



# Field Nats News No.239

Newsletter of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.  
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March 2014

## From the President

Hello members and welcome to the March Field Nat News. With the arrival of March, it signals the calendar start to Autumn. However, as has been experienced over the last few years or so, the hot weather often continues well into autumn. With the hot weather come thunderstorms and lightning strikes and the inevitable fires. If it wasn't for the loss of property and sometimes life, then these events would be seen in a different light. I remember the fires down at Wilson's Prom in the mid-2000's, before Black Saturday, and how the media portrayed the fires as killing the bush and people commenting on how it was now destroyed. The other side of the story is that many Australian plants, including Eucalypts and some orchid species, are stimulated by fire.

On the same topic, it is good to see our planted indigenous shrubs, in particular, Sweet Bursaria and Prickly Moses are coping with the dry conditions very well, while the grasses and exotic plants are taking a hammering. I have always promoted the use of indigenous plants for their habitat qualities, hardiness in our

climate and for being more sustainable in terms of water usage. The Bursarias are even flowering at the moment, attracting many butterflies and other insects.

My "bird-a-day" campaign is progressing well having made it through January without the need to rely on too many of my local species. The very hot days made it difficult to find birds in the late afternoon, but found they were. A pleasant surprise while birding at Lilydale Lake has been seeing a Rakkali (Water Rat) on a couple of occasions. Such a fabulous animal, I'm rather glad they are no longer killed for the fur trade as they were in the late 1800s early 1900s.

### The Bookshop

Council acknowledged at its last meeting the great job Kathy Himbeck is doing since taking over the running of the FNCV bookshop. I would like to encourage all members to purchase books through the bookshop, generally at a discounted rate compared to the recommended retail price. If there is a new book or just one you are after, send Kathy an email at [bookshop@fncv.org.au](mailto:bookshop@fncv.org.au) with the details and she will try to source it for

you. There are a range of new titles available which Kathy has set out on page 13.

Remember, buying a book from our bookshop saves you money and also helps support our club.

### Index to FNN

Sheila Houghton (former FNCV Librarian) prepared an index to the Club newsletter, FNN (1991-2011), numbers 2-215. A printed copy (and disk) is available from the library. From 2012, an index to the previous year's news-

**Deadline for FNN 240 is 10 am on the first Tuesday of the month, 4th March. FNN will go to the printer on Tuesday 11th March and will be collated on the 18th.**

letters will appear in FNN each March.

You will find the 2013 index in this issue, on pages 5-6 and 9-10. The index has been designed as a lift-out A3 sheet. Many thanks to Pat Grey for compiling it.

**John Harris  
President**

### CHALLENGE: How are your birding skills?

Can you name this bird? Where might the photo have been taken? *Clue:* Image by Sally Bewsher. See p12.



Index	Page
From the President	1
Calendar of Events	2
Members' news, photos & observations.	3
<b>Geology Group News:</b> Forecasting the Weather. Advances over the past 40 yrs.	4, 11
Index to FNN (2013), issues 227-237	5, 6— 9, 10
<b>Marine Research Group News:</b> Members' Night	7, 8
Extracts from SIG reports to Council	11
<b>Day Group News:</b> Exploring Svalbard, Arctic Norway.	12, 13
Bookshop News	13
Call for Funds for the FNCV Environment Fund	14



## 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.*

### March

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fungi Group, meeting: *Creating time lapse movies.*** Speaker: Ian Bell, a long time member of the Fungi Group. Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group, meeting: *A talk about bats.*** Speaker: Lisa Godinho, The University of Melbourne. Contact: Ian Kitchen 9795 7423

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> - Marine Research Group, excursion: *Mornington Peninsula.***  
Contact: Leon Altoff for each day's location and meeting time 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group, survey: *Bat trapping and spotlighting in Dandenong Valley.***  
Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury@hotmail.com

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group.** No meeting - Labour Day holiday

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group, excursion: *Marine trip, Queenscliff.*** Meet at 11.00 am ready for the boat, (trip from 12 noon to 2.00 pm), \$32 each for 25 people. Bookings essential.  
Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Collate FNN.** Starting about 10.30 am. Some folk come earlier. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group, meeting:** For details contact:  
Maxwell Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181; mcam7307@bigpond.net.au

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group, meeting: *A comparison of the flora of Africa and Australia.***  
Speaker: Trevor Edwards. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Fauna Survey Group, stagwatch: *An evening survey to look for Leadbeater's Possum, gliders, owls and other nocturnal wildlife.*** Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - FNCV Council Meeting - 7.30 pm sharp.** Agenda items and apologies to Wendy 98779860 or admin@fncv.org.au

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Day Group, excursion: *Yarra Ranges National Park, Kokoda Track Memorial.*** Leader: Joan Broadberry. Meet in the Ferntree Gully Picnic Area carpark, off Mt Dandenong Rd., 10.45 am (Melway 74 H4). Aims: to inspect the Kokoda Track Memorial, have a short walk, and finish with a picnic lunch. BYO everything. There is also a café on site. Contact: Gary Presland 9890 9288

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Geology Group Meeting: *Filling in the Gaps.*** Using Geophysics to help make Geological Maps. Speaker: Dr. Vince Morand, La Trobe University. Contact: Kaye Oddie 9329 0635; koddie@bigpond.com

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group, meeting: *7. 30 pm Microscopy/Macro-invertebrates.*** Speaker: Maxwell Campbell. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com



**The policy of the FNCV is that non-members pay \$5 per excursion and \$2 per meet-**

# 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](mailto: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: *Sascha Routley, Merrindal Routley, Nakira Routley Rod Vance, Nora Paicu, David Paicu, Norian Paicu, Teodora Paicu, Jesse Kurvlo, Kristina Cook, James Lockwood, Suzanne Lockwood, Geoff Lockwood, Mitchell Whalan, Cornell University Library.*

## STUNNING MOTH

The beautiful photo below, (one of a series), was taken by a Parks Victoria Ranger and posted on the Gardens For Wildlife Facebook page at Knox. Hayley Woodward sent them to FNN asking for help with identification.

**Editor:** Congratulations on this excellent image of the seldom photographed male Saunders Case Moth.

For lots more information please consult *The Victorian Naturalist*, Volume 116, p 175-178, 1999.



## From the Office.....



### Thanks to Ian Kitchen

Ian has been looking after the FNCV Facebook page ever since I started in the office. He posts information almost every day. The Club now has 185 Facebook friends. FNN readers might to check it out for themselves. There is a link 'Follow us on Facebook' on the home page of the FNCV website. [www.fncv.org.au](http://www.fncv.org.au)

**Supplies needed:** 'ordinary' teabags, (we have loads of special flavours); long-life milk and we desperately need packets of bickies.

**Change of Address:** Just another reminder that we no longer have a Locked Bag for mail. Our address is now: **PO Box 13, Blackburn Vic 3130.**  
*Wendy*

## Summer in the Garden

On the front wall of our house in Oakleigh on 20/12/2013 was a Marbled Gecko, While editing the photo, we found that we had also taken one in the garden last April.

In January 2 Dingy Swallowtail caterpillars hatched and grew on our lemon tree, but we can only see the pupa of one. Keeping a daily watch but know hatching may be some time.

**Regards, Ken & Michele Hancock**

**Editor:** I recently found a Marbled Gecko in my bathroom. I believe they have become quite common in Melbourne, but are seldom seen as they are nocturnal



### Thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 238

Bill Fenner, Neil McLachlan, Hazel Brentnall, Edward Brentnall, Sheina Nicholls, Bob Rowlands, Cecily Falkingham, Joan Broadberry, Barbara Burns, Keith Marshall, Pieter Boschma, Margaret Brewster, Sally Bewsher.

Special thanks to those who helped out with posting the Four-monthly Calendar of Events. Mega thanks to Wendy Gare who has put a great deal of time into demystifying Post Office rules for dealing with bulk mail.

### Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 239

Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare  
Sally Bewsher



# Geology Group

## “Forecasting the Weather: Advances over the past 40 years”

**Dr. Mark Williams**

Retired Meteorologist, Bureau of Meteorology  
27 November 2013

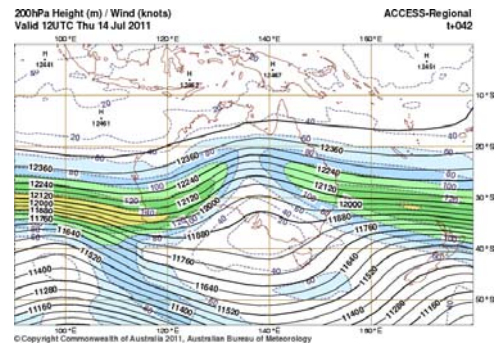
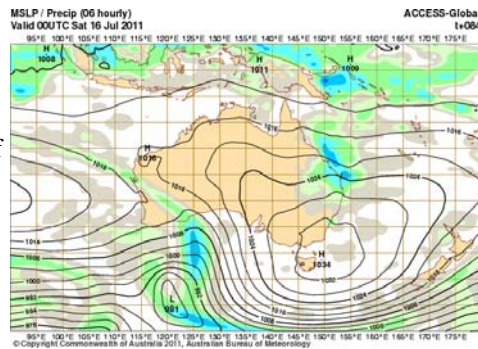
Dr. Mark Williams’ career with the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) covered important events and milestones in Australia’s meteorological history, such as Cyclone Tracy in 1974 and the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. He was Regional Director, Victoria, for the Bureau of Meteorology from 2001-2011 and was involved in training and research; his initial career was as a weather forecaster at the BoM.

Dr. Williams began his talk introducing weather forecasting techniques. Weather forecasting all starts, and still does, by taking measurements. From simple measurements and equipment, sophisticated procedures now significantly increase the accuracy and extent of weather forecasting.

From the early 1900s, surface observations of temperature, pressure, wind speed, clouds and rainfall were made, predominantly on land, rarely from ships at sea; typically measurements were made 3-hourly across the country and around the world. Indeed, there are a few observations dating back to the mid 1800s in Australia. The introduction of weather balloons in the 1950/60s (released 6-hourly) provided upper air observations and later, in the 1970s, early satellites

provided crude pictures. Analysis of the data allowed a simple synoptic chart to be constructed.

One-day maximum temperature forecast accuracy averaged only 75% up to the 1980s; it now (2013) averages 95%. Two to four day forecasts were introduced from the 1980s, with an average accuracy of 65%; they are now close to 90% accurate. Now we expect 7-day forecasts, but these average only 70% accuracy.

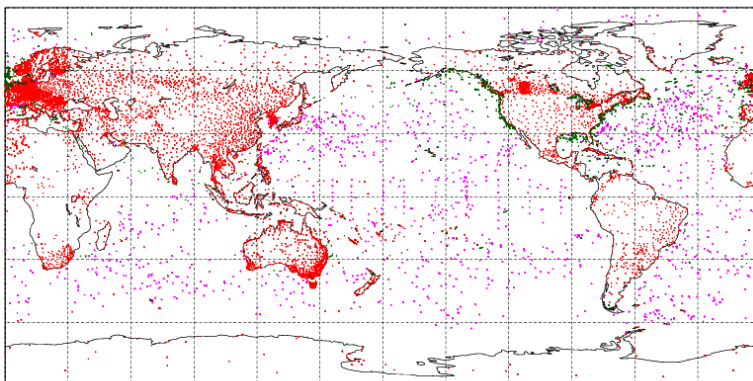


Weather observation and forecasting today is highly sophisticated. Land-based and aircraft (commercial) radar, free and fixed ocean buoys, shipping and satellites (geo-stationary orbits and low polar orbiting), in addition to the land monitoring systems now feed in multi-faceted weather observations from around the world. Very sophisticated computational analysis systems lie at the heart of all modern forecasting systems (Numerical Weather Prediction). These have resulted in the improved accuracy in weather forecasts over the years. They have also allowed increased scope of services provided, such as improved presentation of synoptic maps and weather information, tsunami and flood forecasts and water flow and storage information. Dr. Williams contrasted the difficulty in forecasting Cyclone Tracy in 1974 with the accuracy of tracking and intensity of

tion among the countries of the world. It was born from the realisation that weather systems move across country boundaries and knowledge of pressure, temperature, precipitations, etc. upstream and downstream is needed for local/national weather forecasting. The IMO operated in conjunction with the Global Telecommunications System (GTS), which is the backbone for global exchange of data and information and is still in operation today. The GTS was the predecessor of the internet. The IMO was succeeded by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) set up in 1953 by the United Nations and has seen the introduction of international weather research experiments.

Australian BoM ACCESS-G Accepted observations coverage  
Surface 20110708 0000 UTC  
Total number of obs = 26542

16706 synop land 3368 synop ship 6468 buoy



maps and weather information, tsunami and flood forecasts and water flow and storage information. Dr. Williams contrasted the difficulty in forecasting Cyclone Tracy in 1974 with the accuracy of tracking and intensity of

To demonstrate the sophistication of current weather information and forecasting, Dr. Williams showed sequences of 3-hourly pressure, rainfall (precipitation) and 12-hourly wind forecasts for Australia. These predictions can be easily viewed at the BoM’s website.

Dr. Williams concluded by showing how Australian meteorological data is providing information about climate change:

- The average number of record hot days per annum for each decade has more than doubled from 1960 to 2010.

*(Continued on page 11)*

**Field Nats News**  
**Index to Issues 227 (February) -237 (December/January), 2013-14**  
*Compiled by Pat Grey*

*(Reports of Special Interest Group activities (SIGS), are listed chronologically according to FNN issue)*

**Administration, FNCV: From the Office:**

- Calendar of events available:** 232:6.  
**Deadlines & dates:** FNCV four-monthly calendar details 227:12; 229:10; urgently require all Group details for 4-Month Calendar 237:14.  
**Display cabinet:** 229:10.  
**Donations, hall:** 227:12; 228:12; 229:10; 230:7; 231:9; 232:6; 234:12; 237:14.  
**Facebook, FNCV:** 227:12.  
**FNCV Fax Number, NEW:** 9877 9862: 227:4; 228:3; 229:4.  
**FNCV Fund Raising:** Masters Home Improvement Sausage Sizzle, call for volunteers 227:5.  
**FNCV Hall:** use 229:10; plumbing repairs (illus) 236:6.  
**FNCV Photographic Competition:** notice: 227:12; 228:12; 229:10; 230:7 & 11; 231:9; 232:6; list of winners 233:4.  
**FNCV Photographic exhibition:** notice: 232:6.  
**FNCV Second-hand Book Sale:** 234:1; report (illus) 237:6.  
**FNCV Camps & Excursions Policy:** 229:9.  
**For sale:** Original Paintings: 228:12; 229:10.  
**Fund Raiser Good Will Wine:** 234:12.  
**Garden crew:** working bee (illus) 231:3; update 232:4.  
**Gifts:** Fred TH Smith estate 235:1; 235:12.  
**Help wanted:** Yarran Dheran Information Centre 229:4; 230:5; lift to meetings 232:6.  
**Jackets, Club, available:** 227:12.  
**Notices:** Yarra Yarra Plants Expo, The Whitehorse Festival 234:12; The Whitehorse Festival 235:12.  
**Office closure:** 20/12/13 to 6/1/14 237:1& 14.  
**Solar Panels on Hall Roof:** report (illus) 230:4; 232:4.  
**Thanks to:** volunteers who helped mail out Calendar of Events 228:12; Fundraising Sausage Sizzle helpers 230:5; Garden helpers (illus) 231:3; Hali Ferguson (FNCV Office Manager), Hello to Wendy Gare (illus); 234:1; helpers re sale of Victorian Naturalist Printers Blocks 236:6; volunteers at the Maroondah Festival 237:3.  
**Volunteers Wanted for:** Masters Home Improvement Sausage Sizzle: 227:5; Field Nats News Indexing 228:3; FNCV Bookshop 234:1; Communications officer 230:5; FNCV Garden working bee 230:5; FNCV Communicator Role 231:3.  
**Organising the FNCV Biodiversity Symposium:** 228:3; 229:4; 230:1, 230:5; 235:1.
- Altoff, Leon: Research trip to South Australia 231:13  
*Photo Credits:* *Noumea closeorum*, *Hypselodoris* cf. *infucata*, Seagrass blade anemone, Unidentified nemertean 231:13; Unidentified nemertean, Pt. Addis 232:11; Vic Sea-star showing various stages of fissiparity 235:1; Common edible mussel, *Barbatia reticulata* 237:13
- Animal Policy (FNCV) re capture and handling of animals 228:5
- Annual General Meeting, FNCV 5 May 2013:** invitation 229:10; reminder of AGM 230:1; notice 230:6; AGM report 231:1; AGM extracts of minutes, and Presentation (illus) 231:6.
- Anton, June: Excursion Report on Maranoa Gardens
- Australian Natural History Medallion:** Congratulations to Marilyn Hewish the 2013 ANHM medallion winner 235:1; Invitation to the Presentation of the Medallion 236:12; Presentation to Marilyn Hewish by Dr Bill Birch AM President of the Royal Society of Victoria (illus) (Joan Broadberry) 237:6.  
*Photos:* Presentation by Dr Bill Birch to Marilyn Hewish, caterers (with thanks) 237:6.
- Anton, June: A thank you for helping with the catering for the Biodiversity Symposium 2013 237:1; Excursion report to Maranoa Gardens 237:14.
- Bendel, Sue: Forum on changes to vegetation clearing legislation 228:3; report on Native Vegetation Laws 231:14; Botany Field Trip 234:9.
- Bewsher, Sally: Brush-tail Possum keeping cool (illus) 227:3; Index to FNN 2012, issues 216-226, 228; Dr Ursula Smith 228:9; Fauna Survey Group report: Camp, Seymour Bushland Park (illus) 228:7.  
*Photo Credits:* Brushtail Possum in hollow 227:3; FNCV Christmas Party-goers, Raffle Table 227:4; Dr Ursula Smith 228:9; Preparing Camping Lunch & Tiger Snake 230:6; Bat Conference speakers 235:5.
- Biodiversity Symposium:** *Volunteers needed to help organise* 230:1; 230:1, 230:5; 236:3; *Program* 237:11.
- Botany Group: Reports of Meetings:** Notice for Forum on changes to vegetation clearing legislation (Sue Bendel) 228:3; Royal Botanic Gardens Melb., water Management by Peter Syme (S. Bendel) 231:11; Pulse Grazing of Goats as Weed Management 233:11; **Field Trip:** The Inlets Waterway between Tooradin and Koo-Wee-Rup July 2013 (Sue Bendel) 234:9;  
**Reports to Council:** 227:5; 229:5; 231:9; 232:5; 235:12; 236:5
- Broadberry, Joan: *Index to FNN 2012*, issues 216-226, 228; *Day Group Reports:* 228:8-9; 230: 8-9; 231:10; 232:10 & 12; 235:4&8; What have the Brentnalls been up to lately? (illus) 229:3; Harbinger of cooler weather 229:3; Redback Spider (illus) 230:3; Presentation of ANHM, and thanks to caterers 237:6.  
*Photo Credits:* Juniors & Fauna Survey members, bat weighing machine 229:1; Plenty Gorge surveys 229:7; Redback Spider 230:3; Seeking Saunders Terns, on South Island 230: 8-9; collators & labellers FNN 231:6; Surveying on Mt Samaria 231:12; Leadbeaters Possum survey 233:10; Presentation, caterers 237:6; background information on Maranoa Gardens 237:14.
- Burns, Barbara: Report FNCV Christmas Party 2012 (illus) 227:4.  
*Photo Credits:* Freetail Bat 227:9.

**Calendar of Events: Monthly 227:2; 228:2; 229:2; 230:2-3; 231:2; 232:2-3; 233:2; 234:2; 235:2; 236:2; 237:2-3.**

**Calendar of Events: 4 monthly (insert) Feb - May 2013; June - Sept 2013; Oct 2013 - Jan 2014.**

Campbell, Maxwell: Terrestrial Invertebrate report **232:9**; An Introduction to Invertebrates in Leaf Litter (illus) **234:10**

*Photo Credits: Pseudomantis spp.* **232:9**; Photomicrograph of leaf litter extract, Geophilomorph Centipede, Mite, Terrestrial fatworm, Isopod crustacean **234:10**.

Cheal, David: A thank you for organising the Biodiversity Symposium 2013 **237:1**.

Clark, Wendy: notice of Photographic workshop **227:2; 235:3**; Day Group talk Cicadas (illus) (J. Broadberry) **229:8-9**; Groups of Bronzewing Pigeons, Little Grebe stopped for a rest (illus) **232:3**.

*Photo Credits: Cyclochila, Hairy Cicada, Cyclochila Australasia, Newly hatched cicadae, Cicada hatching* **229:8-9**; Australasian Grebe **232:1**; Little Grebe **232:3**.

**Council (FNCV): SIGS extracts: 227:5; 229:5; 230:7; 231:9; 232:5 & 6; 232:5-6; 233:9; 234:4; 235:12; 236:5-6; 237:10.**

*Council Members: List 2013-2014 with Thanks and Welcome: 231:6; Nomination form for Council: 229:12; 230:12*

*Notices: AGM 5 May 229:10.*

**Day Group: Reports of Meetings & Excursions:** Looking Past the Present (Palaeontology) **228:8-9** by Dr Ursula Smith (diag & illus) (Joan Broadberry); Australian Cicadas by Wendy Clark (illus) (Joan Broadberry) **229:8-9**; Cocos (Keeling) Islands (illus) by Joan Broadberry (maps & illus) (Joan Broadberry) **230: 8-9**; Art of Botanical Illustration by Fiona McKinnon (illus) (Joan Broadberry) **231:10**; Naturalising on Cape York (with map) by Anne Morton (Joan Broadberry) **232:10 & 12**; Notice of 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary **233:4**; Antarctica 2011: sustainability, climate and life at Mawson Station by David Morrison (map & diag) (Joan Broadberry) **233:8**; Heard Island & McDonald Islands by Tania Ireton (maps) (Joan Broadberry) **235:4&8**; Meet the Weeds by Maria Gibson (illus) (Joan Broadberry) **236:7**; Maranoa Gardens visit (June Anton) **237:14**

*Photos: Dr Ursula Smith 228:9*; Hairy Cicada, Cyclochila (green), Cyclochila australasiae, Newly-hatched Cicada, Cicada hatching **229:8-9**; Group seeking Saunders Terns **230:9**; *Limonium hyblaenum*, *Salvinia molesta* **236:7**. *Photo of: Albrecht Dürer 231:10.*

Drury, Robin: FSG Survey Reports (illus) **231:12**.

Eaton, Heather: *Photo credits: Winners of the FNCV Photographic Competition 234:3*

Eichler, John: *Photo credits: Mesophyllia glauca 231:7; Petrolisthes elongatus 232:11; Marbled Gecko 233:3; Parvulastra vivipara, Cucuvitrum rowei 235:10-11.*

Environment Fund: Call for Grant Applications **227:8**; Call for Donations **228:10**.

**Fauna Survey Group (FSG): Reports of Meetings, Camps, Field trips, Surveys:** Gobur Fauna Survey (illus) (R. Thompson) **227:9**; Use of remote cameras **228:6**; Camp, Seymour Bushland Park (illus) (S. Bewsher) **228:7**; Fauna Survey/Junior Groups – What’s Happening at Plenty Gorge? (illus) (J Broadberry) **229:7**; Fauna Survey/Juniors Groups, Plenty Gorge Park (illus) (J. Harris) **230:6-7**; Surveying at Mt Samaria (illus) and Fauna Monitoring in the parks of Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne (Robin Drury) **231:12**; Lead-beater’s Possum Survey (illus) (Ray Gibson) **233:10**; FNCV Bat Conference 24-25 August 2013 (illus) (Ian Kitchen) **235:5**; thanks for the Bat Conference from Annie **236:3**; Rushworth Forest Survey Camps (Ray Gibson) **236:9**; The Box-Ironbark Experimental Mosaic Burning Project by Dr Greg Holland (illus) (Ray Gibson) **236:9-10**.

*Photos: Eastern Horseshoe Bat, Free-tailed Bat 227:9*; animals seen by remote cameras **228:7**; Nest box with Sugar Gliders, FNCV members, Spider **229:7**; Group Members, at the tea table, bat measured **231:12**; Stagwatchers, note takers **233:10**; Speakers at Bat conference **235:5**; a rare large fallen log, old Ironbark **236:9**.

*Reports to Council: 227:5; 229:5; 230:7; 231:9; 232:5; 233:9; 234:4; 236:5; 237:10.*

*Policy re capture and handling of all animals: 228.5.*

Falkingham, Cecily: A living Fossil (illus) **229:3**; Bush Rat at Kinglake (illus) **236:3**.

*Photo credits: Common Brooch Shell 229:3; Bush Rat 236:3.*

Ferguson, Claire: Science Talent Search, re bursary in memory of the late Dr Noel Schleiger (illus) **237:3**.

*Photo Credits: William Browning 237:3.*

Ferguson, Hali: *From the Office/Administrative Notices: 227:12; 228:12; 229:10; 230:7; 233:12.*

Ferguson, Scott: *Photo Credits: Artomyces colensoi 235:6-7.*

Field Nats News: *Advertisements:* Fungimap 7 Conference notice 227:7; 228:6; Coates Wildlife Tours **227:10; 228:6**; Botanical Drawing and Painting Art Classes **228:12**; Wendy’s Photographic course: Back to Basics 230:4; FNCV Photographic Competition **230:11**; Presentation of Bats, Our Nocturnal Neighbours **231:3**; FNCV Photographic competition **231:4**; donations for Crowd Funding **231:4**; Photographic seminar – Wendy Clark **232:4**; Ventura Electrical Contracting Pty. Ltd. **232:6**; FNCV Natural History Photographic Competition Exhibition **232:7**; Master your camera – Wendy Clark **232:12**; Assistance with plant identification **233:3**; Request for car passenger to WA 234:3; Natural History Exhibition Domain House **234:3**; Coates Wildlife Tours 235:9; Good Will Wine – great gift; Advertising in the Field Nat News **236:8**.

*Advertising Rates: 229:9.*

*Notice: Dr. Euan G. Ritchie and crowd funding support 231:3; Juniors’ excursion, Melbourne Museum 233:3; Photo Competition People’s Choice 234:3; Grey-headed Flying Fox Counts 234:9.*

*Thanks to: Collation & labelling team.: 227:4; 228:5; 229:4; 230:4; (ill) 231:6; 232:4; 233:3; 234:5; 235:3; 236:6; 237:10.*

*Editorial & layout team: 227:4; 228:5; 229:4; 230:4; 231:9; 232:3; 234:3; 235:3; 237:4.*

*All Contributors: 237:4.*

*Index to 2012, issues 216 – 226: 228.*

**FNCV Book Shop:** notice on buying books **228:12**; volunteer needed **234:1**; new arrangements for Book Sales **236:6**; Found at last & In print! FNCV the sole outlet– Charles French, *A Handbook of the Destructive Insects of Victoria VI* **236:8**; news & advertisement for Ludwig Becker 2014 Calendar and Charles French *Destructive Insects part VI* **237:12**.

**FNCV Christmas Party:** Report 2012 (illus) (B. Burns) **227:4**; notice **236:3**; notice **237:11**.

**Fungi Group: Foray Reports:** Cathedral Ranges 29/7/12 (Pat & Ed Grey) (illus) **227:6**; Gembrook 21/4/13 (Ed Grey) (illus) **231:7**; The Beeches 28/4/13 (Ed Grey) (illus) **231:8**; Toorong Falls 12/5/13 (Ed Grey) (illus) **232:8**; Greens Bush, Baldry Crossing 2/6/13 (Ed Grey) (illus) **233:6**; Mortimer Reserve Bunyip State Pk 9/6/13 (Ed & Pat Grey) (illus) **233:7**; Molecules in Mushrooms, **234:6-7**; Woodlands Historic Reserve 16/6/13 (Ed & Pat Grey) (illus) **234:7-8**; Macedon Sanatorium Lake 23/6/13 (Pat & Ed



## Marine Research Group News

**Report on the MRG meeting Monday 9/12/2013. This was a members' night, with the summary following the order of presentations:**

**General items:** The well known malacologist Dr. Fred Wells, Research Associate at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA, and formerly both Senior Curator of Aquatic Zoology at the Western Australian Museum and President of the Malacological Society of Australasia, will be presenting a talk entitled 'Preventing marine pests from arriving in Australia' at the Malacological Society of Australasia's Victorian Branch on Monday 17 February, 2014 at 8.00 pm. The venue is the Melbourne Camera Club Building, corner of Dorcas and Ferrars Streets, South Melbourne. All are welcome.

**Audrey Falconer** spoke on the stauromedusa cnidarians and outlined their structure and also showed and discussed her various finds in Victorian waters (she knows of five species and states that three of these are undescribed). Also presented were internet-sourced images of overseas species which were compared with Victorian specimens.



The stauromedusa *Depastromorpha* sp. in situ on *Caulerpa brownii*, Port Fairy, Victoria (above) and in the petri dish (below). Images: L. Altoff

Audrey also distributed a preliminary guide to Victorian species and is in the process of formally describing the un-named taxa in collaboration with Museum Victoria and also the Smithsonian Institution (the latter of which is performing molecular analyses of her material).

**Joan Broadberry** spoke on a recent trip undertaken to the Broome region, taking in stunning localities such as the Lacepede Islands north of Broome, Cape Leveque and Ashmore Reef.



Map of the environs around Broome, Western Australia, extending north to Ashmore Reef.

Beautiful images of the tropical landscapes and their colourful invertebrate animals were presented including chitons, gastropods, bivalves, crabs, flatworms, ascidians, holothuroids and brittle stars. The odd vertebrate also made an appearance—the green turtle and various fish and birds.



Red fiddler crab, Willie Creek mangroves, Western Australia: Image: Carol

**Platon Vafiadis** introduced the newly published book by FNCV member Graham Patterson entitled '*Coastal Guide to Nature and History: Port Phillip Bay*', an attractive and well-referenced guide to the history, geology and natural history of Port Phillip Bay. After an introductory section discussing coastal walking and early European history, the book takes the reader around a clockwise journey of the bay beginning at Point Lonsdale and ending at Point Nepean. It concludes by discussing coastal animals and plants, landforms and management, and is available through the FNCV bookshop—see the advertisement on p. 10 of FNN 238.

Also presented were some photos from southern Port Phillip Bay of the subtidal mollusca *Typhina yatesi* (Muricidae), *Alocospira edithae* (Olividae), *Duplicaria kieneri* and *Hastula brazieri* (Terebridae).

**Don Cram** spoke on molluscan radulae. After discussing a variety of radular types (docoglossate, rhipidoglossate, taenioglossate, rachiglossate, ptenoglossate and toxoglossate forms), Don showed the breadth of his research interests by presenting and discussing a variety of self-mounted radulae across a wide spectrum of families including Phasianellidae, Trochidae, Neritidae, Janthinidae, Epitonidae, Muricidae, Nassariidae, Buccinidae, Olividae, Mitridae, Costellariidae and Turridae. Don also showed how radular type relates to the mode of feeding of each particular group. The following, on the Janthinidae, is taken from his presentation: "*Janthina janthina* from Hawks Nest NSW: The ptenoglossate type radula is found only in the Super Family Janthinoidea which contains the families Janthinidae, Epitoniidae, Aclididae and the related Eulimoidea. In Janthinidae (violet snails) the radula has many similar and usually fang-like teeth, (and) although attached is divided into two parts and spread over the odontophore. Janthinidae live suspended by mucous

air bubbles associated with the colonial pelagic coelenterate *Velevella* on which they feed. Radula 10 x 10 mm, single tooth L= 475 microns. Stain: lignin pink.” Edgar (2008: 201) shows a photograph of a living *Janthina janthina*.



The shell of the pelagic snail *Janthina janthina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Images: Don Cram.



The ptenoglossate radula of *Janthina janthina* (Linnaeus, 1758), showing the entire structure (above) and magnified detail of individual teeth (below). Images and mount: Don Cram.

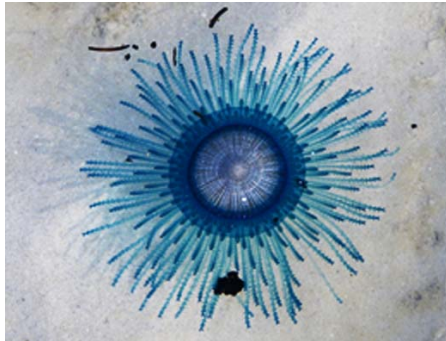


Don also summarised his special interest work on the southern Australian cowry genus *Notocypraea*, showing how the radula, gross soft tissue features and shell can be married to establish confident diagnoses in circumstances where the shell alone may be somewhat atypical. Don also illustrated some unusual *Notocypraea* that represent new species, and awaits molecular work for further confirmation.

**John Eichler** spoke and presented images from a 2012 trip he undertook to Western Australia and the Northern Territory which involved an extended stay in Darwin and Broome. Spectacular images of a wealth of invertebrates were presented across a variety of phyla.



The brittlestar *Ophiothrix* cf. *martensi*, Broome, Western Australia. Image: John Eichler.



The pelagic cnidarian *Porpita porpita*, Broome, Western Australia. Image: John Eichler

**Leon Altoff** spoke of recent finds at Shoreham Beach, Westernport Bay, Victoria. This partly covered stauromedusae discussed by Audrey Falconer, and another of her research interest groups, the nemerteans. Video was displayed showing a nemertean everting its proboscis and stylet onto a crustacean presented to it as in-vitro prey. Images were also shown of a wide variety of polychaete worms and flatworms.

Additionally, interesting images were presented of a mollusc from the Phylum Aplacophora.

The Aplacophora are essentially a deep-water class of small worm-like molluscs which lack a shell but the mantle is covered by a cuticle and has calcareous scales or spicules. The mantle cavity is posteriorly placed and the head is not well differentiated but possesses a buccal mass and

radula. There are two subclasses, the Neomeniomorpha (possessing a ventral groove bearing a narrow foot) and the Chaetodermomorpha (lacking a ventral groove and foot, and having a cuticular shield around the mouth).

That several specimens (of what Robert Burn has tentatively identified as the neomeniomorphid *Tegulaherpia tasmanica* Salvini-Plawen, 1988) have been collected intertidally at Shoreham is noteworthy. A formal report (currently in progress) will fully document this discovery.



*Tegulaherpia tasmanica* Salvini-Plawen, 1988, collected intertidally at Shoreham, Westernport Bay, 19/10/2013. Extended length approximately 4.5 mm. Dorsal view is shown above, lateral view below. Images: Leon Altoff.



This occasion was, once again, a very interesting meeting to end the year, particularly as the digital revolution has made available a wealth of high quality images to supplement the talks. Thanks are extended to presenters for making their images available for this summary.

We eagerly await the discoveries of the 2014 season!

#### Further reading:

Edgar GJ (2008). *Australian Marine Life. The Plants and Animals of Temperate Waters*. 2nd Edition.

Scheltema AH (1998) *Class Aplacophora p.145-159, in: Beesley PL, Ross GJB & Wells A (eds). Mollusca, The Southern Synthesis. Fauna of Australia. Vol. 5, CSIRO Publishing : Melbourne, Part A (563 pp)*

**P. Vafiadis**



Grey) (illus) **235:6-7**; Anglesea 30/6/13 (Pat & Ed Grey) (illus) **235:7-8**; Blackwood, Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood 7/7/13 (Les Hanrahan) (illus) **236:10**; Upper Yarra Reservoir, Doctors Creek Walk 14/7/13 (Pat & Ed Grey) (illus) **237:7-8**; Bunyip SP, Mortimer Reserve 21/7/13 (Pat & Ed Grey) (illus) **237:8**; Greens Bush, Baldry Crossing 28/7/13 (illus) **237:9-10**; Addendum to Toorongo Falls (illus) (Pat Grey) **237:10**.

**Photos:** *Geastrum pectinatum*, *Cordierites condosa* **227:6**; *Phylloporus rhodoxanthus*, Fungi forayers, *Mesophyllia glauca* **231:7**; *Aurantiporus pulcherrimus*, *Agrocybe parasitica* **231:8**; *Podoserpula pusio*, *Neobulgaria* sp (= *Claussenomyces australis*) **232:8**; *Amanita muscaria* **234:6-7**; *Hjortstamia crassa* (Purple Crust), possibly *Galerina unicolor* **234:7-8**; *Artomyces colensoi*, *Flamulina velutipes*, *Philobolus* sp., *Neobarya agaricicola* **235:6-7**; *Entoloma* sp., *Cortinarius austrocinnabarinus* **236:10**; *Mycena kurramalla*, The not *Syrobasidium brefeldianum*, *Lachnum virgineum*, *Lachnum peridophyllum*, *Hygrocybe lewllinae*, Toorongo Falls, *Claussenomyces australis* **237:7-9**.

**Reports to Council:** **227:5**; **230:7**; **232:5**; **233:9**; **234:4**; **235:12**; **236:5-6**; **237:10**.

**Workshop/meetings:** Molecules in Mushrooms (illus) by Bill Leithhead **234:6-7**.

Gare, Wendy: *From the Office/Administrative Notices:* **235:12**.

**Geology Group: Talks at Meetings:** Arctic Travels (illus) by K Oddie & N McLachlan **228:4-5**; Quaternary Entomology in Australia and the Indo-Pacific (illus) by Dr N Porch (R Needham) **229:6**; Could we find Signs of Life in Minerals on Mars? by Dr Sasha Wilson (illus) (R Needham) **231:5**; Megafauna and Trace Fossils by Dr Stephen Carey (illus) (Kaye Oddie) **233:5**; Magmatic & Phreatomagmatic Eruption Styles of Mt Gambier (illus) by Dr J van Otterloo (Kaye Oddie) **234:5-6**; A Canary in the coal mine of climate change: Dramatic reductions in Arctic sea ice by Prof. Ian Simmonds (with chart) (Kaye Oddie) **236:4**; Fossil Marine Birds: A Fragmentary Tale (illus) by Travis Park (Ruth Hoskin) **237:4**; The Flourishing Forests of the Aurora Australia: The Fossil Flora of the Chatham Islands by Dr Chris Mays (map) (Kaye Oddie) **237:5**.

**Notices:** Geology excursion **229:4**;

**Photos:** Geological features of the Arctic (6) **228:4-5**; charts (2) **229:6**; Gale Crater on Mars [NASA image] **231:5**; Fossil Track-way of extinct wombat, *Diprondon optatum*, close-up of footprints **233:5**; charts & images (2) **234:5-6**; Pelargornis **237:4**.

**Reports to Council:** **227:5**; **230:7**; **231:9**; **232:5**; **237:10**.

George, Paul: *Photo Credits:* *Phylloporus rhodoxanthus* **231:7**; *Agrocybe parasitica* **231:8**; *Hygrocybe lewllinae* **237:9**.

Gibson, Maria: Meet the Weeds (illus) **236:7**. *Photo Credits:* *Limonium hyblaum*, *Salvinia molesta* **236:7**

Gibson, Ray: Rushworth Forest Camp, Box Ironbark Mosaic Burning **236:9**

Grey, Ed: *Fungi Group Reports:* **227:6**; **231:7-8**; **232:8**; **234:7-8**; **235:6-8**.

*Photo Credits:* *Neobarya agaricicola* **235:7**; *Entoloma* sp. **236:10**.

Grey, Pat: *Fungi Group Reports:* **227**; **234:7-8**; **235:6-8**.

*Photo Credits:* *Geastrum pectinatum*, *Cordierites condosa* **227:6**; - *Claussenomyces australis* (incorrectly named *Neobulgaria* sp) **232:8**; **233:7**; *Hjortstamia crassa* (Purple Crust) (incorrectly labelled) **234:8**; *Claussenomyces australis* (Toorongo Falls) **237:9**.

Guay, Patrick: thank you for organising the Biodiversity Symposium 2013 **237:1**.

Hall, Barbara: *Photo Credits:* *Pilumnus monilifer* **232:11**.

Hanson Rob: Tribute for Dr Noel Schleiger **231:4**.

Hancock, Ken & Michele: Dingy Swallowtail (illus) **230:3**; Marbled Gecko in garden **231:3**.

*Photo credits:* Dingy Swallowtail **230:3**; Marbled Gecko **231:3**.

Hanrahan, Les: Fungi Group Report: Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood **236:10**.

Hartland, Richard: *Photo credits:* **222:9**; possibly *Galerina unicolor* (incorrectly labelled); *Mycena* sp. **233:7**; **234:7**;

*Cortinarius austrocinnabarinus* **236:10**.

Harris, John: *From the President:* (with illustrations) **227:1**; **228:1**; **230:1**; **231:1 & 4**; **232:1**; **233:1**; **234:1**; **235:1**; **236:1**.

*Photo Credits:* Falls Creek – view, flora, bird, skink **227:1**; Eastern Horseshoe Bat **227:9**; Pink Lakes **230:1**; Ancient River Red Gum **233:1**; Weasel Skink, H. Ferguson, W. Gare **234:1**; *Pomaderris prunifolia* **235:1**; Murray Rv. **236:1**; Powerful Owl **237:1**.

*Reports:* Fauna Survey/Juniors Groups, Plenty Gorge Park (illus) **230:6-7**.

Hewish, Marilyn: **2013 ANHM Medallion winner** **235:1**, **236:12**, **237:6**.

Hlawaty, Alex: Sharing some photos (illus) **227:3**.

Homan, Peter: *Photo credits:* Rare large fallen log, old Ironbark **236:9**.

Hoskin, Ruth: Nostalgia **237:3**; Geology Group Report **237:4**.

Houghton, Sheila: news item re Wedderburn **236:3**.

Hubregtse, Jurrie: *Photo credits:* The not *Syrobasidium brefeldianum* **237:7**.

Hubregtse, Virgil: Spider-Hunting Wasps **228:3**. *Photo credits:* Spider Hunting Wasps **228:3**.

Ireton, Tania: Heard Island & McDonald Islands (illus) **235:4 & 8**.

**Juniors' Group: Brief Reports of Excursions:** (see: *The Junior Naturalist*); Easter camp – Little Desert (illus) **230:1**; with Fauna Survey Group: Plenty Gorge Park (illus) **229:7 & 230: 6-7**.

*Photo Credits:* John Harris **230:1**; S Bewsher **230: 6-7**.

*Reports to Council:* **229:5**; **231:9**; **232:6**; **233:9**; **234:4**; (illus, Ranita dressed as a Sea urchin) **236:5**.

Kitchen, Ian: Report Aust. Bat Society Conference (illus) **235:5**.

Leithhead, Bill: Molecules in Mushrooms (illus) **234:6-7**. *Photo Credits:* *Amanita muscaria* **234:6**; *Mycena kurramalla* **237:7**.

**Library News:** **228:5**; **229:5**; **230:9**; **232:4**; **233:11**; **237:6**.

Mahler, Dorothy: **Vale** **227:3**

**Marine Research Group (MRG): Reports of Meeting, Talks & Field Trips:** Malacological Society of Australasia (MSA)

marine micro-mollusc workshop, brief report on the MSA Molluscs 2012 conference, field trip to Pt. Danger **227:11**

Members' Night, field trip to Point Addis (illus), review on Monograph of Little Slitshells and Abalone: World-Wide Haliotidae (P. Vafiadis **228:11**; Victorian Seagrasses by H. Kirkman **229:11**; Report of Port Fairy Field Trip (illus) **230:10**; Group news; talk on Research trip to South Australia by Leon Altoff **231:13**; Members' Night (illus) **232:11**; The Falkland Islands by Melanie McKenzie **234:11**; Echinoderms – some reproductive strategies by Mark O'Laughlin **235:10-11**; Reef-watch Victoria by Wendy Roberts (P Vafiadis) **236:11**; Victorian Intertidal Bivalves by Michael Lyons (illus) (P Vafiadis) **237:13**.

- Photos:** view of Point Addis, *Hapalochlaena maculosa*, *Bassethullia matthewsi*, *Ischnochiton lineolatus*, unidentified polychaete worm **228:11**; *Metabonellia haswelli*, *Meridiastra medius*, *Comanthus tasmaniae* **230:10**; *Noumea closeorum*, *Hypselodoris cf. infucata*, Seagrass blade anemone, unidentified nemertean **231:13**; *Paguristes pugil*, *Pilumnus monilifer*, *Petrolisthes elongatus*, unidentified nemertean, *Zafra fulgida* **232:11**; *Parvulastra vivipara*, *Smilasterias multipara*, *Meridiastra fissura*, *Neoamphicyclus materiae* **235:10-11**; Common Edible Mussel, *Barbatia reticulata* **237:13**.
- MRG Reports to Council: 231:9; 235:12;
- McLachlan, Neil: Presentation talk on Arctic Travels (illus) **228:4-5**.
- Mays, Chris: The Flourishing Forests of the Aurora Australia: The Fossil Flora of the Chatham Islands **237:5**.
- McKenzie, Melanie: Marine Research - The Falkland Islands **234:11**.
- Members' News, photos & observations:** seen at the Echuca camp by Alex Hlawaty (illus), Brush-tail Possum by Sally Bewsher (illus) **227:3**; Spider Hunting Wasps (illus) by Virgil Hubregtse, notice re forum on changes to vegetation clearing by Sue Bendel **228:3**; What have the Brentnalls been up to lately? by J. Broadberry (illus) **229:3**; Redback Spider by Joan Broadberry (illus), Dinky Swallowtail from Ken & Michele Hancock (illus) **230:3**; FNCV Garden Working Bee thanks **230:5**; Marbled Gecko in garden by Ken & Michele Hancock (illus) **231:3**; Groups of Bronzewing Pigeons, Wendy Clark, A Little Grebe Stopped for a Rest, Wendy Clark (illus) **232:3**; notice re reports of sightings in Western Victoria by Edna Tenner & Robyn Willington **233:3**; Marbled Gecko by John Eichler (illus) **233:3**; Notices: passenger wanted for WA trip (W Clark), exhibition of Natural History (S Sanger & P McDiarmid), People's choice for Photo Comp; photos: winners of Photo Comp (H Eaton), Juniors at Dingo recovery centre **234:3**; Notices: Camera workshop (W Clark), ANN & SEANNA news, Warning re lead in Old Printer's Blocks (illus) **235:3**; Notice from Sheila Houghton, Visitor, Cecily Falkingham (illus) **236:3**; Nostalgia, Ruth Hoskin, Science Talent Search (illus). Claire Ferguson **237:3**.
- Microscopy Group: Reports to Council:** **229:5; 232:5; 233:9; 234:4**.
- Museum of Victoria: *Photo Credits:* **235:10-11**.
- Nash, Michael: Describing the Unseen Windmills of the Victorian Alps (illus) **232:9**.  
*Photo Credit:* Carabid Beetle **232:9**.
- Needham, Roger: *Geology Reports:* **229:6; 231:5**
- New Members, Welcome:** **227:3; 228:3; 229:3; 230:3; 230:3; 231:3; 232:6; 233:3; 235:1; 236:3; 237:3**
- Noble Emily: *Photo Credits:* shed skin of python **229:3**.
- Oddie, Kaye: Talk on Arctic Travels (illus) **228:4-5**; *Geology Reports* **233:5; 234:5-6; 236:4**
- Office, FNCV, *see Administration*
- O'Laughlin, Mark: Echinoderms (illus) **235:10-11**.  
*Photo Credits:* *Squamocnus aureoruber* stages of fission **235:11**.
- Page, Carol: *Photo Credits:* *Mycena Formosa Hygrocybe lewllinae* **233:6**; *Flamulina velutipes* **235:6-7**.
- Park, Travis: Fossil Marine Birds: A Fragmentary Tale (illus) **237:4**.  
*Photo Credit:* Pelagornis **237:4**.
- Photographic tips: **227:12; 228:12; 229:10**.
- Photographic workshop: Notice **227:12; 235:3**.
- President, From the President, John Harris:** (illus) **227:1**; (illus) **228:1**; (illus) **230:1**; (illus) **231:1 & 4; 232:1**; (illus) **233:1**; (illus) **234:1; 235:1**; (illus) **236:1**; ; (illus) **237:1**.  
*Photos:* Falls Creek – view, flora, bird, skink **227:1**; Eastern Horseshoe Bat **227:9**; remote camera shot **228:1**; processing bats (2) **229:1**; Pink Lakes **230:1**; Ancient River Red Gum **233:1**; Weasel Skink, Hali Ferguson, Wendy Gare **234:1**; *Pomaderris prunifolia* **235:1**; Murray River **236:1**; Powerful Owl **237:1**; Murray River **236:1**; Powerful Owl **237:1**.
- Presland, Gary: Library News: **228:5; 229:5; 230:8; 232:4; 237:6**; Report of FNCV Second-hand book sale (illus) **237:6**.  
*Photo credit:* Second-hand Book sale **237:6**.
- Remote Camera credits: **228:1; 228:7**.
- Reptiles: Marbled Gecko (illus) **231:3**; Marbled Gecko (illus) **233:3**.
- Ritchie Dr. Euan G: Crowd funding notice **231:3**.
- Rowe, Margaret: *Photo Credits:* **232:11**.
- Rowlands, Bob: *Photo Credits:* Fungi forayers **231:7**
- Schleiger, Dr Noel: Vale: Noel Schleiger (illus) **231:4**, In Memory of Dr. Noel Schleiger, Sponsor, 62nd Science Talent Search **236:6**; Thanks re Science Talent Search **237:3**
- Smith, Fred TH: estate gift to FNCV **235:1**.
- Smith, Dr Ursula: Looking Past the Present (Palaeontology) **228:8-9**.
- South East Australian Naturalists' Association (SEANA): *Notices:* Autumn Camp **227:8**; Numurkah camp **233:4**; register of clubs, ANN get-together, camp May 2014 **235:3**; need website coordinator **237:3**.
- Syme, Peter: Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Water Management **231:11**.
- Terrestrial Invertebrate Group (TIG): Reports of Meetings:** Members (illus), Describing the Unseen Windmills of the Victorian Alps, Michael Nash (illus) (M. Campbell) **232:9**; Introduction to Invertebrates in Leaf Litter, (illus) Maxwell Campbell **234:10**  
*Photos:* *Pseudomantis* ssp, Carabid Beetle **232:9**.  
*Reports to Council:* **234:4**.
- Thompson, Russell: *Fauna Survey Group Report:* Gobur Fauna Survey **227:9**.
- Wilson, Sasha: Could we find Signs of Life in Minerals on Mars (illus) **231:5**.
- Vafiadis, Platon: *Marine Research Group Reports:* **227:11; 228:10; 229:11; 230:10; 231:13; 234:11**.  
*Photo Credits:* view of Point Addis, *Hapalochlaena maculosa*, *Bassethullia matthewsi*, *Ischnochiton lineolatus*, unidentified polychaete worm **228:10; 230:10; 232:11**.
- Vale: Dorothy Mahler **227:3**; Dr Noel Schleiger (illus) **231:4**, Tribute from Science Talent search **236:6**
- Victorian Naturalist:** Printers Blocks available **234:12**; warning re lead content **235:3**.
- Williams, De'ana: *Photo Credits:* *Aurantipours pulcherrimus* **231:8**; *Podoserpula pusio* **232:8**; *Pilobolus* sp. **235:7**; *Lachnum virgineum*, *Lachnum pteridophyllum* **237:8**.

(Continued from page 4)

- The average number of record cold days per annum for each decade has more than halved from 1960 to 2010.
- Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations measured at the baseline air pollution station at Cape Grim in Tasmania have increased from 330 to 390 parts per million in the 35 years from 1975 to 2010.

Dr. Williams presentation not only provided interesting historical information about weather data collection and significant events that have occurred, including Cyclones Tracy and Yasi, but allowed us to appreciate the increased sophistication and accuracy of weather forecasting both in Australia and worldwide.

Kaye Oddie

## Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

### Fauna Survey Group:

The FSG had a very busy program in 2013, with around 170 people attending at least one of our meetings or excursions. About half of these were visitors. This does not include some of those active in the Eastern Parks Survey

#### December - Christmas BBQ

The Christmas BBQ was held at Braeside Park and hosted by the Parks Vic team associated with the Eastern Parks Survey. With some 25 people in attendance, it was an opportunity to thank people for their sterling efforts as well as enjoy the fare provided. We were able to show some of the videos from the camera survey.

#### Eastern Parks Fauna Survey

With the exception of the reptile surveys, which will carry on for some time, the data collection component of the survey will be completed by the end of April. Data analysis will continue for some time after that.

#### Parks program for 2014

In December we met with Mark Antos from Parks Vic regarding including some of their survey needs in our program.

Three were included:

- Grampians (was scheduled for Australia Day weekend but has been deferred)
- Northern Victoria Spotlighting on Queens Birthday Weekend
- Mallee in September Holidays

### Juniors' Group:

The Juniors enjoyed a successful excursion to Black Rock on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> where we met at 10 am to explore the variety of underwater environments in that location. We had 35 people attend and got into groups of 4 after some instruction from Trevor Turner, our experienced guide. Without incident we managed to sight the following :

Dolphins, Seahorse (yellow), Horned Blennies, Johnson's Weedfish, Leather Jackets, Small Salmon, Mullet, Squid, Tasmanian Clingfish, Whiting, Blue Ring Octopus, Toadfish, String rays, Furry Hermit Crab, Spider Crab, Snapping Shrimp, Shrimp Fry, Globe fish; 11 Arm Sea Star, Northern Pacific Sea Stars, Biscuit Sea Stars, Red Velvet Sea Star (Patricia Vernicina), Common Sea Stars, Golf Ball Sponge, Ascidiars, Sea Urchins, Chitons, Jelly Fish, Abalone, Mussels, Sea Pens; Sea Grass, Sea Lettuce, Velvet Horn Seaweed, various other seaweeds, fishermen.

### Marine Research Group:

The December meeting was a Members' Night and was well attended with a number of interesting presentations from members which have been summarised in FNN. Fieldwork has commenced with a successful but cool trip to Barwon Heads this month and continues next week with early morning fieldwork from Wednesday to Saturday along the closest part of the Great Ocean Road. The usual lab will be located in Anglesea and Leon Altoff can be contacted for details of meeting locations etc.

**IMPORTANT**  
**GEOLOGY EXCURSION**  
**'BAY WEST'**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April- Geology Group. Excursion - West coast of Port Phillip Bay.**

Leader: Graham Patterson, author of "Coastal guide to nature and history - Port Phillip Bay".

Meet at 10.15 am at Doug Grant Reserve, Queen St, Altona (Melway 209 C1). Park near the bend in Queen St. We'll then go to Point Cook, Werribee South, Kirk Point and North Shore, Geelong (fossils). Bring lunch, water, hat, jacket, as weather dictates.

Cost: \$3 members; \$8 non-members.

**Bookings required** and to enable car pooling to be organised in advance – contact Kaye Oddie, tel 9329 0635, [koddie@bigpond.com](mailto:koddie@bigpond.com).

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

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## Day Group

### Exploring Svalbard, Arctic Norway

Sally Bewsher gave a great presentation to the January Day Group about her mid-year 2013 trip to Svalbard, a group of islands belonging to Norway, located above the Arctic Circle. (Lat. 78°N Long. 14°E) The trip was organised by Aurora Expeditions aboard the 54 berth, Russian-built-and-operated ship, Polar Pioneer. Half the passengers met in Oslo and flew together to Longyearbyen, the capital, located on the largest island, Spitsbergen, where they joined the remainder of the passengers. Expeditioners had free access to most of the ship, including the bridge. One of Norway's top birders was on the staff. Apart from a couple of days, the weather was fair, the sea calm and at times, the fjords helped provide shelter for the ship

The Gulf Stream's warm current moderates the temperature to the west of the islands. However, colder water from the almost land-locked Arctic Ocean, cools the northern and eastern sides of the archipelago. Aurora's Arctic trips have no completely fixed route, but remain flexible. Polar Pioneer explored various parts of the island group, responding at times to information that allowed it to find pack-ice, animals and birds. Zodiacs, holding 10-12 people, were used for daily excursions and, for an extra fee, kayaks trips could also be undertaken.

Sally's photographs gave her audience a real feel for the great variety of scenery found in the area. They included rugged mountains, fjords, cliffs, pack-ice, sea-



scapes and the midnight sun dipping to the horizon. She showed several arresting images of the contorted, twisted snouts of glaciers, marbled with moraine. It is well established that Svalbard's glaciers are retreating rapidly. Interestingly, sea-birds are drawn to the ends of a glacier as the fresh water and any detritus dropped from melt-water attracts marine life which the birds, often flocks of Kittiwakes, feed on. Several small icebergs were observed and a couple were seen rolling over.

There are of course, no trees. Mosses, sedges, lichens, wildflowers, fungi and grasses grow in crevices and sheltered areas. Many of them are very attractive. Tiny flowers, and brightly coloured fungi or lichens create exquisite images. Patches of green occur below the cliffs where bird colonies nest or roost, their droppings providing the fertiliser that promotes plant growth.

(Continued on page 13)

### Svalbard—facts & figures

- Location: lat. 78°N, Long. 16°E.
- Population: about 2,000-2500. Half are Norwegian, also Russians, Thais, Swedes and many other nationalities.
- Area: Total 61,022km<sup>2</sup>. Spitsbergen Island—37,814km<sup>2</sup>
- History: discovered by Willem Barents 1596. 1920 Spitsbergen treaty—Norway has sovereignty.
- Highest point 1713m
- Economic: Hunting in 1800's Coal mining began about 1900. Marine Arctic Research carried out now. 2008 International Seed Vault Tourism major income source: Waste is taken to mainland.
- Av ann. temps -8° winter, 5° summer. Rainfall 200-400 mm. Temps rising and glaciers melting
- 20 Glaciers, 11 main islands, 5 major fjords.
- Polar night: 14th Nov—29th Jan
- Midnight sun: 20th April—22nd Aug.
- 98% wilderness of which 65% protected.. 7 National parks ((1/4 of Sv.), 15 bird sanctuaries, one geotope or geological area and 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> of marine areas.
- Recorded species: Polar Bear, Arctic Fox, Walrus, 5 seal sp., 1 dolphin sp., 8 whale sp., Svalbard Reindeer and approx. 36 species of birds.

**Answers to challenge.** The photo on p1 is of a Little Auk, taken on Spitsbergen Island. All photos: Sally Bewsher



Walrus



Bearded Seal



Polar Bear & Cub

One of the most exciting parts of the expedition was the zodiac trips. The shoreline was rocky, desolate and, in places, littered with washed-up timber. Surprisingly there was very little rubbish to be seen as it is regularly cleaned up by special patrols. Aurora staff checked thoroughly for Polar Bears before anyone went ashore and remained armed until walks were over and everyone was safely back on board the zodiacs. When they returned to the ship after a landing, everyone was required to thoroughly clean their gumboots.

Sally's group were very fortunate in the number of species of birds and animals they saw. Polar bears, including a mother and cub, were sighted a few times. One bear was very thin and malnourished. Some male bears have tags implanted in their ears and some females have collars, so that they can be monitored. The Svalbard subspecies of Reindeer was another highlight.

A range of bird species were sighted. Kittywakes, Northern Fulmar, Glaucous Gulls, Arctic Terns and Black Guillemots were seen on most days. Others included a few Atlantic Puffins, Arctic and Great Skuas, Purple Sandpiper, a lone King Eider, Barnacle Geese and the rare Ivory Gull. Sally's lovely photos of the birdlife were greatly enjoyed by her audience.

Walrus were another standout highlight. These inquisitive mammals were seen, and smelled, both on land and water. Ringed Seals were hard to photograph as their heads popped up in front of the ship for only a second or two. Numerous Bearded Seals were spotted lolling on icefloes.

Sally's finished her presentation with some spectacular images of cliff-nesting birds. A very foggy morning cleared and Brunnich's Guillemots could be seen clinging to steep, tiered cliffs that provided only precarious ledges for their nests. These mainly sea-going birds have

short wings, but swim and dive with ease. Arctic Foxes, in their brown summer coats and Glaucous Gulls were in attendance, waiting to feast on any chicks that fell. Our last glimpse of Svalbard was of a small group sitting part-way up a cliff, quietly watching a Little Auk colony.

I can safely say the universal feeling at the end of the meeting was, "How and when can we go to Svalbard?" Our thanks go to Sally for transporting us for an hour to another fascinating place and helping us to better appreciate its environment and wildlife.

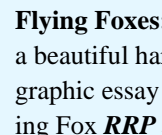
**Joan Broadberry.**

**NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP** *Kathy Himbeck*

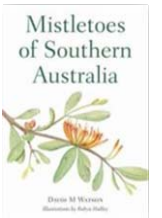
The shelves are gradually being restocked with old favourites, latest editions, new publications and new titles. For all those budding junior naturalists, have a look at the couple of new titles that are now on the shelves. Below is a small selection of titles recently added to the bookshop collection. If there are any particular titles that may be of interest to any age group or any particular interest group, please contact the bookshop ([bookshop@fncv.org.au](mailto:bookshop@fncv.org.au)) and I will be happy to check them out. We still have a couple of books that are very slightly damaged from soot from the fire at the clubrooms. These are a bargain!!



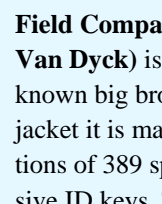
**Flora of the Otway Plain & Ranges 2 (Enid Mayfield)** is a paperback and was published in June 2013. The first volume is now only available on EBooks. This beautifully illustrated field guide provides an insight into the rich diversity of flora of the Otway Plan. **RRP \$59.95, Members \$49**



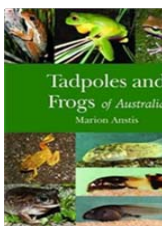
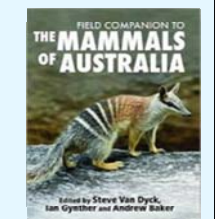
**Flying Foxes: Australian Night Foresters (Vivien Jones)** is a beautiful hardback book that provides a brilliant photographic essay of the amazing and amusing Grey-headed Flying Fox **RRP \$39.95, Members \$32**



**Mistletoes of Southern Australia (Watson & Hully)** is the definitive authority on these intriguing plants. The paperback was first published in Feb 2011 and provides a thorough investigation of the ecology and life history, along with a field guide for all 46 species found in southern Australia. **RRP \$49.95 Members \$41.**



**Field Companion to The Mammals of Australia (ed. Steve Van Dyck)** is a new publication that is a companion to its well known big brother. Designed in a compact format and plastic jacket it is made to be taken into the field. It includes descriptions of 389 species along with newly developed, comprehensive ID keys. This book is a must for all zoologists. **RRP \$45, Members \$35**

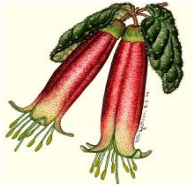


**Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia (M. Anstis)** is a long awaited new book that covers all species of adult frogs in Australia and provides illustrated descriptions of the egg, tadpoles and metamorphs of most species. This is a must have reference bible for all frog lovers, students, amateurs and professionals. **RRP \$125, Members \$100**

**SALE!! Ludwig Becker 2014**

**Calendar.** We still have a couple copies of this beautiful calendar, produced by the Royal Society of Victoria. The images themselves are superb and can be valued at any time, which makes this a simply irresistible bargain! **RRP \$29.95 Sale Price \$20 (33% off!!)**





# The FNCV Environment Fund Call for Donations

FNCV Reg. No. A0033611X

The Environment Fund of the FNCV has been set up for the purpose of supporting the objectives of the Club in relation to the environment. **Donations to the fund are tax deductible.**

From 2003 to 2013, the Fund has been able to support forty-eight applications for grants of from \$200 to \$1000 to both the FNCV Special Interest Groups and other organisations. Donations are needed in order to enable further grants to be made in the future. Please use the form below to donate to this worthy Fund. A receipt will be provided.

More information about the Environment Fund can be found on the FNCV website at [www.fncv.org.au](http://www.fncv.org.au).

**Barbara Burns (Secretary)**

The projects supported in 2013 were:

- ◆ *FNCV Botany Group , Conservation of the Maroon Leek-orchid. Clyde Grassland. \$985*
- ◆ *Friends of Leadbeater’s Possum, iPad and GPS, \$989*
- ◆ *Patrick –Jean Guay, Satellite tracking Grey Teal, \$1000*

**Yes I would like to support the FNCV Environment Fund. Please find enclosed my tax deductible donation of:**

**\$25                      \$50                      \$100                      \$200                      Other\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Please make cheques payable to Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. If paying by credit card provide the following details.**                      **Visa**                      **Mastercard**

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**Signature:**

**Please return to : Environmental Fund, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, PO Box 13, Blackburn 3130.**

*Enquiries can be made to Wendy, FNCV Administrative officer, 03 9877 9860, Email: [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)*

## Field Nats News 239



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