



Field Nats News No.225

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

From the President

Hi Members, welcome to the November Field Nat News. I am amazed at how quickly this year seems to have flown by. The Fungi Forays have gone into recess, while the Marine Group is again preparing to don waders etc to venture back out into the waters of coastal Victoria. It is getting to that time of year when consultants start looking for Growling Grass Frogs and Golden Sun Moths again, amongst many other rare or vulnerable species of wild-life, not to mention plants.

Having recently returned from the Sunshine Coast, I must say it was very nice to again stroll through the Wallum and sub-tropical rainforests trying to id plants that I was familiar with before returning to Melbourne 11 years ago. I don't think I did too badly, for a zoologist. I will include some photos in my December column.

At the beginning of October, I led a "Night Stalk" for Manningham City Council at Warrandyte State Park. The "Night Stalk" is a program that has been run by the Perth Zoo for many years. The idea is to get individuals and groups out to "survey" for mammals in their local area. The results are then sent back to Perth Zoo for compilation. The evening turned out to be quite good with numerous Common Ringtail Possums, a couple of Sugar Gliders, a Common Wombat, an unidentified

microbat and many Eastern Grey Kangaroos being seen. Numerous birds and frogs were also seen or heard.

Biodiversity Symposium 17-18th November

This year's Biodiversity Symposium theme is "*Working together for Ecological Outcomes in the International Year of Cooperatives*". Many presentations are planned over the weekend to highlight projects where positive outcomes have been achieved due to cooperation between stakeholders such as governments and statutory authorities, community groups and individual landholders.

Some of the presentations include Friends of Leadbeaters Possum, Friends of the Helmeted Honey-eater, Trust For Nature and Conservation Volunteers Australia – *Wild Futures* program. We are also planning a BBQ and local field trip on Sunday afternoon. It is shaping up to be a great weekend with topics that will appeal to a broad range of members.

We hope to see you there. Booking form on the website or see FNN p 5. Contact Hali in the office to register.

The FNCV/FSG on Holidays!

This club trip, staying at the Adobe Flats Mallacoota for a week, was hugely successful. For a selection of reports and wonderful photos see FNN pages 11-14. We have also included 2 bonus email pages of photos to encourage members to sign up for an online copy of FNN.

John Harris

.Deadline for the December/January 2013 FNN will be Monday 5th November. FNN will go to the printers on the 13th Nov. Collation 20th.

FNCV Christmas party - Saturday 15th December.

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Photo: S. Bewsher



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.

November

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th —Juniors' Camp. A Junior's family have very kindly allowed us to use their land near Port Campbell on the Great Ocean Road – right opposite the twelve Apostles. State schools are having school on the Monday this year so at this stage we'll plan just for the weekend. More info soon. Contact: Claire Ferguson 80602474: toclairef@gmail.com

Saturday 3rd –Tuesday 6th - Fauna Survey Group. Survey and camp. Gobur Flora and Fauna Reserve, near Yarck and Yea. Contact: Russell Thompson 9434 7046 AH

Monday 12th – Marine Research Group. No monthly meeting.

Monday 12th – Fungi Group. Meeting – *Members' night*. Please note second Monday in the month, not the first. Bring a selection of your best photos to show. Present your 'Favourite Photo of a Fungus from a Foray' and discuss why you chose it. Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 13th - Fauna Survey Group. Meeting Note: second Tuesday - *Investigating the health of free-ranging wildlife populations to detect changes and risks and their impact on biodiversity conservation, biosecurity and health*. Speaker: Pam Whiteley, Wildlife Health Surveillance, Victoria. Melbourne University, Faculty of Veterinary Science. Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148: robindrury@hotmail.com

Thursday 15th – Botany Group. Meeting – *Grasslands of the Basalt Plains*. Come and join in a power-point and video presentation of our endangered grasslands. Speaker: Colleen Miller. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055071

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th – Biodiversity Symposium. *Working together for Ecological Outcomes in the International Year of Cooperatives*. Come and join us for this interesting and informative weekend. Contact: FNCV Office 9877 9860: admin@fncv.org.au - Further details p5

Tuesday 20th—Collate FNN 221. Starting about 10.30 am. Some folk come earlier. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218.

Wednesday 21st – Microscopy Group. Meeting - *Micro-organisms and their link to infectious diseases*, including the types of microscopes used to observe these organisms and infection control and sterilization. Speaker: Sue Cornish, the Australian Society for Microbiology. Contact: Phillipa Burgess 9598 3231 AH.

Sunday 25th – Botany Group and Juniors' Group. Field trip – Derrimut and William Anglis Grasslands. Then go on to visit the Grasslands at Werribee Open Plains Zoo. Come and discover three different types of grasslands. Meet 10am Boundary Rd, Derrimut (Melway Map 39K8). Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Monday 26th - FNCV Council Meeting - 7.30 pm. Agenda items and apologies to Hali, 9877 9860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tues 27th – Day Group. Meeting – *An introduction to the study of lichen*. Speaker: Dr Maria Gibson, Deakin University. 10.30 am for morning tea. Contact: Gary Presland 9890 9288

Wednesday 28th - Grey-headed Flying Fox Survey. Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course carpark Mel 2D G7 at 7.45 pm. RSVP as a courtesy by phone or email to Megan Davidson 9380 5062: m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au

Wednesday 28th – Geology Group. Meeting – *The Recent Fossil Record of Insects in Australia and the Indo-Pacific Region: Past Climates, Environments and Human Impacts*. Speaker: Dr. Nick Porch, Environmental Earth Science, Deakin University Contact: Kaye Oddie 9329 0635: koddie@bigpond.com

Friday 30th – Juniors' Group. Meeting – *Frogs*. Speaker: Gerry Marantelli. 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
Welcome

Warmest greetings to these new members who were welcomed into our club at the last Council meeting: Rosey Haas, Warren Tomlinson and Kathleen Jackson.

FROM THE OFFICE... Hali



Photographic Exhibition: The judging has been done and prizes awarded. The job of judging this competition was ably undertaken by Margaret Corrick, Wendy Clark, Bruce Fuhrer and Leon Costermans. It was a difficult job, as so many of the entries were of a very high standard. Thank you to the judges for giving up your Saturday morning to make the hard decisions. Thank you to those who entered and/or helped out. I will be publishing the total of funds raised next month.

Calendar of Events: I would like to say a big thank you to Sheina Nicholls, Julia Davis and Andy Brentnall for coming in and spending a couple of hours sending the Calendar of Events to Libraries, Neighbourhood houses etc. If you need extra copies to share with friends, family or clubs that you belong to, they are available from the office.

Paul's Collect-a-cap: The Paul's Collect-a-cap promotion is ending in December, so if you have any caps at home, please bring them in, as I will be sending them in soon.

For Sale: We have several items for sale in the hall: a 5 drawer filing cabinet (\$20.00 ono) and a wooden cupboard (\$20.00 ono). Contact the office if you want any more information.

FNCV Club Jackets: We are taking orders for a club polar fleece jacket. Jackets cost \$45.00 each and one large order will be placed on November 12th for delivery before Christmas. A sample of the jacket and the order form is in the hall, or you can order by contacting the office. *Photo left—Jacket, modelled by Gary.*

Donations for Hall: We have had such a terrific response to our previous requests for donations that this month we do not need anything. Keep up the good work, your support is greatly appreciated.



Extracts from SIG reports presented at the last Council meeting

Microscopy Group: Lee Denis gave a talk to dispel the generally poor attitude to Blue Green Algae in the general population. This was done by describing the very complicated relationship between water and soil chemicals and the Blue Green Algal cell and resulting toxicity.



Juniors' Group Our August meeting was our party night to celebrate the 69th birthday of the Juniors group. We had many different costumes and an amazing cake made by Robyn Goode to go with the theme of Desert Life. On September the 16th we had an excursion to Serendip Sanctuary in Lara, where we saw a wide variety of birds and marsupials, went ponding and viewed our finds under microscopes (thanks to ranger Matt Wills), and picnicked together. The weather was perfect and our highlight was seeing a male Australian Bustard trying to impress the females in his enclosure.



Fauna Survey Group **Cameras at Baluk Willam:** The five cameras set up at Baluk Willam captured images of a range of species including Black Wallaby, Common Wombat, Fallow Deer and Grey Kangaroo. Parks Vic were pleased with the exercise, even though no bandicoot images were captured as hoped. For the first time we used 'Dropbox' to make the 1GB of images available to interested parties, including the Juniors. **Meeting:** Lisa Godhino was unable to attend to present her presentation on Melbourne bats, due to illness. Ian Kitchen stood in and successfully presented Lisa's material. Euan Ritchie gave a presentation on the role of predators in October.

Botany Group **Excursion:** Sunday 16 September to Willis Nature Park, Smiths Gully. This is a Trust for Nature property that a small group of us visited to start a plant list. Unfortunately, the gate had been padlocked incorrectly so we were unable to open it. This of course did not stop us from climbing through the fence to begin our work of species identification. There were three species of Eucalypts, but surprisingly only two acacias. Early Nancy was everywhere and there were numerous Leopard Orchids. We only spotted the one plant of *Glossodia major*. There were several Lilies and one Trigger Plant which were almost in flower. I need to find out more about the history of the reserve which has some nice wildflowers, grasses and trees, but seems to be missing a middle storey. Like good botanists, we began our morning by walking 50m away from the gate to observe a large koala eating leaves and scratching. We hope to return and be able to continue our species list and observe plants over a larger area of the property.





Geology Group

“Rocks in Space: Using Meteorites to Understand Extra-Solar Planets and the Next Mining Frontier”

*Andrew Langendam
School of Earth Sciences,
Monash University
22 August 2012*

Andrew Langendam is a PhD student in the School of Earth Sciences, Monash University. His interests lie in understanding the effects of metamorphism in early planets and his talk to the Geology Group was on meteorites, which are remnants of the dust particles that made the solar system and represent the first materials to form from that dust.

The meteorites we are more familiar with are the shiny-crusted rocks, sometimes weighty that we find, particularly in outback Australian deserts. These are the ones that made it to the ground on Earth; others burn up in orbit, land on other celestial bodies or remain as space debris.

There are a number of types of meteorites: chondrites, achondrites, stony-iron and iron. Andrew described in more detail the formation and composition of these

meteorites, showing photos and actual samples he brought.

Chondrites predominate (85.8%). They are typified by having chondrules - which are melt droplets from the early solar system or igneous grains crystallised under zero-g - together with other components such as calcium-aluminium inclusions and metal and silicate grains in the matrix. They are further classified according to iron content, ranging from low to high; carbonaceous, with 8 subgroups; enstatite and rumuruti. One sample showed to the audience was formed from dust that formed the solar system.

Achondrites (8%) have no chondrules; they can be primitive or evolved and show greater metamorphism. Samples can come from the Moon, the asteroid 4 Vesta, Mars and other planets.

Stony Iron (1.2%) and Iron (5%) meteorites are thought to come from separate asteroids. Stony iron meteorites are typified by mixtures of silicates and metals, inclusions, patterns and crystal formations and considered to represent arrested stages of metal migration. Iron meteorites consist entirely of metal, predominantly iron-

nickel.

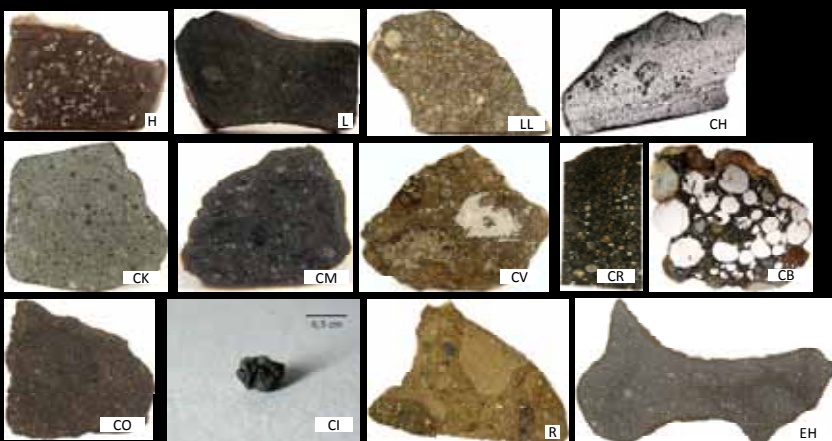
So, how do meteorites get to Earth? As shown above, they are essentially bits of asteroids which are bits of planets. Arising from collisions and bombardments and sending chunks into Earth-crossing orbits, they are travelling at 14-75km/sec as they enter Earth's atmosphere as meteors ('shooting stars'). Meteorites' characteristic, shiny surfaces are due to erosion and melting as they enter Earth's atmosphere causing the so-called fusion crust. Interestingly, meteorites are not hot when they land. Importantly, they can tell us about how planets form and how they change, including our own Earth.

Andrew proceeded to show a nice progression of slides from the dusty beginning of the solar system, formation of hydrogen-helium nebulae, protosuns, accreting planetesimals, planets, moons and solar systems ... and then came back to Earth and what meteorites can teach us about Earth. For example, as planets grow bigger they start to show a migration of metal to the core; such concentration changes can be seen in meteorites. In particular meteorites, such as oxidised carbonaceous chondrites, where iron is in silicates and magnetites, the question can be asked 'How do these rocks behave under metamorphic conditions in comparison to what is found on Earth?' Can a core be formed, carry a charge and form a magnetic field on an oxidised planet?

Andrew then changed tack to talk about the potential for mining large spacial particles, including asteroids, for their concentrations of iron and nickel - a

(Continued on page 5)

Meteorites: Chondrites



**Many thanks to those who
helped collate and label
FNN 224**

**Ray Power
Margaret Corrick
Pat Green
Russell Green
Keith Marshall
Andy Brentnall
Bill Fenner
Margaret Brewster
Sheina Nichols**

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proposal put forward by scientists Eric Anderson and Peter Diamandis from Planetary Resources. An average iron meteorite has 15% nickel and high quantities of gold, platinum, iridium, rhodium and other precious metals. At today's prices, a 50m diameter asteroid could be worth \$1329 million after extraction. Mining asteroids that have fallen to Earth is feasible; capturing and mining aster-

oids still in space, but close to Earth poses a number of issues, as yet theoretical.

The audience expressed its appreciation to Andrew for his most informative and interesting talk, including the array of meteorite samples he brought.

Kaye Oddie

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 225

Joan Broadberry
Noel Schleiger
Platon Vafiadis
Hali Ferguson
Sally Bewsher

Meteorites: Irons and Stony-Irons

What happens to all that metal?



MONASH University
Science

Monash
University
Science

Biodiversity Symposium

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th November, 2012



This years FNCV Annual Biodiversity Symposium is titled
"Working together for Ecological Outcomes in the International Year of Cooperatives".

REGISTRATION FORM (can be downloaded from the website—www.fncv.org.au)

Name(s) _____

Organisation _____

Address _____ P'code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

COST: (includes light lunch, tea/coffee):

Saturday or Sunday \$35 (FNCV members/Students/concession)
\$45 (non FNCV members)

Both Days \$60 (FNCV members/Students/concession)
\$80 (non FNCV members)

Early Bird special (both days) open until 16th October
\$55 (FNCV members/Students/concession)
\$75 (non FNCV members)

☐ Cheque* ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

EXPIRY DATE: ☐ ☐ / ☐ ☐

CARDHOLDER'S

NAME: _____

Return registration form
by **9th November** to:

Biodiversity Symposium,
F.N.C.V., Locked Bag 3,
Blackburn, 3130.
Fax: 03 9877 9860
email: admin@fncv.org.au

*Please make cheques payable to *Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc* or use credit card.

DO YOU LIKE THE NEW MURAL???

You are invited to an exhibition
of

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ARTWORKS BY
LORI DUNCAN
(Mural Artist)

FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St.
Blackburn

Saturday November 10 from
10.30am 'till 5pm
Sunday November 11 from
9am 'till 4pm. (*Pick up paintings from 4pm-6pm*)

Lots of great artworks
prices from \$50

COME AND HAVE A LOOK!!!

Enquiries: Lori 0439 853 275

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



Fungi Group

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY 8 July 2012 Woodlands Historic Park

Richard Hartland led the foray at this site. It was very different from the wet forests of our usual forays. The woodland including Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), Manna Gum (*E. viminalis*), Grey Box (*E. microcarpa*), River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) and Drooping She-oak (*Allocasuarina stricta*) was very open with scattered grasses, moss beds and litter that made for easy walking. As this was a drier location we weren't sure whether we would see a lot of species, but the abundance of fungi was surprising and the variety kept interests high.

Brown species of *Cortinarius* and *Laccaria* were everywhere and still defy our identification – this is a major shortcoming, but the taxonomic work is lacking. Other fungi growing on the ground included a number of Boletes which seemed to be the same species – dull brown, bun-shaped cap with dark brown tessellated scales and a bulbous, brownish stem; the pores were pallid yellow with a green tinge and both the cap and pores stained dark blue/black. Apart from a non-viscid cap mentioned by CA Grguri-

novic p230 (1997, *Larger Fungi of South Australia*), it seems to look a bit like a *Boletus punctato-brunneus* type. Many of them were infected with the Bolete Eater (*Hypomyces chrysospermus*) and showed the white/grey mould of the first stage around the cap, and when we turned one over we could see the brilliant yellow of the next stage. This is a 3-stage mould – at first white and mouldy, then yellow and powdery, and finally reddish-brown and pimply. Glenyce found a good example of fresh brackets of *Fomitopsis lacinogilva* covering fallen logs.

When the underside of the bracket is scratched it creates a characteristic dark red line.

There were also two species of earthstars: *Geastrum triplex* where the spore sac sits in the saucer shape formed by the rays, and the other was the whitish *Geastrum minimum*, a small white species no taller

than 7mm with a stalk, and silky fibres defining the

mouth. Several points need to be observed about the earthstar when making field identifications. What type of mouth occurs on the endoperidium (spore sac) – naked without a definite opening, definite surrounded by silky fibrils and usually raised, or definite, raised and sulcate (consisting of small vertically grooved ribs)? Is the endoperidium stalked? Are the rays hygroscopic, and in dry conditions curve back over the endoperidium? Other factors to consider are its size and habitat.

We saw another type of puffball indicative of the drier conditions, which we thought was a *Tulostoma* spp. It had a whitish globose cap with a torn spore opening sitting in a brown base formed by the exoperidium (outer layer that first covers the spore sac) that wears off the

spore sac, and the stem which was brown, rough and woody, covered with some soil. However, when Virgil and Jurrie Hubregtse examined one microscopically the spores, which were pinkish-brown in mass, were found to be angular, not spiny as would be expected in a *Tulostoma* sp.

So an expert was consulted, and this is what Dr Tom May, Senior Mycologist RBG Melbourne replied – “The fruit-bodies look quite OK for *Tulostoma*, and that is what I think they are, but I can see why the spores are unexpected. I checked in Wright (1987) *The genus Tulostoma (Gasteromycetes)* – a world monograph, and there are indeed some species of *Tulostoma* that do have slightly angular spores. In addition, they can be spiny or warty (or with ridged ornamentation), and



Mycenastrum corium

Photo: Pat Grey



Tulostoma sp.

Photo: Pat Grey

I think in your photo [of the spores examined under the microscope] you can see some sort of spore ornamentation, such as on the spore second from right at the top. For example, according to Wright, *Tulostoma lloydii* has spores that are ‘globose to elliptic or irregular, almost smooth to slightly angulose’, and the illustration of spores of this species is not dissimilar to your material (although *T. lloydii* has not been reported from Australia). *Tulostoma pulchellum* (which does occur in Australia) is another species where the spores as illustrated by Wright are angular, and he describes them as ‘subglobose to elliptic, sometimes distorted’. The spore mass of the latter is described as ‘ochre to light ferruginous’. Identification to species in *Tulostoma* is notoriously difficult”.

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(Continued from page 6)

In the afternoon, Richard pointed out an earthball *Mycenastrum corium* or Tennis Ball Puffball (as IR McCann calls it (2003 in *Australian Fungi Illustrated*, p101), in which great interest was shown. At first the outer tough layer was grey-white and cracking (diameter to 70mm); when it matured this split into lobes and exposed the dark spore-containing gleba. We saw all stages of development from the round white ball to the open lobes when all the spores had dispersed.

Among the moss were groups of fruit-bodies of the coral *Clavulina vernaceo-cervina* coloured from buff to brownish

with hints of mauve. Irregular arms, variously shaped and divided grow from the white stem base, and the blunt tips age to a characteristic dark brown to black.

On fallen eucalypt bark were the minute convoluted grey discs of *Mollisia* aff. *cinerea*. It was interesting to develop a spore print and confirm the identification after the microscopic work (*Fungi of Switzerland* (1984), vol 1 Ascomycetes by J Breitenback/F Kränzlin, no 274). *Mollisia* is a large and cosmopolitan genus and we have generally seen specimens matching these in size and colour on several

forays and named them *M. aff. cinerea*. Now we should be able to confidently identify them in the field.

Fallen eucalypt branches and logs provided us with a rare sighting of the orange jelly Yellow Brain (*Tremella mesenterica*) alongside a few small white blobs of White Brain (*T. fuciformis*). We need to note that *T. fuciformis* is not found only in wet eucalypt forests and rainforests.

Thank you Richard for suggesting the location and leading the foray.

Ed Grey and Pat Grey

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



Fauna Survey Group

Rare finds at Rushworth Forest 12-13 May 2012

The Fauna Survey spent the weekend in Rushworth Forest checking 145 nest boxes, and the results were good, but it was some terrestrial fauna that also caught our attention.

Nearby, under some debris, a Common Dunnart *Sminthopsis murina* was found. It was resting in a small cup shaped nest, but soon moved to another hiding place. An unoccupied nest of similar shape and size was seen under tin shelter in another locality near one of the nest box lines. Neither

Sugar Gliders were also plentiful with 93 recorded. A single Yellow-footed Antechinus was also found in a nest box, a species only occasionally seen in the boxes.

Some remote cameras were set to observe activity at nest boxes and these were retrieved 3 weeks later. The results will be reported separately at a later date.



Common Dunnart *Sminthopsis murina*

Photo: Ray Gibson

Near the campsite we found a juvenile Eastern Brown Snake under a rock, a species we have rarely seen. It was resting near a sloughed skin, which later aided in the identification.

of these species have been recorded at our tin reptile shelters so far, so these chance sightings are welcome.

Nest box results for Brush-tailed Phascogales were the best we've seen, with 18 animals present in boxes.



Juvenile Eastern Brown Snake Photo: S. Bewsher

We also used the second trip to remove bees from three nest-boxes and to check nest boxes outside the forest in Yellow Box woodland west of Graytown. Here a Squirrel Glider was found using a nest box. In this locality, the only boxes used by gliders are those that are well away from big old trees containing plenty of natural hollows.

Raymond Gibson



Day Group

The FNCV and the Beginnings of the Victorian National Parks Association.

Speaker: Don Garden

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the VNPA. The Day Group was very fortunate to have Don Garden as speaker on the topic: *'The FNCV and the Beginnings of the VNPA.'* Until he retired in 2010, Associate Professor Don Garden taught Environmental History at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of numerous published works in local, social and environmental history. Don is currently working towards a history of the VNPA. In fact the first chapter of this history has already been published as an e-book on the VNPA website. (Find it at <<http://vnpa.org.au/page/publications/ebooks>>) Much of what I have written below, in attempting to summarise Don's presentation, is taken from this chapter.

Don's talk was divided into three sections and illustrated by many fascinating historical photographs:

- the early years of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
- Establishment of the VNPA
- A brief history of the first 17 years of the VNPA

The concept 'national park' is a complex idea evoking different things to different people. For example, some may see it as wilderness, others as a recreational facility or it may be valued for scientific research. Of course the concept of 'national park' itself also changes through time.

The FNCV was established in 1880 and is quite possibly the oldest field naturalist club in the world. It arose out of the late 19th century love of natural history and increasing appreciation of the Australian bush. The FNCV has continued as it began – to combine a unique blend of professional scientists and amateur enthusiasts. The early period saw the emergence of related groups, notably the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union in 1901. Networks arose from overlapping memberships of such kindred organisations with a common concern for the preservation and protection of habitat. These groups took up the call to set aside and protect areas in Victoria. The first National Park in the world, Yellowstone, was reserved in the United States in 1872.

A reservation was made in Ferntree Gully in 1882 and in 1892 Tower Hill was the first area in Victoria to be reserved as a 'National Park'. But it was a status that meant very little in terms of protection of habitat, and Tower Hill was subsequently downgraded to a Game Reserve.

In 1898 significant reserves were declared at Wilsons Promontory and Mt. Buffalo. Both, along with Ferntree Gully, came to be referred to as National Parks. However, many reserved areas were becoming more and more degraded by activities such as timber harvesting and grazing. The upgrading of Wilsons Prom to National Park status in 1908 occurred following a lobbying campaign initiated by a letter to the *Argus* from Melbourne ophthalmologist James Barrett who was highly critical of its neglect. Building on that success, in October 1908 Barrett convened a meeting of interested organisations to establish a National Parks Association of Victoria, (no connection with the present organisation). By the 1920s, the Association had been subsumed by the Town and Country Planning Association. Despite further lobbying, there was little progress until after World War two: a notable exception being Wyperfeld which was proclaimed a National Park in 1921.

Nature conservation re-entered the political agenda after 1945 in response to postwar reconstruction development pressures. Radio journalist, writer and activist, Philip Crosbie Morrison (1900–58) was incontrovertibly the nature conservation movement's most notable public figure at the time. Through the media, in 1946 he signaled the beginning of a campaign for what he called a 'local post-war New Deal for the wild things'. At the centre of the 'New Deal' was a Melbourne-led campaign to conserve the bushland at Wilsons Promontory, devastated by military manoeuvres during World War II.

Morrison was one of the most important people involved in the formation of the VNPA. He was involved in many organisations, including holding the presidency of the FNCV from 1941–43. The Club called a Conference of about 20 conservation and nature organisations which met on four occasions between 1946 and 1952. Morrison chaired this conference. The only woman delegate was Margaret Wigan, the first female president of the Bird Observers

Club. The central plank of the Conference's recommendations included calling for legislation which would establish a National Parks Authority that could supervise well-funded and properly instituted park management committees. Towards the end of its deliberations, the Conference also decided there should be a new and permanent body to continue its work. The VNPA was established in 1952 with Morrison as president and J Ros Garnet as secretary. The official public launch of the VNPA was at a meeting in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on 23 July 1953, where the attendance was so large that 'hundreds' had to be turned away.

John Ros Garnet (1906–1998) was Morrison's chief ally in the FNCV, the Conference and the VNPA. He was a long-term member of the FNCV and its honorary secretary 1946–47, vice president 1947–8 and president 1948–9 and 1957–9. He was secretary of the FNCV standing Committee on National Parks and National Monuments which did most of the assessment in the late 1940s and drafted the guidelines for possible legislation that were submitted to the Conference. Ros Garnet was also the VNPA's honorary secretary until 1973. He was Vice President from 1974–77 and remained on the VNPA Council until 1977. A keen naturalist with a special interest in indigenous botany (notably orchids) he wrote books and articles for *The Victorian Naturalist*, VNPA newsletter and other publications. Ros Garnet was also particularly interested in Wilsons Promontory and Wyperfeld National Parks, and wrote about their human and natural history. He was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion in 1966 and in 1982 was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to conservation.

The first three years of the VNPA were frustrating for Morrison and Garnet as they sought tirelessly, through submissions and delegations to the government, to have legislation passed to put national parks on a proper footing. Finally, in October 1956 the Bolte government passed the National Parks Act, and in May 1957 the National Parks Authority was created with Morrison as its first Director.

I will leave the story at this high point although, as indicated above, Don went on to speak about the activities of the VNPA from 1953 to 1970 including the campaign to save the Little Desert, the early death of Crosbie Morrison and much more. To finish the story. I refer readers to Don's e-book, mentioned in the first paragraph.

Joan Broadberry



Marine Research Group News

Report on the MRG meeting Monday 10 September, 2012. Barbara Hall of the MRG spoke on the topic of Victorian Shallow Water Crabs.

Barbara Hall and Margaret Rowe have together responded to the late Clarrie Handreck's call for members to develop a special interest in the crustacea in order that the MRG be able to carry on the expertise and work that Clarrie himself, and the late Tom Gunn, had begun. Clarrie himself had presented a detailed overview and notes in a workshop of the Victorian intertidal crabs (see summary report in MRG page of FNN 78, July, 1999). Barbara revisited this topic, reworking the notes, adding additional material and generating a colour booklet, 'Victorian Shallow Water Crabs' (although it does also cover some anomurans) showing photographs of the species and point-form diagnostic criteria. Barbara has also catalogued the MRG's Tom Gunn Crustacean Collection, over which she is now custodian and curator, having been handed the collection by Clarrie Handreck. That collection was displayed on the evening, allowing attendees, after Barbara's talk, to examine specimens and observe the diagnostic features. Barbara began with an overview of the external anatomy of crabs, noting that every crustacean has two pairs of antennae.

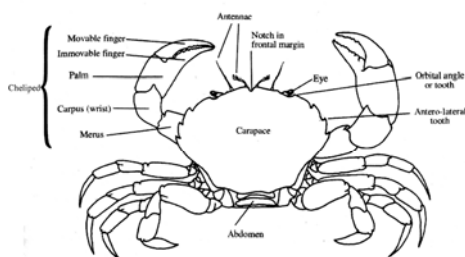


Fig. 8 External features of a brachyuran (dorsal view).

She then discussed individual species, a list of which, taken from her booklet, is shown below

Galatheidæ (squat lobsters): *Galathea australiensis*—possesses long chelipeds.

Lomisidæ (hairy stone crabs): *Lomis hirta*—distinctive shape, bright blue antennae.

Porcellanidæ (porcelain crabs): *Petrocheles australiensis*

Diogenidæ (hermit crabs): *Cancellus typus*—bores into soft stone, uses che-

lipeds and legs as an operculum; *Dio-genes senex*—fawn, with two lines on inner eye-stalk; *Paguristes frontalis*—red with large creamy-white left cheliped; *Paguristes squamosus*—exhibits scaling on chelipeds; *Paguristes sulcatus*—dark-tipped spines on upper inside of chelipeds; *Strigopagurus strigimanus*—large, red animal with ridged chelipeds producing noise when rubbed together.

Paguridæ (hermit crabs): *Micropagurus acantholepis*; *Pagurixus handrecki*—named in honour of Clarrie and bears distinct red lines on the legs; *Pagurixus jerviensis*

Dromidæ (sponge crabs): This group cultivate living sponge on the top of their carapace, producing excellent camouflage. *Stimdromia lamellata*; *Stimdromia lateralis*.

Leucosiidæ (the pill crabs): *Ebalia crassipes*; *Ebalia dentifrons*; *Ebalia intermedia*; *Bellidilia laevis*

Majidæ: Epialtinæ: *Huenia australis*; *Huenia halei*

Majidæ (spider crabs): These crabs often camouflage their carapaces with seaweeds. *Anacinetops stimpsoni*—marbled colouration on chelipeds; *Leptomithrax gaimardii*—the giant spider crab—often aggregates in large numbers; *Microhalimus defelxifrons*; *Naxia aries*—outwardly curved rostral spines outwardly curved, legs thin; *Naxia aurita*; *Naxia spinosa*; *Naxia tumida*; *Notomithrax minor*; *Notomithrax urusus*—serrated ridges on merus & carpus.

Hymenosomatidæ (small spider-like crabs): *Amarinus laevis*—brackish water, carapace very flat; *Halicarcinus ovatus*; *Halicarcinus rostratus*—a single protruding spine on the rostrum; *Hymenosoma hodgkini*; *Trigonoplax longirostris*—a striking triangular-shaped carapace.

Portunidæ (swimming crabs): **Carcininae:** Last legs with a less rounded dactylus; *Carcinus maenas*—introduced, abundant; *Nectocarcinus integrifrons*—carapace purple-brown anteriorly, pale cream posteriorly; *Nectocarcinus tuberculatus*—purple-red, midline notch on rostrum. **Polybiinae:** *Ovalipes australiensis*—the surf crab, bearing 2 oval-red

patches on posterior carapace. **Portuninae** (cheliped longer than all walking legs): *Portunus pelagicus*—the blue swimmer crab—rare in Victoria.

Goneplacidae: *Litocheira bispinosa*; **Oziinae:** *Ozius deplanatus*, *Ozius truncates*.

Pilumnidæ (hairy shore crabs): *Pilumnopus serratifrons*—chelipeds smooth; *Pilumnus acer*; *Pilumnus etheridgei*; *Pilumnus fissifrons*; *Pilumnus monilifer*—line of round beads or tubercles on each side of front carapace; *Pilumnus tomentosus*; *Heteropilumnus fimbriatus*—many hairs along margins of carapace, chelipeds and legs.

Xanthidæ (stone crabs): *Actaea peronii*.

Pinnotheridæ (pea crabs): *Pinnotheres hickmani*—found living inside the mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis*

Mictyridæ (soldier crab): *Mictyris longicarpus*—carapace blue with white lateral swellings, purple-red joints on legs; *Mictyris platycheles*—carapace blue with purple lateral swellings

Ocypodidæ (burrowing species, many with long eyestalks) : **Heloccinæ:** *Heloccius cordiformis*. **Macrophthalmi-næ:** *Macrophthalmus latifrons*

Grapsidæ (large, predominantly intertidal family): **Varuninae:** *Brachynotus spinosus*; **Cyclograpsinae:** *Cyclograpsus audouinii*; *Cyclograpsus granulatus*—carapace un-notched; *Helograpsus haswellianus*; *Paragrapsus gaimardii*—greenish brown with dark spots on carapace, chelipeds & legs; *Paragrapsus laevis*; *Paragrapsus quadridentatus*. **Grapsinae:** *Leptograpsodes octodentatus*—a supra-littoral species; *Leptograpsus variegatus*; *Pachygrapsus laevimanus*. **Sesarminæ:** *Parasesarma erythrodactyla*.

Plagusiidæ: *Plagusia chabrus*; *Plagusia glabra*

We thank Barbara for her talk and booklet, the latter produced with assistance and photographic/editorial input from Leon Altoff and Audrey Falconer.

P. Vafiadis



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Special Feature—The FNCV/FSG on Holiday at Mallacoota

Many activities took place during the FNCV's 'holiday' at Mallacoota. Members of the Fauna Survey Group set up bat traps and put out two remote sensing cameras. Joan compiled a list of native orchids. There were two boat trips on the inlet. David De Angelis led a frog evening. Numerous coastal walks were undertaken and much more. Some of these activities are reported on below. In addition, those who receive FNN by email will find more reports & photos on p15-16

Boat Trip—Ian Kitchen.

I went on two cruises while on our exploration of the area. The first was Captain John's Wilderness River Cruise in which our entire group participated. This took in part of the Genoa River and Maramingo Creek.

In the past, the highlight was feeding the Sea Eagles and we started with one riding the thermals above the starting point at Gypsy Point. Getting under way, we were accompanied by Welcome Swallows that had nested between the twin hulls of the boat. Just up river we spotted a Pelican and then some Black Cormorants. Heading up stream we had good views of some Water Dragons and then Red-bellied Black Snakes. We disturbed a group of Nankeen Night Herons, which were highly agitated by our intrusion. They squawked and flew about giving us a good chance to see them and I managed to get a couple of reasonable photos of them. We all had a great time made better by the knowledge of our Captain. See e-page 15 for Ian's second report.

Bat Report—Su Dempsey and Sally Bewsher

We had a mixture of weather during the nights we were at Mallacoota. There were a couple of clear, cold nights (good for star gazing with the telescope, but not good for getting up early in the mornings to check traps!) and a wet night, while the rest were reasonably mild. As a result, the micro-bat count was quite satisfying! The location of the two Harp traps was changed each night and, over five nights, we trapped four species with a total of fifty two bats. We gathered each morning after breakfast in the comfort of a flat to socialise and process them, before heading out for the day. Our tally was:

- Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*) 12M, 15F
- Southern Forest Bat (*Vespadelus regulus*) 4M, 10 F
- Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*) 3 M, 5F
- Gould's Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus gouldi*) 2 M 1 F.

Several of the other guests staying at the Adobe Mudbrick Flats enjoyed

learning about these cute little mammals and joined us to watch them being released in the early evenings, just after dark.

Photo: Ruth Akie



Walks—Russell Thompson

Club members participated in several walks during their stay at Mallacoota, one being the Genoa Peak walk. One was taken through tall open forest of Messmate Stringybark, with large stands of Casuarinas interspersed with Banksias and other middle storey trees. There was a range of smaller flowering shrubs and herbaceous plants and the odd Orchid flower to be seen. After reaching the rocky top of Genoa Peak, members were rewarded with panoramic views of the surrounding forested hills and valleys, with rain clouds visible across the border into N.S.W. Up to nine lyrebirds were encountered along the walking track, with one mature male putting on a full display.

Other parts of Croajingolong National Park were worthy of exploration. This included a coastal walk from the Mueller River in the west to the mouth of the Wingan Inlet in the east. After a heart stopping moment wading across the Mueller River against an incoming tide, one started eastward bound. This coastline is comprised of wide sandy beaches, rocky headlands and overland tracks through coastal scrub and tall open forest. Several snakes were seen along the way, mostly Red-bellied Black Snakes and an interesting encounter with a Tiger Snake at the water's edge. This snake was about 75cm in length. It was a long way from any cover and about 75m away was a large specimen of Red-bellied Black Snake coming toward the Tiger Snake. One thought this snake might have been stalking the other. Along overland tracks there was much evidence of storm damage, with many fallen trees across the track. Not a great deal of stuff to be found on the beaches apart from the carcass of an old fur seal. After seven hours of walking one had reached the mouth of the Wingan Inlet. Several hundred Australian fur Seals could be seen on the Skerries, just off the coast.

Frog report—David De Angelis

Following dinner on Thursday night, several of the group revisited the property of Pat and Mike Coupar to look for frogs in their front pond. Although the distinct duck-like quacks of the Red Groined or Haswell's Froglet *Paracrinia haswelli* could be heard from some distance away as we approached, they proved much harder to find. Despite the best efforts of some at trying to triangulate calling males around the edge of the pond, it was Su who single-handedly spot-lit two individuals. A professional career in frog survey might yet be on the cards!

The resinous 'tock' of the Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peronii* could be heard coming from the water, while several Peron's Tree Frogs *Litoria peronii* (photo right) were calling from nearby shrubs. Rain had set in by the time David found one, putting an abrupt end to an otherwise successful hour of frogging. A Barn Owl made a brief appearance in a Yellow Stringybark overhanging the pond before everyone hurried back to their accommodation. Earlier in the week, Knud heard the Blue Mountains Tree Frog *Litoria citropa* while walking in Maxwell's Flora Reserve over the NSW border.



Photo: J. Broadberry



Photo: S. Bewsher

Geological Observations— Neil Maclachlan

The week at Mallacoota was not intended to be a Geology event; however there is some interesting geology in the area. I'm sure that most of it is hidden by the thick forests. The coast presents outcrops of granite interspersed with larger areas of what seems to be sandstone, mudstone formations and intermittent sand dunes and barriers. The westernmost point visited, Point Hicks (aka Cape Everard) is of very coarse grained granite boulders, rather than a platform, of Devonian age. Two other places further east, Quarry Beach and Bastion Point appear to be sedimentary, possibly of Ordovician age.

Quarry Beach (photo left) is multi-layered and multi-coloured and may have experienced some degree of metamorphism. Colours range from lustrous black through greys, blue greys, greens, reds to a yellow powdery material resembling ochre. All these layers are tortuously folded and

twisted and with what appears to be a distinct fault. Obviously there have been enormous pressures in this local area, possibly coinciding with the Tabberabberan orogeny (Middle Devonian). Just around the small headland, about 100 metres east are very steeply dipping sandstone lying almost north/south. Bastion Point, at the western head of Mallacoota Inlet is sandstone of a much more uniform composition; probably also Ordovician.

Inland (maybe 15 kms) Genoa Peak and Genoa Falls are granite, but a much finer grained variety to that at Point Hicks. Each provided a possible window into the geology underlying the forest in the immediate vicinity, because of the nature of the paths leading to them. Wingan and Mallacoota Inlets are examples of estuarine lagoons protected on the ocean side by Holocene sand barriers.

Walk to Bittangabee Bay—Knud Hansen

On Friday Russell Thompson, David De Angelis, Chris Radings and I enjoyed an 8 km walk from Green Cape to Bittangabee Bay, along a scenic and interesting stretch of coastline in Ben Boyd National Park, southern NSW. The drive from Mallacoota took about 1½ hours including leaving Russell's car at the northern end of the walk. Several Lace Monitors *Varanus varius* were out and about in the national park, suited by the mild temperature. At Green Cape, there was a stiff breeze blowing as we walked past the lighthouse buildings to the lookout point which afforded great views of the ocean, some of the coastline and a few seabirds including a Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta* identified by Russell.

The walk proper, which is actually the southernmost leg of *The Light to Light Walk*, was pleasantly surprising in the range of vegetation associations it took us through. We started in dense four metre high melaleuca scrub (*Melaleuca armillaris*) and along the way progressed through varying windswept heathlands as well as woodland and forest areas of banksias, eucalypts and angophoras, also pockets of rainforest species, for example Lilly Pilly *Acmena smithii* and Blueberry Ash *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*. Some areas included mature Black She-oak *Allocasurina littoralis*, the favourite food source of Glossy Black-Cockatoos *Calyptrorhynchus lathamii*. In one location a clump of Golden Mistletoe *Notothixos subaureus* had fallen to the ground; this is a fascinating species in that it usually grows on other mistletoes. A few side tracks took us through to cliff tops and extensive rock platforms, from one of which we sighted a whale, possibly Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* on its southern migration. Well into the distance too were numerous albatrosses, wheeling and gliding.

Individuals of Red-bellied Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus* and Lowland Copperhead *Austrelaps superbus* were watched moving off the side of the track into low heath while Jacky Lizards *Amphibolurus muricatus* were bold and apparently numerous at Green Cape. Interesting birdlife seen or heard along the way included Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos *Calyptrorhynchus funereus*, Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus* and Crescent Honeyeater *Pholidonyris pyrrhoptera*.

We arrived at Bittangabee Bay without enough time to explore the alluring coastline and lagoon and departed soon after, well satisfied, but keen for the opportunity of walking further north when the opportunity arises.

Dusky Coral Pea –*Kennedia rubicunda* K. Hansen

Mallacoota camera survey—Sally Bewsher

During our week-long stay, we also put out two remote sensing cameras in bushland behind our accommodation. The results included pictures of a koala, Brushtail Possums, Wonga Pigeon, Bushrats, a Lyrebird and an Eastern Yellow Robin. If you would like to see the images, you can follow the link below.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/te4qudwbfzry1f8/n73Ns7KTBO>

Mallacoota Highlights: It was suggested that participants choose a personal highlight of what everyone agreed was a fabulous week. The trip was also a highlight of our Club year. A selection of photographs is included.

Photo: S. Bewsher

Ruth: The friendliness and warmth of the group and the smooth organisation of each day.

Chris: The walk and rock scramble up to Genoa Peak made me appreciate the work of Parks officers who make it easy for us to access beautiful areas like this .

Dot: The Genoa River Cruise provided many birdwatching highlights including the Azure Kingfishers and the dozen or so Nankeen Night Herons that flew back and forth through their shelter trees as we sailed past. Great day/week.

Su: Which one to choose? Locating the *Paracrinia haswellii* hiding under a leaf in the Coupars' pond, an early morning encounter with a pair of lyrebirds up-close-and-personal (only a metre away!) as they sang their wake-up songs, preened in the rising sunbeams, and scratched away almost at my feet! Magic! Or was it the wonderfully clear view of five Emu Wrens high in a dead melaleuca.



L to R, starting lower left: Joan Ruth, Neil, Barb, Peter, Su, Ian, Julie, Russell, June, Chris and Dot.



Photo: S. Bewsher

L to R: Neil, June, Russell, Chris, Dot, Barb, Ruth

I also greatly enjoyed the varied walks we undertook especially the Shipwreck Creek/Seal Beach Track which passed through heathland that was a riot of colour including blue dampiera, purple milkwort, golden pea flowers, red heath, pink finger orchids, purple flag lilies and banksia. At the beginning of the walk we were thrilled to find the Small Wax-lip Orchid *Glossidia minor*, (Joan's photo—right) which I had never seen before, and as the track approached the distant trees we managed to flush a Southern Emu Wren who popped his head up above the heath. I also saw the handsome Tawney-crowned Honeyeater. A feature of the trip that will remain with me is the harmony and friendship amongst the group, and the shared interests and enthusiasm.



Sally: Staying in Mallacoota was such a lovely change from our usual camping trips. Following bat processing each morning, we spent time bird watching, explored the bush and beaches, wandered along tracks looked at flowering plants and, one afternoon, had a relaxing, peaceful boat trip up part of the Genoa River and Maramingo Creek. Seeing several magnificent Azure Kingfishers, a Darter and then numerous Nankeen Night Herons hidden in the thick vegetation along the shoreline were special moments. It was a very social week, with get-togethers for nibbles each evening, two barbeques and new friendships being formed.

Russell: My trip highlights included the walks with like-minded company, the evening comradeship with fellow naturalists and recording much of the fauna found in East Gippsland.

Ian: My highlight was the sight of three Azure Kingfishers at once, one with a large beetle that it had caught. The Darter was also special, but no Sea Eagles came to be fed.

June: I was delighted to see cute little Swamp Rats (photo right) feeding just outside our flat. They are fat and black and furry and often approached very close before scurrying back into the undergrowth. The sighting of Azure Kingfishers from the boat while traveling up the river from Gypsy Point was another highlight. One bird appeared to be posing on a branch and stayed there while we moved in for photographs.



Photo: J. Broadberry

FSG Mallacoota: orchid species list Sept 2012 J. Broadberry*Acianthus* sp. - Mosquito Orchid, (seed pods & many leaves) -*Caladenia carnea* - Pink/white Fingers*Caladenia catenata* - White Fingers*Caladenia alata* - Fairy Caladenia - Ben Boyd NP*Caladenia aff catenata* - Variable Fingers - Genoa Falls (below photo 1)*Caleana major* - Flying Duck Orchid - Gypsy Pt Cemetery (below photo 2)*Corybas* sp. - Helmet Orchid, (many leaves and spent buds)*Chiloglottis valida* - Common Bird Orchid*Diuris pardina* - Leopard Orchid*Diuris orientis* - Donkey Orchid - Gypsy Point Cemetery*Glossodia major* - Wax-lip Orchid*Glossodia minor* - Small Wax-lip Orchid - Seal Creek trail Shipwreck
Creek/Merrica Rv track*Thelymitra* sp. - Sun orchid - Seal Creek trail.Advanced Sun Orchid buds of several species in many places esp. Gypsy Point
Cemetery*Lyperanthus suaveolens* - Brownbeaks - near Secret Beach*Pterostylis alpina* - Mountain Greenhood*Pterostylis pedunculata* - Maroonhood*Pterostylis concinna* - Trim Greenhood - Genoa Falls*Pterostylis melagramma* - Tall Greenhood - Town walk*Pterostylis nutans* - Nodding Greenhood - Merrica Rv. Walk*Pterostylis curta* - Blunt Greenhood - Maramingo Flora Re-
serve*Pterostylis nana* - Dwarf Greenhood*Dendrobium striolatum* - Streaked Rock Orchid - Genoa Falls
& Peak, almost in flower.*Dendrobium speciosum* - King Rock Orchid - Merrica River
Mouth*Sarcophilus australis* - Butterfly Orchid, (plants) Double Arm
Creek walk

Spring is the time to visit far East Gippsland for those who love to identify and photograph Australian native orchids.

With the help of the sharp eyes of the group I listed more than twenty species in blume and plants of several other species.

However I was by myself, when, after walking a beautiful 4 km track, I found the magnificent King Rock Orchid, *Dendrobium speciosum*. (Photo below). It was growing in profusion on the exposed north face of cliffs at the mouth of the Merrica River in the remote Nadgee Nature Reserve NSW.

For close up photographs, the choice was to wade the river or scramble up the cliffs. I opted for the latter and was able to stand right beside great clumps of the orchid, some over a metre wide, in full flower with an intense perfume. It was a first for me and definitely the highlight of my week. Perhaps even of my year.

**Field Nats News 225**

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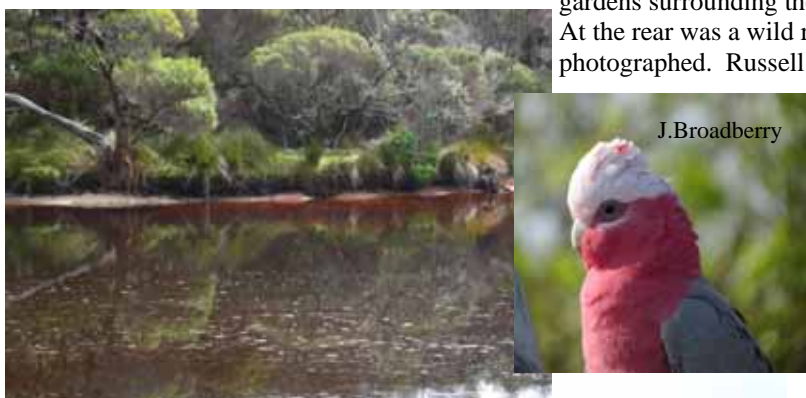
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Bonus e-pages. The exercise of adding e-pages to FNN costs only the time involved. There were a number of photos and reports from the Mallacoota club trip which could not be squeezed into the print version of FNN, so it is with great pleasure I attach two extra pages to be enjoyed by those who receive FNN by email. Thanks to those who sent in photos. JB

Boat trip on Mallacoota Inlet Ian Kitchen

My wife Julie and I cruised the inlet lakes with Wilderness Lakes Cruise. The historic M.V. Loch-Ard took us on a 2 1/2 hour cruise. Clearing the wharf we left the Swallows, Pelicans and Terns behind and headed up the channel. Our Captain and guide was pessimistic about our chances of spotting a Sea Eagle since it was early in the season. Shortly after this announcement we had three gliding behind the boat. Slowing down, our guide threw a fish over the side and we were treated to the sight of an Eagle swooping down, picking up the fish and flying off with it, being closely pursued by what appeared to be a large juvenile Eagle. He fed the remaining Eagle and it flew into a tree where it proceeded to eat its catch. Editor: Ian has some great pictures of this encounter.

Birdwatching—One of the most popular ongoing activities at Mallacoota was birdwatching. It was great to see so many members with their binoculars and cameras continually to hand. Each of the Adobe flats was supplied with a bird-feeder and the gardens surrounding the flats are planted with nectar bearing shrubs and trees. At the rear was a wild rain forest gully. As a result many species could be photographed. Russell Thomson compiled a list for the week. JB



J. Broadberry

Shipwreck Creek, East Gippsland Photo: K. Hansen



View of Inlet from Adobe Flats

Photo: J. Broadberry



Ian, Russell & Sally installing remote camera.

Photo: J. Broadberry



Little Forest Bat & Lesser Long-eared Bat

Photo: J. Broadberry



Sally, Ruth & Russell



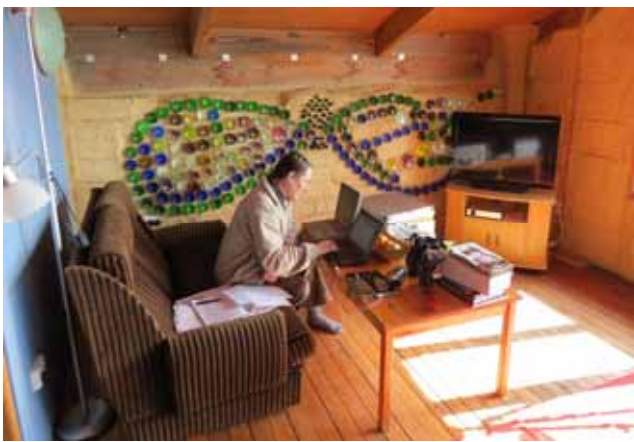
Su, Knud, David, Sally and Ian processing bats

Photo JB



Bekta Beach

Photo: K.Hansen



Julie working on the Anabat data.

Photo: JB



Water Dragon

Photo: J. Broadberry



Fairy Caladenia - *Caladenia alata* *Photo: J. Broadberry*



Left- Rock detail, walk north of Green Cape. *Photo: K Hansen*



Forest in mist—Maringo Flora Reserve, East Gippsland

Photo: Knud Hansen.



Genoa Peak

Photo: Knud Hansen