Field Nats News No.222

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
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Understanding Our Natural World
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August 2012

From the President

Hi members, welcome to the August edition of FNN. Whoever said that winter was a time to sit back, take it easy and keep warm were only partially right. The keeping warm bit has definitely been applicable during the month of July, although there was a few days of sunshine to be enjoyed. As for sitting back and taking it easy, that is another matter, as can be seen by the events below.

The Second Mural
Lori Duncan, the artist entrusted with the job of livening up the hall, has done another spectacular job with the second mural depicting various creatures, plants, fungi and even geological features that encompass the broad spectrum of interests within the FNCV. Well done and thanks Lori!!

Solar Panels
After many, many months of talking about them and following on from the donation by Andy Brentnall, many members have contributed towards the raising of another $5000 plus.

The local Whitehorse Councillors, Andrew Munroe and Bill Pemberton, have also contributed $2000 from their Ward funds towards this project. With this money we have been able to purchase a 5kW system which should take care of our energy needs for many years to come. The added bonus with such a large system, is that for more than half the Year our energy production should well and truly outdo our usage which means that the excess will go into the statewide grid as "green energy" for which we will be paid. While this is not the main reason for installing solar power, it will be an added bonus to the club's bottom line.

Hayley Davis
One of our younger members, Hayley Davis, has set herself a challenge, now that she has finished her environmental science degree, to go with Greenpeace to Borneo. The trip will take place later this year and involves hiking around Borneo, as well as visiting an orangutan orphanage while she is there. Those who read *The Age* on the 5th of July, may have seen an article on how the jungles were being cleared for palm oil production and how this further endangers the orangutan. Her trip is a fundraiser for Greenpeace and, as such, Hayley needs to raise funds to enable her participation.

If anyone would like to make a donation to Hayley, or attend one of the many functions such as trivia nights, art shows etc that she has planned, see the following websites or blogs. Donations: http://borneojunglechallenge.gofundraise.com.au/page/HayleyDavis,
Blog: http://haysborneojunglechallenge.blogspot.com.au

I am sure Hayley would be pleased to talk to the various groups such as the Juniors or Day Group upon her return. All the best, Hayley.

John Harris, President

Masked Booby photographed from the 'honeymoon ship' between Australia and New Caledonia by John Harris

*Deadline for the September issue of FNN is **10 am, Tuesday 7th August.** FNN 223 will go to the printer on 14th August with collation on 21st*

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

Index	Page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

August

Wednesday 1st - *Grey-headed Flying Fox Survey*. Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course car park Mel 2D G7 at 5.30 pm. RSVP as a courtesy by phone or email to Megan Davidson 9380 5062: m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au

Monday 6th – Fungi Group. Meeting - *Fungi under the Microscope Workshop*. Presenter: Virgil Hubregtse, Fungi enthusiast. Bookings advisable as the number of microscopes is limited. Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 7th - Fauna Survey Group. Meeting. - *FSG Camera results and experiences*. Speaker: Robin Drury. Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148: robindrury@hotmail.com

Saturday 11th - Fauna Survey Group. *Equipment & social day*. Meet at FNCV Hall. 10.00 – 3.00 pm Come for an hour or stay for the day. All welcome and all help appreciated. BYO lunch and something to share. Contact: Russell Thompson 9434 7046 AH.

Monday 13th – Marine Research Group. Meeting - For details contact Leon Altoff 9530 4180: 0428 669 773

Wednesday 15th – Terrestrial Invertebrates Group. Meeting - *Honey bees.* Speaker: Dr Sabine Perrone, Museum Victoria. Sabine will give a talk about honey bees and some of the threats that they now face across the world. Contact: Alan Yen 0409 194 788

Thursday 16th – Botany Group. Meeting - *Natureshare,* or the field guide in your pocket with the use of a net connected smart phone, and its not just for vascular plants. Presenter: Russell Best. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Sunday 19th – Botany Group. Excursion - ***Fourth Hill, Tunnel St, Warrandyte***. Melway map 35 F2. 10 am. Come and enjoy the many *Acacia* and Greenhoods in flower and use the power of your smart phone to use Natureshare. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Tuesday 21st—Collate FNN 223 - Starting about 10.30 am. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218.

Wednesday 22nd – Geology Group. Meeting - Topic - ***Rocks in Space: Using Meteorites to Understand Extra-Solar Planets and the Next Mining Frontier.*** Speaker - Andrew Langendam, School of Geosciences, Monash University. Contact: Kaye Oddie 9329 0635: koddie@bigpond.com; Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911

Saturday 25th – Juniors' Group. Excursion – *Yellingbo State Park.* 10 – 2 pm. Planting habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474: toclairef@gmail.com

Monday 27th - FNCV Council. Meeting - 7.30 pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Hali, 98779860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 28th – Day Group. Meeting – *'The FNCV and the beginnings of the VNPA'*. Speaker: Prof. Don Garden, University of Melbourne. 10.30 am for coffee and a chat. Speaker 11.00 am. Contact Gary Presland 9890 9288

Friday 31st – Juniors' Group. Meeting – *Costume Party*. The theme for 2012 is Desert Life. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474: toclairef@gmail.com

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

Members' news, photos & observations

We always have space for member photos and natural history observations. Please share with us what you have noted in your daily life, travels or garden. Email: fnnews@fncv.org.au by the first Monday in the month.

Welcome

Warmest greetings to these new members who were welcomed into our club at the last Council meeting: *Christina Parslow, Daphne Hards, Mick Francis, David Copplino, Maggie Dygut, Barnaby Smith Major*

Birds, Beaches and Bush

General FNCV excursion to explore the natural history of the Mallacoota area, 15th – 22nd September with the Fauna Survey Group—the week prior to the Sept holidays. *All welcome.*

Shared accommodation in cottages. The only trapping will be for bats on site. Other activities you might enjoy include: beach walks, bush walks, bird watching, botanising, visiting Croajingolong Nat. Park, boat trips or just relaxing. There will **not** be a set program, but group activities will be planned each day according to weather and interests.

Bookings close at the end of August, $50 deposit required– *numbers limited.*

Enquiries: Ian Kitchen 9795 7423 or Sally Bewsher 9752 1418

"Hi, I'm a new member of FNCV, and so far have not made it to any activities.

I've attached a photograph (above) that I took recently of a very interesting rock formation, and wondered whether there are any geological experts in FNCV who could possibly explain it? Hopefully I'll make it to an event in the near future.

Kind regards, Greg Donoghue."

Extracts from SIG reports presented to the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group

Meeting June 21—Dan Murphy from the Herbarium spoke on *The Evolution of Acacia.* He introduced us to DNA and phylogeny diagrams which show which Acacias are most closely related and explained the importance of this. Dan also took us through the history of the way we kept the name Acacia for Australian wattles. A great night which was well attended.

June 23 visit to RBGC with Jill Burness. To begin with, Jill showed us the plan of the Australian Garden, which was an old sandmine, and an aerial photo of the whole property. She gave us a potted history of the garden and explained the story of the plan of the Australian Garden. Then we were lucky enough to do a tour of both stages 1 & 2 which do not open until October. A brilliant morning topped off by a long lunch in the Bunnerong Cafe.

Fauna Survey Group

The cameras produced some interesting action around the nest-boxes at Rushworth over a 2-3 week period. Good images of Sugar Gliders and a Brush-tailed Phascogale. We are still awaiting the renewal of our permit. Nick Porch from Deakin University delivered an interesting talk on the affect of humans on the invertebrate species in Pacific Islands. We have been asked to do a Growling Grass Frog Survey at the Cardinia Parklands by Parks Victoria. We plan to put some cameras out at Churchill and Lysterfield Parks once the permit comes through.

FNCV COUNCIL NEWS

We welcome June Anton to the FNCV Council. June will be representing the Day Group.

Jurrie Hubregtse will take up the vacancy as one of the two FNCV Vice Presidents.

Diary Date—FNCV Biodiversity Symposium

The title for this year is "*Working together for Ecological Outcomes in the International year of Cooperatives".*

The FNCV biodiversity Symposium for 2012 will be held on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November.

Geology Group

"Groundwater – Surface Water Interactions"

Dr. Peter Dahlhaus
School of Science and Engineering, University of Ballarat
23 May 2012

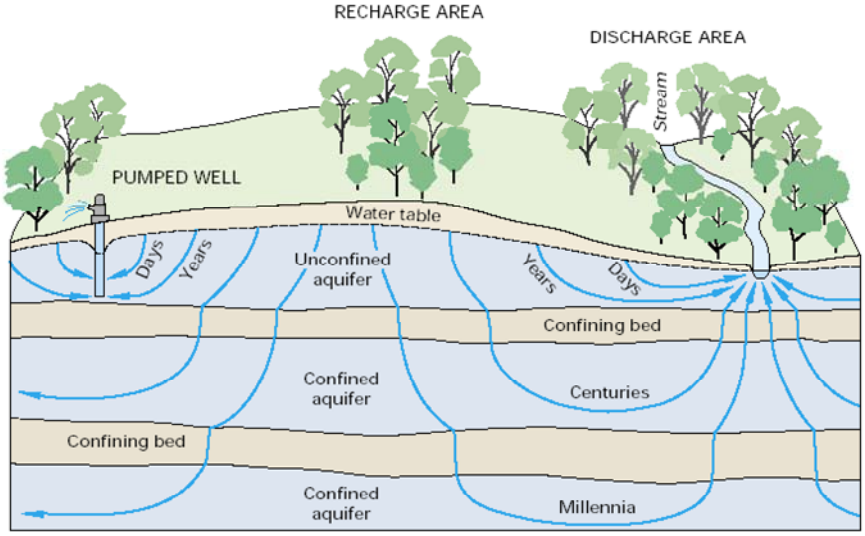
Dr. Dahlhaus is a Senior Lecturer in Geology at the University of Ballarat with a career background in the geology, geomorphology and hydrogeology of southwest Victoria. He consults to catchment management authorities, municipal and government agencies and has recently set up an inter-operative web-GIS and database in a collaborative venture for the use of researchers, authorities and community.

Dr. Dahlhaus began his talk by describing the distribution and storage mechanisms for the Earth's water – over 96% is water in oceans and seas, while 3% is ground water in rivers, lakes, plus glaciers and ice caps. Ground water is stored in the spaces and voids of rocks or in fractures and cavities. In primary porosity storage, water was included at the same time as the rock formation, e.g. sandstone, limestone; in secondary porosity, water was included following fracturing or dissolution of rock. Earth is saturated beneath our feet in unconfined aquifers, which are open to the surface, and confined aquifers, which are sandwiched between less permeable beds and are the source of artesian water. Aquifers are a complex, 3-D system of porous/less porous layers with differing recharge and discharge areas.

For ground water to move, the pores and spaces in the rock need to be connected. Ground water movement is tortuous, both in path and time. In aquifers, it moves from the point of recharge to point of discharge. It moves under gravity, usually very slowly, a few micrometres/year, however it can move hundreds of metres/day. Much happens as water moves from its point of recharge to its point of discharge – physical, chemical and biological. The age of ground water can be dated using radioactive carbon isotopes or CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) markers; the date indicates the last time the water was in the atmosphere. Research undertaken by the CSIRO and University of Ballarat in 2006-8 into the dependency of lakes and wetlands in SW Victoria dated ground water up to 25,500 years BP, but also as recent as 1993.

Groundwater systems

Groundwater can take days or millennia to move from recharge to discharge, depending on the path it takes



Dr. Dahlhaus proceeded to describe current research projects he and his colleagues have been working on, using such techniques as above. These include studying groundwater domains and flow paths in lakes and wetlands in western Victoria and the dependency of rivers, lakes and wetlands on groundwater. Results were presented showing groundwater-surface water interactions for several lakes and wetlands, including Lakes Corangamite, Murdeduke, Weering and Colac. Such results provide important information for the use of water management authorities and for conservation ecology (e.g. Ramsar wetlands). They also enable modelling to be undertaken to further assist catchment management authorities.

Threats affecting the groundwater – surface water relationships are 'massive'. These include human activities, such as agriculture, clearing, mining, river control, recreation, urbanisation and climate change. Most surface water resources are now fully exploited, so there is a rapidly increasing use of groundwater. However, although there might be a lot of groundwater in storage, it is the top layer that needs to be managed the most carefully because it is this layer that interacts with the surface water in lakes, streams and wetlands.

Another area of Dr. Dahlhaus' collaborative research is the Lower Barwon River wetlands and estuary - a groundwater-dependent ecosystem on the Bellarine Peninsula but which has a complex interrelationship between groundwater, surface water and marine systems and between fresh water and sea water, all based on its geological history. The system comprises density layers of fresh water over salt water. Urbanisation pressure, however, threatens the integrity of this system. Urbanisation has significant hydrological impacts, for example on storm water disposal, groundwater recharge, unconsolidated sediments and ecology. It is known that if the volume of freshwater is reduced, the salt water migrates inland with consequent impacts. Answers are being sought to the many

(Continued on page 5)

World Water Council

There is a Water Crisis Today
But the crisis is not about having too little water to satisfy our needs. It is a crisis of managing water so badly that billions of people – and the environment – suffer badly" (2000)

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 222

Joan Broadberry
Hali Ferguson
Sally Bewsher

(Continued from page 4)
important questions surrounding these potential changes.

Dr. Dahlhaus' presentation clearly defined groundwater-surface water relationships and illustrated them with practical examples from his research work. His talk demonstrated the importance of understanding how the systems work, especially in the face of man-made changes. In turn, the audience clearly expressed its appreciation of Dr. Dahlhaus' talk.

Kaye Oddie

FROM THE OFFICE..

Speakers Database:
Thank you to the people who have signed up to be on our FNCV Speakers database. Please consider filling in the form and returning it to the office.
This is a fantastic way to share our knowledge and spread the word about the club. All talks will be booked at the convenience of the speaker.

Printers Blocks:
Our old Victorian Naturalist printers blocks are selling well, please keep your eye on the cupboard as these blocks are replaced as quickly as they are sold.

Volunteer Register:
As the club moves forward, the role of the volunteer is more vital than ever before. To facilitate our volunteer resources and spread the load, we are once again asking members to take the time to fill in the Volunteer Register form and return it to the office. The form can be collected from the office or down loaded from the website. Please help us with this vital piece of club business.

Vic Nat Back Issues:
Some of you will have seen the table with back issues of the Vic Nat on the table in the hall. I replenish this table with new issues as they run out. Please take the time to have a look and fill any gaps you may have in your collection and leave a donation in the tin on the table.

Donations for second mural:
Please drop into our Gardenia Street Club premises and admire the fabulous mural on the back wall of the FNCV hall.

Artist, Lori Duncan completed it during her recent precious few days break from her art studies at Latrobe, Bendigo. We do thank her for the huge effort and commitment to the project she has shown. The photo above shows Lori sketching the design during the very early stages of the work.

As you are all aware, we are continuing to fundraise for this venture. So far, with almost no publicity, a little over a third of the cost has been pledged. Donations can be made by credit card, cheque or cash. Office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9.30 pm—4 pm.

Help us complete the funding for this beautiful addition to your club.

Donations for Hall:
This month's donations are:

Biscuits *(packets of biscuits are always needed).*
Long Life Milk
Pine-O-Clean wipes *(for bin)*
Dish washing detergent

Or Gift vouchers from Officeworks, Coles or Safeway.

Thanks, Hali

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Fungi Group

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY
13 MAY 2012

Bunyip State Park, Mortimer Reserve

We were joined by some of the FNCV juniors who had also braved the wet morning and later the leeches! Crossing the grassy picnic area before entering the nature trail, several examples of *Armillaria luteobubalina* (Australian Honey Fungus), with sandpapery honey-coloured cap and obvious ring on the stem, were growing in clusters at the base of dead and living trees. These fungi are both parasitic and saprotrophic. First they kill the tree, and then they 'eat up' its nutrients. *Armillaria luteobubalina* initially attacks the roots of a tree and, by the spread of white fungal sheets infects and kills the phloem (foot conducting tissue) and cambium (zone between bark and wood). This disrupts the flow of nutrients and water, producing symptoms similar to that of drought, waterlogging etc, whereby the shoots die back, the crown thins and often epicormic shoots are developed.

One living Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) provided a swag of species. On the trunk were the several saprotrophic fungi that gain their nutrients from dead organic material by breaking down the lignin, cellulose or chitin: *Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur Tuft) growing in a dense clump has a sulphur-yellow fruit-body and greenish-yellow gills that turn dark as the purple-brown spores develop; a group of *Mycena kuurkacea* (Bleeding Mycena) with brick-red caps and stems whose gills have a red edge and the stem 'bleeds' a deep reddish fluid when cut; in the bark at the base of the tree, a Marasmius species had reappeared which had pale brown to purple caps and dark stems. Based on field descriptions, this does not seem to be the similar-looking *M.* sp. 'angina' because the pale brown rhizomorphs were absent and the substrate for *M.* sp. 'angina' is dead logs, branches and twigs. Samples were taken to check microscopic details against *M. cinnamoneus* (see *Larger Fungi of South Australia* by CA Grgurinovic 1997, p248) to try to confirm the species; *Podoscypha petalodes* was found at the base of the tree trunk and above some buried roots, forming pale brown, thin, leather-like funnel-shaped rosettes.

Podoserpula pusio
Photo: Scott Ferguson

The mycorrhizal species that had a symbiotic relationship with the Manna Gum included: *Russula persanguinea* with a bright red cap, white gills and white stem growing in the soil where the trunk was slightly indented; a tiny *Entoloma* sp. (possibly *E. moongum*) with a purple cap and dark stem was in the ground close to the tree. Gills of this species turn pinkish brown when the spores have matured. It was interesting to note that many of the species we saw during the foray were just beginning to develop.

On entering the nature trail, a torrential downpour made it was difficult to see anything, let alone write notes! But it did stop raining and we continued on around the track to the road. One pair of very young eyes pointed out some small gelatinous, hairy fans on a small piece of wood. They looked to be whitish and positioned flat against the wood with gills radiating from the centre. In its natural state the gills would have been facing downward. Field characteristics of size, shape and gluten suggested that it was a *Resupinatus* sp. - *R. subapplicatus* because the attachment was at the centre top of the cap and lay flat below the substrate. In the other species *R. cinnerascens* the stem attachment produces a lateral position of the fruit-body. We also found some other small fans, *Campanella olivaceonigra*, on a dead branch. They had blackish-grey stained caps and white, heavily crossed gills.

Laccocephalum hartmannii Photo: Bill Leithhead

Scott photographed *Podoserpula pusio* (Pagoda Fungus) which is found on the ground associated with rotting wood. Scott showed us where they were – in the soil at the end of a fallen log - a small delicate pale pink/apricot species with tiers of smooth, kidney-shaped caps forming around a common stem. Claire found a *Fistulina hepatica* (Beefsteak Fungus) that had been removed from a tree, but all the characteristics were there – beautifully red on top and radially wrinkled with pink pores on the undersurface. While holding it she commented on how heavy it was despite the small size; some of the weight must have been due to the rain it had absorbed.

We saw only two specimens of *Cyptotrama aspratum* (Gold Tufts) on the same log we had seen in earlier forays. The young fruit-body looked like a small orange spiky ball which later showed an orange cap, white gills and stem.

After lunch Janet lead us up another track, not the garden path! She showed us the most magnificent huge brown-capped (to 35cm) stalked polypore. Some had central stems, others were lateral, pores

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
were pale and stained brown, the cut flesh was yellow. Paul George thought they might be extra-large *Laccocephalum hartmannii*. Bill and Jurrie dug down to look for the pseudosclerotium (soil and fungal mycelium mixed together). They found lumps of soil mixed with dense, white mycelium which was taken to be the pseudosclerotium. Later, Dr Tom May (Senior Mycologist, RBG) said, over the phone, that Ed's description sounded exactly like *Laccocephalum hartmannii*. A collection was made for RBG and some interesting differences between our data and published material appeared viz.- the pores and flesh stain brown (not mentioned anywhere), the pores, while angular are large – 1 to 2 per mm cf 3 to 6 per mm in literature (Mycobank). However, the white spore print and narrowly cylindrical spores (7 – 9.5 x 2.5 – 3.5 microns) both match published data. It does appear that *L. hartmannii* is a variable species and that our material is that species.

Ed and Pat Grey

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY
20 MAY 2012

Mount Worth State Park, Moonlight Creek Area

Lachnum pteridophyulum
Photo: De'ana Williams

We were joined by members of Friends of Mt. Worth SP, Friends of Morwell NP and members of the LaTrobe Valley FN plus some visitors. It was a cloudy but fine day. Once again, the car-park kept us occupied for some time.

The mass of pale 'rhizomorphs' growing three metres up on a Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) was identified as belonging to *Mycena cystidiosa* because they had the minute developing caps at the ends of the 'rhizomorphs' although no fungal fruit-bodies were present. However, on the ground on one bank of the car-park there were numerous fruit-bodies with their long, brown stems and conical brownish caps with a purple-brown apex, as well as copious amounts of "rhizomorphs". *Mycena cystidiosa* is possibly our tallest-growing Mycena. At a later stage of the morning, we found white "rhizomorphs" and the minute white fruit-bodies of *Mycena maldea* growing on small twigs. Interestingly, there are two types of rhizomorph-like structures formed by Australian species of *Mycena*, although they seem not to produce actual rhizomorphs (Grgurinovic C.A. *The Genus Mycena in South-Eastern Australia* p. 59). These structures consist of bundles of mycelial hyphae organised into long strands with an outer rind and inner core. The differences lie in the apex of the strands – those having a minute cap (resembling the developing cap of an immature fruit-body) are known as sterile stipes, an example being those of *Mycena cystidiosa*. Where the strands do not develop minute caps, they are called criniform stipes and *Mycena maldea* has this type.

Mycena maldea Photo: Ed. Grey

One of our self-appointed tasks was to find specimens of *Marasmius* sp. 'angina' so that more work could be done to identify and differentiate this from other *Marasmius* species. Unfortunately, all *Marasmius* species seemed to have gone walk-about and we saw only a lone specimen of the horse hair Marasmius - *M. crinisequi* group - which has a dimple in the cap with a black 'pyramid' in the middle.

Another aim was to find creamy yellow coral-like fungi growing on tree-fern trunks. This was to help resolve a discussion around the small species found at Toorongo Falls – was it *Calocera viscosa* or *Ramariopsis crocea*? Again, despite the numbers of both Rough and Soft Tree-ferns, we had no luck and only a white coral was found on a Tree-fern. However, samples of *Calocera sinensis* were taken to check their dried appearance against that of the Toorongo Falls specimen. Hopefully, this will give us an idea of how *Calocera* spp. dry.

While we were inspecting Tree-ferns, lots of the *Mycena* sp. 'tiny blue lights' were found on dead fronds (rachises). All those found on the Mt Worth foray came from the Soft Tree-fern *Dicksonia antarctica*, but unfortunately at other forays only the fact that it grew on dead Tree-fern frond stems was noted. *Mycena* sp. 'tiny blue lights' is minute, but looking with a 10x hand lens it is distinctive: the caps are up to 3mm diameter, blue or white (after the blue has washed out); it has only about six gills, which are white and attached not to the stem but to a 'collar' around the

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)
stem; the stem is always blue and young fruit-bodies are tiny blue knobs; often there is blue mycelium on the frond stem, and according to B.Fuhrer (*A Field Guide to Australian Fungi* (2005), no 219) 'it is luminescent, and has a strongly nitric odour. The Soft Tree-fern *Dicksonia antarctica* has several features that distinguish it from the Rough Tree-fern *Cyathea australis*: the trunks are fibrous (and support numerous epiphytic ferns), the

Vibrissea dura Photo: Jurrie Hubregtse

frond stems are smooth and their bases covered with coarse brittle, red-brown hairs, the dead fronds tend to hang down around the trunk like a skirt, and the spherical sori (spores) are marginal and covered by a two-valve 'shell'. If you have seen this Mycena would you let me know and include details of where found, which Tree-fern (if possible), date, and whether numerous or not. There is also another minute fungus found on dead Tree-fern frond stems, a pale lemon disc on a short stalk, inside the disc is smooth but the outside is covered with white hairs. This is *Lachnum pteridophyllum.* Please let me know if you have seen this species. (Pat Grey, email to edandpat@virginbroadband.com.au)

Several species occasionally found on our forays added interest. Two fruit-bodies of the black Dead Man's Fingers *Xyloria castorea* (was *X. polymorpha*) were growing high on a dead section of the Prickly Currant Bush *Coprosma quadrifida.* These were spotted by Alan's keen eyes. Two rather chewed specimens of the Fawn Vegetable Caterpillar *Cordyceps hawkesii* were uncovered from the litter by Carol and had the characteristic cream-fawn fertile head with white tips from spores. Although the stem had been eaten somewhat, the demarcation between the stem and head could still be seen. In rotting bark at the side of a sawn Eucalypt log, was a group of Fairy Clubs *Macrotyphula juncea* – a very thin species with creamy-white heads on brown stems.

The small group of forayers who reached half way around the Giants Circuit, were well rewarded by finding a group of about 30 fruit-bodies of the Brown-headed Pin *Vibrissea dura* on a piece of decaying wood beside the track. *Vibrissea dura* with its pale brown, slimy head and pale yellow, slimy stem is a quite rare fungus and this is the first time we have seen it at this location. (Virgil and Jurrie Hubregtse)

Thanks to all the forayers for their keen interest.

Ed Grey

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY
27 MAY 2012

Cathedral Range, Ned's Gully

Sunshine greeted our group as we gathered at the Ned's Gully car park. Recent rain had promised a good display of fungi and we were not disappointed with around 100 genera being found (that we could identify at least to Genus).

On the familiar stump before the bridge over the Little River was a *Fistulina Hepatica* (Beefsteak Fungus) with reddish striate upper surface and pink-red pores. Next to the steps just over the bridge was a very large *Xerula australis* (Rooting Shank) with brownish cap diameter to 80mm and tall stem ca 250mm. Along the river track a large patch of *Hypocrea victoriensis* (yellow cushions) shone on a fallen branch and clearly visible were the distinctive dark ostioles.

Several stumps in the camping ground were of interest. One had a massed display of *Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur Tufts) with their yellow-green gills, **caps** pale yellowish-orange and pale margin with veil remnants adhering. The large numbers of this common species made them stand out.

Alongside another stump was a group of the gold-capped *Gymnopilus allantopus*. (stitched Gymnopilus). Most had pale margins, but some smaller ones had the characteristic 'stitching' (dense white fibres). Along all the tracks, around the base of trees and growing from buried wood were numerous thin rosettes of *Podoscypha petalodes* with zones of brown, dark in the middle radiating out to a pale margin. These ranged from single specimens to great massed colonies.

Three bolete species were seen during the day: *Fistulinella mollis* (Marshmallow Bolete) with pale cap and soft squashy pinkish pores; *Boletus barragensis* with dark brown velvety cap with hints of red, reddish pores at end of yellow tubes, and red stem; the third *Boletus* sp. also had a brown cap but khaki-yellow pores that stained blue and a pale brownish wiry stem with a hint of red. The most interesting point about this fungus is that the spore print turned out to be white! In contrast the spore prints of Boletus spp. are olive brown to walnut, Suillus spp. are brown, Leccinum spp. are walnut brown

Two specimens of *Lactarius clarkeae* were found, Only the first was tested to see if the gills exuded a latex, which they did. This species and *Russula flocktoniae* are very similar in appearance – orange cap and stem and white gills – but the deciding factor is the presence or absence

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)
of latex. Another *Russula* sp. was seen a couple of times. It had a small (ca 35mm) rose-red fairly viscid cap, delicate pale lemon-yellow gills and one specimen had a white stem, the other a solid pink stem. The yellow gills indicate that the species would be *R. purpureoflava*, but the cap was rose-red not red-purple, the yellow of the gills was a less strong colour than the more mustard yellow that we usually have seen in the species at other forays, and in one case there was no hint of pink in the stem (pink in the stem is a characteristic of *R. purpureoflava*). The species we saw looked like the image in B. Fuhrer (A Field Guide to Australian Fungi, 2005, no 259) which is, however, different from that illustrated by I R McCann (Australian Fungi Illustrated, 2003, p68, top and The Fungi CD: Fungi in Australia, FNCV Fungi Group, 2012,). Those illustrations are more like the species that we usually class as *R. purpureoflava*.

Hygrocybe Hill, open Eucalypt woodland, had a very different suite of fungi from that lower down near the river. The few *Hygrocybe* species seen included *H. aurantiopallens*, a small, yellow species (cap, gills and stem) with a long stem and gills with shallow cross-veining. Two sturdy species – the white *H. virginea* had deeply decurrent distant gills and *H. austropratensis* had a pale orange-brown cap, thick white stem, often with a bulbous base, and decurrent pale orange-buff gills that often fork at the margin. The immature specimens have a white furfuraceous covering. There were other *Hygrocybe* sp. that could not be named to species.

In this area there were several clumps of a bright yellow/pink/orange coral – *Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor* – with the thick stem and salmon-pink colouring. Next to these bright clumps was a paler species, looking more like a cauliflower with very blunt tips and only a trace of pink. They looked like two different species but AM Young (A Field Guide to the Fungi of Australia, 2005, p 90-91) notes that there are two different forms of *R. ochraceosalmonicolor*: "an extremely dense and cauliflower-like clump or a tightly clustered more coralloid structure". Further on he comments that "Bruce Fuhrer has confirmed the unusual occurrence of two physical forms of this species and has indicated that both forms can be found growing side by side" – as we saw. Apparently they are microscopically identical. However a later study by AM Young and NA Fechner has reduced *R. ochraceosalmonicolor* to a variety of *R. capitata* which now has two varieties: *R. c*. var. *ochraceosalmonicolor* with salmon-pink branches and *R. c* var. *capitata* which has totally yellow to orange-yellow branches (Australian Coralloid Fungi I – *Ramaria capitata*, Australasian Mycologist 26 (1), 2007). Numerous tiny, single red-tongues of the *Clavaria miniata* group were growing all across the area. They were particularly noticeable for their small fine form and brilliant blood-red colouring.

Ra*maria capitata var. capitata* - De'ana Williams

We were lucky enough to see one specimen of *Hydnoplicata convoluta* previously known as *Peziza whitei*. The new name is very descriptive for this white convoluted species. N L Bougher and Katrina Syme, (Fungi of Southern Australia p102) write that "Its fruit-bodies .... resemble cup fungi that have become greatly inrolled and convoluted. .....It is considered to be so closely related to some cup-like species of Peziza that it is tentatively placed in the same genus" (and now it isn't!)

One very interesting specimen had a large white-dome cap (80mm diameter) extremely smooth that sat on top of a very wide white stem. A veil covered most of the gills, but where they did show through, they were pale going rust-brown. So the gill (and spore) colour plus the very smooth cap ruled out *Amanita*, the very smooth cap also ruled out *Agaricus*, thus it was a *Cortinarius* sp. but unusual in the developed membranous ring and stem shape. Jurrie suggested that it was *C. australiensis*. N L Bougher and Katrina Syme (p 244) note that the ring on its stem is derived mainly from an outer veil, while the inner veil (which we could see) does not form a ring. The fact that the ring was formed from the outer veil, and not the inner veil removed it from the genus *Rozites* to that of *Cortinarius*. Apart from this *Cortinarius* other spectacular recognisable species were the very slimy *C. sinapicolor* (Slimy Yellow Cort) yellow with orange centre and gluten dripping off the cap; some young very glutinous purple *C. archeri* (Emperor Cort) and the dry dark purple *C.* sp. aff. *violaceus* (Deep Purple Cort) purple cap, purple to almost black gills and purple stem. The numerous other *Cortinarius* spp. were brownish and we were not able to determine their species.

Clathrus archeri Photo: Richard Hartland

Finally Richard, who had forayed far up into the higher reaches, came back to show us a photo of the stinkhorn Clathrus archeri (Anthurus archeri, Seastar Stinkhorn). The bright red arms arise from a white to pink hollow stem which bursts

(Continued on page 12)

Welcome to
The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc
Inaugural Natural History
Photographic Competition

This competition is open to all interested, non professional, nature photographers.

The two photographic categories in the competition are:

Nature up-close-and-personal
Nature from a distance

Prizes: A first and second prize will be awarded in each category, as well as one People's Choice award.

- ***Open:*** **First prize $200; Second prize $100**
- ***Junior:*** **First Prize $50; Second Prize $20**
- ***People's Choice*****: Prize $100 (one only)**

Costs per entry: are as follows:
Open: Non-Members $15; Members $10
Junior: (14 Yrs and under on 17th July)
Non-Members $5; Members $2.50

Entries open on Tuesday 17th July and must be received at the FNCV office by 4 pm Monday 17th September, 2012. The entries will then be sorted and judged. Winners will be notified by letter, phone or email by **Wednesday 10th October, 2012.**

An exhibition of the best photographs will be held Saturday 13th -Sun 14th October at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn from 10 am to 4 pm.

Prizes will be awarded at 2 pm on Sunday 14th October at the photographic exhibition

- Terms and conditions & entry forms are available from the FNCV website or the FNCV office.
- All entries must have an appropriate label (see terms and conditions on FNCV website—or contact the office) and be accompanied by an entry form with correct payment.
- A maximum of four entries can be submitted by each entrant. Payment can be made in cash, by credit card or cheque (made out to The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria).

Day Group

History of Science in Museum Victoria

Rebecca Carland (photo right), is working on the history of Museum Victoria's Science Collections and all the people who have been part of them since the museum's origin in 1854. She generously made time to speak at the June Day Group meeting.

Bec's work could be described as acquiring additional information about events and personalities in the museum's past through finding new objects or by reinterpreting old objects. As she put it, “telling stories about the secret life of things." Bec told us that material objects consciously or unconsciously reflect the beliefs of the people who collected or assembled them. Examples of such objects could be taxonomic specimens, documents, artwork, household implements, photos, field notes or even labels.

A question often raised is, “how old does something have to be to be put into the museum?" There is no age test. The question is: does the object resonate? That is does it help to express emotional, intangible stories of people or place.

Bec is a master story teller and illustrated her work through a number of examples which she carefully chose because of their links to the FNCV. I will try to retell just two of them.

Her first object was a small wooden cylinder which had been used by ornithologist and naturalist Archibald James Campbell (1853-1929) to store the down from a Chestnut Teal duck. His egg collection, photos, and field trip notes, donated to the Museum in 1915, form a major part of the ornithological collection. Bec found the little tube in the collection and identified its original use as a container for storing graphite, in those days used as a lubricant for bicycles. It takes only a little imagination to put Campbell out in the field on his bicycle, hunting in his bag for a container for the down he wants to collect and pulling out the handy little tube, just as one of us today might grab an old film container.

2011 was the 50th anniversary of the rediscovery of Leadbeaters Possum.* A project which arose from this anniversary was a display in the foyer of Museum Victoria, which also highlighted the burning of 90% of the Possum's habitat at Lake Mountain. An original, but now badly charred, possum nest box was a powerful feature of this display. This nest box illustrates perfectly the evocative role of objects as described above. Bec also realised there was not a lot of detail about the circumstances of the rediscovery and set to work to uncover more.

Eric Wilkinson, as a boy of eight read an article written by curator of mammals, Charles Brazenor in *Wildlife* magazine. Brazenor (later to become director of the museum) was passionate in his quest for the possum. The search also gripped Eric's imagination. On the 3rd of April 1961, at age 19, Eric as a FNCV member and member of the Mammal Survey Group, spotlit and photographed Leadbeaters Possums in the Cumberland Valley, eleven miles east of Marysville. He immediately reported this to Brazenor, but was rebuffed and told more than a photograph was needed. Brazenor, however quickly contacted John Coventry, a crack shot and had soon collected a specimen to lodge in the museum. Brazenor had achieved his lifelong goal. At the time, however, the young Wilkinson's part was downplayed. The crux of Bec's digging is a reinterpretation of the relative importance of the key role played by Wilkinson in the rediscovery of Leadbeaters Possum, as opposed to Brazenor's lesser role.

In March 2012 twenty extraordinary women were inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll at a ceremony in Parliament House. Bec was invited to witness Curator Emeritus, Hope Black join this group. The remainder of her presentation to the Day Group concentrated on the career of Hope Macpherson-Black, the first female curator appointed to the museum. Bec’s Museum Victoria blog gives a wonderful account of this occasion, and Hope's work (far better than I could manage, and I refer readers to it.

***museumvictoria**.com.au/about/mv-blog/?author=Rebecca%20Carland - (or just google).*

History is always fascinating and the history of natural history, to an audience from the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, is doubly so. It was a great treat to be given insight into some of the approaches used by a professional historian. Once again on behalf of the group I would like to thank Rebecca for sharing her work with us.

**Leadbeaters possum was not discovered until 1867 and was originally known only through five specimens, the last one collected in 1909. It was named by Prof. Sir Fredrick McCoy after John Leadbeater, then taxidermist of the National Museum.*

Joan Broadberry

(Continued from page 9)
from a whitish egg. The arms are, at first, joined at the top. An olive-green slimy spore mass coats the inside of the arms. It smells like rotting meat (Richard did not say whether he smelt this). Flies are attracted to this, slurp it up, and in the process distribute the spores.

This fungus season seems to be progressing in a strange way and perhaps the season is late. To illustrate this, on this foray some examples of young still developing fungi included the 'horse-hair' type *Marasmius* sp., *M. alverolaris* and *M. crinisequi* group which had very small cap diameters ca 2-3mm compared with 4-8 and 5-10 respectively and the very young and small *Stereum* spp., *S. ostrea, S. illudens, S. hirsutum* group which were just very small lines along logs. Some species seen here on previous forays were absent – such as *Amanita* spp. and the red-purple *Hypoxylon* aff *placentiforme.*

Ed & Pat Grey

Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 221

Bob Rowlands
Neil McLachlan
Sheina Nichols
Margaret Brewster
Bill Fenner
Andrew Brentnall
Keith Marshall
Joan Broadberry
Barbara Burns

Library News

For many years the FNCV Library has received journals from institutions and groups located in most parts of the world, in exchange for *The Victorian Naturalist*. One of the more voluminous of these periodicals is the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, which arrives in bulk at irregular intervals. The Library recently received 17 volumes (nos 348–364) in one delivery, each containing the results of a very specific study on some aspect of the natural world. This series does not often contain material of direct relevance to Australian naturalists, but one of these newly-acquired issues focuses on a revision of Leucophoropterini. For readers not acquainted with these creatures, the Leucophoropterini is an Indo-Australian group of 23 genera and 104 species of bugs.

If the above is of no particular interest to members, the latest issue of *Australian Geographic* (no. 109) contains articles about Western Australian wildflowers, Freycinet National Park, and a resurgence of Red Kangaroos in the Corner Country.

Bulletins of ANHM are shelved on receipt because of their bulk, but the rest of the latest periodicals are displayed in a rack in the library. You can borrow periodicals from the rack, as well as previous issues. Don't forget to fill in the 'Periodicals' borrowing book.

Gary Presland
Honorary Librarian

Help the Club fundraise with Good Will Wine

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

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

Field Nats News 222

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