



Field Nats News No.211

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
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Patron: Governor of Victoria

Understanding Our Natural World
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Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9 am-4 pm.

August 2011

*** John Harris is enjoying a well-earned break during the school holidays, so we are winging the presidents report this month. Eds.*

Fire Report

The cleaning of smoke damage in the hall is progressing and we hope to be in a position to once again hold meetings in our hall by early August. Although there was no fire damage anywhere in the hall, the smoke damage was widespread. This means that the hall, conference room, entry, library, toilets and back store room will need to be repainted. The floor in the hall and possibility other places within the building will need to be refinished. Most of the stock from the bookshop was damaged and will have to be written off. All books sales have been suspended until the end of August. The Library, although undamaged, has been emptied to facilitate painting. This means that the Library will be closed until early September. Anyone who has borrowed books, should keep them until the library reopens.

I am working to expedite the repairs and hope that after the work is done, the club will come back better than ever.
Hali Ferguson

Fire damage— FNCV kitchen



FNCV Website

We would invite members to check out the FNCV website. It is looking great, with just a little more work to do.

A short while ago we advertised in FNN for help with the site and had a wonderful response. So much so, that we now have a website team of six in place. The website team has had one meeting and has passed many emails back and forth. Remote access has been gained and the website is being rapidly updated.

SIG organizers need continue to be involved by selecting material which will keep their page up to date and interesting. This should be quite a simple process, as much of the relevant material will have already been published in FNN. Could all SIG reps please make an effort to work with the member of the Website team that is responsible for updating their section. Contact Hali if you need more information.

SEANA camp at Phillip Island. Sat 29th October—Tuesday 1st November

Details of the camp and a registration form were sent out with the last newsletter. Registration closes on **Friday 29th July**. Cost per adult for three days is \$30, with members looking after their own accommodation and meals. There will be additional costs for some excursions.

Planning of the program is the next big task. More details next month.

Due date for the September newsletter is **Monday 1st August**. FNN will go to print on the 9th August, with collation Tuesday 16th August starting at **10.30 am**

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

Attention: Members and Visitors – Temporary change of venue

Due to a kitchen fire at 1 Gardenia St. on Friday 17th June 2011, we are unable to hold meetings in the FNCV hall at present. Therefore, all the following, already advertised July meetings have been moved to the nearby Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitors Centre. *Wed 20th July – Terrestrial Invertebrates Group; Thurs 21st July – Botany Group; Tues 26th July – Day Group; Wed 27th – Geology Group; Fri 29th July – Juniors Group.*

Please note one Cancellation: *Tues 26th July – New Members' Night is cancelled.*

Enter the Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre off Central Road, opposite Gwenda Street, (Melways 48 B11).

We are hoping to be able to use the FNCV hall at the beginning of August for the August meetings, as scheduled below. Please keep an eye on the website or ring the office for up-to-date information. Notices will also be posted on the outside doors of the FNCV if any of the early August meetings need to be relocated.

August 2011

Monday 1st – Fungi Group. Meeting *'Fungi that live in water'* Speaker: Frances La Fontaine. Report on Fungi-map conference & planning for 2012 program. Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 2nd – Fauna Survey Group. Meeting *'The Mallard X Pacific Black Duck Hybridisation Threat'* Speaker: Patrick-Jean Guay, Research Fellow, Victoria University. Contact: Sally Bewsher 9752 1418 AH

Saturday 6th - Fauna Survey Group. Equipment day/social day 10.30 am – 3. 00 pm at FNCV Hall or Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitors centre. Join members of the FSG to talk about recent activities and trips, as well as to help repair and label equipment. Drop in for an hour or stay for the day. All welcome. BYO lunch. Contact: Sally Bewsher or Russell Thompson 9434 7046 AH

Sun day 7th – Juniors Group. Excursion *'Bird spotting with Annette Cook'* Bring a camera and meet at the Information Building Blackburn Lake Sanctuary at 2.00 pm. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474: toclairaf@hotmail.com

Monday 8th – Marine Research Group. Meeting *'Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula'*, Julie Marshal will talk about her recent trip. Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180; 0428 669 772

Wednesday 10th – Bat Group. Grey-headed flying-fox count Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course carpark Mel 2D G7 at 5.30 pm. RSVP by email or phone Megan Davidson if you are planning to attend. 9380 6062: m.davidson@latrobe.edu

Tuesday 16th Collate FNN 212 - NOTE collation will be scheduled in the MORNING as a trial, starting 10.30 – 11 am. We hope to be about to use the conference room at Gardenia St. If not, Hali will contact everyone as to the venue. Phone FNCV office 9877 9860 or email admin@fncv.org.au

Wednesday 17th – Microscopy Group. Meeting For details contact: Phillippa Sterpin 9598 3231 AH

Thursday 18th - Botany Group. Meeting *'Australian Ferns'* Speaker: Barry Stagoll. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Sunday 21st – Botany Group. Excursion to Badger Creek Weir Park, Healesville Meet at 10 am.

(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)

For details contact Sue Bendel 0427 055071

Monday 22nd FNCV Council. 7.30 pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Hali, 9877 9860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 23rd – Day Group. Meeting. ‘The History of Science in Museum Victoria’ Speaker: Rebecca Carland, Curator, History of Science Project, Museum Victoria. Meet for coffee and a chat at 10.30 am. program starts at 11 am. Contact: Gary Presland. 9890 9288

Wednesday 24th – Geology Group. Meeting ‘Stories from the Geoscience Collections’ Speaker: Dr. Dermot Henry, Manager, Natural Sciences Collection, Museum Victoria. Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911

Friday 26th – Juniors Group. Meeting ‘Dress up night’ – theme “Pond Life”. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474:toclarief@gmail.com



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 1st August

Welcome
Welcome

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

Mrs Linda Parker, Dr Patrick-Jean Guay, Miss Cecillia Power, Mrs June Anton, Ms Tessa Dalman, Mr Timothy Dalman, Mr Nathan Dalman, Miss Tegan Dalman, Ms Jane St. Quintin, Miss Teresa Mackintosh, Mr Fred Renneberg, Ms Jenny Jones-Ellis, Ms Lisa Stuart, Ms Laurie Krauss, Mr John Walter, Mrs Jacqui Grace, Mr Lucan McKern, Mr Ada McKern, Mr Mackenzie Junginger, Ms Marion Murphy, Mr Steve Broady, Upper Yarra Landcare, Gembrook Learning Alternatives.

Our sincere condolences to Wendy Clarke, FNCV honorary member, whose mother recently passed away.

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

VERY REASONABLE RATES

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

ATTENTION SIG ORGANISERS

The next Calendar of Events, (from October 2011 until January 2012), is due on the **19th August**. If you cannot make this deadline please contact Hali.



In
July 2011
come & see

Spitsbergen & Greenland

By
Carol Hall

An exhibition of Arctic Photography at
Radmac

104 Armstrong St North, Ballarat

Open during business hours Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm Sat 9am-12 noon

Hello Melbourne Field Nats,

I have just read the July News and was interested to read about the trip to the Arctic by Neil McLachlan. I gave a nearly identical talk to our Ballarat FNC last month on my trip in 2010. I am a geographer so lots of ecology and geomorphology was included in the talk. I have attached our newsletter with the report for your perusal. I am a keen photographer (Ballarat Camera Club) and am having a display of photos from the trip at Radmac in Ballarat for the month of July. I am in the midst of a schedule of talks to camera clubs, field nats and other community groups.

Carol Hall, Secretary, Ballarat Field Naturalist Club

**If anyone would like to read the report of Carol's trip, please email FNN and we will pass it on to you. Eds.*

“Golden Trilobite” award for 2010

Phil Bock one of the leaders of the, (*Nunawading U3A*), Geology Group, is an expert on the group of invertebrate animals called bryozoans—moss animals, or lace corals. During 2008, 2009 and 2010, he spent several weeks each year collecting samples from the coral reefs at Lizard Island, Heron Island (Queensland), and at Ningaloo (WA).



This was part of an international program called the *Census of Coral Reefs*, which itself is part of the *Census of Marine Life*. Bryozoans are similar to corals, but are quite unrelated and are usually smaller. Australia is particularly rich in living bryozoans, mostly on the continental shelf. In several places, the remains of these animals form bodies of limestone, such as the limestone of Mt. Gambier.

Some form as a nuisance on ships hulls, growing there as fouling organisms, and can be transported around the world. Phil has also created and maintains a website called “The Bryozoa Page” (<http://bryozoa.net/>) which was started in 1994, This documents the various groups of these animals, and the publications on them since 1756,

Recently his work was recognised by the British organization, the Palaeontological Association, resulting in the award for 2010.

More information about the Palaeontological Association can be found at <http://www.palass.org/>

This article was first published in the newsletter of U3A, Nunawading.

Update on the Presidents’ Roof Appeal

Many thanks to the following people for their generous donations to the Presidents’ Roof Appeal.

George Paras
Pascale Pitot
Julia Davis
Val LaMay
Sheina Nicholls
Andrew Brentnall
Sue McLean
Alan Monger
Juris Ozols

Total President’s Roof Appeal =
\$13,189.75

The new roof was, thankfully, undamaged by the recent fire. We are planning to continue fund raising in the second half of this year with a secondhand book sale, sausage sizzle and raffle. However, due to the fire repairs, we are unable to accept donations of books at present.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



Fauna Survey Group

Cape Liptrap Camp 10/6/2011 - 13/6/2011

Well, up to twenty members of the F.N.C.V. Fauna Survey Group took part in the June long weekend survey at Bear Gully, just to the north-east of Cape Liptrap. The survey site was in an area of variably aged Heathland, from recently burnt regrowth to quite mature, dense Heathland, which merged into boggy Melaleuca and Coral Fern soaks.

The weather was superb, although the night-time dew made the vegetation at the survey site rather wet. One got sopping wet having to pick one's way through the thick vegetation to check the traps. Survey techniques employed included the use of cage and small Elliott traps, bird spotting, chance sightings and a remote camera.

Mammals trapped included Bush Rats and Swamp Rats. A Swamp Wallaby was photographed on the group's remote camera which had been set up three weeks before the survey. Several members paid a visit to a private property south of Tarwin Lower. This property borders the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, where more remote sensing cameras from Parks Victoria were setup. The Bush Rat was detected on these cameras. Bandicoots have been found in the past in this area. Some evidence of their presence is still apparent.

Other mammals detected included the Common Wombat, Ring-tailed Possums, a Fox seen doing the rounds of the campground and the odd Rabbit.

Two species of frog was heard - the Brown Tree Frog and the Common Froglet.

Over thirty species of birds were detected, with some of the more notable species being the Wedge-tailed Eagle, Lyrebird, Beautiful Firetail, Blue-winged Parrots and the Shy Albatross seen loafing on calm waters well out to sea.

Russell Thompson



Day Group

Using photography to gain a better appreciation and understanding of Nature

Courtesy of our friends at Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre, the FNCV Day group was able to enjoy a talk by well known author, educator and naturalist, Leon Costermans. His presentation was entitled, 'Using photography to gain a better appreciation and understanding of Nature.' Leon is currently working on a book which he described as, 'the geology of south eastern Australia for non-geologists', and we were lucky enough to be among the first to be exposed to a little of its content. The notes below give only a brief overview from the wealth of ideas and examples presented.

Leon was brought up with photography and it is an integral part of all his work. He commented that the major aim of his images is to engage the brain. One of Leon's methods is to seek out the exact point of an older photo and reproduce the same view. A great deal can be learned from a comparison of the two shots, for example, changes in landforms and vegetation cover. His talk began with a black and white, wet plate photograph taken along the Torquay coastline in 1861, together with a

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 211

Joan Broadberry
Noel Schleiger
Platon Vafiadis
Hali Ferguson
Sally Bewsher

recent photograph of the same area. Another example was a photograph taken at approximately the same viewpoint as a sketch made by Major Mitchell in 1836. Leon frequently asked his audience, (us), to observe carefully and then make logical deductions from his images. For example, identifying the hemisphere, season or order in which photograph were taken. Our brains received a good workout.

Leon's presentation included many engaging subjects; e.g. the subtle change in colour in a simple photograph of a dirt track, which indicates a change in the underlying geology, soil type and thus vegetation. Or a photograph taken in a fresh road cutting, clearly showing the phenomena of 'hillside creep'. For each image or set of images, Leon first challenged his audience for an interpretation before giving the explanation. He led us on a fascinating journey which included botany, coastal and other landforms, rainbows, mega fauna footprints, star trails and much more.

A huge "thank you", once again to Leon for taking time out of his very busy life to teach us and stretch our minds and imaginations. This talk had the one of the highest attendances of any Day Group held so far.

Joan Broadberry



Fungi Group

Fungi Group Foray 19 June 2011 Blackwood, Jack Cann Reserve

After the clear sunny drive up from Melbourne, when we arrived at the Jack Cann Reserve a slight misty drizzle had set in, and it was cold. In the car park pines area we found exotic fungi – *Tricholoma terreum* with a beautiful grey cap; purple-red capped *Russula integra* in which the maturing spores were turning the gills yellow, indicating that there would be a deep yellow spore print, which is unusual in this species; and a couple of Fly Agarics *Amanita muscaria*. Their red caps had faded to a dirty yellow in previous rains.

The morning foray took us along the River Heritage Walk above the Lerderderg road. The trees here included Messmate, Manna gum, Narrow-leaved Peppermint and Blackwoods. Just before we reached this area we saw a tiny red species that looked like *Mycena viscidocruenta*, but there was no slime on the stem. On closer inspection it was more like an *Hygrocybe* sp. The fruit-body was interesting because it was so tiny (red cap diameter 4mm), it had a few pale gills that were attached to a collar, and the red stem came away from the cap very easily, and later when it had dried the cap was found to be hygrophanous. Although I didn't get a spore print, under the microscope the spores were pale, almond-shaped and warty. On Dr T May's provisional key to Agarics the reply was that no species matched the characteristics. This is a complete puzzle and I would appreciate any suggestions from anyone as to what it might be, even the genus to which it belongs.

Blackwood is noted for its numerous *Cortinarius* spp, and we found a lot – mostly brown and unidentifiable by

us, except for the very distinctive *C. phalarus* which has a flat, white patch on the cap and a white membranous volva at the base of the stem. In these fruit-bodies the volva was not loosely saccate but hugged the stem. Apart from brown *Cortinarius* spp. there were only a few Slimy Yellow Cortis *C. sinapicolor* and red *Dermocybe cramesina*, not the swathes of *Cortinarius* spp. that usually cover the banks.

There were numerous examples of the tiny (a few mm) Cannon-ball fungus *Sphaerobolus stellatus*. It is one of the bird nest fungi, but has only one translucent 'cannonball' (peridiole) containing spores that is ejected a metre into the air to disperse its spores. The support that is left forms an orange 'star' which is very visible. We found them on pieces of wood and around the base of eucalypt trunks. Also along this track were many troops of Horsehair Fungus *Marasmius crinis-equi* group with black horse-hair stems and caps with a 'distinctive black pimple in a dimple'. An interesting find was that of the Common Prettymouth *Calostoma fuscum*, not noted from here in earlier forays. This stalked puff-ball has a stalk of toughly gelatinous interwoven strands and supports a spore sac with a red mouth. One defining characteristic is that the brown semi-circular 'cap' at first covering the mouth, falls off in one piece. These are seen scattered around mature fruit-bodies.

After lunch we made our way along the Great Dividing

Trail to look for the tiny 'Earpick' fungus *Auriscalpium* sp. This year, in contrast with last, there were just a few examples – tiny brown cap with long teeth underneath supported on a lateral stem. This is still growing on the one specimen of Long-leaf Stringybark which makes it very vulnerable. Sadly we did not find the yellow *Dermocybe canaria* there again this year, but at the last minute John Walter came up with one but not everyone saw it and the collecting area is not known. The truffle *Zelleromyces daucus* was found in the soil on this lower track; characteristics include orange 'skin' over a pale convoluted interior where the convolutions of the inside can be seen on the outside skin. Finally we saw several beautiful fresh examples of *Podoserpula pusio* around the base of a tree and in a rotted stump.

Pat Grey



Podoserpula pusio, Pagoda Fungus



Fungi Group Foray, Bunyip State Park, 2nd visit

12th June 2011

*Bunyip State Forest, Mortimer
Picnic Ground and Nature Trail*

Our second foray along Mortimer nature trail this year took place five weeks after the first. Leaving behind the heavy fog around Melbourne it was delightful to find that the day was sunny at Bunyip. We were pleased to welcome Sally and Clive Green from Drouin, and two families of new members. Sally had brought along a tray of knitted 'Cortinarius species' illustrating the features of seven species.

Although there were fewer fruit-bodies to be seen this time, a good representation of fungi types was recorded, especially with the help of the keen-eyed youngsters. For once no fungi were seen in the camp fire sites, but there were several on moss, logs, fallen twigs and branches, trunks of standing trees, tree ferns and tree fern stalks, as well as some on the ground.

We didn't have to go far to see the first fungus: fresh, soft, pale yellow fruit-bodies of *Meiorganum curtisii* were growing on a log close to the car park. Nearby, a second log hosted several good examples of *Fomitopsis lilacinogilva*, and we scratched the underside of one of its brackets to see the characteristic colour-change from pallid to dark red.

Amongst the grass and leaf litter next to this log was a group of *Mycena albidofusca*, recognisable because of the brown, conic, striate cap with a pale 'lens' in the centre. Not far away, a lone young Green Skinhead *Cortinarius austrovenetus* (= *Dermocybe austroveneta*), mycorrhizal with (attached to the roots of) a Manna Gum, surprised some of the new members with its dark green cap. A group of three Wood Blewits *Lepista nuda* still retained some lovely mauve colours in the caps as well as the gills

and stems. There was plenty of *Rickenella fibula* in patches of moss in the grassy area, its small bright orange caps attracting our attention. Not so easy to see were the puff-balls *Morganella subincarnata* on a eucalypt trunk.

Large brackets of *Ganoderma australe* protruded from a log at entrance to trail, this time also filling the space between two cut sections of the log. A beautiful pink-capped *Russula*, some earthstars *Geastrum triplex* and a coral fungus *Ramaria flaccida* were growing on the ground beside the track. One sharp-eyed youngster also discovered the Elegant Blue Web-cap *Cortinarius rotindisporus*, while another, using a 'telescope' cardboard roll, spied a minute shell-like *Campanella olivaceonigra* on a Hazel Pomaderris trunk. Black Tacks *Lanzia lanaripes* and a couple of Purple Jellydiscs *Ascocoryne sarcoides* were found on a mossy log. Several earth tongues *Geoglossum* sp. were growing on a tree fern trunk, and dead stalks of tree fern leaves were home to tiny *Lachnum pteridiphyllum* discs and the beautiful minute *Mycena* 'tiny blue'. A hand lens is needed to see both these species.

The bright orange patches growing in the bark of living eucalypts were *Hyphodontia flavipora*. This species is not uncommon and we have seen it at Blackwood, Cathedral Range, Dom Dom Saddle and Greens Bush



Sally Green with her knitted *Corinarius* spp. showing characteristics of each species,
Photo: P. Grey.

After lunch we went for a short walk along part of the horse trail. Conditions were very wet and boggy and we had to look hard for any fungi. The walk was worthwhile, however, because we saw colourful bluish discs of *Chlorociboria* on rotting wood, a much more photogenic cluster of *Ascocoryne sarcoides* on a log, plus a 'first' for this area, a patch of *Lasiochaeria ovina*, also on a log. *L. ovina* consists of tiny white globes, each with a single black ostiole on the top, all sitting on a brown jelly-like substance on the wood. This species was also seen during our trip to the Otway National Park at the end of April.

In total, 80 species were recorded. Thank you to Pat Grey for taking the field notes and compiling the species list, and to the 17 participants who helped find the fungi and contributed to an most enjoyable day.

Virgil Hubregtse, Ed & Pat Grey



Fungi Group Foray

The Beeches,
Lady Talbot Drive, Marysville
5 June 2011

Now, driving along Lady Talbot Drive to The Beeches is very different from what it was before the 2009 bushfires. Tall stands of white tree trunks fill the sky-line, while very low down is some green regrowth. The amount of light is incredible. As we neared The Beeches, we saw that the 'tunnel' of overhanging Myrtle Beech had gone – burnt, but incredibly in patches some trees had survived and in other places some had started to sprout from the base. In the Eucalypt forest, Kangaroo Apple has been replaced by Silver Wattle and Eucalypt saplings making a dense cover of regrowth. As a result of all the burning it is not surprising that most of the fungi we saw were wood related – busily feasting on the burnt forest, recycling it into nutritious soil: there were masses of Purple Jellydisc *Ascocoryne sarcoides* everywhere, in all stages of growth from the asexual smooth clubs to the large flat discs of the sexual stage. They were on fallen logs as well as standing dead trees. On most of the standing dead Sassafras were huge 'cramp balls' *Daldinia grandis*, black and knobby and ranging over the whole stem. Elsewhere layers of leathery *Stereum* spp. and pored *Trametes* spp. tiered up the dead trunks.

Laccaria sp A was found at the base of *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, the only tree with which this *Laccaria* species is known to associate with. Specimens were old and a bit tattered but retained the typical soft pink tones of *Laccaria* sp A. Only the paler pink margins of the caps were thin enough to reveal the underlying gill structure (typical for the striations to be restricted to the edges if they are present at all). The fleshy (5-8 mm) stipes were pink with some white fibrils. The gills were widely spaced and pale pink. Towards the end of the day my attention was called to a patch of what was suspected to be *Laccaria* sp A, but turned out to be *L. canaliculata*. The reasons I decided it was *L. canaliculata* and not *L. sp A* – despite the large size, are as follows:

- Although some of the specimens had extremely large caps, certainly of a size common for *L. sp A*, they were not convincingly fleshy and the stipes were not overly robust.
- There were many smaller fruit bodies in the area that had the same overall appearance as the larger ones in terms of shape and colour, and that were likely to be *L. canaliculata*.
- The colours were more in the orange range rather than the *L. sp A* pink, and the stipes were quite a dark brick red.
- The translucent striate appearance of the caps extended quite a long way towards the centre of the cap, instead of being restricted to the margins.
- Some of the fruit bodies were growing out from the side of a tree fern, which *L. canaliculata* is known to do but *L. sp A* is not. (Elizabeth Sheedy)

Dr Teresa Lebel just happened to find a couple of truffles. One was *Descomyces albus*, fairly common, which has a white skin on the outside and milk chocolate brown on the inside, wrinkled and chambered by convoluted 'gills'. It looks just like 'smashed smarties'. This species is related to *Descolea*. The *Descolea recedens* that we often see is brown, and characterised by yellow specks on the cap and a soft membranous, skirt-like ring on the stem. Unusually, we were also able to see some of the mycorrhizally affected roots and the way the fungus was attached to them. Teresa thought that the other 'weird truffle' was a *Gymnomyces* sp. with a densely felted outer surface, dirty white (usually), except for the one found on the soil surface which was light tan. Inside the truffle it was white with 'gills' very closely squashed together and very little space between. The texture crumbled and suggested a relationship to *Russula* or *Lactarius*, but as it excluded no latex, it is, thus, more likely

to be related to the *Russula*. However, after further study at MEL, Teresa let us know the exciting news that it is likely to be a new species of *Hysterogaster* sp., which is an odd genus, because it has spores which are elongated 'lemon-shaped', that stain reddish brown (dextrinoid reaction) in iodine or Melzers soln. It also turns out to be related to *Descolea* (agaricoid fruit-bodies) and *Descomyces* (truffle).

We found a few green-turquoise discs of *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* on a small piece of wood, and then, interestingly a few very dark olive-green fleshier discs, that looked like *Chlorociboria* sp., but there was no colour stain in the wood. Teresa mentioned that Peter Johnson had written an article about New Zealand (including some Australian) *Chlorociboria*. He found that there were a large number of species, but that they could be grouped into two clusters – those that stained the wood and those that did not. So we believe that the dark olive-green discs we saw were *Chlorociboria* sp. and belonged to the latter cluster.

Another interesting species comprised small brown individual cushions with dark ostioles. It looked like *Hypocrea*, but not *H. victoriensis* which is yellow and forms large patches of cushions.

The Fungi of Switzerland I, Ascomycetes no 319, mentions a brown *Hypocrea rufa*, that looked very much like the species we saw. However, the most interesting thing mentioned was that these cushions are the ascus stage of the conidial (anamorph) *Trichoderma lignotum* which is a blue-green mould-like coating on wood. Our group have occasionally seen a green crust in small patches - *Trichoderma viride*, which, in other literature, is mentioned as the anamorph of *Hypocrea rufa* (Walter M. Jaklitsch *et al* *Hypocrea rufa/Trichoderma viride*: a reassessment, and description of five closely related species with and without warted conidia, *Studies In Mycology* 55: 135–177. 2006). Also in this article they mention that another species *Hypocrea viridescens* was examined from Victoria at Myrtle Walking Track in Myrtle Gully, elevation 575 m, with *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *Eucalyptus reg-*
(Continued on page 9)

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nans and tree ferns, and whose anamorph is *Trichoderma viridescens*. Closer examination and study of the fruit body should have been done to confirm this species, but as it had been found in this area, the identification is possible.

My recent search for 'black spots' has had an interesting turn – the latest being into the genus *Biscogniauxia*. Firstly, some black patches on a dead *Nothofagus* branch were examined and found to match details of *Biscogniauxia* spp. Their growth habit of breaking lifting up and breaking through the bark, hard texture and brown-black subglobose spores sized 11.5-13x7-8 microns. These are parasitic on dicot hosts (in this case eucalypt). Then a small red patch of spherical fruit-bodies were found growing on a black patch of what appeared to be a *Biscogniauxia* sp. The red patch was recognised as a *Nectria* sp. The Fungi CD 09 mentions that *Nectria sanguinea* grows on *Biscogniauxia* spp. or *Hypoxylon* spp. where it is a parasite, and Hood confirms its growth on *Biscogniauxia* spp. (Ed Grey)



Cramp Balls, *Daldinia grandis*

Photo: Pat Grey

At the end of the foray we found two small specimens of *Cortinarius rotundisporus*. Each cap was metallic blue with a yellow-brown umbo, the stem was blue and the gills pallid with brown. This species seems to have had a rather chequered history mycologically speaking. In 1990, the species was again studied by Horak and Wood and because of similar microscopic characters amalgamated three similar species *C. rotundisporus*, *C. austro-evernius* and *C. oleaginus* into a single taxon, *C. rotundisporus*. In 1997 CA Grgurinovic re-divided them into their earlier three

species, but in 1998 N Bougher and K Syme preferred to keep the amalgamation of species into the single *C. rotundisporus*. However, in 1999, N. A. Sawyer et al. worked on molecular studies of *C. rotundisporus*, and the study found that, in actual fact, there do seem to be three species - *C. rotundisporus*, *C. austro-evernius* and *C. oleaginus*.

So, at the moment, we are back where we started when the species were first described by Cleland. *Calostoma rodwayi* was found in the soil of a cutting in the walking track, underneath a *Nothofagus* that had not been damaged by fire. This has been found at this precise location many times in previous years. By contrast fruitbodies that are usually seen at a particular location on Myrtle Loop track were not seen this year – and that area had been more burnt. (Paul George)

A rare find was *Cystoderma clasto-*

trichum. This species is unusual in that it was growing on bare wood under *Nothofagus*. The colour of cap and stipe is yellowish orange with spots of brown near the centre of the cap. The cap has a ragged fringe of pale shaggy remnants around the margin. It has the distinctive paler 'wooly socks' extending half to two thirds up the stipe, and they are somewhat shaggy. Microscopic analysis shows that the spores are smaller (mean = 4.6 x 2.8 um) than *C. muscicola*. Chains of round cells on the cap cuticle are obvious (although the clamp connections are not). *C. muscicola* is more common and is usually found in growing in deep beds of moss. It tends to be somewhat paler, more yellowish than orange brown, with fluffier, almost powdery 'socks' that extend high up the stipe and has larger spores (typically 6.7 x 4.1 um). (Paul George)

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Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Pat Grey

Extracts from SIG group reports given at the FNCV Council Meeting 27th June 2010

Bat Study group

This month's bat count, counted 20,000 bats, even though there were fewer volunteers.



Botany Group

Ben Cullen from Trust for Nature discussed the various types of Trust for Nature properties. Then endangered flora was discussed, identifying the Trust for Nature properties where various species are found. A very interesting talk. It was decided to go to Willis Nature Reserve in September rather than now, as the plants will be easier to identify when in flower.



Fauna Survey Group Meeting -7th June

Graeme Newell from DSE was the speaker for the night on the topic 'Species Distribution Models'. Data from sources such as the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas are used in models that help in predicting distribution, population and movement of animals. Limitations of the approach and applications such as where to concentrate survey efforts were discussed.



Fungi Group

Collections for the National Herbarium (Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne) Some more collections for the Herbarium have been made, including one of a *Cortinarius* species for Franck Stefani (current Postdoctoral Fellow at RBG Melbourne), who is doing molecular work on *Cortinarius* species.



Bruce Fuhrer's award

The Group was delighted to hear that Bruce Fuhrer had been awarded an OAM, and has sent him a congratulatory card made by Ed and Pat Grey, featuring one of Ed Grey's photos.

Geology Group

Gary Presland spoke on how nature shaped Melbourne. The whole geology group is focusing on the Geology within 100 kms of Melbourne.



Juniors' Group

The excursion on the 11th June was spotlighting at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary —31 people attended. At the meeting on the 24th June Ian Moodie was the speaker and his topic was *Photography of flora and fauna*.
- 29 people attended.



Microscopy Group

Mohamed Mohideen from Monash University Microbiology Studies spoke about Intestinal Probiotics. Probiotics are live microorganisms, which when administered in adequate amounts; confer a health benefit on the host. Since the start of the 20th century it has been thought that this was achieved by maintaining a balance of intestinal microbial flora, so inhibiting pathogens and toxin producing bacteria. The most common microbes used a probiotics are lactic acid bacteria consumed as part of fermented food such as yoghurt. It was an interesting and well attended talk.



Library News

Cleaning up has begun following the fire at the FNCV premises on June. In the Library the books have been cleaned and removed for storage off-site, until the refurbishment of the space is complete. This is likely to take some weeks, and in the meantime there will be no access to the collection. Members will be kept updated on progress.

Gary Presland
Honorary Librarian

Many thanks to those who helped collate FNN 210

This collation was due just after the fire, and we had to make last minute arrangement to move both the location and the time. Our collation crew responded magnificently—a job well done.

Note: We are going to trial starting collation in the morning from 10.30 am, instead of the afternoon. It should prove a better use of the day. Collation will still be on the third Tuesday of the month.

Keith Marshall
Neil McLachlan
Sally Bewsher
Noel Schleiger
Dorothy Mahler
Joan Broadberry
Bill Fenner
Bob Rowland
Sheina Nicholls
Andrew Brentnall
Margaret Corrick
Ray Power
Margo Bundy

**Thanks also to our friends at
Toepaz Dance Studios for the loan
of their premises at very short
notice.**



Marine Research Group News

Report on the MRG field trip to Stony Point, Westernport Bay, Victoria, Saturday 26 March, 2011:

This, the second last field trip for the 2010-2011 season, was memorable for its many spectacular records. The general habitat was silty mud with rocks, but the pier provided some remarkable diversity, its pylons were exposed to rapid current flow and colonised with sponges, bryozoans, algae, hydroids and ascidians, creating a wonderfully rich fauna.

We started by exploring the upper littoral rocks just north of the boat ramp area, and later following the shoreline out parallel to the boat launching channel. We then worked our way northwards over a few hundred metres of silty mud to the pier, with the tide by that time dropping remarkably to expose richly encrusted pylons as well as a muddy sea floor covered in algae and colourful sponges. This latter area was by far the richest in species diversity, providing records of many seldom-seen animals. But more on that in a minute.

The upper littoral rocks showed the typical assemblage of littorinids, including *Bembicium melanostomum*, pulmonate limpets and also an occasional oyster *Ostrea angasi*. The loose upper littoral rocks sheltered the attractively spotted crab *Paragrapsus gaimardii*, and at about mid littoral level on filamentous algae were large numbers of the minute microgastropod *Calopia burni* (at its type locality).



Paragrapsus gaimardii, Stony Point, Vic. Sat. 26/3/2011. Photo: P. Vafiadis

The muddy silt also yielded the small bubble shells *Retusa pelyx*; *Nassarius compactus*; and various microgastropods.

Underneath the pier amongst the encrusted pylons, several specimens of the seldom seen (in the littoral zone) sea star *Tosia magnifica* were recorded; this species differs from *Tosia australis* in having more plates around its periphery. The sea star *Pentagonaster dubeni*, usually confined to the sub-littoral zone, was also pleasingly recorded.



Tosia magnifica (top) and *Pentagonaster dubeni* (below), Stony Point, Vic. Sat. 26/3/2011. Photos: P. Vafiadis

The pencil urchin *Goniocidaris tubaria* was common and very impressive. Attractive lace bryozoans formed quite large aggregates near the bases of the pier pylons. The brachiopod *Magellania flavescens* was so abundant over the muddy sea floor that it was difficult to avoid standing on it as one moved about. Beautiful rich algal growths, particularly *Caulerpa cactoides*, were a delight to behold, as were brightly coloured sponges exposed by the receding tide.

Empty shells of the buccinid *Penion mandarinus* were occupied by the hermit crabs *Paguristes frontalis* and each *Penion* shell also invariably had several slipper limpets, *Mao-ricrypta immerse*, attached to the inner body whorl near the outer lip.



Goniocidaris tubaria, Stony Point, Vic. Sat. 26/3/2011. Photo: P. Vafiadis

The gastropod records included some impressive species that are rarely, if ever, seen intertidally, namely, the fasciolarid *Microcolus dunkeri*, the columbellid *Anachis cominellaeformis*, and two specimens of the elegant cystiscid *Cystiscus minutissimus*. The latter has been the subject of some impressive study by the late Florence Murray who described its life cycle, completed on its food host, the bryozoan *Amathia biseriata* (Murray, 1970).

The many interesting sightings on this day made for a very satisfying record list, and, although the fieldwork was tiring, all involved went home very contented indeed.

Reference and further reading:

Edgar, GJ (2008). *Australian marine life. The plants and animals of temperate waters*. Second Edition. New Holland Publishers, Sydney.

Murray, F (1970). The reproduction and life history of *Microginella minutissima* (Tenison Woods, 1876). (Gastropoda: Marginellidae). *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria*, 31: 31-35.

P. Vafiadis

**AUSTRALIAN NATURALIST' NETWORK
2012 GET-TOGETHER 13—21st October
2012, Canberra ACT**

- National organisations with a focus on nature include: the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, The Australian National Herbarium and Botanic Gardens, CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, the National Archives, Art Gallery, Library, Mint and Museum. Regional and local attractions include: the Southern Tablelands, Ecosystem Park, the Reptile Centre, Canberra's Walk-in Aviary, the National Zoo and Aquarium etc.
- Participants will be responsible for their own accommodation and most meals
- Program includes bus trips to surrounding nature parks, places of interest, relevant national institutions, guest speakers, several communal meals etc
- Bus transport for major excursions will be provided
- Total cost not expected to exceed \$600 including program and bus transport
- Deposit due before 31st October 2011 \$200
- Cap of 80 interstate visitors, therefore registration will be on a strictly first come first served basis **book early**
- Deposit is fully refundable until 28th Feb 2012
- Cheque or money order to Canberra Field Naturalist Inc (ANN 2012) Post Office Box 249, Canberra ACT 2601
- Web address www.fieldnatscanberra.com go to the ANN page
- List of suggested accommodation venues available
- Preferred method of contact is by email to Rosemary von Behrens at anncanberra@gmail.com or by mail at the above address

This is a summary only of some of the important points. Complete details of the get-together and a priority enrolment form are available from the FNCV office or use the contact details above.

**Twitcher's
Cottage**

Field Nats members Merrin and Paul will welcome you for tranquil and guilt free relaxation less than two hours from the bustle of Melbourne. Set in a native garden with spectacular views and near Mount Worth State Park Twitcher's Cottage puts you back in touch with nature for a relaxing short or long break.

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