



Understanding Our Natural World  
Est. 1880

# Field Nats News No.215

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

Editors: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218  
Dr Noel Schleiger 9435 8408

Patron: Governor of Victoria

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

December 2011/January 2012

## From the President

Well what a year it has been for the FNCV!! With appearances at Festivals, working with DSE on the VBRRA funded Community Finding Fauna project, the Hall fire and most recently the SEANA Spring Campout, it feels like some of us haven't stopped. November is no exception, just see below. In fact I think it has been the busiest month since I have been President.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### SEANA Spring Campout

From all the feedback I have received, the 100 plus people that attended the Cup weekend campout at Phillip Island had a very enjoyable time. With trips to the Wonthaggi Heathlands, French Island, the Penguin Parade, Conservation Hill, Rhyll Inlet, Swan Lake, Cape Woolamai and many other locations, the weekend lived up to my hopes that it would provide interesting activities that catered for a vast array of naturalist interests. It was great to see a number of the Juniors' Group families attending. Many other participants commented on how nice it was to see young people involved. (Photo below: *Bird watching at Berrys Beach.*)

Many thanks must go to my fellow members of the organising committee – Barbara Burns, Joan Broadberry, Sally

Bewsher, Roger Needham, Victoria Aitken, Ray Gibson, Sue Bendel and especially to Hali Ferguson for the many extra hours she put in

I would also like to thank the activity leaders for their valuable contribution to this weekend – Terri Allen, Jenny Porter, Joan Hales, Margaret Rowe, Barbara Hall, Graeme Borgan (Phillip Island Nature Park, *PINP*), Roger Needham, Alan Yen, Joan Broadberry, Sally Bewsher, Robin Drury and Lois Airs (French Island Tours). Finally, thanks to Dr Duncan Sutherland, (*PINP*) for his informative presentation at the Gala Dinner on *Re-search, Conservation and Penguin Ecotourism*, which looked at the issues of wildlife management on Phillip Island. **Could each FNCV facilitator please submit a short report to the FNCV office by December 1st.** A comprehensive account of the Campout will appear in the next FNN.

### Australian Natural History Medallion

Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November saw the awarding of the Australian Natural History Medallion to Dr John Woinarski from Charles Darwin University for his work on Conservation Biology. John flew from Christmas Island to accept the award and deliver a very informative and passionate presentation entitled "*Reflections on Life and Nature*" to the many guests on the evening. It was clear to see why he was chosen unanimously as the recipient of this year's ANHM. *Photo FNN p9*

It was also a chance for him to catch up with many old friends as he was originally from Seaford and studied at Monash University.

### Christmas Party

Just a reminder about the Christmas party, on Saturday

(Continued on page 3)

Due date for the February 2012 newsletter, **Monday 2nd January**. FNN will go to print on the 9th January; collation Tuesday 16th. Seasons greetings to all from the FNN team.



## Office Hours over Dec/Jan 2011/2012

Hi everyone,

After the hectic year we have had I will be taking some well earned time off over the Christmas/New Year break. The office will be closing on Friday 23rd December at 1.00 pm and reopening again on Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9.00 am.

I hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas and I hope the 2012 is full of good health, good friends and good Field Natting.



Cheers, Hali Ferguson



Index	Page
From the President	1, 3
Calendar of Events	2, 3
Members' news, photos & observations	4
Fauna Survey Group News: <i>Wathe Flora &amp; Fauna Reserve</i>	5
Fungi Group News: <i>Foray to Neds Gully</i>	6
Geology Group News: <i>What's up Sam? - Stories from the Geoscience Collections</i>	7-9
Day Group News: <i>Crossing the Simpson Desert</i>	10
Coates Wildlife Tours -adv.	11
Library News; Club notices	12
Marine Research Group. VNPA Priorities & Issues for Victoria.	13
Nature walk; Cottages to Rent-adv.	14



## 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.**

### December

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group. Christmas camp – Bear Gully, Walkerville Camp** – Jono Stevenson. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com *Prior Registration essential.*

FNCV four monthly Calendar of Events (COE) due Friday December 2nd. If you are having difficulty meeting this deadline, please contact Hali ASAP.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Fungi Group.** No monthly meeting.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group. Meeting - Members' night.** Bring along some photos or exhibits from 2011 and some food to share. Contact: Ray White 9308 3770 AH

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Bat Group. Grey-headed flying-fox count.** Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course car park Mel 2D G7 at 8.00 pm. As a courtesy please RSVP by email or phone Megan Davidson 9380 5062; m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>—FNCV Christmas party,** 6 pm. All welcome. RSVP to Hali by 2nd December. Full details FNN p12

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group. Meeting - Members' Night.** Members are asked to bring along exhibits to discuss with the group. Contact: Leon Altoff. 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group. Meeting - Members' night.** Bring along photos of field trips, or Victorian *native vascular plants to key out.* Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**—No separate January newsletter, so no collation, (see January 17th 2012).

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Geology Group.** No meeting.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Juniors' Group.** No meeting.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group. Field Trip. Excursion to Mushroom Reef, Flinders.** Meet at the car park Melway map 261 K11 at 2:15 pm. Contact: Leon Altoff for details and to advise if you will be attending—9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December– Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. Fauna Survey Group. Christmas camp - Surveying in Victoria's Western District.** Contact: Russell Thompson 9434 7046 *Prior Registration essential.*

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>—Day Group.** No meeting. However, members are welcome to join Gary Presland at the cricket. Contact Gary on 9890 9288 to arrange a meeting time and place.

### January 2012

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fungi Group.** No monthly meeting.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fauna Survey Group.** No monthly meeting.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group.** No monthly meeting.

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

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Bat Group. Grey-headed flying-fox count.** Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course car park Mel 2D G7 at 8.15 pm. As a courtesy please RSVP by email or phone Megan Davidson 9380 5062; m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au

(Calendar 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)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group. Evening stagwatch close to Melbourne.** Join us as we look for Leadbeater's Possum and other nocturnal wildlife. Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651 *Prior Registration essential.*

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>—Collate FNN 216.** Starting about 10.30 am. *Note earlier time.* During this holiday period we really need your help. Cake promised. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Geology Group.** No meeting.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Day Group. Meeting – ‘Bird watching in New Caledonia’.** Speaker: John Harris. Meet at 10.30 am for morning tea and a chat. Speaker commences at 11 am. Contact Gary Presland 9890 9288

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group. Australia Day Weekend survey.** Mt Pleasant Parklands, Alexandra. Campsite on Goulburn River. Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury@hotmail.com  
*Prior registration essential.*

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group. Meeting – Council member talks.** 7.30 pm.  
Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474: toclairef@gmail.com

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>—FNCV Council Meeting.** (Note this is a week later than usual.) 7.30 pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Hali, 9877 9860 or admin@fncv.org.au

(Continued from page 1)

the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. See FNN p12. For catering purposes, please let Hali know if you intend to come.

#### FNCV Raffle

Tickets are on sale for this year's raffle, with proceeds being put towards the purchase of solar panels for the Club roof. With 1000 tickets only, at \$5 each, the odds of winning are much better than Tattsлото. The fabulous first prize is a Toshiba Laptop Computer and software, valued at around \$1000. Please help us by buying tickets yourself and consider taking a book of tickets to sell to others. See FNN p12

#### Sausage Sizzle

On the topic of fundraisers, our next "Bunnings Sausage Sizzle" is on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November at Nunawading Bunnings in Whitehouse Rd. from 8am—6 pm. We need at least 15 people to help "person" the stall for the day, for 1—2 hours each or for however long as possible. Last year this stall raised in excess of \$1 500, so it is well worth our time. Please contact Hali to add your name to the roster.

#### Biodiversity Symposium

Finally, the Biodiversity Symposium is coming up on November 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Forests" to coincide with the International Year of Forests. We have a collection of fine speakers on a (bio) diverse range of topical issues. Presenters include: David Cheal, Dan Harley, David Cameron, Steve Mueck and Greg Moore. For registration please email admin@fncv.org.au or phone the office on 9877 9860. See FNN 214 p7

John Harris



## International Bat Day

The Bat Lovers BBQ at the Bell Bird Picnic Ground on the 30th of November was a wild affair. Most of the wildness was caused by the wind with some assistance from the rain to ensure only the hardiest of souls would venture out. But we did! We occupied the picnic shelter and we had face painting and many gadgets that were sold for Halloween. Our official helpers were issued with great tee shirts that were worn under several layers of clothes and an enamel badge from the U.K. of a Pipistrelle Bat. I had produced and laminated some A3 banners that I hung along the side of the shelter, then picked them up from the ground and hung them along the shelter again, with extra clips. After a while I decided that the ones that stayed put were meant to and the ones that fell also wished to. That thought saved my sanity.

We fired up the barbee and, after cooking between the showers, shared a very nice lunch. Andrea, a singer, and Robert Evans, a guitarist, entertained us, with such offerings as "Ain't no sunshine anymore", which was very appropriate at the time. Lawrence and Tony set up a telescope at the lookout and spread the message to eight passers-by, (hardy souls), on how beautiful the Grey-headed Flying Foxes can be.

Our speakers, instead of standing and speaking to us, sat in a group with us and spoke *with* us instead of *to* us. This made it a very inclusive experience that everyone enjoyed. Lindy did a general talk about micro-bats. Caroline Wilson spoke about her surveys in Melbourne and Robert Bender spoke about the addictive properties of bat boxing. Lisa Godinho kindly facilitated the session.



Our attendees were a mix of researchers, wild life rescuers and carers, field naturalists, family members and some interested members of the public.

I thought that it was a good day despite the weather and the 31 participants benefited from it. The only comment as folks were leaving was "When's the next one?".

Ian Kitchen





# 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](mailto:fnnews@fncv.org.au) by the first Monday of the month.

Welcome  
Welcome

**Warmest greetings to these new members who were welcomed into our club at the last Council meeting:** Matt & Bianca Aquilina, Jose Ramos, Rohan Simkin, Victoria McCartney, Sue Dajinko, Paula & Lisa Nink, Ian McKenzie, Jay Martiensen, Fiona Freestone, Faye Conos, Megan Rixon, Christine Spits.



Three different colour variations of the same species, *Caladenia oenochila*, the Wine-lipped Spider Orchid. *From Left:* White, yellow and green. Note also the different labellums (tongues). Photos taken at Baluk Willam Reserve Belgrave at the recent Juniors' orchid excursion led by Andrew Dilly.

Joan Broadberry

## FLYING FOXES OBSERVATIONS

On 5th September 2011 whilst camping on the bank of the Murray River at Neds Corner (Trust For Nature property), flying foxes were calling raucously in the evening among the trees along and across the river and were seen over our camp. From their residence some distance from the river, the park's caretakers, (Peter and Colleen Barnes), also heard the commotion.

These were large bats and we presumed them to be Grey-headed Flying Foxes. We had noticed earlier that many of the Black Box *Eucalyptus largiflorens* in the nearby Murray-Sunset National Park, were flowering, so perhaps that was the reason for the bats incursion into the region. We had not been aware that they travelled so far south and west. Perhaps other Field Nats have observations to share?

**Rod Bird & Diane Luhrs**  
Hamilton, Victoria

This article appeared in a recent edition of *The Age* newspaper, 16/10/11, entitled:  
*Rare plants and the thrill of the chase.*

Some extracts are reprinted below.

"It's a pity plants can't read because the rare and homely Austral Pipewort (*Eriocaulon australasicum*), might take comfort in the Book of Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season... A time to be born, and a time to die."

This fragile and tiny plant comes to life only five times a century, flowers for a few weeks and dies again. For up to 20 years the seeds lie dormant in swamps, awaiting inundation by warm water.

This occurred last year in the summer floods in the Wimmera, where a specimen was discovered near Horsham, in February, by botanist **John Eichler**. This was the first sighting since 1991, when the drought was taking hold.

Mr Eichler alerted David Pitts, a biodiversity officer with the Department of Sustainability and Environment who had spent five years without luck looking for the plant."

per Joan Broadberry

Austral Pipewort  
Image: Mali Moir





## Fauna Survey Group

### Wathe Flora & Fauna Reserve Survey

Twenty one members and non-members attended the FSG's September camp to Wathe Flora and Fauna Reserve, north of Hopetoun during the first week of the recent school holidays. Wathe had a fire in November 2007, which burnt out a large part of the Reserve. Our campsite had been burnt during this fire. The remains of signs and other constructions were still evident. The toilet walls were made of sheets of corrugated iron, however there was no roof! The week had mixed weather, being sunny and warm at times, windy and damp or downright wet at others.

Wathe has been known for many years as a stronghold of the Mallee-fowl and also the Mallee Worm-Lizard, *Aprasia aurita* and Pink-tailed Worm-Lizard, *Aprasia inaurita*. These legless lizards were two of our target species but without luck. Also another target species was the Mitchell's Hopping Mouse, *Notomys*

*mitchelli*. With these in mind, the group set up four pitlines and a funnel-trap line as well as lines of Elliott traps. Wildflowers were abundant after the late winter rains, with several species being found that were not on the DSE flora list for the Reserve. These included the Yellow-club Spider-Orchid, *Caladenia verrucosa*.

At the end of the week, approximately 45 species of birds were recorded, with some notable species being nesting Chestnut Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma castanotus*, White-necked Heron, *Ardea pacifica* (not previously recorded), Hooded Robin, *Melanodryas cucullata*, Shy Heathwren, *Hylacola cauta*, Splendid Fairy-wren, *Malurus splendens* and the Malleefowl, *Leipoa ocellata*. The most bizarre creature trapped for the week was a male Painted Button-Quail, *Coturnix varia*, caught in a funnel-trap the first night the traps were out.

Of the herps, twelve species of reptiles and, after heavy rain on the Wednesday, one frog species were recorded. The Painted Dragon, *Ctenophorus pictus* was the most trapped reptile, while Sand Goanna, *Varanus gouldii*, *Delma australis* and the Nobbi Dragon, *Amphibolurus nobbi*, were amongst the others trapped or caught by hand.

The most exciting capture of the week, (by hand), was a Mitchell's Hopping Mouse. While out driving the roads of a night, a total of six Hopping

Below: Chestnut Quail-thrush photographed on nest  
J. Harris



Mice were seen. The first night, one was nearly caught by hand, but managed to dash away to cover. The next attempt was more successful, with one being pounced upon from between tree trunks.

Next morning this caused great excitement amongst the members, many of whom had been eager to see this species close-up for more than 20 years. Just goes to prove that being over 40 doesn't mean "one is over the hill" and slow!!

John Harris



*Caladenia verrucosa*, Yellow-club spider orchid.  
J. Harris



Double rainbow over Wathe Flora and Pauna Reserve  
J. Harris





## Fungi Group

### FORAY TO CATHEDRAL RANGE STATE PARK - NED'S GULLY, 29 MAY 2011

Unfortunately I missed out on the *Hygrocybe*/Coral site before lunch as I wasn't familiar with the area – but what a delight awaited me after a satisfying repast in the sun amongst congenial company. In the mosses and leaf litter, all imaginable colour combinations of *Hygrocybe* and a wonderful variety of coloured Corals – a feast for the eyes, a puzzle for the brain and a workout for the cameras. There couldn't have been a more satisfying way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

(Carol Page)

However, most of us struggled to put a species name to the *Hygrocybe*, especially as most seemed to be red/orange/yellow. **Paul George** had this to say: red *Hygrocybe* species are difficult to separate – *H. miniata* has a dry scarlet red cap which often fades to pale orange and is sometimes felty (especially at the centre) and the margin is sometimes slightly inrolled and crenellate. The stipe is concolorous and the gills are yellowish scarlet to pale pinkish. *H. firma* looks similar, but has pink gills and an even cap margin. *H. kandora* is somewhat stouter with a viscid cap (although this is not always obvious). According to A.M.Young, *Fungi of Australia: Hygrophoraceae* (2005) p.148, the photo labeled *H. coccinea* in **Fuhrer 2005 no 113** is probably *H. miniata* or *H. kandora*. Paul was also able to name *Hygrocybe arcohastata* which had a conical to flat cap with extremely variable colours – the caps of younger specimens are a dirty green, with red and/or blue tints, becoming red with yellow margins. The stipe is white (slightly translu-

cent) and yellow at the base and the lamellae are yellow becoming white with yellow towards the edges; adnate with a decurrent tooth. *Hygrocybe lilaceolamellata* has small reddish brown fruit-bodies with vaulted lilac gills.

I was really impressed with the huge variety of fungi at Ned's Gully. In particular the *Pseudo-inonotus chondromyelus* species was very interesting, with its amber droplets along the margin, and the magnificent *Laccocephalum hartmannii* that John Eichler found, rising up out of the ground beside a fallen tree. I also found an *Omphalotus nudiformis* nestled amongst the moss at the base of tree, and despite Paul George's suggestion that I stayed there until darkness to see it glow, I decided I wasn't quite that keen!

(Alannah Matheson)

The first stop was at our old friend 'the stump' (near the bridge over the Taggerty). This stump and the area near it kept the group occupied for some time and it was pleasing to once more see the small white gilled fans of *Clitopilus hobsonii*. On the same stump was an orange, resupinate patch of *Steccherinum ocraceum* with the surface covered in short spines. (Ed Grey)

Along the river, Alannah pointed out purple-brown patches on a fallen log. Subsequent testing showed these to be an *Hypoxylon*

and it met *H. crocopeplum* on all grounds – orange pigments released with KOH, spore colour black and spore size 12-14.5 x 6-8 microns. However *H. crocopeplum* is stated as having an orange surface colour not purple-brown, but 'the specimens may have been very young' (G. Gates, pers. comm.). This differs from *H. aff. placitiforme* in the greenish colour of the pigment released with application of KOH. (Ed Grey)



*Hygrocybe chromolimonea*

Photo: Jurrie Hubregtse

We struggled to identify the small, white, shell-shaped, extremely soft specimens growing on a dead branch which had a finely, tomentose upper surface and reticulated lower surface. The white-cream reticulate lower surface appeared similar to that of *Bysomerulius corium*, but we had always seen this as a fully resupinate fungus. However, a literature search (*Fungi of Switzerland 2, Non-Gilled Fungi*, no 144 and Cunningham, *Thelephoraceae of Australia and New Zealand*, p 323) revealed that *B. corium* (syn. *Sismerulopsis corium*, *Merulius corium*) can also be pileate (having a cap), effused-reflexed (resupinate with a reflexed margin) or conshate (like half a bivalve shell). Our specimen matches *B. corium* in having a white spore print and matching spores, and are most likely young fruit-bodies. (Ed Grey)

Thanks to everyone for their contribution to this report

Pat Grey



## Geology Group

### “What's up SAM?”

**Talk by Dr. Frank Drost  
of the**

**University of Melbourne**  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>, September 2011

Frank Drost is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Climate Change, at the School of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne. In his talk he initially covered the basic global zonal mean pressure systems which explain the existence of the prevailing westerly winds at mid-latitudes, followed by a presentation

tors currently changing our climate can have a disproportionately larger impact on climate and weather extremes than on their mean states, potentially with disastrous consequences. The implication of increased climate variability that could accompany relatively small changes in the mean is not well understood.

Frank then drew attention to the zonal mean movement of air in the atmosphere, which is determined by rising air at the tropics, which cools as it rises to higher altitudes, is then deflected poleward and subse-

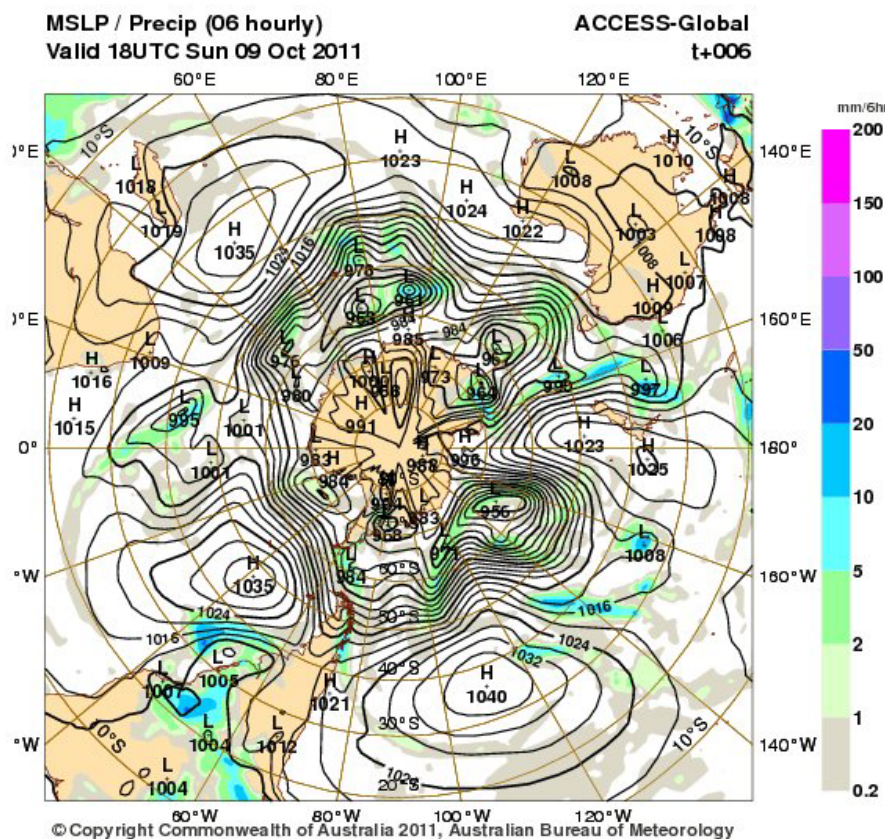
quently descends at the subtropical belt at latitudes of about 30° north and south of the equator. The descending air gets compressed, thereby creating zones of high pressure at the surface and warming up the air.

Some of this air mass then flows polewards along the surface, where it meets cooler air at higher latitudes. At the meeting of the two air masses, the warmer air from the subtropics then rises resulting in another zonal belt of low pressure, which in the zonal annual mean is roughly at about 60° in both hemispheres. The familiar high and low pressure zones that we see on our weather maps are the local deviations from this zonal mean pattern. Due to the coriolis force, the air moving poleward from the high pressure belt at about 30° to the low pressure belt at about 60° is deflected towards the east to create prevailing westerlies at the midlatitudes, the strength of which depends on the pressure gradient between the low and high pressure belts.

The latitude at which the zonal mean westerlies occur most often, might be expected to follow a normal distribution, but in the southern hemisphere the distribution is bimodal, with peaks roughly at 45°S and 60°S. When the zonal mean westerlies are most prevalent at low mid-latitudes the SAM is said to be in a negative phase, and at the high midlatitudes it is said to be in a positive phase. Particular SAM events, both positive and negative, can last anytime from days to weeks.

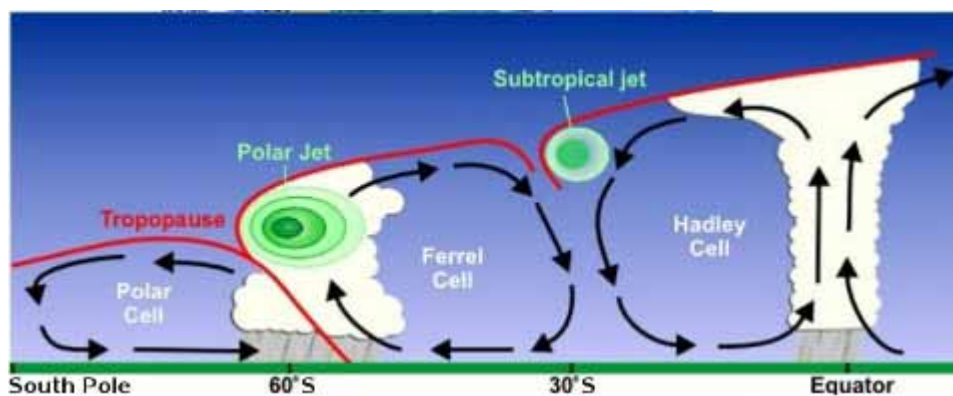
The phase of the SAM is indicative of the background state of the climate at Southern Hemisphere midlatitudes.

*(Continued on page 8)*



of the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) which is the dominant mode of interannual variability of (surface) pressure in the Southern Hemisphere midlatitudes.

Frank pointed out that people recollect variations from mean climate more than the mean itself, as extreme variations are more disruptive and therefore memorable. The fac-





(Continued from page 7)

During a positive phase of SAM, when the zonal mean westerlies are further south, local depressions tend to drift more south too, thereby reducing the chance of them bringing rain over southern parts of Australia. This is most commonly the case for the climate of southwest Western Australia, in particular during the winter.

The SAM is not as well known as the La Niña and El Niño events which make up the El Niño, Southern Oscillation (ENSO). ENSO variations are most noticeable to Australia as they affect temperature, variations of which we notice all the time. SAM on the other hand can impact upon a discrete climate parameter, rainfall. Humans can't distinguish the occurrence, or lack of rainfall as the result of variations in the SAM. Local weather variations play a much more dominant role in our perception of the occurrence of rainfall than the state of the underlying climate.

There is currently a trend for SAM to be more often in its positive phase than in the past. This trend is a direct consequence of the ozone hole and greenhouse warming, both human induced climate changes. The Montreal protocol was signed in 1979 to discontinue the use of CFCs in order to 'heal' the ozone hole. If CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are also reduced, then SAM could return to a more neutral phase at the end of the century, thereby returning the occurrence of particular winter rainfall events in southern parts of Australia similar to those of the early twentieth century.

Though the SAM events were identified in the 1980s, the general public is largely unaware of its importance, or even its existence, though most are aware of La Niña and El Niño events. We thank Dr. Frank Drost for his informative presentation.

**David Gibson**

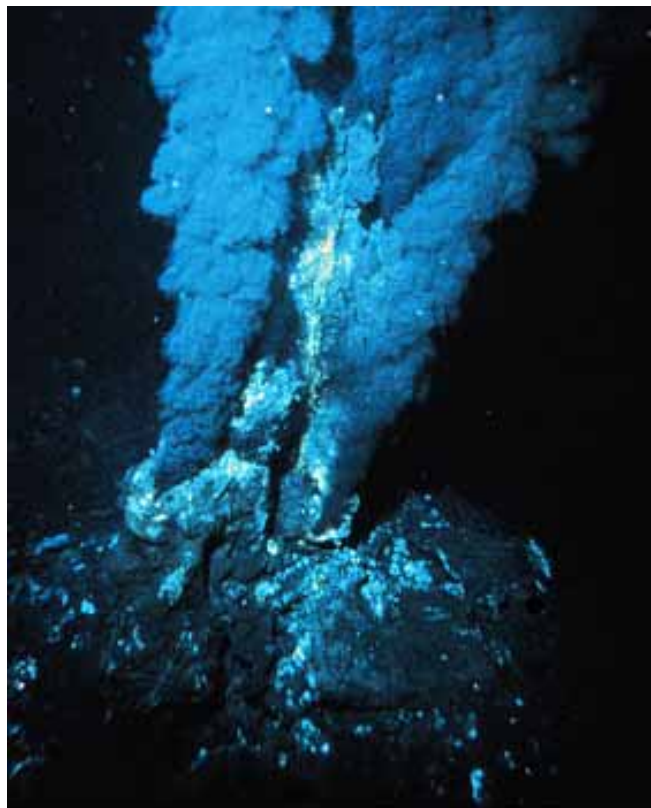
*The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the FNCV.*



## ***"Stories from the Geoscience Collections"***

**A Talk by  
Dr. Dermot Henry of  
Museum Victoria,  
Wednesday  
24th August 2011**

Dermot Henry has worked at Museum Victoria since 1982 in a variety of roles within the Geosciences collections. Since 2001 he has been Manager of Natural Science Collec-



**A "black smoker"**

**Source: NOAA/Wikipedia Commons**

tions, responsible for coordinating the collection management functions across these collections. Dermot, a geologist, has particular interests in mineralogy, petrology and meteorites, and has published, edited and contributed to three books on Victorian mineralogy. In recent times he has participated in studies using synchrotron radiation for the analysis of Phar Lap's hair and of ancient Egyptian pigments.

Dermot's talk was mainly illustrated by pictures and references to the

mineral collection, but was relevant to the museum's palaeontology and other geoscience collections.

The National Museum of Victoria was established in 1854, with a focus on Victorian and Australian animals, rocks, minerals and fossils. The founding director, Professor Frederick McCoy, commenced an active program of acquiring Australian and foreign material. As the early directors and staff had been trained overseas, they had contacts that enabled them to acquire significant overseas collections.

Unfortunately, in some museums, some early collections were not fully appreciated, or seen as useful, and therefore were not properly looked after. It is now appreciated that museums should:

- Provide a secure repository for the preservation of specimens that minimises their deterioration so that they are available to future generations;
- Exhibit examples (typically 5% of the museums collections are on display at a time) through displays and special exhibitions, displays at gem shows, educational programs, publications and web sites;
- Provide facilities and access to researchers, who are mainly from universities and other government departments, that are not only local (48%), but also from interstate (22%) and overseas (30%).

Modern curatorial practise is not to just collect interesting objects, but to:

- Record where a specimen came from, as its scientific value is limited if this is not known;
- Systematically classify specimens;
- Acquire a diversity of samples,

(Continued on page 9)



- such as unusual rock suites etc.
- Record the collection in a readily searchable database;

The mineral collection consists of 50 000 registered specimens from Victorian, other Australian and foreign localities, acquired over 150 years. This is over 60% of known minerals. For the more common minerals there are examples covering a considerable diversity of habit, location and origin. Victorian minerals are comprehensively represented, as befitting a state with such a rich mining history.

Sixty-eight type specimens of Australian minerals, including gemstone varieties, are lodged in the collection.

Lodgement of type specimens in an appropriate museum collection is a requirement of the international approval process in recognising a new mineral. They then become available for mineralogists worldwide to study.

Dermot also illustrated a medley from the current "Dynamic Earth" exhibition at Museum Victoria in Carlton. As part of the team that developed it, he was responsible for the development of geological themes and content and the selection of specimens.

The exhibition has various geological themes, including some giving an audio-visual interactive experience, such as a journey down a lava tube, pyroclastic lava flow, and an oceanic volcanic eruption. Having no facilities for displaying these special effects, we will have to visit the exhibition to experience them. Dermot did illustrate some of the static displays, too numerous to describe here, but including:

- A "Black Smoker", a black chimney-like structure, formed when dissolved sulphide minerals come into contact with cold ocean water at a hydrothermal vent on the seabed. Typically this occurs where tectonic plates are moving apart or at hotspots. Extensive deposits of sulphides deposited in this way can, in time, become incorporated in continental crustal material that, subjected to compression, folding and metamorphism, forms massive sulphide ores in time. This is how the Broken Hill de-

posits were formed.

- Metamorphic minerals – such as garnet, formed at great depth and, over long periods of time can form large crystals such as those found at Thackaringa near Broken Hill. The usual colour is red, but garnet can be many colours depending on the impurities present, and green garnets are found in Madagascar.
- Gold nuggets form deep underground where hot fluids deposit gold and quartz in reefs. The Ausrox nugget found near Kalgoorlie, W.A. in April 2010 weighed 23.6 kg.

We thank Dermot for his presentation and for reminding us of the great source of information available to us at Museum Victoria.

**David Gibson**

### Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 215

Joan Broadberry  
Noel Schleiger  
Platon Vafiadis  
Hali Ferguson  
Sally Bewsher

### Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 214

Ray Power  
Noel Schleiger  
Keith Marshall  
Margaret Corrick  
Andrew Brentnall  
Hazel Brentnall  
Edward Brentnall  
Sheina Nichols

This was a small group who had to work very hard to get the job done. Special thanks for their dedication. *A reminder, that we are collating in the morning from now on.*



Dr John Woinarski receiving the 2011 ANHM from Professor Lynne Selwood, President of the Royal Society of Victoria. *Full report in FNN 216*

### FNCV Book Sale

The FNCV ran its Biennial second-hand book sale on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October at the hall. Many club members came to support us and found treasures, making this a very successful fundraising effort. The total at the end of the day was \$1,605.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who had a hand in helping to make this the success it was. Thank you to those who donated books, our club's generosity once again came to the fore. Thank you to Gary Presland, Carol Page and Melanie Ferguson who sorted and priced all the books.

To the wonderful people who came to help and stayed to buy, some arriving at 8.00 am, thank you Sally Bewsher, Carol Page, Sue Bendel, Leon Altoff, Audrey Falconer, Graham Patterson, June Anton, Alan Yen, John Patykowski, Joan Broadberry, Karen Muscat, Ray White, Gary Presland, Barbara Burns, Philippa Sterpin, Victoria Aitken, Ray Gibson, Andrew Brentnall, Peter and Sue Dempsey.

Finally I would like to thank Sue Bendel for passing on the left over books onto other environmental groups.

**Hali Ferguson**



## Day Group

### Crossing the Simpson Desert

Anne and John Morton have travelled extensively in the Australian Outback, filming for their business, *Lifestyle Video Productions*. At the October Day group meeting, Anne gave a wonderful illustrated talk using material from some of their recent journeys.

This report will concentrate on their 2011 crossing of the Simpson Desert, taking up the story as they leave Timber Creek in the Northern Territory in a six car convoy to begin the journey south. The party traversed Gregory National Park and visited many other fascinating and beautiful places, including: Tennant Creek; the Devil's Marbles, the Davenport Ranges, the Sandover Highway, along station tracks to the Plenty Highway, south from Gem Tree to Arltunga Historic Reserve, N'Dhala Gorge, Alice Springs, Old Andado and Mt Dare

In the Mt Dare area is the Mac Clark Conservation Reserve, home to the rare Waddi Trees or *Acacia peuce*. There are only three stands of these trees in Australia, at Boulia, Birdsville and Andado. They are very slow growing, perhaps only 30 cm per year. The wood is very hard. Mature trees may be 500 years old.

From Mt Dare the party faced a choice: South to Oodnadatta or east across the Simpson Desert? Many of the group were keen to cross the desert, but up until only a few days before, the access roads on the east side of the Simpson had been closed due to the heavy rains in Queensland. Eyre Creek and Warburton Creek were both flooded. However, in early July 2011 the Eyre Creek route had just been opened. A decision was made to cross the Simpson Desert. The planned route traversed from west to east, via Dalhousie Springs, Purni Bore, along the French Line to Poeppel Corner and the QAA line to Birdsville.

The next day the party began their crossing at Dalhousie Mound Springs, an area of outstanding scientific, aesthetic and environmental significance. It is also a most welcome spot in any outback journey, as a swim in the warm pool (approx.

35 degrees centigrade), is very refreshing. From Dalhousie Springs the track crosses reasonably flat terrain to Purni Bore, the next camping site.

The bore was the result of drilling by the French Petroleum company in 1963. It was drilled below the water level of the Great Artesian Basin to 1400m. An artificial lake formed, but later the bore was capped so that the flowing water did not affect the mound springs at Dalhousie over 70km away. Sufficient water flow has been maintained to sustain the wildlife that now relies on this permanent water source. Purni bore marks the start of the sand dune country and therefore all cars mounted tall, safely flags. These flags, which can be seen over the tops of the dunes, are designed to avoid head-on collisions. Growing on the dunes were Billy Buttons, two different species of *Crotalaria*, *Goodenia* sp., *Ptilotus* sp. and Wild Parsnip. At this stage the dunes were all clay capped, so travel was relatively easy.

The French Line was named for the French Petroleum Company, which undertook a geological survey of the Simpson Desert some years ago. On this route there is no clay capping on the dunes, and travel is quite exciting. The vegetation was thick through this section, making it hard to find a good camp site. The nights were very cold and frosty, but the days soon warmed up. Native Long-haired Rats crossed the track in the morning and lizards in the afternoon. Birds of prey, particularly Black Kites, were often seen circling overhead.

A detour was made to visit the Approdina Attora Knolls. There are expensive views from the Knolls, which are remnants of the highest dune crests. They are rare, fragile and scientifically important outcrops of limestone. Lumps of gypsum can be found on the surface.

After an overnight

camp on a clay pan, the first of the major salt lakes on the Simpson Desert crossing was reached. Because the lake contained water a deviation was needed to reach Poeppel Corner. This spot marks the meeting of the Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australian borders. The corner was named after Augustus Poeppel who started the first border survey in 1887. From Poeppel Corner the route followed the K1 line, and then the QAA line.

A 30 km deviation north was also needed around the flooded Eyre Creek which was a pretty sight lined with Coolabahs. At the crossing place the water looked deep, so the vehicles "tarpred up" to negotiate it safely. Back on the QAA line the convoy crossed the final big dunes. The last before Birdsville is the highest of all; the famous, "Big Red".

The route south, towards home, followed the Birdsville Track. Cooper Creek was flooded and a car ferry was operating. The ferry is accessed by a deviation from the main track and crosses at a narrow section of the creek. It last operated in 1990. The ferry takes only one vehicle at a time and has currently been in service from June 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 to the present. Its busiest day was 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, when it carried 98 vehicles to the Birdsville Races.

I will leave the story here and, once again, thank Anne on behalf of the Day Group. Some of us were able to relive our own trips to the inland. Others could dream, via the magic of armchair travel, of such adventures.

**Joan Broadberry**

Below: John & Anne at the October Day Group







# Coates Wildlife Tours

*Specialists in Nature Tours since 1986*

- ◆ Informative naturalist/birding leaders
- ◆ Small groups (6 - 12 participants)
- ◆ Private charters available
- ◆ Fully accommodated & camping tours

## **New Zealand South Island Wildlife & Wilderness**

*15 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 4th February 2012*  
See three national parks, the Catlins, the Otago Peninsula & Stewart Island.

## **Sri Lanka Wildlife, History & Culture**

*16 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 11th March 2012*  
See the exotic flora & fauna of this enchanting island.

## **Coral Coast Wildlife Tour**

*10 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 12th April 2012*  
Take in the highlights of the unspoiled coast between Perth & Exmouth.

## **Flinders Range & Lake Eyre Basin Expedition**

*15 Day Camping Tour - Departs 1st May 2012 & 22nd May 2012*  
Visit some of Australia's most spectacular outback locations.

## **Tanami Expedition**

*13 Day Camping Tour - Departs 15th June 2012*  
Join us to see the birds and other wildlife at Newhaven Station and Lake Gregory.

## **Kimberley Discovery**

*16 Day Camping Tour - Departs 2nd June 2012 & 26th June 2012*  
Explore the wildlife & gorges of this unspoiled wilderness area.

## **Rudall River Expedition**

*14 Day Camping Tour - Departs 7th July 2012*  
Experience the very remote, harsh yet beautiful Rudall River National Park.

## **Western Explorer**

*14 Day Camping Tour - Departs 21st July 2012*  
Explore the unique botanical highlights of the Kennedy Ranges, Mt Augustus & Karijini National Park.

## **Lorna Glen Expedition**

*11 Day Camping Tour - Departs 4th August 2012*  
See the diverse flora and fauna at remote Lorna Glen Station north east of Wiluna, Western Australia.

## **Holland Track & Great Western Woodlands**

*12 Day Camping Tour - Departs 28th August 2012*  
See the wildlife of the world's largest temperate woodland.

## **Midwest Wildflowers**

*10 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs September 2012*  
See the botanical hot-spots north of Perth during wildflower season.

## **Western Australian Outback Expedition (Recce)**

*15 Day Camping Recce - Departs 22nd September 2012*  
Explore remote outback tracks and the Eyre Bird Observatory.

## **South West Birds & Botany**

*15 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs October 2012*  
Witness the beauty and biodiversity of WA's South West during wildflower season.

## **Costa Rica Wildlife Safari**

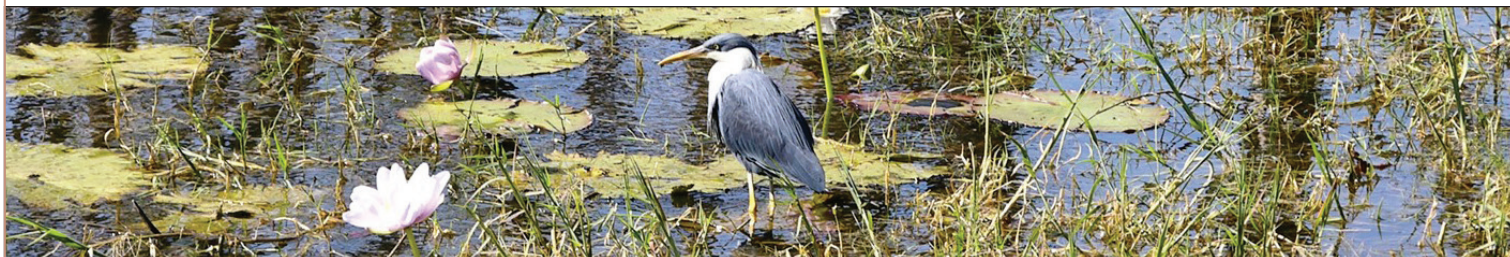
*15 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs October 2012*  
See the most environmentally friendly country in the world!

## **Christmas & Cocos Islands**

*9 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 15th November 2012*  
Explore the remarkable wildlife and botany of the islands - they are a naturalist's paradise.

## **Lord Howe Island**

*8 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs November 2012*  
Join Ian Hutton - Lord Howe Island's resident expert to see one of the world's most fascinating natural history destinations.



*Contact us for our full 2012 tour program, featuring the world's most desirable natural history destinations.*

**Free call:** 1800 676 016 **Web:** [www.coateswildlifetours.com.au](http://www.coateswildlifetours.com.au) **Email:** [coates@iinet.net.au](mailto:coates@iinet.net.au)



## Library News

In the past few months, as operations in the Library more-or-less return to normal, serials have continued to arrive and new monographs have been added to the collection. In the former case, the periodicals have gone directly onto the compactus shelves because there was nowhere to display them. The display rack has now been returned from storage, so Library users can once again browse recent journal acquisitions.

These include *Australian Journal of Botany* (vol 59, issue 6), which contains an interesting article on post-fire regenerations in mixed *Eucalyptus-Callitris* forest. The latest issue of *Wildlife Research* carries an article by recent ANH Medallionist Professor Ric Shine and two co-authors on the potential impact of cane toads on a commercial freshwater fishery.

For a bit of lighter reading, the most recent issues of *Whirrakee*, *Geelong Naturalist* and *Habitat* are also on display.

Gary Presland,  
Honorary Librarian

### New Members' Night

The last New Members' Night was on Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>. We had 12 people attend; this is the last for the year. I feel that they have been successful in getting and keeping new members and that we should run them again next year.

Hali

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Whitehorse Spring Festival

We enjoyed beautiful weather and a good turnout on the day. I would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time.

Ray Gibson  
(who helped set up & take down the displays)

Heather Eadon  
Andrew Brentnall  
Ruth Hoskin  
Cecily Falkingham  
Sue Bendel

Victoria Aitken

## FNCV fund raising raffle *Help us to buy solar panels*



The FNCV is holding a raffle to be drawn at the Christmas Party 10th December. We have terrific prizes and only 1,000 tickets available from the office, either individually or in books of 10.

**\$5 per ticket**

**1st Prize:** Toshiba Laptop, plus software, Donated by FNCV, \$990  
**2nd Prize:** Three nights at Twitcher's Cottage. Donated by Paul and Merrin Strickland, \$350

**3rd Prize:** \$100 Bunnings Voucher. Donated by FNCV

**Tickets available from from Hali at the FNCV office.**

\*Winners notified by phone or email. Results published in FNN 216 and on website.

## More help Needed!! ANOTHER FNCV WORKING BEE Thursday 15th December

Volunteers are needed for a few hours in the morning from 10 am onwards to apply mulch to the FNCV garden.  
BYO spade & wheelbarrow if possible.

Many thanks to those who helped out on the last working bee on the 27th October:

Andy Brentnall, Barbara Burns, Julia Davis,  
Ian Kitchen, Ray Power, Heather Eadon, Sally Bewsher,  
Sue Brandon, Sue Bendel.

## Pauls Collect-a-cap fundraiser

The FNCV has registered as a community organisation for this Pauls milk promotion. If you drink this brand, please keep the caps from the bottles and drop them into the box in the hall or post them in if you are an infrequent attendee. For each cap the club gets 10cents. This is a good fundraiser as it requires no extra volunteer time. So let's fill that box several times over!!

## FNCV Christmas Party

*Saturday December 10th*

From 6.00 pm in the FNCV Hall



Relax and enjoy a BBQ with friends from all FNCV special interest groups. Celebrate another wonderful year of activities. Meat, bread, nibbles provided by the club. **BYO drinks.** Please bring a salad or a dessert to share. Let Hali know if you are coming and the food you are bringing by Friday 2nd December at the latest, to help with catering.

The Solar Panels raffle will be drawn. As well there will be the usual in-house prize table. Donations for prizes would be greatly appreciated (e.g. wine, gift vouchers, plants, books, etc). There will also be a pictorial presentation looking back at the year's FNCV and SIG activities.





## Marine Research Group News

**Report on MRG meeting held on Mon. 10th October, 2011: Simon Branigan, Marine and Coastal Project Officer with the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) spoke on the topic 'VNPA marine conservation priorities and issues for Victoria.'**

The VNPA is Victoria's leading nature conservation organisation, seeing Victoria as a place with a diverse and healthy natural environment to be cared for and appreciated by all. As an independent, non-profit, membership-based group it seeks to protect Victoria's environment and biodiversity through both marine & terrestrial national parks, conservation reserves and other measures such as education and outdoor activity programs.

Considerable progress has been made. In 1952 Victoria had 13 national parks and no National Parks Act. Victoria now has 54 national parks protected under the National Parks Act. In 2009 almost 100,000 hectares of new River Red Gum national parks were established in northern Victoria. 2002 saw the creation of marine national parks and sanctuaries that collectively protect 5.3% of Victoria's coastal waters.

Many areas along the Victorian coastline in need of protection remain outside the state's 13 marine national parks and 11 marine sanctuaries. These have been determined based on the degree of existing threats they face, their resilience and vulnerability, and the uniqueness and diversity of their habitats and ecosystems. Twenty regions have been identified as priority areas, and from west to east they are:

Bridgewater Bay, Portland region; Deen Maar (Lady Julia Percy Island); Cape Otway; the coast from Point Lillias to Point Wilson, Port Phillip Bay (PPB); Wedge Point, PPB; Clifton Springs, PPB; Point Nepean; Cape Schanck; the Flinders-Honeysuckle-Merricks coast, Westernport Bay (WPB); Crawfish Rock, WPB; Summerland Peninsula & Seal Rocks, Phillip Island; north arm of WPB; region of the Bunurong marine and Coastal Park; Anderson's Inlet; the Ninety Mile Beach; The Gippsland Lakes; The Bemm Reef; Mallacoota Inlet; and Gabo Island.

As part of its ongoing educational and awareness raising activities, VNPA has a close association with Reef Watch Victoria (see MRG page of FNN 126), and has an informative website ([www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au)) which features beautiful underwater footage of Victoria's marine habitats and fauna. This site also has a wealth of general information that includes the full and also abridged reports of the VNPA 2010 review "*Protecting our seas and shores: priorities for marine conservation in Victoria*", which provide the background for the VNPA push for an additional 20% of Victoria's marine and coastal areas to be protected through the creation of new marine national parks by 2012. The point is made in these reports that Victoria was a world-leader in 2002 with the creation of 13 marine parks and 11 marine sanctuaries to cover 5.3% of its coast, but since then Australia has agreed to protecting 20-30% of its marine coastal habitats by 2012.

Simon also pointed out the existence of the VNPA booklet "Life on the rocky shores", a publication aiming to educate the general public about the wealth of marine life on our doorstep. Now in its third edition, this superb little 128 page book opens with sections on safety on the shore, conservation codes, intertidal ecology, human impacts, marine parks and scientific classification, before discussing commonly seen intertidal organisms across a range of phyla in an easy-to-read and attractive layout. Its colour photos (not a feature of the first two issues, which relied on line drawings and black and white pictures) greatly enhance it. End sections cover rock pool organisms not already discussed in earlier pages, commonly seen molluscan egg masses, and flotsam and jetsam. A reference list for further reading is also present.

We thank Simon very much for his informative talk and his enthusiasm in safeguarding our precious marine environment.

### References and selected reading:

Porter CM, Wescott GC, Quinn GP (2010). *Life on the rocky shores of south eastern Australia*. Third edition. Victorian National Parks Association, Melbourne.

Victorian National Parks Association website: [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au)

**Omitted text in the MRG page of FNN 214:** Some text in this page was not printed. Chiton families were treated in the order Lepidopleuridae, Chorioplacidae, Ischnochitonidae, Schizochitonidae, Mopaliidae, Chitonidae, Acanthochitonidae, Cryptoplacidae. The omitted text is shown below:

**Chorioplacidae:** tegmentum much reduced, with a fleshy and microscopically spiculate girdle. The family is monotypic, represented by the small species *Chorioplax grayi* (H. Adams and Angas, 1864), known only from very few specimens.

**Ischnochitonidae:** a very large family of elongate-oval, small to large chitons, insertion plates with slits on all valves and more than eight slits on anterior valve; teeth smooth and not scalloped; valve sculpture variable; girdle covered in scales.

**Schizochitonidae:** large to medium chitons, largely carnivorous; insertion plates with slits on all valves; posterior valve with caudal sinus and presence of sensory aesthetes on valves; girdle spiculate or scaly with a posterior central notch.

**Mopaliidae:** small to large chitons, can be strongly sculptured, particularly with radial ribs, but also subject to erosion and encrustation; insertion plates with slits on all valves; anterior valve with at least 8 slits; lack of aesthetes; girdle wide, fleshy, spiculate or bristly (never scaly).

Explanation of chiton figure: *External and internal features and range of ornamentation of chitons (from Macpherson & Gabriel, 1962, Fig. 7, p. 1).*

The references not printed were:

Kaas P, Cochrane T, Gowlett Holmes KL, Jones A (each contributing different sections) (1998). Chapter 3: Class Polyplacophora p. 161-194, in: Beesley PL, Ross GJB, Wells A (eds). *Mollusca: the southern synthesis. Fauna of Australia Vol. 5*, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne, Part A, xvi 563pp.

Macpherson JH, Gabriel CJ (1962). *Marine molluscs of Victoria*. Melbourne University Press, Parkville.

Marine Research Group of the FNCV (2006). *Coastal Invertebrates of Victoria. An Atlas of Selected Species*. Revised and updated from the 1984 edition. Published by the FNCV Marine Research Group.

P. Vafiadis.

## ECO-ADVENTURE TOURS



### Night & Nature Walks

*Advanced Ecotourism  
Accredited Operator*

*Student excursions including:*  
Water & Sewage Treatment  
Plant Tours  
Forest & Catchment Management  
Tours

Venues in the Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges, including the Yarra Ranges National Park.

**Please contact Karen Garth, (a FNCV member), for more information on 5962 5115**

*Gift Vouchers available for every occasion*

[www.ecoadventuretours.com.au](http://www.ecoadventuretours.com.au)

### Cottage to Rent in the North-east

Our cottage is in Stanley, one of the north east's best kept secrets; just three hours drive from Melbourne. The Alps and Mt. Buffalo beckon in one direction and Beechworth and environs in the other.

Set within our garden this is a haven and a head-space clearing country. It is a quiet and contented spot within an established garden which forms part of our chestnut farm.

The cottage has one bedroom - secure and cosy for one or comfortable for a couple. It is fully self-contained and serviced with linen.

We endeavour to live as environmentally as possible, growing what we can, composting and keeping chooks. Fresh eggs are available and other regional produce can be sourced. Power is solar and water is from the tank.

**RATES \$420 for 5 nights** (minimum stay), **\$1600 for a month**

We are happy to discuss longer stays as required.

For further information and to check availability please either -

**phone** (03) 57286603

**email** [jindian@westnet.com.au](mailto:jindian@westnet.com.au)

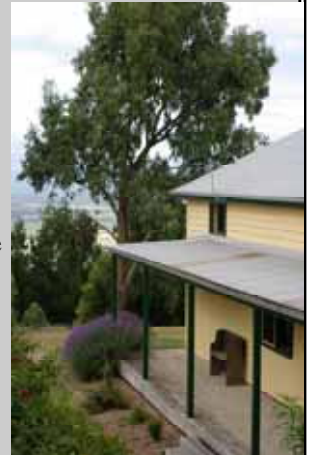
## Twitcher's Cottage

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.

Twitcher's can now also ensure that your holiday is carbon neutral, with solar photovoltaic panels, our own carbon sink re-vegetation and the use of our own plantation firewood. No tricky offset calculations, everything is managed on site!

At \$110 per night for up to four people (self-catering), it is affordable and comfortable for couples, families or small groups.

**Check availability and book at:**  
[www.twitchers-cottage.com.au](http://www.twitchers-cottage.com.au)  
**Phone:** 03 5634 4256  
**Mob:** 04 0305 1853



## Field Nats News 215



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

**PRINT  
POST  
PP333964-0003**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**