Field Nats News No.245

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
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Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

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Reg. No. A0033611X

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9.30 am - 4 pm.

September 2014

From the President

Hi members, while we have just gone through the coldest couple of nights on record since the mid-90's, it's hard to believe that spring is just around the corner. Kathy and I along with a close friend are about to embark on a trip to the Gibson Desert to lead a fauna survey with Desert Discovery. In fact, by the time you receive this, we will have left Alice Springs on our way to Tjirrkarli via Kintore, Warakuna and Warburton. No doubt there will be a trip report and presentation/s to follow when we return home.

Some News from Council
At a recent council meeting it was suggested that we should improve our hall security by installing smoke detectors and linking it to the security system. This has now been done. See also promotion p3.

Fundraising and Grants
Volunteers are urgently wanted to help with the Yarra Plant Show on September 13th and 14th and the Whitehorse Spring Festival on October 19th. Please contact Wendy if you would like to help out with either of these events. They are a very good way of showcasing what our club is about.

Biodiversity Symposium
This year's Biodiversity Symposium will be "Farming and Conservation" and will be held on Saturday November 22nd with the possibility of a field day on Sunday 23rd. If you are interested in attending, please register your interest with Wendy in the office. The program is still being prepared and will be sent out when finalised.

Vale
It was very sad to hear that well-known naturalist Ken Simpson of *Simpson and Day, Field Guide to Birds of Australia* and many other books, passed away in early July. Ken had been a member of the FNCV for many, many years. He was also a recipient of the Australian Natural History Medallion. I had the pleasure of meeting Ken on a number of occasions, both in the field and at meetings etc. He was a highly respected and very knowledgeable ornithologist and naturalist. May I take the opportunity to extend my and our members' condolences to Ken's family.

On the same note, Martin Copley passed away in late July. You may ask, who? While members may not know his name, you will know of his achievements. Martin was the founder of the *Australian Wildlife Conservancy*, which he started in 1991 when he purchased Karakamia, a 200 hectare property near Perth. AWC now has a network of 23 sanctuaries covering three million hectares across Australia. The FNCV, especially the Fauna Survey Group, have worked on some of these properties, including Easter this year at Yookamurra in South Australia. I would also like to extend our condolences to the entire AWC family. Martin not only "talked the talk, but walked the walk" in terms of conserving Australia's endangered wildlife.

DEPI - Fire Management Planning
We received a letter from DEPI regarding their latest Draft Plans for fire management in the coming year which asked us for comment. These plans are open for public comment until the 31st of August. If you would like to know more, the letter will be pinned onto the notice board or you can go to their website www.depi.vic.gov.au/burns . Written comments on the Fire Operations Plan can be emailed, using the form provided on the website, to Gippsland.Plannedburning@depi.vic.gov.au

John Harris, President

The deadline for the October issue of Field Nats News will be **10 am on Tuesday 2nd September.** FNN will go to the printers on Tuesday 9th with collation on 16th.

Inside: Interacting with Brush-tail Possums at Moonlight Sanctuary.

See Juniors' Report p7.

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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.

September

Monday 1st – Fungi Group Meeting: ***Members' Night.*** Members are welcome to give 10—15 minute presentations of their photos. Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 2nd - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: ***Results of Eastern Fauna Focus, a fauna survey in the parks of Eastern Melbourne.*** Speaker: Robin Drury, Fauna Survey Group. Contact Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury@hotmail.com

Saturday 6th – Juniors' Group Excursion: ***Frogging at Lysterfield Lake*** with Robin Drury. Meet 5:30 pm at car park end of Hallam North Rd, Melway 82 K10 Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

Monday 8th – Marine Research Group Meeting: For details contact Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th – FNCV Stall at Australian Plant Expo., Eltham: Some vacancies for volunteers to staff our stall, particularly on Saturday are needed. Contact FNCV office—9877 9860 during office hours or email: admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 16th—Collate FNN: Starting about 10.00 am. Some folk come earlier. Morning tea provided. All welcome Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 17th- Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Meeting: ***Modern microscopes and accessories for today's naturalist.*** Speaker: Trevor Parker from A.I.S Contact: Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181; mcam7307@bigpond.net.au

Thursday 18th – Botany Group Meeting: ***Decline of flood plain forests at Yellingbo: causes and restoration***. Presenter: Joe Greet—Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Monday 22nd - FNCV Council Meeting: 7.30 pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Wendy, 98779860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 23rd – Day Group Meeting: ***Results of research funded by FNCV Environment Fund.*** Speaker Christine Connelly, VNPA. Meet at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat. Speaker at 11 am. Contact Gary Presland 9890 9288.

Wednesday 24th – Wednesday 24th – Geology Group Meeting: ***The geomorphic effectiveness of urbanisation: Implications for managing waterways in cities and suburbs.*** Speaker Dr. Geoff Vietz, Research Fellow, Dept. of Resource Management and Geography, University of Melbourne. Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; rrajh@optusnet.com.au

Friday 26th – Juniors' Group Meeting 7.30 pm. ***The Nullabor and Beyond.*** Speaker Wendy Clark. Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

Sunday 28th to Saturday 4th Oct - Fauna Survey Group Survey: ***Yarrara and Mallanbool Flora & Fauna Reserves*** in the Mallee with Parks Victoria.
Registration at least 7 days prior to camp is essential.
Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury@hotmail.com

For your calendar:

This year's FNCV Biodiversity Symposium topic will be **"Farming and Conservation"** and will be held on **Saturday November 22nd,** with the possibility of a field day on Sunday 23rd. The *Symposium will examine how farming and conservation can work hand in hand to the benefit of the environment. Please register your interest at fncv@admin.org.au*

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

Members' news, photos & observations

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

Welcome

Warmest greetings to these new members who were welcomed into our club at the last Council meeting*: Kristin Semmens, Vivien Mak, Samuel Mak, Jeremy Tam, Dominic Fagan, Carly Green, Wendy Holmes, Irene Holmes, Peter Bathie, Carol Bathie and Anna Rogers.*

The FNCV has acquired some new signage. One is outside the club and another is a wonderful freestanding 'banner' to help with publicity. Thanks to Wendy Gare and Claire Ferguson for the work they put into these projects.

Photography Expo

Sunday 31st August, 10 am – 4 pm—Free Entry!
Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre

Come & see

- *Displays of Photographs of Nature, Landscapes, people & more*
- *Talks & Demos on taking Photographs*
  Topics include: small creatures, flowers and people
- *Information on Short Courses & Workshops*
- *Chance to WIN some photography tuition*
- *Talk to the professional Photographer and students*

wendy@masteryourcamera.com.au

Current model BROTHER FAX—878 FOR SALE

Plain paper, thermal transfer, three-in-one compact facsimile machine, complete with instruction manual.

Near new, in excellent condition, newly fitted with fax refill roll.
Bargain at $50 or near offer.
Contact FNCV office
-office hours 9877 9860
admin@fncv.org.au

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Monitored Smoke Alarms

FNCV has contracted with ADT Security of Mt Waverley to install monitored smoke/burglar alarms in the Club building.

ADT has offered the FNCV a $100 rebate on alarm monitoring costs for each person who signs up for a three year security agreement as a result of reading this promotion.
Phone Aaron Walter 9538 7113
www.adtsecurity.com.au

Their current offer is $199 for an installed security system and monitoring for 3 years at $37.45 per month.

Please let the FNCV office and ADT know if this applies to you.

Optics Central Affiliate Program

When FNCV members purchase binoculars, microscopes, telescopes etc from Optics Central, 6% of the total amount (excluding shipping) will be a store credit to the FNCV.

Members will need to key in the Coupon Code: FNCV3130.

There is no minimum order and no limit on items.

Their address is 8/23 Cook Rd. Mitcham, phone 1300 884 763.

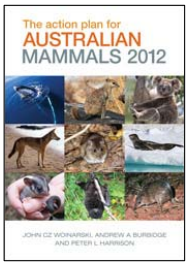
SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIAN NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION (SEANA) SPRING CAMP 2014
Friday 26th September - 29th September
Hosted by **Portland Field Naturalists' Club inc**.
SEANA camp coordinator: Ruth Graney Ph: 55295335 Email: irgraney@bigpond.com

Reminder—Registrations now being processed

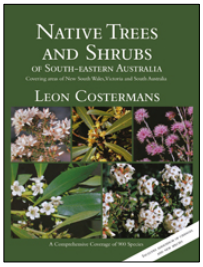
NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (AUGUST)

I will be heading to the desert for 5 weeks in August/September so any orders will need to wait until I return. There is an excellent stock of books on a range of titles available in the bookshelf, which will hopefully keep you all satisfied until I come back. Books that we do have on hand are still able to be posted out. Contact Wendy (9877 9860, Mon/Tues). Send your emails, to **bookshop@fncv.org.au** and I will happily attended to them when I return at the end of September. Happy reading— **Kathy.**

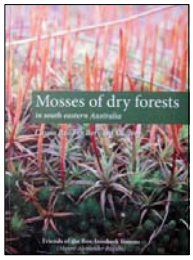
Moths of Victoria – Part 5 – Satin Moths & Allies (M. Hewish) The 5th book in the series has just been released**.** This is the essential reference for naturalists, students, 'Friends' Groups, Landcare managers and those interested in their backyard. The group of moths in Part 5 of this series is the most diverse in the family and are widespread in both urban and country Victoria. Over 1100 images are provided in the book and CD covering 160 species, which represents every known Victorian moth in this group! A must for ***$10 RRP.*** The other four parts are also available for $10 each.



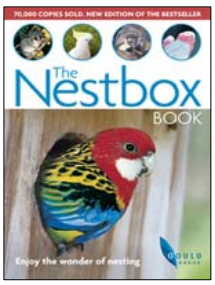
The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012 (Woinarski, Burbidge & Harrison) is the first review to assess the conservation status of all Australian mammals. Released in June 2014, this book provides authoritative reviews that form an important foundation for understanding the current status, fate and future of the nature of Australia. The book covers about 300 species and subspecies that are considered Extinct, Threatened, Near Threatened or Data Deficient. ***RRP $120.00, Members $99.***



Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia (Costermans) covers all native trees and shrubs in the area from the Flinders and Mt Lofty Ranges in SA, across Victoria and southern NSW to the NSW South Coast. Brief descriptions and illustrations are provided for all species. More than 300 colour plates and over 160 photographs are included. This popular edition was reprinted in 2009 and comes with an addendum with any name changes. A valuable resource for students, naturalists and land managers. ***RRP $45, Members $36.***

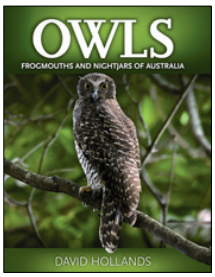


Mosses of dry forests in south eastern Australia (Read & Slattery) is a fabulous new book from the Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests. This generously illustrated and beautifully written book provides an important contribution to our understanding and appreciation of these little known plants, and to the ecology of the local region. This book incorporates a range of species that are common in other areas of Victoria. It is available for ***$15,***



The Nestbox Book (The Gould Group) has been around for awhile but it is still relevant today. This book provides a practical and real way in which people can help Australian birds and animals in their own backyards. The Nestbox Book provides information on how to select, construct, install and maintain a selection of nestboxes for a variety of native Australian birds and mammals.

This gem of a book is available for **$15**.

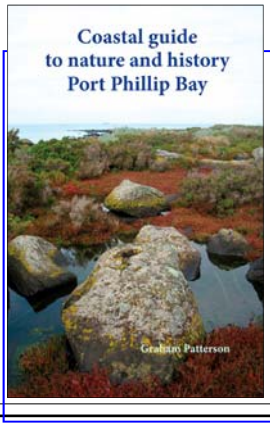


Owls, Frogmouths and Nightjars of Australia. (Hollands) is the most comprehensive book ever published on all 17 owls, nightjars and frogmouths of Australia. The author has spent of 20 years observing and photographing these species to produce an intimate and evocative picture of the lives of these mysterious birds. The book is richly illustrated with over 200 photographs taken in the wild. It is a stunning book. ***RRP $49.95, Members $39.95.***

bookshop@fncv.org.au

for any orders or bookshop queries.

If you don't have access to email, the FNCV office will pass on your message. Kathy will then be in contact with you.



Coastal Guide to Nature and History Port Phillip Bay by Graham Patterson, first became available for sale through the bookshop in December and has been selling really well. The book takes a trip around the bay from Point Lonsdale to Point Nepean, looking at geology, animals and plants, as well as human history along the way. ***RRP $30, Members $23***

Ed. Graham is currently working on a similar book covering Western Port, Phillip Island and French Island. Hopefully this will be available before Christmas.

Fungi Group

GRAMPIANS WEEKEND FORAYS NEAR HALLS GAP, 16-18 MAY 2014

Fyans Creep Loop walk, Friday afternoon

Despite the dry conditions, a number of fungi were present, especially in the gully at the start of the walk. Near the bridge was a fine example of Nargan's Bonnet *Mycena nargan* with one large bell-shaped fruit body still showing the white spots. Thelma and Phil Bridle (SA) found a large patch of the black *Annulohypoxylon bovei* var *microspora*. This species is the one our group commonly sees and is found on a variety of wood substrates (*Accacia* spp and *Eucalyptus* spp), in comparison with *A. bovei* which is confined to *Nothofagus* sp.

At the base of an upright living eucalypt trunk we saw some very tiny *Podoscypha petalodes*. Their thin, brown funnel-shaped, leather-like rosettes were just single fruit-bodies, whereas they usually grow in largish rosetted colonies. G Gates & D Ratkowsky (*A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi*, 2014, p 180) show another species that looked like these small fruit-bodies - *Cotylidia undulata*, but Thelma Bridle (from SA) informed us that these grow only in moss and after fire.

In a paddock we saw a huge mob of kangaroos, some grazing emus and *Phlebopus marginatus*, with a large sturdy brown cap, yellow-brown pores and a short, squat stem with a large bulbous base. Here is what Bruce Fuhrer (*A field guide to Australian fungi*, 2011, no 293) has to say about the fungus 'caps can grow to 1m across, it is probably Australia's largest terrestrial fungus. A weight of 29 kg was recorded for one specimen from western Victoria. The soft, fleshy tissue is a favourite breeding ground for fungus flies, the maggots of which cause rapid putrefaction of the fungus. Fruit-bodies are solitary to gregarious, sometimes forming rings around Eucalyptus trees. It may fruit at any time of the year after rain.' I rather preferred the name *Phaeogyroporus portentosus* which linguistically describes its hugeness.

Mount Rosea car park, Saturday morning

Most of us covered no more than 50 m, as more fungi followed more fungi. A large group of Blackfoot Polypore, *Polyporus melanopus*, was growing on a fallen log and showed the typical dark red-brown cap, white pores and dark slightly eccentric stems. Another large fallen fungus-ridden log kept the group busy for some time and of particular interest were Red-brown Cushions *Hypoxylon howeianum* which were covered with the brown ropy strands of the anamorph (asexual stage of the fungus).

Near by in the root system of a large fallen eucalypt was the Beefsteak Fungus *Fistulina hepatica*. At first we were not sure what this very large bracket was, but the radial wrinkles on the brown cap and the rubbery soft texture indicated the species, and on another eucalypt trunk one with two lobes was growing. *Simocybe phlebophora* with its jelly-like greenish cap was found on a fallen log as were a number of 'Black Leg' *Polyporus melanopus.* On a small log, the Peppery Coral *Artomyces austropiperatus* with pale fawn branches lived up to its name with one group member having a peppery tongue for some time after tasting it!

Hypocrea-gelatinosa Photo: J. Hubregtse

Slime moulds are often difficult to identify but a large group of about one hundred sporangia made it possible. The peridia were round, crusty and minutely pimpled (due to the presence of lime) – the colours ranging from pale yellow-green to pale cream. Occasionally the skins had been broken with long gashes or crossed fractures to reveal dark spores within. The dark spores and limey peridium put these firmly in the Order *Physarales*, and the colours and cracks on the skins are very typical of the fairly common *Physarum viride* (photo p6). Interestingly we found another minute species on wood that looked like the slime mould *Physarum viride*. It was the same colour, and had a cap on stalk but gills under the cap. Further differentiating it was the fact that there were no long gashes or crossed fractures on the caps.

Sundial car park, Saturday lunch

Several members of our group walked to the Lake View Lookout. Quite a few fungi were found, including beautiful intensely blue-green specimens of *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* group with large, leafy fruitbodies on a piece of wood, a small cluster of the Ghoul Fungus *Hebeloma aminophilum* (no bones) and a lovely little *Lepiota* sp. with amber droplets on the cap, as illustrated in Bruce Fuhrer's *A field guide to Australian fungi*, 2011, no. 160. *Panellus pusillus* and *Resupinatus sp.* were both growing on wood as were the tiny, hairy-capped bird's nest fungi *Nidula niveotomentosa*.

Silverband Falls, Saturday afternoon

We were intrigued by a black puff ball growing at the edge of the track and are used to seeing pallid or brown species but this appeared new to the group. On a rotting branch were yellow dots which at first appeared like *Bisporella citrina* but under a hand lens showed greenish-yellow cushions with green dots on the surface. These were identical to *Hypocrea gelatino**sa*** (photo left) see page 225 in *A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi* (2014) by Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky. Further reading described the anamorph as the green mould-like *Trichoderma gelatino**sum***. It was also interesting to find that there are 171 species in

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(Continued from page 5)
the genus and most have a *Trichoderma* sp. as the anamorph. In the latest paper (to be included in IMA Fungus 4 (1): 41-51), it is proposed to use the genus *Trichoderma* as the official name for the whole group. That is any species with both a *Hypocrea* and *Trichoderma* name will transfer to *Trichoderma* (with the appropriate name ending for sexual stage '***a***' and anamorph '***um*'**; um a! as we might say) as will any species described just as *Hypocrea* (without a *Trichoderma* anamorph).

The translucent white jelly, *Tremella fuciformis*, was seen growing on several logs. Interestingly, it does not form a fruit-body without parasitising another fungus. In China and Taiwan, the reddish-brown sheet of *Annulohypoxylon archeri* is its preferred host and it is used for cultivating the edible fruit-bodies of *T. fuciformis*. However, as we don't see *A. archeri*, we should make a close study to see what it is growing on here.

Here we found another distinctive slime mould in the genus - *Arcyria*. The peridium of the elongated sporangia quickly disappears leaving on a shallow cup attached by a stalk. However the capillitia appear as long tangled threads that unravel over time to disperse the spores. The pale rusty fingers of fairy-floss threads suggest that this was probably *A. ferruginea*. The next was new to me. Many minute stalked pale orange-brown deep goblets were found on some peeled bark. Most were empty and at first they looked like the remnant cups of *Arcyria*. However, a few appeared to have thin white flat caps and some had lost the caps to reveal a dark spore mass and white flecks joined by very delicate threads. The white flecks were lime nodes at the intersections of the capillitia and the dark spores were characteristic of Order *Physarales*. These were readily identified as *Craterium minutum*.

Sheep Hills Track (to Mt William), Sunday morning

Near the creek was a scattering of the Orange-peel Fungus *Aleuria aurantia* on the soil. While not rare, our group does not often see this species. Nearby, on a small branch was a patch of Golden Splash Tooth *Mycoacea subceracea* with the characteristic blunt yellow teeth easily seen with a 10x hand lens. There was disgruntlement when it was revealed that the name had been changed to *Phlebia subceracea*. The distinctive bracket *Coltriciella dependens* was found, which has large angular rust-brown pores uppermost all surrounded by a fuzzy tan coloured margin. It hangs down by a stem or attachment from the underside of decaying or burnt logs and branches

Physarum viride Photo: Paul George

A small orange coral on soil was determined as *Ramaria capitata* var *ochraceosalmonicolor*. This had a whitish stem with some aborted branches arising from it, while the actual branches were orange with expanded tips starting to fuse together. Two resupinate, white fungi on fallen branches proved interesting. A close look with the hand lens revealed that on one, the fertile surface had distinct torn teeth reminiscent of *Antrodiella* sp. While the other had net-like ridges separating deep pits and a furry white margin identifying it as *Byssomerulius corium.*

Up the hill, in a small area burnt two years previously there were some interesting fungi that occur after fire. *Pholiota highlandensi* is a small dome-capped brown fungus that always appears rather scruffy, the viscid cap attracts the burnt debris as does the yellowish fibrous stem and a number of small radially zoned caps (from dark in the centre to brown, tan, orange, and pale yellow at the margin) of the Marblemakers *Laccocephalum schlerotinium*. In contrast to the large sclerotia and mushrooms produced by the Stonemaker fungus *Polyporus tumulosus* and Native Bread *Polyporus mylittae*, the Marblemaker fungus produces small mushrooms from small, hard, marble-sized sclerotia found two to five centimetres beneath the soil surface. It does not fruit immediately after a fire, but in the autumn produces a small flat mushroom between two and three centimetres in diameter. It is characterised by a brown, velvety, often concentrically-zoned surface and a white pore layer underneath. (Richard Robinson, CALM, WA).

In the soil amongst moss, a small dark brown-black capped species with grey gills and a dark stem smelt unpleasant after crushing was similar to *Tephrocybe aff. Rancida*, but it was smaller, and later found to have different spores. We also saw two large fruit-bodies of *Cortinarius australiensis* with their impressive membranous ragged veil on the stem and some *Amanita* spp. growing near the eucalypts.

Thanks to the photographers – Paul George, Ed & Pat Grey, Richard Hartland and Jurrie Hubregtse

Thelma and Phil Bridle,
Paul George, Ed and Pat Grey and
Virgil Hubregtse

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 245

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

FUNGI GROUP FORAY
1 JUNE 2014
Blackwood

We donned waterproof clothing, and umbrellas were the order of the day for this year's foray at Blackwood. Light rain was falling, and it persisted for most of our excursion. Not that the fungi seemed to mind. Near the car park under pine trees were the usual exotic species, the Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*, *Lactarius deliciosus* and the purple capped *Russula integra*.

Near the upper car park we found the Buttery Collybia *Rhodocollybia butyracea*, one group having very dark brown caps. The small clay coloured *Ramaria gracilis* was the first coral fungi seen on the foray. On grass on the upper car park were a group of Egg-yolk Field Cap *Bolbitius vitellinus*. The young specimens had bright yellow caps, and one taller specimen still had a yellow cap, while other caps had faded to buff. Next to a pine tree were three bolete species, the slimy brown capped *Suillus luteus* with a ring on the stem, *Suillus bovinus* and *Chalciporus piperatus* which has dark brown angular pores and chrome-yellow stem flesh. An interesting point to note is that *Suillus bovinus* has compound olive pores which are subdivided into an angular, coarse-pored layer and underneath a fine-pored layer.

One of the first Cortinar species seen was the green *Cortinarius austrovenetus*. There were not the large numbers of the *Cotinarius* genus seen as in some years, but the list for the day contains quite a few. The first red cortinar seen was *Cortinarius austrocinnabarinus* which has a bright orange-red cap, and yellow stem that has bands the same colour as the cap. Another red species that we hoped to see was *Cortinarius persplendidus.* This species has vivid paprika-red gills, a yellowish stem and bright yellow basal mycelium, but all those seen had pink basal mycelium.

Cortinarious globuliformis Photo: John Eichler

Nearby was the unusual *Cortinarius globuliformis* (photo right). This is an almost underground species barely reaching the surface. The flat yellow fruit bodies were embedded in mat-like masses of bright yellow mycelium. It has next to no stem. The cap and gills disintegrate with age leaving the brown spores on the inside of the veil. The Slimy Yellow Webcaps *Cortinarius sinapicolor* were in good numbers. There was not the usual numbers of *Cortinarius archeri*.

Mycena species seen included a few blue-capped *Mycena interrupta* on wood. The slimy yellow stemmed *Mycena epipterygia* had a cucumber smell. Not all species in this species group have this smell. We saw just one young fruit body of *Mycena nargan* which had a white-dotted black cap. Another species seen was *Mycena fumosa* on a log. Its convex cap was a pale brownish-grey. The translucent stem was joined to the log with a white to slightly brown basal disc.

Auriscalpium sp. Photo: Richard Hartland

Green is an unusual colour for *Russulas*. Near Lerderderg Road were some *Russulas* with very mature caps of a dark greyish–green colour. There was a suggestion that these fungi were *Russula iterika*. Another interesting one was *Russula neerimea.* This species had a tacky buff-coloured cap which is grooved and striate near the thin margin. After some close searching we did find some tiny caps of the Earpick Fungus *Auriscalpium sp* (photo left) low down on the Narrow-leaf Peppermint where it has been seen in previous years. The caps were about two mm wide and we needed a hand lens to see the teeth under the cap.

A lot of the *Cortinarius* species could not be named, but we again saw the *Agaricus* 'pink stainer' (*A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi* (2014) by Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky p27). Perhaps the most astonishing were the numbers of groups of large *Hypholoma fasciculare* that were scattered on the ground (on buried wood) throughout the foray.

Thanks to the photographers - John Eichler, Pat Grey and Richard Hartland.

Les Hanrahan

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY
15 JUNE 2014
Jehosaphat Gully, Kinglake

Vegetation - Eucalypt Forest dominated by Mountain Grey Gum *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* and Messmate *E. obliqua* with Rough Tree-ferns *Cyathia australis*.

On this foggy day we were pleased to welcome 19 members of the Kinglake Landcare Group to our foray. We found a bright colourful display of fungi: red, orange, yellow, green/blue, indigo and purple.

The tiny red Ruby Bonnet *Cruentomycena viscidocruenta* (photo p 8) (with the long name) (Fungimap Target species,

(Continued on page 8)

glistened on the litter at the side of Lavers Track. This fungus has a slimy, blood-red translucent-striate cap with a darker centre and glutinous deep red stem. It is quite common in metropolitan parks and bush-type gardens. Further around the track was a clump of red-orange coral clubs *Clavaria* sp. which could have been *C. miniata* or *C. corallinorosacea. C. miniata* grows to 100mm, has fruit-bodies that are simple or sparsely branched, flattened to broadly flattened or grooved, and spores that are subglobose. Characteristics of *C corallinorosacea* include the height to 50 mm, simple, smooth cylindrical fruit-bodies and a white powdery bloom of mature spores that differentiates the stem and fertile top section. Ed Grey did further research and microscopical work and found that our specimens had smooth clubs with no evidence of grooving or flattening, and ellipsoid-shaped spores which were characteristic of *C. corallinorosacea.* However, they had not developed the white bloom and so showed no demarcation between the stem and fertile club. In the field the fruit-bodies need to be looked at carefully to distinguish between the two species.

Cruentomycena viscidocruenta Photo: C. Ferguson

The Orange Peel Fungus, *Aleuria aurantia*, was found on the ground at the edge of the picnic area. This cup fungus likes disturbed sites and its wrinkled, smooth orange surface is very distinctive. Along the tracks was another eye-catching orange fungus found clustered on small pieces of wood – the Eye-lash fungus *Scutellinia scutellata* (photo right), individual caps only grow to about 5mm and have long black hairs around the margin of the orange cups, hence the common name. These fungi are saprotrophic. This is what Jurrie Hubregtse had to say in the *The Fungi CD: Fungi in Australia* [CD-ROM] 3rd edition**: "**Saprotrophic fungi (from the Greek sapros, "rotten" and trophe, "food") obtain their nutriment by breaking down dead organic matter. Nearly all forms of dead organic matter, such as wood, leaf litter, and organic material in soil, dung, dead animals and other fungi, just to name a few, can be broken down and digested by fungi. Fungi feed on and recycle approximately 85% of the carbon from dead organic matter, the remaining15% being shared between bacteria and animals. When fungi break down and digest dead organic matter they release the locked up nutrients back into the environment, making them available to other living organisms - a process vital to maintaining the health of ecosystems around the world. Although saprotrophic fungi are essential for the wellbeing of the environment, they can cause economic harm when they attack goods such as leather, fabrics, foodstuffs and wood products." Just one very young fruit-body of the Vermilion Grisette *Amanita xanthocephala* was seen growing on the ground, it's orange universal veil still intact. As the fruit-body matures the orange cap expands and the veil remains as flat patches on the cap and an orange rim on the bulbous stem base.

Scutellinia scutellata Photo: Pat Grey

Around the edge of the picnic area were large groups of the yellow, leathery Earthballs, *Schleroderma cepa*, some even pushing up through the compacted area beneath a picnic table. On the outside the skin was slightly tessellated. The skin splits into recurved lobes at the top to reveal the grey/mauve spore mass which is then dispersed by wind and rain (or by humans kicking the fruit-bodies). Jurrie Hubregtse explained that these were in a mycorrhizal association with trees, ie fungal hyphae are in contact with the plant roots, and through this contact the fungus receives carbohydrates (sugars) and other essential nutrients from the plant - maybe as much as 10% to 30% of the food produced by the plant. This is not an insignificant burden on the plant, but we must remember there is no such thing as a free lunch. The fungus must do its share of the work. In return the fungus is able to extract water and minerals such as nitrogen and phosphorous from the soil, and passes these through to the plant. Mycorrhizal fungi also protect the plant roots from drying out during drought and defend the plant against attack by pathogenic fungi and micro-organisms. In Australia's harsh environment, with its nutrient-poor soils, mycorrhizal relationships are considered essential for the survival of both the plant and fungus. In contrast to this large round leathery fungus, along

(Continued on page 14)

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group: On Saturday 12th July a small group led by Bernie Mace braved the sleet and snow in Toolangi to look at the magnificent Mountain Ash forests along Dunstans Track, the Yea Link Rd ancient tree and the beautiful rainforest at Wirra Willa. We also observed the destruction of the forest by VicForests for Reflex paper at the log landing site for Rusty Coup, a stand of trees containing 101 hollow bearing trees. We also witnessed a coup which has been unsuccessfully regenerated on Blowhard Rd and a recent blackened coup on Hardy Creek Rd.

On Thursday 17th July, David Cameron presented on Conservation status of the Victorian flora: how to do assessments and case studies, an introduction to threat assessment using IUCN categories and criteria. This is the current conservation status for Victorian flora: 45 extinct, 723 critically endangered, 408 endangered, 443 vulnerable, 160 near threatened, 108 data deficient and 529 least concerned taxa.

Fauna Survey Group: The speaker at our July meeting was Mark Antos from Parks Victoria. Mark told us about a trip that he made to Equatorial Guinea as a volunteer. He explained the difficulties of working in a dictatorship where photography is restricted and the physical problems of working in an area without many roads and where all one's equipment has to be moved by boat.

The Island of Bioko which is off the coast of mainland Africa was where the study took place. On the southern end of the island was the Scientific Reserve of Caldera San Carlo. The main points of interest were the primates of which there were five species, with many other creatures like deer, frogs and birds adding to the count of animals in the area. Mark also went into the problems of the current fad for bush foods taking its toll on the local fauna populations. A very interesting insight into working in another environment.

Another good result from our Grampians survey, which pleased the Rangers, was the discovery of Brush-tailed Phascogale hairs in one of our hair tube samples.

Fungi Group: At our July meeting, Richard Hartland, who travels widely and records many interesting fungi species, treated us to a visual feast of about 200 different fungi that he has found growing in the Surf Coast Shire (Anglesea area). The variety of fungi in his presentation was amazing, and included many species that the rest of our group had never seen.

Juniors' Group: Our July meeting was well attended with three first time families. Sue Bendel, vice president of Friends of the Leadbeater's Possum, spoke to us about this Victorian endangered marsupial, the locations they are found and what is being done to help them survive. Sue brought along taxidermied George for us to see (we couldn't believe just how tiny he was!) and merchandise was sold to raise money for Leadbeater's Possum recovery work. A special exhibit on the night was Nora's Rainbow Lorikeet (a birthday gift—see photo left) who sat quietly on her shoulder all night.

What looked like being a low turn out for a cold wet evening at Moonlit Sanctuary, ended up being a large group of 19 of us, plus a family of 5 added by the sanctuary to boost our numbers. Our lovely guide first introduced us to the resident carpet python that most children had a turn holding. We looked at the various other amphibians and reptiles in the visitors centre. My favourite was the beautiful Knob-tailed Gecko pair. She then took us around the various enclosures and explained each animal as well as their own personal stories. We saw many active nocturnal animals and got to feed many of them by hand or watch them eat from troughs. We saw Tiger Quolls; Bettongs, Dingos; Tasmanian Devils; Yellow-bellied, Feather-tailed and Sugar Gliders; Koalas; Wombats; Kangaroos and Wallabies; Tawny Frogmouths; Corellas; Cape Barron Geese; Barn and Powerful Owls; Fat-tailed Dunnarts and Spinifex Hopping Mice.

Thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 244

Hazel & Edward Brentnall
Andy Brentnall
Margaret Corrick
Bill Fenner
Ray Power
Margaret Brewster
Keith Marshall
Joan Broadberry
Pieter Boschma
Sheina Nicholls

Day Group

Volcanoes and Heritage of Western Victoria and the Kanawinka Geopark.

Speaker: *Bernard Joyce, School of Earth Science, University of Melbourne*

Bernie Joyce gave a presentation to the July meeting of the Day Group on the Kanawinka (*Land of Tomorrow),* Geopark. Firstly, some general observations. The Kanawinka Geopark is part of a larger volcanic area known as the Newer Volcanic Province of South-eastern Australia. During the past five million years over four hundred volcanic cones and maar craters erupted across Western Victoria and adjacent South Australia. Mount Gambier maar erupted only 5,000 years ago. The extent of the Newer Volcanic Province (NVP) is evident from the map below, which depicts the volcanic centres of the NVP and also illustrates the concentration of maar craters in the south. The Kanawinka Geopark contains about one hundred of these volcanoes, including most of the maar craters. It includes Colac, Camperdown, Tower Hill and Mt. Gambier.

The Newer Volcanic Province of South-eastern Australia is one of the most closely studied of the world's young basaltic monogenetic lava fields. In addition, for over 30 years, the National Trust and others have worked on preserving and interpreting its landscapes. An application was made to UNESCO in December 2006 and their inspectors visited in July 2007. In 2008 The UN declared part of South-west Victoria as a globally significant geological area**.** The Kanawinka Geopark is the first geopark in Australia and the 57th in the world to be recognised by UNESCO. A geopark is significant for both its geological and heritage features. Bernie spoke about both.

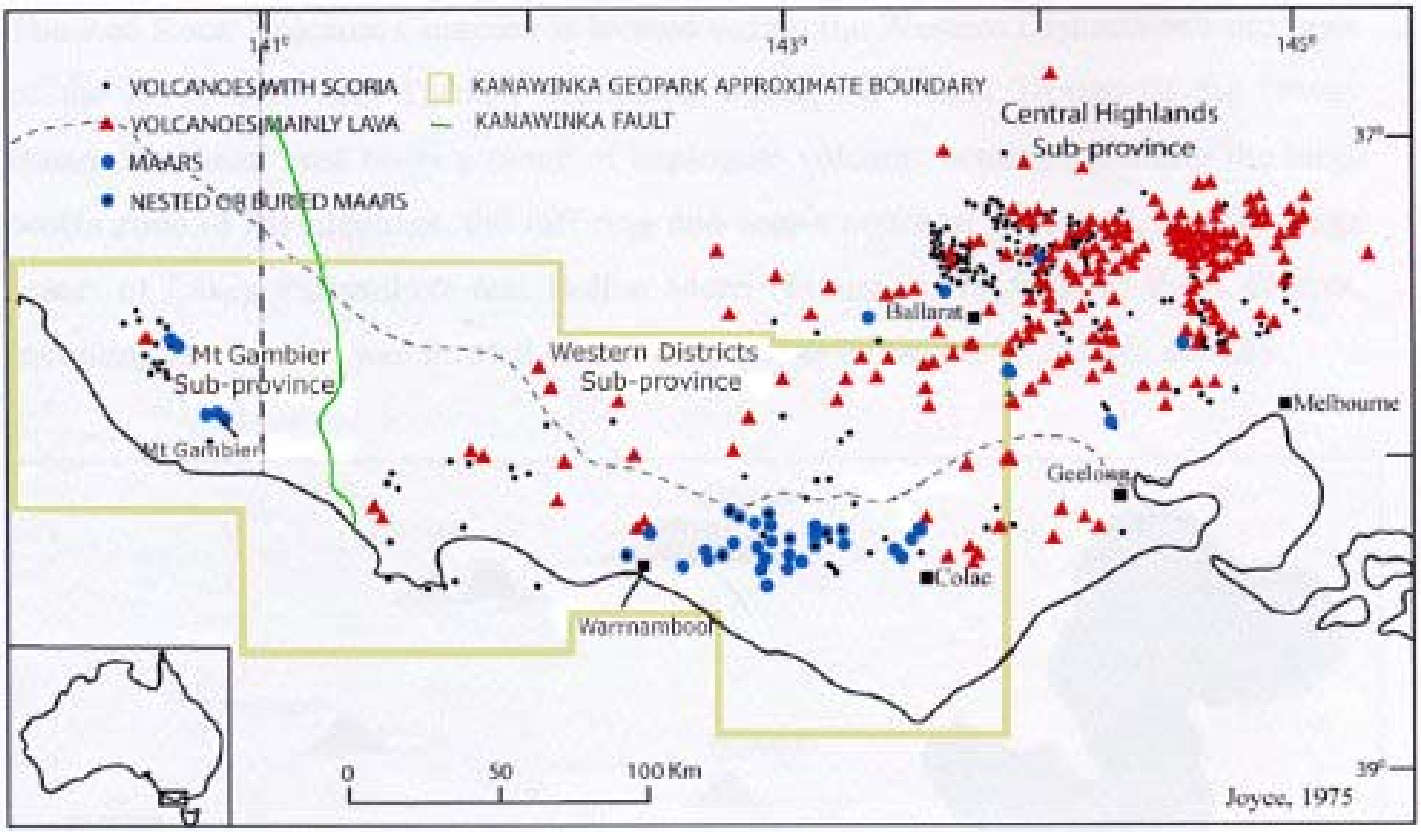
Four types of volcanic formations were identified within the Geopark:

- scoria cones
- lava shields
- maar craters (often lakes)
- lava flows and lava caves

We were led through many of the volcanic features found in these four types of formation, often being referred to the work of the explorer Thomas Mitchell and the artworks of Eduard von Guerard, to gain an historical perspective. In 1836 Thomas Mitchell was the first to recognise, sketch and map the locations of volcanoes and lava flows across the Western Plains. Von Guerard executed many fine landscape paintings in the area. By using both historical and contemporary images, Bernie was able to clearly illustrate many of the changes that have occurred.

Mt Elephant is an example of a scoria cone. Von Guerard painted and sketched it, interestingly revealing a sparse tree cover. Mt Napier, a lava shield was sketched by Major Mitchell in 1836 and later painted by von Guerard. Tower Hill is a nested maar. It features a deep circu-

(Continued on page 11)



MAP OF NEWER VOLCANIC PROVINCE SHOWING VOLCANIC CENTRES AND BOUNDARY OF KANAWINKA GEOPARK DEPICTED AS A YELLOW-GREEN LINE. (BLACK PRINT VERSION)

(ADAPTED FROM JOYCE 1975 © MAC WEB SERVICE 2012-2013)

(Continued from page 10)
lar crater formed some 25,000 years ago and is one of the largest maars in the world, formed when a hot rising basaltic magma came into contact with the subterranean water table. The violent explosion that followed created the funnel-shaped crater which later filled with water to form a lake and the islands that can be observed today. It was famously painted in 1855 by von Guerard, with the artwork becoming a guide to its revegetation over a century later. Lakes Gnotuk and Bullen Merri were painted in 1857 and 1858 respectively. Maar lakes such as this rely on groundwater seeping into the lake and have no outlet. As a result evaporation has caused Lake Gnotuk to become twice as salty as sea water. The water levels in both lakes have fallen substantially over time. Lake Purrumbete, another large maar lake, in contrast, contains deep fresh water as it has both inlet and outlet streams. The lava channels and caves near Mt. Eccles were seen by Mitchell and painted by von Guerard (1886-68). The channel of the lava flow is clearly visible (and signposted) today. The Mt Napier lava flow contains circular mounds or hummocks of rock called "Tumuli" or "Lava Blisters" up to 10 metres high and 20 metres in diameter, rarely found in volcanics of the world.

The volcanic landscape can be linked to archaeology, history, art, literature and music in numerous ways. Examples have already been given of Major Mitchell's explorations and Von Guerard's paintings. The indigenous heritage includes a complex aquaculture of Aboriginal fish and eel traps and the remains of stone houses in the stony rise flow landscapes of Budj Bim (Mt. Eccles). Post contact settlement is evident in historic 'bluestone" (basalt) houses, bridges, and churches and many stone walls. Mt. Noorat featured in the work of author, Alan Marshall. In November 2003 *Music on the Mount* was held at Mt. Elephant.

The establishment of the Kanawinka Geopark is important for tourism in the area. A Volcanoes Discovery Centre has been established at Penshurst and a Geotrail has been developed, highlighting more than 60 features within the geopark. Bernie kindly distributed copies of the brochure to us. New reserves have been developed at Mt. Elephant and Mt. Rouse and there have been improvements to interpretation at other sites.

Finally we were presented with three commonly held beliefs about our local volcanic areas:

- Western Victoria is the third largest lava plain in the world
- Mt. Sugarloaf is one of the only three perfect volcanic cones in the world
- Young volcanoes such as Tower Hill are dormant and may erupt again one day

Bernie then proceeded to dismantle them. Firstly, Western Victoria is not the third largest lava plain in the world. Volcanoes of the small, monogenetic, area type are common and many such areas are comparable in size with, or bigger than, western Victoria. There are also many other types of volcanic areas which are many times larger. Secondly, here are many volcanic cones like Mt Sugarloaf in the world. Finally, each local volcano only erupted once for a relatively short time and will never erupt again. Overall our volcanic province is dormant and further volcanoes may erupt but they will be at *new* eruption points.

This was a fascinating and comprehensive presentation and my brief summary does in no way do it justice. On behalf of the Day Group, I would like to, once again, express our thanks to Bernie for such an interesting talk.

Joan Broadberry

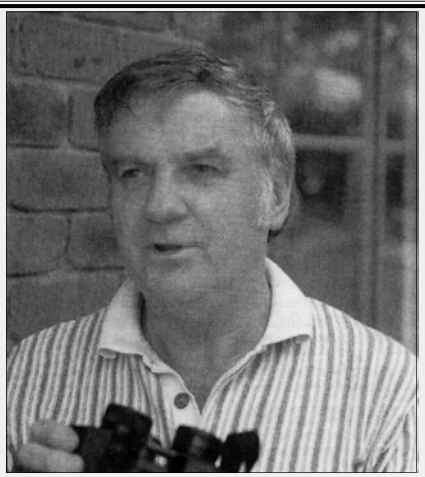
Vale

Ken N G Simpson

1938 – July 2014

Well-known and honoured birdwatcher Ken Simpson has died at the age of 76. His passion for birds began early in life and he joined the Bird Observers Club (BOCA) at the age of 11; a few years later he also joined the Royal Ornithological Union. Through his subsequent studies and writing he was more closely associated with BOCA and was the president of that club from 1996 to 1999. He was also the editor of *The Australian Bird Watcher* for five years from 1977–1981, and later assisted the editors, as a sub-editor for papers on rare birds. Ken was made an Honorary Life Member of BOCA in recognition of his lifelong contributions.

Ken was educated at University High School in Melbourne and was subsequently employed as a Research Technician in a number of institutions in Victoria. At the Antarctic Division of CSIRO between 1963 and 1966, he had the opportunity to work on Macquarie Island, where he was able to observe penguins and other seabirds. He was later employed in technical positions at the National Museum of Victoria, and Monash University. From 1976 to 1992 he was a lecturer in primary science at Victoria College (later Deakin University) at the Burwood and Toorak Campuses, where he specialised in earth sciences, photography, environmental sciences, ornithology research and publication techniques.



Ken's photo (above) appeared on the cover of the *Victorian Naturalist*, Vol. 113, no. 6, which contained a report of his 1996 Australian Natural History Medallion award.

Ken's work on birdlife was published over many years and is both widely known and highly regarded. Simpson and Day's *Birds of Australia* was first published in 1984; the fifth edition of the volume—now entitled *Guide to the Birds of Australia*—was published in 1996. He also published *Birds in Bass Strait* (1972) and was the co-author (with Zoe Wilson) of *Birdwatching in Australia and New Zealand*, in1998. In a monumental effort Ken compiled *'The Bird-Book CD-Rom*: a Bibliography of Bird Books', which was published in 1995. In the first edition, it contained more than 4000 entries. A later edition of the work was issued as Report no. 5 in the BOCA series. Much of Ken's writing in published articles and papers reflects his range of scientific interest and also encourages the wider community to be aware of, and take an interest in the world of birds.

Although most remembered for his work on birds, Ken's interests in natural history were in fact much wider. He joined FNCV in 1994 and immediately active in the club, serving on its council from 1994 to 1996. He was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion in 1996, for his contribution to natural history (ornithology). Appropriately, he had been nominated by the then Bird Observers Club of Australia.

Gary Presland

Geology Group

Mid-palaeozoic Ostracods of Central Victoria, southeast Australia

Tamara Camilleri, Deakin University

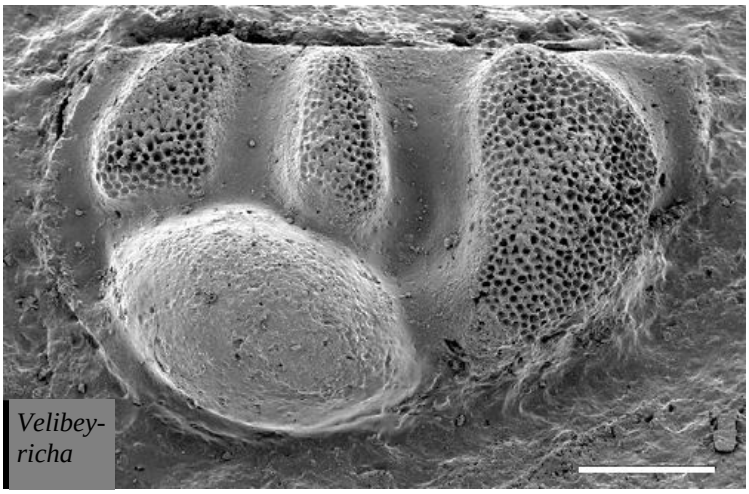
25th June, 2014

Miss Tamara Camilieri who has recently finished her Honours at Deakin University and continued on to a Masters Degree, spoke about her research on Mid-Palaeozoic Ostracoda of central Victoria, southeast Australia. She described ostracods as microscopic arthropods enclosed within a bivalved shell that live in aquatic environments (e.g. fresh water, marine, brackish, etc.) and are sensitive to environmental changes (e.g. pH, temperature, salinity, etc.). They can prey on animals much larger than themselves, many reproduce via cloning and they can survive a desiccation for many years. Their reproductive cycle is also interesting.

Most importantly, ostracods are useful for interpreting palaeo-environments within the fossil record. They are the most abundant arthropod in the record partly because they shed their valves roughly eight times during their life cycle. They first evolved around 500mya in the Cambrian period and in Victoria are most prolific in the Silurian and Devonian rocks, including Kinglake, Lilydale and Woori Yallock.

Tamara used her Honours thesis to compare differences in, and define the age of, ostracod biostratigraphy in two units of rock – the Humevale Siltstone and the Woori Yallock Formation. She found the ostracods were preserved as both internal and external moulds rather than shell material (which is common in younger material).

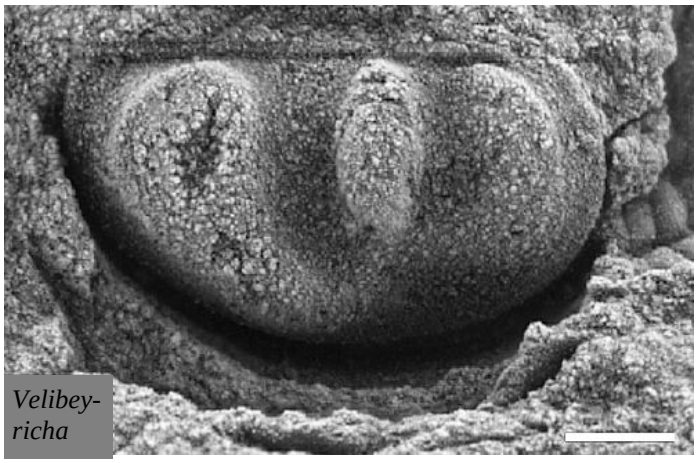
The different methods of examining these two fossil types were discussed from latex casting and scanning electron microscope imaging for external moulds to staining with colloidal graphite and imaging with a stereo microscope for internal moulds.



Velibeyricha

Interestingly, following Chapman's original descriptions in 1903 at least four other palaeontologists have described and named rather different ostracod fossils which were called *Velibeyricha*.

Tamara explored whether these four descriptions were actually of the same species. She examined the populations and developmental age structures of individual ostracods, postulating that if a fossil bed showed adults and older juveniles' shells only, the fossils were likely to be a transported population as different sized valves have different hydrodynamic properties. This also applies to a population of primarily younger juveniles. Whereas if there was a good population distribution of all ages of ostracod species, it was likely to be an *in situ* population. Tamara defined the developmental age of the fossils by looking at both the size of the valves and whether or not the species exhibited sexual dimorphism.



Velibeyricha

The associated fauna found with the ostracods was also of importance. If crinoids and brachiopods were found, the environment was likely to have been deeper marine whereas corals pointed to a shallow marine environment.

Tamara concluded that the historic *Velibeyricha* fossils were actually of the same species, but at different stages of their lifecycle. She also found that there were eight distinct species of ostracod found at all of the sites she studied and found that the environment was shallow marine and influenced by water currents.

The talk was meticulously presented and clearly explained how careful research using a variety of techniques can clarify confusions and build more precise methods for future interpretations. Many thanks to Tamara and best wishes for her future work.

Ruth Hoskin

Garden Working bee

Philippa Burgess, Su Dempsey and Barbara Burns spread two metres of mulch on the FNCV garden and removed garden waste from 10.00 am to 12 pm on Friday 1st August.

Many thanks from us all to this wonderful group of people. Rubbish disposal and mulching were sorely needed to follow up the previous working bees.

Marine Research Group News

Report on MRG meeting Monday 14 April, 2014: Dr. Anna McCallum of Museum Victoria spoke on the topic 'Biodiversity in the deep – the influence of energy on species richness'.

There is much that is not understood about our natural world. Anna posed the question on why some places on earth have so many more species than others. A graph was shown of the number of bird species according to latitude, revealing that most species of birds occur between latitudes 20 degrees south and 20 degrees north, with most around the equator.

Suggested hypotheses for high tropical diversity the availability of habitat area (this is greatest in the tropics); the availability of more radiant energy (sunlight); and that the tropics are more stable regions.

Anna then went on to look at energy balances in the ocean depths. depths. The cold, dark, deep sea provides an ideal environment to examine how energy, temperature and habitat influence biodiversity on large spatial scales.

In the absence of sunlight for photosynthesis, animals are reliant on energy descending from the surface above in the form of particulate organic carbon (POC) flux. The available energy declines with depth as organic matter is re-mineralized and consumed in the water column.

A graph of gastropod species diversity versus depth was displayed, showing peaks at about 2.5—3 kilometres in depth which fell off on either side of this depth range.

Benthic infauna provides a model system for understanding patterns of biodiversity through quantitative analysis of samples. A slide showing a benthic grab-sampling device illustrated how such samples may be obtained. A graph was shown of species richness versus silt diversity and displayed a roughly linear correlation.

Anna then spoke about the Southern Surveyor Survey of the Western Australian Continental Margin (conducted in 2005 and 2007). This survey saw quantitative benthic samples on a scale not previously achieved in the southern hemisphere. Latitudes sampled were from about 13°S to 35°S, and depths from 100 – 1000 metres. Research questions of interest relate to whether there are patterns of biodiversity related to depth or latitude, and whether there are environmental drivers for diversity patterns (eg. sediment size, energy availability). A number of Museum Victoria scientists formed part of the identification team. Some of the crustacean & worm results are shown below:

Taxon	Individuals	Families	Species
Ostracoda: Podocopida	68	7	26
Ostracoda: Mydocopida	356	7	60
Amphipoda	551	20	126
Isopoda	448	29	127
Tanaidacea	745	25	284
Cumacea	277	5	86
Decapoda	66	18	36
Leptostraca	80	2	3
Polychaeta	660	12	57
Totals	**3251**	**125**	**805**

Impressively, 94.7% of these species were new to the Australian fauna and probably to the world fauna.

A graph of species count versus latitude and depth was shown. Results from Ningaloo (approx. 22 degrees south) versus Cape Mentelle (approx. 34 degrees south) showed that Cape Mentelle has greater species diversity at shallower depths (but no samples deeper than 500 metres were taken here, making comparison with Ningaloo at such depths impossible).

Species diversity correlated positively with net availability of energy (food) and negatively with depth. Other influences on diversity included latitude, temperature and substrate parameters.

Anna then spoke about climate change. Climate change and ocean acidification are expected to modify biogeochemical parameters with global ocean productivity estimated to decrease by 6.3%. Effects on particulate organic carbon flux to the seafloor are predicted to be of much greater magnitude; particulate organic carbon flux to the seafloor at 1000 metres may be reduced by as much as 40% by the end of the century.

We thank Anna for her very interesting and informative talk, and for providing her powerpoint presentation to enable compilation of this summary.

Report on MRG field trip to Point Roadknight, Angelsea, Saturday 8 February, 2014: : Although productive, this area (exposed high energy reef with relatively few loose rocks) was not as rich as those seen on preceding days. This concludes the reporting on the extended trip to the Angelsea region.

Reports on MRG extended excursion to the Balnarring region. Point Leo, Western Port Bay, Wed. 5 March, 2014: This very nice locality of semi-protected basalt reef provided some interesting records. The chitons *Stenochiton pilsbryanus* and *Cryptoplax iredalei* were numerous. *Callistochiton antiquus* was also present. Interesting gastropods included *Naricava vincentiana*, a *Mitrella leucostoma* (the '*dictua*' form), the eulimid *Melanella* cf. *mayii* on its holothuroid host *Lipotrapezia vestiens*, and the pyramidellid *Turbonilla* sp.

Mitrella leucostoma, Pt. Leo, Vic. 5 March, 2014. Photo: P. Vafiadis

A variety of crustaceans including the hermit crab *Pagurixus handrecki* were present, and John Eichler found two superb *Paranepanthia grandis* seastars (shown below - photo: P. Vafiadis) that exercised the cameras of all present. Further reports will follow.

Platon Vafiadis

(Continued from page 8)
Zibby's Track we saw a single small bright yellow club of the coral fungus *Clavaria amoena* which can grow to 100mm tall but is only very thin.

Dense green/blue Tunbridge Discs *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* were growing on a small piece of branch. At first only the blue-green stain colouring the wood was seen, then at the side of the wood were some very small young discs. The discs are smooth and blue-green and the underside and short stem are a paler colour. The stained wood produced by this fungus was used as a veneer inlay on furniture known as 'Tunbridge ware'. Peter Johnson has written an article about New Zealand (including some Australian) *Chlorociboria*. He found that there were a large number of species, but that they could be grouped into two clusters – those that stain the wood and those that do not.

Purple *Ceriporia purpurea* – this polypore is easily recognized because of its deep purplish flat patch of pores. There are 3-4 pores per mm and the margin is usually a sterile, white, minutely tomentose band, and less than 1 mm wide. I had not seen this species before, but was able to recognise it in *A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi* (2014) by Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky p 204.

There were other colours of fungi. We started the foray looking at the large colonies of brown ones growing in the mulch in the picnic area. The slimy brownish cap, yellowish towards margin, was covered with darker brown fibrillose scales and the dull brown spores had caught in the brown fibrils on the lower part of the pale stem. These characters plus its habit of growing close together in mulch identified it as *Pholiota communis*. In the same area I was also surprised to see two species of gold-capped *Gymnopilus* ssp. growing in the mulch (usually they are found growing on fallen logs, tree trunks and stumps, as we saw them along the track). The larger ones were *G. allantopus* recognised by the 'stitching' (white fibrils) around the margin of the caps and the silky white fibrils on the stem. The smaller ones (caps to 20mm) were *G. eucalyptorum*. The small size and slightly off-centre, tomentose stem are characteristics of this species.

In another interesting gilled fungus, the young specimens had a dark brown-violet shallow-parabolic, slimy cap which dried out from the margin to become cream (photo 6). The gills of the young cap were covered with a membranous veil, which later formed an evanescent ring on the stem - or the remnants remained attached to the cap margin - and the spores were brown. At home, the sample showed a dark brown spore print. These characteristics identify it as an *Agrocybe* sp. The grey Toothed Jelly *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum* (Fungimap Target species, found near the base of a standing trunk were old and had lost their teeth (some of our foraylem!). However, Reiner Richter went further into the bush and found one with teeth-like projections. Throughout the foray we saw masses of sterile stipes of *Mycena cystidiosa* weaving through the litter, but none of the fruit-bodies were seen. This species has a brownish cap, often with purplish tints and with a long thin stem. It is probably the tallest of the *Mycena* species.

A big thank you to Tim Connell and the Landcare Group for providing pizzas for lunch.

Thanks also to the photographers: John Eichler, Claire Ferguson, Pat Grey,and Carol Page.

Pat Grey

From the Office..

Very little news t from me his month

The only item that would help save money in the office would be some donations of photocopying paper. Recycled preferred.

Many thanks for your constant generosity to the Club.

Wendy Gare

Field Nats News 245

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