



# Field Nats News No.209

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.  
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June 2011

## From the President

Welcome to the June edition of the Field Nat News. With Winter upon us, some of the clubs activities are going into recess, while others such as fungal forays are "full steam ahead".

In last month's FNN, I mentioned attending Governor de Kretser's farewell but what I didn't mention was the slightly embarrassing, but amusing tale that went with it. When I received the invitation it mentioned that the dress code was "lounge suit". Not knowing what a lounge suit was, I jumped on the internet and "googled" lounge suit to get an idea of what was required. Having seen images of the said suit type, the one in my wardrobe seemed to fit the bill so I rushed it off to the dry-cleaners. When I picked it up the day before the reception, I tried it on and to my embarrassment despite the jacket still fitting, the pants didn't come up above my knees. In a quandary, I

dashed into the local Salvation Army Opp Shop the next day to try to find something suitable. I found a nice looking suit that was still stylish and upon presenting it to the cashier, I was informed that the items with yellow tags were half-price that day. So I headed off to the reception, looking great in my \$12.50 suit and I must say nobody would have known the difference. As many of you would know, I am right into re-using and recycling and this is just another example.

### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> with over 30 members attending. It was a meeting with many facets, including the usual reports, elections and other AGM requirements.

Robin Drury from the Fauna Survey Group gave a brief presentation based around the 2010 Environment Fund grant which was used to pur-  
*(Continued on page 5)*

Due date for June newsletter **Monday 6th June** FNN will go to print on the 14th June, collation Tuesday 21st.

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

Index	Page
From the President	1
Calendar of Events	2, 3
Members' News, Photos & Observations: Club notices	3, 4, 5
<i>Fauna Survey Group Report: Beechworth &amp; Eildon NP. Post Fire Survey</i>	6
<i>FungiGroup Reports: Mushrooms, microsattellites &amp; other molecular markers: a study of Australian Laccaria"</i>	7
Fungal Foray—Greens Bush	8
Alison Houghton's Presentation at the AGM	8
Minutes AGM	9
<i>Naming Names</i>	10
<i>Marine Research Group Report: Molluscan Biodiversity In Victoria</i>	11
President's Roof Appeal	12



Wendy Clark being presented with an Honorary Membership by John Harris at the AGM



## 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.***

### June 2011

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group- Fungal Foray** 10.30 am The Beeches. Lady Talbot Drive Marysville. (MEL Edition 37. X910. T11). Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Meeting** - Review of May forays. Members may bring a selection of photos to show. Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Fauna Survey Group Meeting - Species Distribution Modelling. How, why and how useful is it for species information?** Speaker: Graeme Newell. Contact Ray White 9308 3770 AH.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group Excursion** - Spotighting Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. Meet at the information building at 6 pm. Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Fauna Survey Group- Field Trip** - Bear Gully, Cape Liptrap area, South Gippsland. Contact Russell Thompson 9434 7046 AH.. ***Prior registration of at least one week essential.***

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Fungal Foray** – 10.30 am Bunyip State Park. Gembrook. Mortimer Reserve picnic ground, off the Gembrook – Tonimbuk Road. (MEL Edition 37. Page 14. R12). Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group Meeting** - No meeting, Queen's birthday holiday.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Microscopy Group Meeting** - Mohamed Mohideen from Monash University Microbiology Studies will be speaking on *Intestinal Probiotics*. Contact Phillippa Sterpin 9598 3231 AH.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Bat Group Grey-headed flying-fox count** - Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course carpark Mel 2D G7 at 5 pm. RSVP as a courtesy to Megan Davidson 9380 5062 AH; m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group-Meeting - Trust for Nature: Protecting native habitats and managing threatened species.** Speaker: Ben Cullen. Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Fungal Foray** – 10.30 am Blackwood Carpark at Garden of St Erth, Jack Cann Reserve, Simmons Reef Road, (MEL Edition 37. X909. E11). Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group Field Trip – Trust for Nature Survey.** For details contact Sue Bendel 0427 055 071.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>—Collate FNN 210.** About 1 pm in the hall. Contact Noel Schleiger 9435 8408

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Geology Group Meeting - Reconstructing Melbourne's Natural History.** Speaker: Dr. Gary Presland, author of *The Place for a Village: How Nature has Shaped the City of Melbourne*. Contact Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group Meeting - Fauna Camera Surveys.** Speakers: Robin Drury & John Harris. Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

*(Continued on page 3)*



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

(Continued from page 2)

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Fungal Foray** – 10.30 am Jumping Creek Reserve. Warrandyte State Park (Mel Edition 37. 23K10 & 24A10). Park near Toilet block. Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - FNCV Council** 7.30 pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Hali, 9877 9860 or admin@fncv.org.au

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Day Group Meeting - ‘Photography as a stimulus to environmental observation and understanding’.** Meet for coffee and a chat at 10.30 am, program starts at 11 am. Speaker: Leon Costermans. Contact Gary Presland 9890 9288

## 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 June 6th

**Badge Spider (*Neosparassus diana*)** Joan Broadberry  
A nocturnal hunting spider with a flattened body, (20mm), which builds no web. Its upper body is a delicate peach colour, with yellow eye spots. On the underside is a stunning black, shield-shaped marking with two light blue spots. Hence the common name, Badge Spider. As a hunter, the spider's first two pairs of legs are distinctly longer than the two hind pairs. I enquired from Alan Yen if the purpose of the badge is known, but he did not have an answer. It is possibly for defence, possibly a sexual signal. Maybe a reader can enlighten us.



*Below right: Vine Hawk-moth resting on a screen door.*  
Photographed at a property near Glenrowan, Ken and Michele Hancock



### Lost and Found—The Rediscovery of Leadbeater’s Possum.

Fifty years ago on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1961 museum assistant Eric Wilkinson found Leadbeater’s Possum in the Mountain Ash forest at Cambarville. This was the first sighting for over 50 years and occurred a year after the species had been declared as probably extinct.



On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, exactly 50 years later, the Museum of Victoria, with Parks Victoria and Friends of Leadbeater’s Possum hosted a celebration of the rediscovery at the ‘Treetops’, Melbourne Museum. Guest of Honour was Eric Wilkinson, and he recounted his spotlighting trips and the discovery. Eric, with his wife Mary and family looking on, was presented with a print of Leadbeater’s Possum from the ‘Prodromus of Zoology.’

A video of the event is available on the Museum Victoria website, ‘Lost and Found, The Rediscovery of Leadbeater’s Possum’ together with other material on this event, and Leadbeater’s Possum

**Raymond Gibson**

# Welcome

Warmest greetings to these new members who were welcomed into our wonderful club at the May Council meeting.

- Miss Anne NEDDERMEYER
- Mrs Alice MARTIN
- Mr Adam MARTIN
- Mr Tim MARTIN
- Miss Rachael MARTIN
- Miss Samantha PATTERSON
- Mr D SCHNEIDER
- Miss Amanda WEIR
- Mr Hayden TAYLOR
- Mr Peter MATTHEWS
- Mr Nikolai ZORIN
- Mrs Inna ZORIN
- Mr Dimitry ZORIN
- Mr William BYRNE
- Ms Sophie COLES
- Ms Wendy BROOKS
- MURRUMBIDGEE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

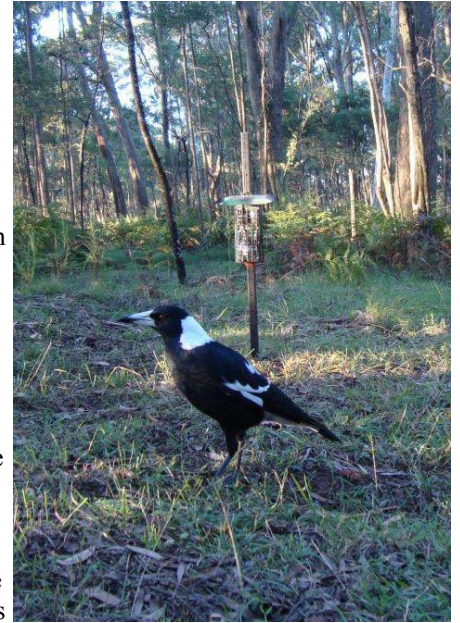
Link: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_vkZP5RZGnk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vkZP5RZGnk)  
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/about/mv-blog/apr-2011/lost-and-found/>

## Unusual Foraging by a White-backed Magpie

To profess an admiration for the humble Magpie, often opens one to harsh criticism and derision, by seemingly friendly people, at social gatherings. Upon further questioning, these antagonists appear to have inherited a passionate dislike of the bird, because it is the mascot of a particularly successful AFL team. In fact, Collingwood just happens to be the reigning premiers, having won the 2010 Grand Final, which appears to have raised their angst a notch or two. However, my admiration for this bird's ability to adjust its behaviour to take advantage of the human environment, is great.

On a hot night in February this year, my family was stopped at a Healesville petrol station, well after dark. Whilst we were refueling, my sons noticed movement under some bright lights in the car yard across the street. Our interest was at first the huge number of insects flying around the light, some of whom we noticed frequently dropping to the ground. I have heard that this behaviour can be exhibited by moths, which spiral to the ground to avoid predation by insectivorous bats. We did not see any bats hunting through the light but instead noticed a pair of White-backed Magpies, picking up the fallen insects from the ground under the lights. One bird was even using a handrail along the entrance to the car yard office as a vantage point to see the insects, and would then swoop down to catch its prey. The birds were quite adept at this foraging behaviour, and it seems to me a good solution to avoid foraging during the extreme heat of the day, and/or to maximise their daily catch while the insects were plentiful.

My admiration for the Magpie has only been heightened by my observations, and perhaps other members might have seen similar foraging behaviour in their local area on hot nights?



*Black-backed Magpie by bait station  
Beechworth taken by remote sensing camera—see p6*



Above:  
Members of the MRG working on their species list after a field trip at Stoney Point.  
*Photo: J. Broadberry*

## New Members' Night

Our second New Member's Night was held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of May on a cold night. 12 people came, one new member and 4 non members (one joined on the spot). Although a small gathering it was once again an informative and interesting night. I would like to thank Bill Fenner who came early and helped set up, then kept the evening interesting with questions and comments. I hope to see more existing members as the next night on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 209**

Joan Broadberry  
Noel Schleiger  
Platon Vafiadis  
Hali Ferguson  
Sally Bewsher

**Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 208**

Cecily Falkingham  
Noel Schleiger  
Ray Power  
Joan Broadberry  
Sheina Nichols  
Andrew Brentnall  
Margaret Corrick  
Graeme Thomson  
Bill Fenner  
Sally Bewsher  
Keith Marshall  
Neil McLachlan

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

**Advertising in the  
Field Nats News**

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RATES**

Contact Hali in the Field Nats  
Office

admin@fncv.org.au

9877 9860

(Mon – Tues 9—4)

(Continued from page 1)

chase a Scout Guard Camera. Sue Bendel from the Botany Group reported on their grant to buy a set of books for fieldwork, while Gary Presland provided the introduction to our main speaker, Alison Houghton, who had prepared an oral history of the club. See p\*

Presentations were made to the 2011 Environment Fund recipients – Ian Kitchen (FSG), Wildlife Victoria, Patrick-Jean Guay (Victoria University) and Friends of the Helmeted Honey-eater.

Michael Howse and in a surprise for the recipient, Wendy Clark was presented with Honorary (Life) Membership in recognition of her many, many years of involvement within the FNCV, not the least being with the Juniors. Even after I had read her citation, Wendy was shocked when I made the announcement.

In another announcement, Sheila Houghton had advised the Council before the meeting that she would be stepping down as Librarian and Archivist at this meeting. She was thanked for all of her efforts in this position over two decades.

The last formality of the AGM was to draw the FNCV Raffle. With around 500 tickets sold, the raffle cleared over \$2000 towards the President's Roof Appeal. (Complete AGM minutes p9)

### SEANA Spring Camp-out 29<sup>th</sup> Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov (Cup Weekend)

This is our turn to host the SEANA members for a camp-out and as such, the weekend leading into the Melbourne Cup was chosen as the date. 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.

We are looking for people to help with the organisation of this event. WE NEED YOU. contact Hali in the office to be put on the list for further information as it arises.

**John Harris President**

## Extracts from the SIG reports presented to the FNCV Council meeting 18th April

**Bat Study group** The Bat Group counted 40,000 Flying Foxes at Yarra Bend at this month's count. Last weekend they went to the Organ Pipes National Park to check on the Microbat nest Box Project and found about 200 bats using the boxes.



**The Juniors** are putting on a display at the Rhododendron Gardens Family Day on 19th April. The Juniors Easter camp is at Ballarat with 60 people expected to take part.



### Distribution of Information within the Club

It has been suggested that the Council needs to be more transparent in their decision making processes. Anyone wanting a copy of the minutes can contact the office to obtain one. It has also been decided that the notice board in front entry will have the minutes displayed so all members can have easy access to them. SIG leaders will need to point this out at meetings.. It is hoped that this change will bring the FNCV members and the council closer together.



### A response to Martin's query about his bandicoot photo from FNN 208 p3

Congratulations Martin! You have seen and photographed a Southern Brown Bandicoot! These magic little animals are certainly NOT strictly nocturnal! Here in Far East Gippsland we have quite a few photos taken by remote cameras of Southern Browns out and about doing their thing all throughout the day-light hours. The only time I have seen one myself out foraging during the day was along the track that leads to the Marlo airport. Similar to your experience, I got the feeling he was grumpy at my presence interrupting his search for food!

We have **never** photographed Long-nosed Bandicoots during the day, so they appear to be pretty-much nocturnal (we have photographed lots of them at night!). Given the shape of the animal in your photo, and the fact that Long-nosed Bandicoots in East Gippsland don't get out and about during the day, both make me 100% confident that it is a Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Not sure if the local PV staff have been doing any fox control through that area, but given the favourable environmental conditions we have had recently, we should see bandicoot populations on the rebound. We know that fox control certainly gives the 'coots a lot of support. Wouldn't it be brilliant to see these guys on a much more regular basis? They are a critically important component of the ground-dwelling fauna from an ecological perspective, as well as being animals with great personalities!

Cheers, Andrew Murray  
Senior Biodiversity Officer  
-Southern Ark Project  
Statewide Services - Biodiversity  
Department of Sustainability & Environment,  
Orbost Victoria 3888  
Ph: 03 51 611 302 or 0419396948:  
Fax: 03 51 611 300





# Fauna Survey Group

## Beechworth and Lake Eildon National Park Post-fire Surveys

The second VBRR (Victorian Bush-fire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority) Community Finding Fauna post-fire survey was carried out in the Beechworth/Stanley area over the March long weekend. It was attended by more than a dozen FNCV members, along with numerous members of Birds Australia and BOCA (Bird Observation and Conservation Australia), who carried out twenty minute bird surveys at all sites. Whilst setting up the remote sensing cameras and Anabats, the FSG also recorded general observations to add to the data. Russell and I were surprised to hear an Owlet Nightjar call as we were working at site five on the first morning.

The equipment was collected three weeks later, and half a dozen FSG members then downloaded and identified the fauna in the photos. By far the most commonly photographed species was the Black Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*), along with species as mentioned in FNN 207, p8. However, some people had surprises too, including the Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*) and Koala, (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

Over Easter, we camped at O'Toole's Flat in Lake Eildon National Park for the third VBRR survey. The forest here is dominated by Peppermints (*Eucalyptus radiata*), with a few scattered Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) and O'Toole Creek flows by about a hundred metres away.

Fifteen participants assisted with lo-

cating and clearing the chosen sites, establishing bait stations, attaching the camera units to suitable trees and then testing the cameras, before locking them with python locks. The sites were located in both the National Park and the nearby Rubicon Sate Forest, and covered a variety of fire regimes, from the 2009 fires to sites of 41+ years since fire. No Anabats were put out on this final survey.

Once this task was completed, we took time to set Elliott traps off a track not too far from camp for a couple of nights. This involved a hearty walk each morning and afternoon up to the ridge to check the traps, passing some magnificent, large, hollow-bearing Messmates (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), and through



Eastern Grey Kangaroo at the bait-station—photo taken by remote sensing camera.

gullies with rough tree ferns (*Cyathia australis*). There were also large old tree stumps showing evidence of slots for planks from the early logging days. Good numbers of Bush Rats and Agile Antechinus were caught at both locations. The remains of a Sambar Deer (*Cervus unicolor*) were discovered and the FSG remote camera was set up there too.

A Sooty Owl was heard and spotlighted near the camp, while a second one was flushed during the day in a gully of Musk Daisy Bush (*Olearia argophylla*). Plenty of Greater Gliders were also observed during evening spotlighting walks, with one even gliding in as we warmed ourselves by the campfire. A Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) was heard by many of us, calling regularly throughout the night, three Satin Bowerbirds (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*), two of them males, were seen in the trees above our tents and a Dingo/feral dog was heard howling at dawn one morning.

There was a lovely chorus of Victorian Smooth Frogs (*Geocrinia victoriana*) surrounding us and a search revealed plenty of eggs hidden in the grass.

Despite the coolish weather, a number of reptiles were found too, either when setting up the camera sites or around our camp. Those seen were two *Hemiergis decresiensis*, a Coventry's Skink (*Niveoscincus coventryi*), several Delicate Skinks (*Lampropholis delicata*) and a *Pseudemoia spenceri* which was noticed on a tree trunk as the last of us packed up our gear.

A complete record of fauna trapped and observed on these trips has been sent to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (formerly the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife) and other relevant bodies, as required by our permit, as well as to Arthur Rylah Institute.

We look forward to retrieving the cameras shortly and again having the opportunity to download and identify the wildlife which has come to investigate the bait stations.

These trips have been a great way of furthering our skills, mixing with other like-minded people and visiting some different areas. Twenty seven members attended at least one of the three surveys. Many thanks go to Richard Loyn, Phoebe Macak and Matt Bruce from ARI for guiding and encouraging us.

**Sally Bewsher**



## Fungi Group

### “Mushrooms, microsatellites and other molecular markers: a study of Australian *Laccaria*”

A talk by  
Elizabeth Sheedy

4 April, 2011

The delimitation of fungus species is often difficult – individual macro- and micro- characters can appear to be a continuum and the boundaries between species may appear blurred. The use of DNA analysis is enabling mycologists to use new tools to attempt to delineate species.

Elizabeth Sheedy is a PhD candidate investigating “Conservation genetics and systematics of the ectomycorrhizal fungus *Laccaria*”. The project’s aims are:

1. Use genetic markers and morphological characters to delimit species of Australian *Laccaria*.
2. Investigate the population structure of a species with fragmented distribution, and
3. Investigate the size of genetic individuals

In 1992 Dr Tom May, described 8 native species and 3 exotic species of *Laccaria* found in Australia. His work was based on examination of 32 macro- and micro- morphological characters.

Tom’s dendrogram grouped the species according to how similar they appeared. However, these similarities in appearance do not necessarily reflect their evolutionary histories – it is possible that different species may have evolved independently and yet appear the same. Elizabeth has based her study of *Laccaria* upon molecular DNA sequence data for phylogenetics which are believed to more accurately reflect evolutionary patterns.

She described the molecular techniques she used. Small amounts of DNA were extracted from the specimens. The DNA sequence is a long chain built from combinations of four nucleotide bases – Adenine, Thymine, Cytosine, Guanine. Elizabeth then selected spe-

cific regions of the DNA chain which contained a suitable amount of variation to help identify species delimitations. The regions selected were ITS, RPB2 and *tef-1α*. The amount of genetic material at these particular regions is increased by a process called polymerase chain reaction (PCR). This material is then sequenced and analysed statistically by a process called parsimony analysis. This focuses on changes in the sequence of nucleotide bases and uses these as characters to generate relationship trees between the samples. The shortest trees are then selected, on the assumption that evolution follows the path of least resistance and the simplest explanation is most likely to be the right one. The result is a number of clades – groups of samples with similar molecular characteristics that imply common ancestry and which could be interpreted as species. Elizabeth identified 12 clades, most of which matched the morphological species described by Tom May. However *L. sp. B* was split into 3 clades and *L. masoniae* was split into 2 clades. This suggests that these species (based on morphological similarity) may in fact represent multiple species (based on evolutionary history). Another clade (SPF) was found that did not match any of the morphological species.

Elizabeth then described the species:

1. *L. canaliculata* / *lateritia*.

These two species cannot be distinguished in the field.

They both have dark gills and often have a translucent striate cap. *L. canaliculata* is 4-spored and *L. lateritia* is 2-spored.

2. *L. sp. A* is the easiest to identify in the field and grows with *Nothofagus cunninghamii*. It is pinker in colour, very robust and fleshy looking. It is 4-spored.

3. *L. sp. D* can be found in cool temperate rainforest or other native forest. Cap often, but not always, papillate; and the

stipe can look satiny with white fibrils.

4. *L. sp. E* is often found in grassy areas (eg. nature strips), has pale gills, orange cap. It is easily mistaken for *L. sp. B* in the field.
5. *L. sp. B* is described as cryptic – it appears to be an artificial group of morphological identity and may include more than one species. There is a possible geographic boundary to one clade (SPB2). Tan orange cap with pale gills, and clusters of inflated cells on stipe.
6. *L. masoniae* is also cryptic and may represent more than one species. Cannot distinguish morphologically between MAS1 and MAS2. It grows with *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, and prefers very moist, swampy sites. Fruitbodies are a tan/beige colour, tall.

The second part of Elizabeth’s project is concerned with population genetics and aims to:

1. Test for genetic differences in populations across distribution.
2. Determine barriers to spore dispersal.
3. Compare differences in the fungal populations to differences in the host.

Elizabeth will be looking within species so she will need highly variable markers within the DNA samples. These markers are called microsatellites – they are simple sequences (of 1-6 nucleotide bases called motifs) that are repeated variable number of times. Different repeat numbers are known as different alleles. Using allele frequencies from a number of locations, Elizabeth aims to detect population structures within species. For *L. sp. A*, she will also match this with the known population structures of *Nothofagus cunninghamii*. Her work on the second and third parts of her project is still continuing. The use of molecular DNA tools is ubiquitous in biological systematics. However, the technology involved can be baffling to an amateur such as myself. To her credit, Elizabeth presented this material in a clear, informative and entertaining manner. Thank you Elizabeth!



## Fungi Group Foray to Greens Bush, Mornington Peninsula 10 April 2011

It rained the day before this foray, but the preceding days were dry, warm and windy – not good growing conditions for fungi. Nevertheless, the nine of us who participated managed to find 28 species.

Most of the fungi we found were gilled. These included the beautiful mauve *Hymenoglyphus (Hygrocybe) lewellinae*, fine specimens of *Cantharellus concinnus*, an *Inocybe* sp. and a few *Russula* species (all on the ground), a couple of *Rickenella fibula* fruit-bodies in moss, and *Resupinatus cinerascens* on a small dead tree. The 'Little Ping-pong Bat' *Panellus (Dictyopanus) pusillus*, a fungus that has pores but is now grouped with the gilled fungi, was also growing on wood.

The *Inocybe* sp. mentioned above was initially thought to be *I. australiensis*, but proved to be entirely different when microscopical examination revealed that its spores were nodulose (covered in small bumps or nodules). The spores of *I. australiensis* are smooth and ellipsoidal to almond-shaped.

Pored fungi were represented by the bracket 'Artist's Conk' *Ganoderma australe*, found on a dead tree stump in the picnic area, while fungi that are jelly-like in texture were 'Jellybaby' *Leotia lubrica*, seen on the ground, and some 'Scotchman's Beard' *Calocera sinensis* group on a log.

We could detect the presence of *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* in a piece of wood because, although the discs had not yet developed, the characteristic blue-green colour was present.

The recent summer rain must have encouraged a lot of plant growth on the track to a gully that we usually visit, because we couldn't find our way in. It was worth trying, however, because that was how we found the *Cantharellus concinnus*.

We hope to find many more fungi when we revisit this area on 22 May. Thanks to everyone who took part in this foray, and special thanks to Pat Grey, who took the

field notes and prepared the species list.

Virgil Hubregtse

### Presentation by Alison Houghton at the AGM

Alison Houghton gave a fascinating talk to the AGM on her 2010/11 research of the FNCV through oral history. The following short report touches on only a few aspects of her presentation. Hopefully it will whet the appetites of readers to follow up with a visit to the recently dedicated *Sheila Houghton Library and Archives*.

One important group of people Alison decided to attempt to interview, were all FNCV honorary members and all members who had a continuous membership of 40 years or more. Each interviewee was photographed. For those who did not want to be interviewed, there was the option to write down their memories. To get a feel for the FNCV, she also resolved to try and attend at least one meeting and excursion of each of the ten Special Interest Groups (SIG's).

A major part of Alison's AGM presentation was images of many of the historic photographs from the FNCV archives. She has been very successful in researching the names of most of the people portrayed and teasing out the events and anecdotes pertaining to them. It really was a walk down memory lane and especially important to the older members of the audience. Space permits only a mention of two photographs. One interesting image was of the participants of a Club trip to New Zealand organised by Marie Allender in 1973. Hazel and Edward Brentnall and Chriss McInnes were able to recall many of the details in their interviews. In addition there was a report in *The Victorian Naturalist*, Vol. 90 p 166-186. Another photo was of the (often overlooked), painting currently hanging in the FNCV committee room. It is a bush scene with White-winged Choughs. This was painted by Neil Douglas as part of the celebration of the

FNCV's 100<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 1980.

I will conclude with a mention of Alison's research into the FNCV's largest and most vibrant SIG, the Juniors' Group. Alison interviewed a number of members who had joined the FNCV via the Hawthorn Junior Field Naturalists' Club. She discovered a wealth of information. Much of this is available through the work of Barry Cooper, who became the Juniors' Club recorder and the *Junior Naturalist*, their newsletter, first produced in 1963. Alison found the passion and enthusiasm for natural history displayed by members in the 1960's and 1970's was still evident. Many of these early junior naturalists continued in the field of natural history through their professions. In some cases the love of nature has carried on through several generations. An example is a photo of the Wallis family, taken in September 1992 showing three generations of natural historians. Other significant aspects of the Hawthorn Juniors' were their Nature Shows, held during the September school holidays, the August Birthday Party, Junior Council and camps.

Very fortunately for us all, the full text of Alison's presentation to the AGM plus all the transcripts and tapes of her interviews, along with original photographs, are readily available in the *Sheila Houghton Library and Archives*. A separate folder contains reports of her experiences of the Special Interest Group meetings and excursions. Again, I would urge members to seek out this wonderful collection of material for themselves.

On behalf of the FNCV I would like to convey our thanks to Alison for the many hundreds, (thousands?), of hours she has dedicated to her oral history project and for travelling back to Melbourne from Canberra to address the AGM. **J. B.**

Alison drawing the raffle at the AGM





# Minutes: FNCV Annual General Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2011

## 1, Welcome

John Harris welcomed 25 members and 3 Visitors

## 2. Apologies

There were 6 apologies: Virgil and Jurrie Hubregtse, Alan Yen, Kaye Oddie, Su Dempsey and Russel Green.

## 3. Minutes of 2010 AGM

**Motion:** to accept the Minutes of 2010 AGM as true and accurate record of the events.

Moved: Sheila Houghton

Seconded: Gary Presland

## 4. President's Summary

As per President's report from Annual Report 2010.\*

John took the opportunity to thank Sheila Houghton for her contribution to the FNCV as Honorary Librarian and Archivist. Sheila is retiring and Gary Presland is taking over this vital role within the club.

**Motion:** to accept the President's Report for 2010.

Moved: John Harris

Seconded: Wendy Clark

## 5. Treasurer's report

As per Treasurer's report from Annual Report 2010.

**Motion:** to accept the Treasurer's Report for 2010.

Moved: Barbara Burns

Seconded: Sally Bewsher.

## 6. Appointment of Auditor

**Motion:** to accept Susan J Harkin as Honorary Auditor for 2011.

Moved: John Harris

Seconded: Barbara Burns

## 7. Environment Fund Recipients and Reports

As per Environment Fund Report from Annual Report 2010.

Robin Drury spoke on behalf of the Fauna Survey Group. They were funded to purchase a Scoutguard Camera to aid in Fauna Surveys. Robin explained how it worked and showed examples of the photographs that it has taken. It is a small camera with an infra-red sensor which is motion activated and takes colour photos by day and black and white photos at night. The rechargeable battery lasts up to 180 days and the remote control makes the camera very easy to adjust. Many animals were attracted to the bait, although some were photographed just walking by. The data collected will be used in the FSG's data collection.

Gary Presland spoke about the collection of an oral history of the FNCV with the view to writing a history of the Club. Alison Houghton conducted the interviews; the transcriptions are available in the library.

Sue Bendel spoke on behalf of the Botany Group. They were funded to assemble a field library to aid identification of plants and they have also purchased a first aid kit.

### 2011 Recipients:

- FNCV Fauna Survey Group – 2 sets of electronic scales.
- Wildlife Victoria – Grey-headed Flying Fox rescue kits.
- Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater – Garmin GPS628
- Patrick-Jean Guay from Victoria University – Two taxidermed ducks – One black duck and one Mallard Duck – to be used in talks discussing the hybridisation of these 2 species. *Photo above*

## 8, Honorary Members (As voted by Council)

Wendy Clark has been awarded Honorary Membership for services to the Club. A certificate was presented to Wendy at the AGM and was a complete surprise to her. We hope that Wendy will continue her association with FNCV as she is the club "Go-to-girl."

## 9. Long Term Members (40 year membership)

The only long term member for 2010 was Michael Howes.

His certificate will be posted to him, as he was unable to attend.

## 10. Election

The election was run by Gary Presland. (results boxed above)

## 11. Drawing of the Raffle

- results p4

## 12. Presentation by Alison Houghton

Summary p8

### **Congratulations to the newly elected Council:**

President:	John Harris
Vice Presidents:	Both Positions Vacant
Secretary:	Victoria Aitken
Treasurer:	Barbara Burns
Asst Treasurer:	Julie Rewell
Councillors:	Joan Broadberry
	Sally Bewsher
	Alan Yen (and TIG rep)
	Andrew Brentnall
	Sue Bendel (and Botany rep)

### **SIG Representatives:**

Bats:	Ian Kitchen
Botany:	Sue Bendel
Fauna Survey:	Ray Gibson
Fungi:	Jurrie and Virgil Hubregtse
Geology:	Noel Schleiger
Juniors:	Claire Ferguson
Marine Research:	Leon Altoff and Audrey Falconer
Microscopy:	Ray Power
Terrestrial Invertebrates:	Alan Yen



\*Any FNCV member who would like a copy of the Annual Report please contact the office.

## Naming Names

Colin Scouler, co-editor *Blue Mountains Bird Observer Newsletter*

Beginning in the 1970s and continuing into the 1990s, moves were made by the RAOU, the precursor of Birds Australia, to standardise the common names by which Australian birds are referred to in surveys and birding literature. The set of names adopted, and now generally accepted, is known as the Recommended English Names (RENs).

People often ask about the style of RENs. Why are some names hyphenated and others not? Why are some parts of the names spelt with capitals and others without? It may seem completely arbitrary, but in fact the style of names conforms to a system of nomenclature which generally follows that prescribed by the International Ornithological Congress. In this article, I'll try to explain, briefly, how the system works.

The first thing to notice is that the great majority of bird names consist of two parts. One part, let's call it the 'group-name', denotes the type of bird or the group of birds to which it belongs. The second part, which is actually placed ahead of the group-name, I'll call the 'descriptor'. It describes something about the bird (its appearance, habits, etc) which goes to define it as a species. So, to take a simple example, 'Crested Pigeon': 'Pigeon' is the group-name and 'Crested' is the descriptor, modifying the group-name to tell you what species of pigeon is being referred to. In this very common type of name, where both the descriptor and the group-name consist of single words, both are capitalised, i.e. spelled with an initial capital letter.

Looking in more detail at group-names, as I've said the situation is simple when the group name is a single word. But note that in many cases the group-name actually consists of two nouns which are amalgamated to form a single compound noun. Thus 'treecreeper' actually consists of two nouns, 'tree' and 'creeper'. This tendency to make a compound noun out of two nouns is particularly pronounced where the second noun is 'bird' or refers to a type of bird. So we get 'Mistletoebird', 'Scrubwren', 'Sparrowhawk', 'Swamphen', 'Rockwarbler' and 'Woodswallow'. It is also often applied where the second noun refers to a part of the bird's body (e.g. 'Bronzewing', 'Thornbill' and 'Fantail'),

or to its activities ('Flycatcher'). Again, the rule is that the compound noun which forms the group-name is always capitalised.

However, the two nouns in the group-name are not always joined to form a single word. In some cases they are retained as two separate words, usually, though not always, linked by a hyphen (e.g. 'Black-Cockatoo'). And this is where the rules about using capitals and lower case letters get tricky, because there are two types of these hyphenated group-names.

In the first type, the name signifies that the bird is a member of a closely related sub-group within the group of birds to which it actually belongs. The first word in the group-name is not a noun, but an adjective. So a 'Black-Cockatoo' is a type of cockatoo, a 'Bronze-Cuckoo' is a type of cuckoo. In these cases, both components of the group-name are capitalised.

The second type of hyphenated group-name consists of two nouns, the names of two other families of birds to neither of which the bird with the group-name belongs. 'Cuckoo-shrikes' are neither cuckoos nor shrikes; 'Shrike-tits' aren't either shrikes or tits; 'Quail-thrushes' are not quails nor are they thrushes. Where the connection between the bird and those mentioned in its group-name is fanciful, only the first part of the group-name is capitalised. The second component is spelled with a lower case initial letter. A similar rule applies to Button-quails. Appearances to the contrary, they are not quails; they're not even closely related to them. Nor are Fairy-wrens real wrens.

Needless to say there are exceptions to these basic rules regarding group-names. Sometimes the group-name consists of two words that are not linked by a hyphen. So we get 'Australian Wood Duck', 'Pacific Black Duck', 'Eastern Yellow Robin'. In the cases of the ducks, the names 'Wood Duck' and 'Black Duck' are applied in different parts of the world to birds that are not closely related to each other and hence don't form a cohesive sub-group. As far as the Eastern Yellow Robin goes, I suspect that the bird's name originally consisted of a single descriptor and the group-name ('Yellow Robin') on the usual pattern. As other species of Yel-

low Robin were found (Western Yellow Robin), it became necessary to add another descriptor, 'Eastern'. The old two word name was so well entrenched by tradition that it was not hyphenated.

There are also a few hyphenated group-names in which the hyphen is introduced into a compound noun because otherwise a conjunction of letters would make the name as written look incongruous. 'Bee-eater' falls into this category.

Fortunately, the situation with descriptors is more straightforward. Descriptors often consist of two words, usually describing some feature of the bird's appearance. The rule here is that the two words are hyphenated (i.e. they are compound adjectives); the first word is capitalised and the second is lower case. The examples are legion: 'Wedge-tailed Eagle', 'White-naped Honeyeater', 'Double-barré Finch' (*photo below*) and so on and so



on. Where there is more than one descriptor, as in the Eastern Yellow Robin example, all are capitalised. In 'New Holland Honeyeater' what looks like two descriptors actually form a single term, hallowed by historical usage.

Where the descriptor is a single word, it is always capitalised. It may describe a physical feature of the bird ('Tawny Frogmouth') or its behaviour ('Restless Flycatcher') or refer to its geographical range ('Australian Raven').

Occasionally a species has only a single word name, a group-name without any descriptor ('Galah'). Unsurprisingly, these names are always spelled with a capital letter.

And finally, birds names that include somebody's name as a descriptor have an apostrophe in the person's name, thus 'Lewin's Honeyeater'.

*(This is a slightly edited version of an article which originally appeared in the Blue Mountains Bird Observer in August, 2010)*



## Marine Research Group News

**Report on MRG meeting Monday 11 April, 2011: Michael Lyons, President of the MRG, spoke on Molluscan Biodiversity in Victoria** with particular emphasis on comparing the knowledge of today against that of a century or so ago. As an experienced SCUBA diver and beachcomber, Michael brought considerable expertise to this topic. The talk was a repeat of Michael's address to the FNCV's Biodiversity Symposium held on Sunday 21 November, 2010.

A reference point used for a comparison of knowledge of the local fauna was a contribution on mollusca by G.B. Pritchard to the natural history book *Handbook of Melbourne* published in 1900.

Michael began by highlighting that many discoveries in the molluscan fauna have been made over the last century. Pritchard (1900) estimated that there were "upwards of 500 species" of Victorian gastropods and bivalves. A current estimate of the Victorian non-opisthobranch gastropods alone is in the range of 1100 species (Lynton Stephens, personal communication).

There are currently upwards of 200 known bivalves. The 22 known chitons in 1900 had grown to a list of 70 species in the intervening 62 years, as listed in the landmark *Marine Molluscs of Victoria* (hereafter referred to as MMOV) by Macpherson & Gabriel.

Cephalopods were relatively poorly known in 1900, with now around 30 species known from south-eastern Australia. Pritchard (1900: 141) comments on a general lack of anatomical knowledge of the mollusca, and goes on to say that "... about the majority we know absolutely nothing. As an instance of this neglect we can glance at one interesting group, namely, the nudibranchs, and find that our knowledge of the

Victorian forms is practically nil, though we appear to have a fairly large and interesting series." The work by Burn (2006), founded to a considerable extent upon his own contributions in describing the local fauna over a nearly 60 year period, lists 212 nudibranchs amongst a total opisthobranch count of 364. Such is the rate of progress of knowledge, however, that these figures themselves are now out of date.

Michael highlighted some of the key molluscan literature dealing with Victoria since Pritchard's entry in the *Handbook of Melbourne*, noting the Catalogue of Marine Mollusca of Victoria by Pritchard and Gatliff, appearing in parts in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* from 1897-1905 (with the list continually expanded by Gatliff and Gabriel in the same journal from 1907-1930); Gabriel's *Victorian Seashells*, published by the FNCV in 1936; The Port Phillip Bay (henceforth PPB) Survey (conducted in the 1950s) and subsequently reported on in the *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria*; Macpherson and Gabriel's *MMOV*, and publications by Charles Hedley, Tom Iredale, Bernard Cotton, Joyce Allan, Robert Burn, Barry Wilson, Kevin Lamprell, Brian Smith, Florence Murray, Mark Norman and many others.

Interesting comments by Pritchard in 1900 were that Williamstown, Altona, Black Rock and Corio Bay were good collecting areas, although today pollution, trampling, over-harvesting, dredging, and other factors have somewhat degraded these areas. The bivalve *Neotrigonia margaritacea* was common in southern PPB, but is not known from there now. *Notocypraea angustata* and *Terebra albida* were among species considered common along the PPB side of the Mornington Peninsula, but the former to Michael's knowledge is now not found in PPB and

the latter is extremely rare.

Other changes seen since Pritchard's entry include the PPB scallop fishery (1950s—mid 1990s), the Bass Strait scallop fisheries, the commercial harvesting of abalone, mussel farms in PPB, and the squid fishery in Bass Strait. Different challenges to our local fauna now include issues such as dredging, water desalination and pollution. Threats to local ecological systems from invasive species have also reared their heads. The introduced bivalves *Musculista senhousia*, *Corbula gibba* and *Theora fragilis* now carpet large areas of PPB. The New Zealand screw shell *Maoricolpus roseus* is also gaining a foothold in Victoria, first recorded alive by Michael in Waratah Bay a decade or so ago, with dead shells now known from Portsea. Other marine pests such as the Northern Pacific Sea Star, fanworms, Japanese kelp, and the European shore crab *Carcinus maenus* all pose key challenges to our molluscan and general marine fauna, as do disease organisms such as the abalone ganglioneuritis virus.

Michael concluded his informative talk with an outstanding overview and many interesting observations of gastropod and bivalve species that he has encountered in his extensive study of the local marina fauna. We thank him greatly for his excellent talk.

### **Selected refs. and further reading:**

- Burn R (2006). A checklist and bibliography of the Opisthobranchia (Mollusca: Gastropoda) of Victoria and the Bass Strait area, south eastern Australia. *Museum Victoria Science Reports*, 10: 1-42.
- Macpherson JH, Gabriel CJ (1962). *Marine Molluscs of Victoria*. Melbourne University Press, Parkville, Victoria.
- Pritchard GB (1900). Mollusca, p. 135-141, in *Handbook of Melbourne* (For the use of members of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science). Melbourne Meeting, 1900. Edited by Professor Baldwin Spencer. Ford and Son, Drummond Street Carlton.

**P. Vafiadis**

## Fundraising - President's Appeal for our new roof

Profit from Bunnings Sausage Sizzle 19/11/10	\$ 763.00
Profit from Calendar Dec 2010	\$ 43.00
Christmas Raffle	\$ 254.90
President's Appeal Tin	\$ 139.80
Good Will Wine	\$ 50.00
Profit from AGM Raffle	\$1,621.30
President's Appeal Tin	\$ 180.00
<b>Total Fundraising:</b>	<b>\$3,052.00</b>

**President's Roof Appeal Donations: \$7,443.05**

**Total Raised: \$10,495.05**

*The total cost of the roof replacement was \$31,200.00.*

The short fall has been financed by cashing in some investments. This means that the club loses the passive income from the interest generated by these investments. Our goal is to raise at least half of the cost of the roof.

If you wish to donate to the President's Roof Appeal contact Hali in the office on 9877 9860. We will be continuing to fund raise. We have booked a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November and will be calling for volunteers closer to the date.

### Thanks to these latest Roof Appeal contributors:

George Paras and Pascale Pitot.

### Congratulations to the Roof Appeal Raffle Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Toshiba Laptop, plus software. Donated by FNCV \$990.00.

**Brendan Murphy** (Brendan chose to donate the laptop back to the club to re raffle).

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Jumbuck 4 burner, hooded Barbecue. Donated by Bunnings \$348.00. **Geoff Carle**

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: 12 mixed bottles of FNCV Wine. Donated by FNCV \$163.00  
**Alan Yen**

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Framed Photograph of a Yellow Robin. Donated by Patricia Crowley \$70.00. **Elizabeth Turnbull**



## Library News

Since this is my first 'Library News' as Librarian, I should begin by thanking my predecessor. The Club is grateful to Sheila for her long and dedicated service in the Library; I am particularly thankful for her patience and understanding through the past six years, as she has tried to explain the intricacies of running a library. How successful she has been remains to be seen.

While it might not be business 'as usual' without Sheila, I do not anticipate any significant changes to the Library service that members are used to. But as Sheila has retired, of course there is one less person to carry the load. So, if there are any members who would like to spend a few hours on a regular basis helping out in the Library, please contact me.

Recent additions:

Wrigley, J. and M. Fagg (2010) *Eucalypts: a celebration* (Allen & Unwin)  
Douglas, J. and B. Reid (2010) *Exploring Werribee Gorge 1836-2010* (Friends of Werribee Gorge)

**Gary Presland**  
**Honorary Librarian**

*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*

## Field Nats News 209



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