Noel Schleiger 9435 8408

Wednesday 20th - Microscopy Group—Meeting - Contact: Phillipa Sterpin 9598 3231AH

Thursday 21st - Botany Group—Meeting - 'Dianella (flax lily): Its biology, ecology, distribution and cultivation.' Speaker: Geoff Carr. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Thursday 21st - Tuesday 26th - Fauna Survey Group—Easter camp - Eildon area. A third survey connected with VBRRA & ARI. Contact: John Harris 0409 090 955 *Prior bookings essential (at least one week before trip).*

Friday 22nd - Tuesday 26th - Junior Group—Easter Camp - Clarksdale Sanctuary, Linton. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

Saturday 23rd - Marine Research Group—Field trip - Clifton Springs. Meet at Clifton Springs Boat Ramp car park Melway 456 E5 at 11:05. Contact: Leon Altoff for details and to advise if you will be attending 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Tuesday 26th - Day Group—No Meeting - Due to Anzac Day Public Holiday, and Easter Tuesday.

Friday 29th - Juniors Group—Meeting -. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; e-mail: toclairef@gmail.com

Friday 29th - Sunday 1st May - Fungi Group—Field Trip - Weekend at Apollo Bay visiting the Otway Ranges. Contact Virgil Hubregtse for further details 9560 7775



The policy of the FNCV is that non-members pay \$5 per excursion and \$2 per meeting, to cover insurance costs. Junior non-members, \$2 per excursion only.

Members' news, photos & observations

We are reserving a page in future issues of FNN for natural history observations, member news and photos. It is just so easy these days to let us know what you have noted in your life, your travels or perhaps your garden. So how about it? Email: fnnews@fncv.org.au by Monday May 2nd.

Marvellous Microscopy

I have been fascinated by insects for as long as I can remember. Over the years I have used a small microscope to get even closer views of this amazing group of animals. Recently we were treated to a special night with the microscopical group titled "Amazing sights to behold". With a vast array of microscopes, we viewed sand grains that looked like jewels, fungi spores, plant life and a myriad of amazing little creatures from a pond. Tiny Ostracod raced around in petri dishes and Volvox, not much bigger than a pin head, whirled around with the use of tiny flagella.

But the most interesting find for me was a *Polcentropodidae* larvae, in the order of *Trichoptera*. How did we know? Part of the fun is looking up these tiny creatures in the books provided from the vast library. The one we found was about 18mm and was encased in a clear straw-coloured shelter. Its partly protruding body had six legs and it was very active. Caddisfly predate on other small insects and plant life in ponds. (There is even one that tolerate salt water).

They decorate their shelters, according to species in sometimes very intricate ways. They can use tiny shells, which are very eye-catching and beautiful, or sticks (making strange box-like shapes), tiny stones or other available plant material.

I urge members of the other special-interest groups to come and join us. Most of us are a bunch of amateurs, learning as we go along with a few experts to steer us in the right direction.

I would like to add my personal thanks to Ray Power for all his patience and help over the years. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month and the contact is Phillipa Sterpin 95983231
Cecily Falkingham

New Members' Night.

On Wednesday 9th February, we ran our first new members' night. Nineteen people attended, including six new members and one non-member, who joined himself and his wife on the night. Starting at 7.30 pm meant that by 8.30 pm all the talking was over. We used the slide show from the Christmas Party to show some of the SIG's activities and each SIG rep was given an opportunity to speak during the slides. This worked well and kept the evening interesting. The feed back I have received from both new and existing members has been very positive. I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 5th May for the next member's night.
Hali Ferguson

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 207

Joan Broadberry
Platon Vafiadis
Hali Ferguson
Sally Bewsher

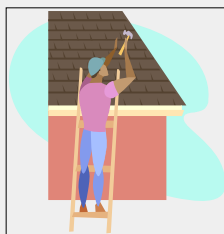
President's Roof Appeal

Thank you to the following people for their recent donations:
Anne Phefly, Ann Morton

Total of the appeal \$8, 471.75 A wonderful result so far

Announcing: FNCV Roof Appeal Raffle

We are running a raffle to raise some more money for the new roof. First Prize is a new **Toshiba Laptop with software**. Second prize is a **BBQ**. Third prize is **12 mixed bottles of FNCV wines** and fourth prize is a **framed photo of a Yellow Robin and a CD "the Swift Parrots of Muckleford"**. There will be only 1000 tickets available creating great odds. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available through the office, contact Hali 9877 9860 (office hours Mon-Tues 9 –4 pm) or e-mail admin@fncv.org.au
For more details see insert.



Calendar of Events Deadline

The deadline for the four monthly calendar of events, June to September, is **Friday 15th April**.

Please contact Hali Ferguson in the FNCV office if you have any difficulties meeting this date 9877 9860 (office hours), or admin@fncv.org.au

**Many thanks to those who helped
collate and label
FNN 206**

Margaret Corrick
Graeme Thomson
Noel Schleiger
Ray Power
Cecily Falkingham
Keith Marshall
Bob Rowland
Bill Fenner
Sheina Nichols
Roger Needham
Hazel & Edward Brentnall



Library News

Recent additions:

Hill, R. (1970) *The Corner: a naturalist's journeys in south-eastern Australia*.
Poore, G.C.B. and A. Syme (2009) *Barnacles. Museum Victoria Field Guide to Marine Life*
Wilson, R. et al. (2007) *An introduction to marine life. (Museum Victoria Field-Guide to Marine Life)*

Recent periodicals include *Fungimap* newsletter (42) with descriptions and colour photos of five new target species. There are also details of the Fungimap Conference to be held in Denmark, W.A. in July this year. The latest periodicals are displayed on a rack in the library. These are available for borrowing, as well as previous issues. Don't forget to fill in the Periodicals Borrowing Book.

Penelope Pollitt has donated a handsome set of Winifred Curtis's "*The Endemic Flora of Tasmania*", painted by Margaret Stones. This belonged to her father, Cedric Ralph who wanted us to have it, and we are most grateful for their gift.

Sheila Houghton, Honorary Librarian

**Expressions of Interest in a
first aid course run through
the FNCV**

This year the Club aims to have more people trained in basic first aid available on excursions and camps.

If you are interested in attending a short first aid course arranged and partly subsidised by the FNCV please leave your contact details with Hali on 9877 9860 or e-mail admin@fncv.org.au

Welcome
Welcome

**Warmest greetings to these new members who
were welcomed into our club at the March
Council meeting:**

Michael Strangward, Maureen Penden, Jorden De Jong, Valerie Marshall, Kathleen Kean, Cathryn Isahson, Peter Bramfit, Karen McGregor



FNCV AGM Sunday 1st May, 2 pm

You are invited to attend the FNCV AGM, FNCV hall, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn.

Agenda: Annual Report, Election of Council*, Honorary & Long Term memberships,
Environment Fund

Alison Houghton is giving a special presentation from the work she has done researching the FNCV through her aural history project

Not to be missed

. Afternoon tea served, all welcome.

*Nominations for the committee due in the office 48 hours before the meeting.
See p12 for Council nomination form

RSVP: to Hali by Friday 29th April





Geology Group

“Waterfalls in Victoria”

**Talk by Ian Wacey assisted by
Ray Barber
Wednesday 23rd February 2011**

Ian Wacey's long-standing interest and hobby is waterfalls. He and Ray Barber, his brother-in-law, have spent the last 6½ years turning that interest into a soon-to-be published book on 250 waterfalls in Victoria. In his talk to the Geology Group, Ian told of that journey.

He introduced the geological formation of waterfalls – “which usually result from water, often in the form of a stream, flowing over an erosion-resistant rock formation that forms a sudden break in elevation. Some waterfalls form in mountain environments where erosion is rapid and stream courses may be subject to sudden and catastrophic change. In such cases, the waterfall may not be the end product of many years of water action over a region, but rather the result of relatively sudden geological processes such as landslides, faults or volcanic action. Typically, a stream flowing across an area will form shelves across the streamway, elevated above the stream bed when the less erosion-resistant rock around it disappears. Over a period the edges of this shelf will gradually break away and the waterfall will steadily retreat upstream,

creating a gorge. Often the rock stratum just below the more resistant shelf will be of a softer type, causing undercutting. Splashback creates a shallow cave-like rock shelter, under and behind the waterfall. Eventually, the outcropping, more resistant rock will collapse under pressure to add blocks of rock to the base of the waterfall. These blocks of rock are then broken down into smaller boulders by attrition as they collide with each other, and they also erode the base of the waterfall by abrasion, creating a deep plunge pool. Streams become wider and shallower just above waterfalls due to the flow over the rock shelf, and there is usually a deep pool just below the waterfall due to the kinetic energy of the water hitting the bottom.”

Ian then went on to show photographs and describe his, Ray's and their wives' ventures (and some misadventures) to many known Victorian waterfalls, to rediscover many waterfalls known to local communities or landholders, but generally not the wider public and to predict from topographical maps and discover waterfalls, known perhaps only to traditional owners.

Their initial intention was to create a book of 100 Victorian waterfalls, but

their discoveries soon led to this number being revised to 250 (and there are now thought to be 600 waterfalls in Victoria).

Their results have been compiled into a well-set-out book with photographs, locations, GPS data, historical background and suggested names for newly discovered or unnamed waterfalls. Close liaison was undertaken with government departments, including the Department of Sustainability and Environment, to create a database, to add to maps, to have all waterfalls officially recognised with their own name and to correct inaccuracies. Ian and Ray's concern was also to ensure historical information is not lost with the passing of generations.

The book is titled “250 Victorian Waterfalls” and the meeting was lucky to be able to view advance copies. Copies will soon be available for purchase through the FNCV.

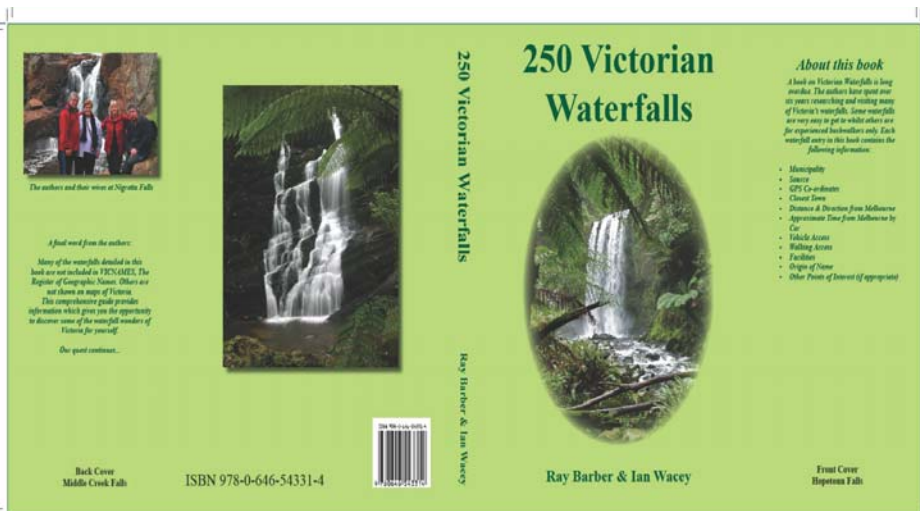
We thank Ian and Ray for their interesting and informative presentation.

Kaye Oddie

Help the Club fundraise for the President's Roof Appeal with Good Will Wine

Goodwill wine is a fundraising website, which offers Charities and Not for Profit Organisations the opportunity to raise money through wine sales. Simply go to the website www.goodwillwine.com.au or call them on 59629155 and order half a dozen or a dozen bottles of wine. Most of the wine is sourced within Victoria, Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula etc, with the rest coming from elsewhere in Australia. For every dozen bottles sold the club will receive \$20.00 (\$10.00 per ½ dozen).

The wine comes with a 100% money back guarantee if you are not happy with the vintage and will be delivered to your door. These bottles of wine, with our FNCV label, would make a great gift and a wonderful way to advertise the club. So drink up, enjoy a good wine and raise money for the club.



Ian Wacey's book (with Ray Barber), 205 Victorian Waterfalls is available from the FNCV will cost RRP \$49.95—(Members \$39.95.)

Orders to Hali Ferguson, Office Administrator,
9877 9860 (office hours), or admin@fncv.org.au

(Continued from page 1)

the new iron roofing installed. This requires the surrounding area and car-park to be blocked off as an OH & S measure, so most of the work is being done over a weekend. I hope to have some photos for the next edition.

FNCV Raffle

As mentioned in the previous FNN, there are other exciting fundraisers planned to help with the "roof appeal". One of these is a raffle, to be drawn at the AGM. See insert .

Forests Biodiversity Symposium 2011

This year's Biodiversity Symposium will have forests as the theme. The Council is looking for members to form a sub-committee to organise this year's Symposium. If you are interested in helping to organise the day, please contact Hali in the office.

SEANA Spring Camp-out 29th Oct – 1st Nov

It is the FNCV's turn to host the SEANA Spring camp-out and as such, the weekend leading into the Melbourne Cup was chosen. The location will be Wonthaggi due to the many varied opportunities for naturalists, from the Wonthaggi Heathlands, to rocky platforms and taking in the "Dinosaur Coast", the site of many significant fossil finds by Monash University and others.

If you would like to register an expression of interest in attending this camp-out, please contact Hali in the office to be put on the list for further information as it arises.

John Harris
President.

Advertising in the Field Nats News

VERY REASONABLE RATES

Contact Hali in the Field Nats
Office
admin@fncv.org.au
9877 9860
(Mon –Tues 9-4)



Organ Pipes Bat Box Project

On February 13th we helped with the Organ Pipes Bat Box Project. This is one of the longest bat box projects in the world. There are 37 boxes, 4 of which were occupied by dead Possums, Sugar Gliders and nests, so there were only 33 available for the bats to use. We had bats in 19 of them, which is 58% of those available.

We started as usual at 2pm, with two teams working on collecting bats from the boxes. The bats are then taken to the visitors' centre where we had a communal tea, each person contributing to the meal. We then processed the bats, which involves identifying, sexing, weighing and measuring the forearm on each bat. This time we had 243 Gould's Wattled Bats, 10 Large Forest Bats and 1 Freetail Bat.

You do not have to be immunised to help with this project as ladder carriers and scribes are in great demand. If you have the slightest urge to commune with our batty friends, this is the place to be. Just bring something to share for tea. The next bat box day will be Sunday 17 April at 2pm at the Organ Pipes National Park, opposite the Thunder Dome on the Calder Highway.

Grey-headed Flying Fox count

On February 16, having been assured that the colony was not affected by the prevailing rainstorms, we headed up East Link. After driving through two drenching squalls we emerged from the tunnel into sunshine. This lasted until Doncaster

Bat Group

Road then more showers. Taking the Chandler Highway exit we found dry roads, a good sign we thought.

About 30 people gathered in the car park of the Yarra Bend Golf Club and were divided into teams. We then headed out to our monitoring points around the colony. Not long after, the bats began to fly out and we started counting. After a short time, the rain began to fall and the lightning flashed. For safety I crouched lower than my neighbour (a rather petite Chinese person), not wishing to be the highest earthing point. Meanwhile the bats continued to fly out. The rain had washed away the nectar and pollen that is their staple diet, so they are in need of any sustenance that they can find.

Once the exodus had petered out, we returned to the car park and reported our numbers to Rodney Van De Ree who is the scientist in charge of the project. Mine was 9,150.

If you are free on 16th March and can get to Yarra Bend Golf Club by 7.15 pm, we need you. If you can count to ten and push a counter button, we need you even more. Your wildlife needs you.

Ian Kitchen

Below: Lisa & Ian checking bat boxes.





Botany Group

Plant profile: horsetails (*Equisetum* species)

The *Equisetum* genus is a very primitive genus which dates back over one hundred million years. So you could say they are living Dinosaurs!

Equisetum is the only living genus in the EQUISETACEAE family. Commonly called horsetails, they reproduce by spores, not seeds. The name horsetails came about because some of the branched species resemble a

horse's tail. There have been some dwarf and branched species sold in the past, but mostly by collectors and these species have not established themselves as a weed in Victoria. Some horsetails die back over winter and re-emerge in spring.

Horsetails have medicinal value due to their high silica content. Dried horsetails can be bought in some health food shops. In fact, you may even see them listed on the ingredients of your shampoo bottle!

Once established, some species of horsetail can grow laterally

ingly contained, but the rhizomes have escaped and appeared in neighbouring properties behind or next door. This is a prime example of a plant that may seem contained, but what you can't see is that it is rapidly spreading underground and into other properties.

Horsetails can cause damage to fences, walls and pipes. Plants are also toxic to livestock and can overtake agricultural land, and natural ecosystems, especially wetland habitats. In Victoria, horsetails are declared as a State Prohibited weed.

State Prohibited weeds either do not yet occur in Victoria, or are in small enough numbers that we can eradicate them. State prohibited weeds are the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to control. It is illegal to buy, sell, possess for sale, deposit onto land, display, plant, propagate, bring into or transport them around Victoria. If you see any horsetails, please report them to DPI immediately by calling **136 186**; do not try to remove them yourself.

Annie Lamb

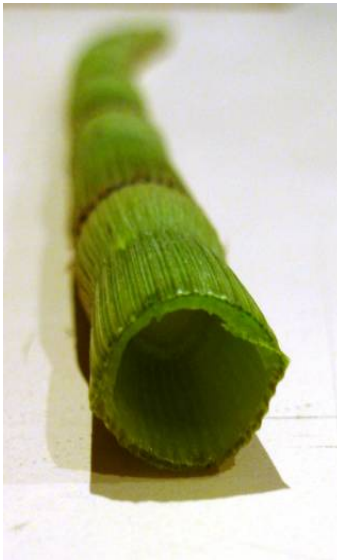


Fig 1 Horsetails have hollow stems



Fig 2 *E. hyemale* stems (horizontally)

horse's tail. Horsetails are native to many parts of the world, because they are so old. Some are native to North America, some to China and Europe, but we do not have any horsetails native to Australia.

The most common horsetail is the large *E. hyemale*, which was sold in some nurseries prior to its declaration as a State prohibited weed in Victoria. *E. hyemale* has tall stems and has a similar habit to bamboo. It has been used in the past as a landscaping or screening plant but is now illegal to sell. It can be distinguished from other rushes or sedges with its hollow stems, spore "cones" at the stem tips and rough, ridged stems.

by underground roots to form dense colonies up to 100m across, and emerging shoots can penetrate paths and bitumen. There are a number of sites in Melbourne being managed by DPI. One property has had horsetails in a planter box, seem-



Fig 4 A Horsetail infestation



Fig 3 (left) Spore "cones"

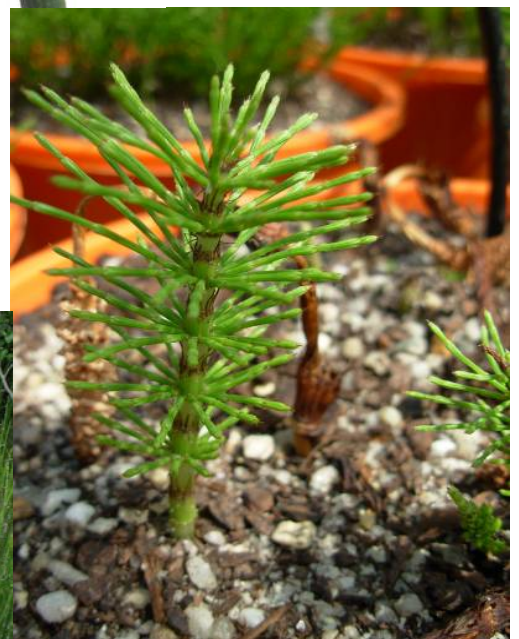


Fig 5 A dwarf horsetail species



Fauna Survey Group

Cathedral Ranges Post-Fire Survey 22nd-26th January

This camp was the first of three camps, culminating months of planning between the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Arthur Rylah Institute, Birds Australia VicGroup, Bird Observation and Conservation Australia (BOCA) and the FNCV. The four groups had put in a joint grant application to the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) to undertake post-fire monitoring of fauna, mainly birds and mammals.

The main activity was setting up two camera traps at each site, (for birds and mammals) and an anabat recorder (for bats). There were 20 localities, selected for varying successional stages after bushfires, the most recent being the Black Saturday fires of 2009. The cameras were set in sites, mostly in the Black Range, to the west of the Maroon-dah Highway between Buxton and Taggerty. The birding people also conducted two 20-minute surveys at each site.

We camped at Ned's Gully camping area, on the Little River, in the Cathedral Ranges State Park. A small amount of trapping was undertaken

near the camping ground and also near the Cook's Mill camping area, a little further down the track. Seven bat species were recorded from the harp trapping. Bush Rats were caught in the Elliott traps and a couple of species of skinks and a frog were trapped in the funnel traps.

The group split into two smaller groups, (after first being shown how to set up the anabat recorder and cameras), to go off in different directions to set up the various sites. By Tuesday afternoon, all the sites had been set up. Six members returned on the 16th of February to collect all of the equipment, which had been out for three weeks. Members then downloaded the photos from each camera and reviewed each photo looking for animals, while DSE analysed each of the anabat recorder's data to identify any bat sonographs that may have been recorded.

A number of different animals were photographed coming into the bait stations including Common Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*), Black Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*), both Brushtail Possum species (*Trichosurus cunninghamii* and *vulpecula*), Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and Agile Antechinus (*Antechinus agilis*). The most common bird photographed was Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*) (see photo above), with three being in one photo alone. Other birds

included Crimson Rosella (*Platycercus elegans*), Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*), Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*) and White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*).

It has been a fantastic opportunity to work closely with the primary bird conservation groups and the Arthur Rylah Institute. The knowledge and experience gained from the use of



these cameras will aid our surveys over future years, as we look to use our own cameras more effectively.

The second survey is being undertaken over the March long weekend and the third one is planned over the Easter break. A full report will be prepared and submitted to VBRRA by the end of the financial year. These results will also go into the longer term studies conducted by ARI into the effects of bushfires in Victoria.

John Harris



Phoebe and Brad testing a remote camera



Ray, Robin & Catherine mixing bait
Sally Bewsher



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South Australian Outback Expedition

16 Day Camping Tour - Departs 15th May 2011

Experience the spectacular scenery and geological wonders of the southern and northern Flinders Range and the diverse wildlife of Lake Coongie and Goyders Lagoon. The massive expanse of Lake Eyre is awe-inspiring as it spreads out before you, and the recent rainfall means it's filling fast. Be one of the lucky few to witness the area as it springs back to life after years of drought.

Kimberley Discovery Tour

16 Day Camping Tour - Departs 29th May 2011 & 20th June 2011

The Kimberley region in the north-west of Western Australia is one of the most remote and unspoiled wilderness areas in the world. Its unique geology, ancient limestone reef and rich Aboriginal culture has fascinated visitors for years. It is home to some of Australia's most beautiful and rare birdlife, diverse and interesting flora, and exciting and unique fauna.

Western Explorer Tour

14 Day Camping Tour - Departs 12th August 2011

This walking tour is a magnificent outback experience! Explore the Kennedy Ranges, Mt Augustus & Karijini National Park on foot. This 14 day camping, walking and wildlife tour coincides with the northern and mid west wildflower season and with a reasonable winter rain there should be some colourful displays.

Lorna Glen to Canning Stock Route

11 Day Camping Tour - Departs 14th August 2011

Join us as we explore the remote Lorna Glen Station North East of Wiluna, Western Australia. Bilbies and Brush-tail Possums have been successfully reintroduced, and the area also supports more than 480 species of vascular plant, 220 vertebrate species, 14 small mammal species and 70 species of reptile.

Holland Track & Greater Western Woodlands Recce

15 Day Camping Tour - Departs 31st August 2011

Join us and experience the features of the world's largest temperate woodland, including the Holland Track and the historic woodlines (where timber cutters operated from 1899 to 1964). The Great Western Woodland (GWW) covers an area the size of England, and is home to 3,000 flowering plant species, rare mammals, frogs, reptiles and birds.

Namibia - Botswana - Zambia Desert & Delta

18 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 17th October 2011

Join us on our escorted and accommodated safari and experience an amazing journey through some of Southern Africa's most breathtaking regions. Highlights include the Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei & Dead Vlei dunes, Walvis Bay - Skeleton Coast, Kavango River, Okavango Delta, and Victoria Falls.

Bhutan - The Last Shangri-La

15 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 29th October 2011

Become one of the few fortunate people to experience one of the world's deepest mysteries - the last Shangri La. This comprehensive, 15 day, escorted tour of this relatively isolated country will take you through the prime botanical and wildlife sites in Bhutan. Discover the natural richness of this unspoiled eastern Himalayan region. See the unique and varied endemic wildlife, and explore the unique culture.

Abrolhos Islands

6 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 1st November 2011

The Houtman Abrolhos is an archipelago of 108 islands and rocks located about 80 km off the mid-west coast of Western Australia. They are renowned for their extensive array of marine life and colourful history, and they are also a breeding ground for many tropical seabirds. The Flying Fish Five, a purpose-built charter boat, will be our base for four nights and will ferry us around to observe some of the 95 species of bird that are found on the islands.

Costa Rica Wildlife Safari

15 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 20th November 2011

Join our comfortably accommodated tour of this pristine wildlife paradise. On one of the most exciting wildlife expeditions we have offered, you can expect to see a diverse array of bird life, plants, mammals and reptiles. Our relaxed itinerary ensures you will have time to pursue your special interests.

Indian Wildlife & Culture Expedition

11 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 25th November 2011

India is not just another holiday destination—its mind-boggling diversity necessitates that the country is not just traveled through, but experienced. Experience the varied landscapes, see the unique wildlife and immerse yourself in the rich culture of this exotic country.

For our 2011 tour program or further information contact:

COATES WILDLIFE TOURS

Free call: 1800 676 016

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"Specialists in Nature Tours"

Tours to Wild Places

Join us on a safe adventure in 2011 to these exciting wild-place destinations

The Galápagos Islands (21 days)

You'll love the Galápagos Islands - they're like no other place on earth.

- be at arm's length of giant tortoises and wonderfully grotesque marine and land iguanas,
- marvel at the rhythmic bobbing of lava lizards,
- delight in the diving antics of boobies,
- watch birds raising their chicks at your feet,
- swim with playful sea lions and marine turtles
- be awe-inspired by the volcanic landscapes.



Cusco & Machu Picchu (7 days)

- step back in time and explore the ancient city of Cusco with its crooked streets and Inca stone walls (with not a high-rise building in sight),
- take the famous train to Machu Picchu and see the breath-taking panorama of the lost city.
- shop for Peruvian handicrafts at local markets.

The Peruvian Amazon (9 days)

- travel over the rugged Andes to a sensational cloud forest dripping with orchids and lichens,
- watch beautiful humming birds collecting nectar,
- canoe through the rainforest and explore World Heritage Manu Reserve

The tours can be linked or done independently.

Galápagos tour starts 24 October 2011.

Cost: \$13,950 pp ex Melbourne/Sydney

Machu Picchu tour starts 13 Nov 2011

(after Galápagos Tour) Cost: \$3,950 pp

Amazon tour starts 20 Nov 2011

(after Machu Picchu Tour)

Cost: \$4,100 pp

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Madagascar (22 days)

You'll love the Magic of Madagascar - land of the lemur.



Due to its isolation, Madagascar has stunning flora and fauna. Strange baobab trees, rare orchids and unusual succulents make it a botanical paradise. There are 258 bird species, half the world's population of chameleons, over 70 sorts of lemur (the only place in the world where our distant ancestors are found), 100's of species of colourful, endemic frogs and zillions of multi-coloured butterflies.

Reunion & Mauritius (7 day extension)

Reunion Island with its active volcano is breath-taking with deep canyons, fast-flowing rivers and hundreds of waterfalls cascading in veils down cliffs - all in a mix of French and Creole culture.

Delicious Mauritius is a great place to relax on the coral sands, swim in the clear and safe turquoise waters and venture to nearby towns for a taste of Mauritian life.

Madagascar tour starts 13 Sept 2011

Cost: \$12,500 pp ex Melbourne/Sydney

Reunion & Mauritius extension starts 2 Oct 2011

(after Madagascar tour) Cost: \$4,300 pp

More information

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ph 03 51 455 422

e-mail: michele@adland.com.au

www.adland.com.au

Prices based on twin share

Group size = 14 people + 2 tour leaders.

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Marine Research Group News

Report on the MRG excursion to the Mallacoota region, Wednesday 19 January, 2011 to Sunday 23 January, 2011.

Bastion Point, Mallacoota, Wednesday 19 and Sunday 23 January, 2011: This beautiful spot was the focus of two field-work days during the trip to this region. The rocky outcrop forming the point lies at the exposed southern end of the township, with its more sheltered northerly aspect enabling the site to be used to launch boats from the shoreline. This area is the focal point of development plans that have attracted considerable local opposition. The first day (19/1/2011) was spent at the more northern aspect whilst the final day (23/1/2011) surveyed its more southerly points.

Overall, Bastion Point was a productively diverse area. The immediate impression of the reef was its 'New South Wales-like' feel, with the mulberry whelk *Morula marginalba*, the trochids *Cantharidella picturata* and *Clanculus brunneus*, the fissurellid *Tugali parmophoidea*, the Sydney rock oyster *Saccostrea glomerata*, the chiton *Sypharochiton pelliserpentis* and the very fast crab *Leptograpsus variegatus* all present. The black nerites all proved to be *Nerita melanotragus* rather than our more familiar central and western Victorian species *Nerita atramentosa*. *Morula marginalba* is interestingly not listed in Macpherson & Gabriel (1962) - perhaps a pointer to warming of eastern Victorian seas via the eastern currents sweeping down from New South Wales?

The most impressive finds were a

number of specimens of the stunning opisthobranch bubble shells *Hydatina physis*, with numerous egg masses, and a single specimen of *Bullina lineata*. These were in a shallow sandy channel amongst flat rocks.



The bubble shell *Hydatina physis* (above) with egg ribbon anchored to sand (below). Bastion Point, Mallacoota, 19/1/2011. (Photos: P. Vafiadis).



Robert Burn was aware of local records of *Hydatina physis* (but these were several decades old) and noted that the *Bullina lineata* is the first intertidal record of this species in Victoria (although it is previously known in Victoria waters from deeper water samples).



The bubble shell *Bullina lineata*. Bastion Point, Mallacoota, 19/1/2011. (Photo: P. Vafiadis).

Other interesting finds included a single example of the architecto-

-nicid gastropod *Philippia lutea* (a rarely seen species in central Victoria even as a dead beach shell), and many ranellids, including *Ranella australasia*, *Cabestana spengleri* and a large (19 cm shell length) *Charonia lampas rubicunda*.

The chitons *Ischnochiton lentiginosus*, *Rhyssoplax jugosa*, *Callochiton crocinus*, and *Callistochiton antiquus* were all very pleasing. The rarely seen and striking green echiuran *Anelassorhynchus porcellus* was also a notable record and a new first-ever sighting for group members.



The echiuran *Anelassorhynchus porcellus*. Bastion Point, Mallacoota, 23/1/2011. (Photo: P. Vafiadis).

Field reports from this extended excursion to Gabo Island (20/1/11), Pebbly Beach (21/1/11), and Goat Island (22/1/11) will follow in upcoming FNN issues.

Further reading:

Macpherson, J.H. and Gabriel C.J. (1962). *Marine molluscs of Victoria*. Melbourne University Press, in association with the National Museum of Victoria, Parkville, Victoria.

Gowlett-Holmes, K. (2008). *A field guide to the marine invertebrates of South Australia*. Notomares, Sandy Bay, Tasmania.

P. Vafiadis.



NOMINATION FORM FOR FNCV COUNCIL 2011

The FNCV AGM will be held on Sunday 1st May,
2 pm FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn 3130

Name of Member Nominated

Position Nominated *

Signature of Member Nominated

TWO MEMBERS SUPPORTING NOMINATION

Name Signature Date.....

Name Signature Date.....

*Elected members of the FNCV Council are President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and six Councillors. Councillors must be FNCV members. (*Council also consists of Immediate Past President, and a representative, nominated in writing by each Special Interest Group.*)

Please return this form to the FNCV office

Locked Bag 3, Blackburn 3130

Phone/Fax 9877 9860

E-mail: admin@fncv.org.au

Nominations must reach the registered office of the Club no later than 48 hours before the AGM.

Field Nats News 207



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