



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No.249

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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February 2015

From the President

Dear Members, welcome to the new year and the February 2015 Field Nat News. It seems like such a long time ago since I wrote my last blurb, in fact, it was 2 months ago. Many things have happened since then, including the Biodiversity Symposium and Club Christmas Party, not to mention family get togethers over the silly season, changes in the State Government and the Australians winning the cricket series against India (a bit of personal bias there).

Biodiversity Symposium - "Farming and Conservation"

The 2014 symposium was again an interesting and educational event focussed on the theme of Farming and Conservation. The six speakers - Iestyn Hosking, Ben Carr, Tony Brindley, Jackie Waring, Neville Oddie, and Rob Youl spoke on various topics from, biodiversity, farming in the Wimmera, policies and practices that support conservation, creating and restoring wetlands, new wildlife habitat, farming in the peri-urban area of Melbourne and conservation from a farmer's perspective.

The Sunday involved a fieldtrip to see various re-created wetlands in suburban Melbourne and finished at Ross and Carol Cardile's property "Sarakos Park" at Cottlesbridge. Ross and Carol showed us around their beef cattle farm and discussed their management of pastures, areas of native vegetation and waterways and the partnerships they have established with Melbourne Water, Strathewen Landcare Group and Nillumbik Shire Council.

A big thank you to all of the presenters and the Cardile's for their contribution towards this symposium. Thank you also to Barbara Burns and Su Dempsey for their

work with the catering for the Saturday and to Max Campbell for helping to organise the speakers and for chairing the morning session while I was off at the doctors' getting a splinter cut out of my hand.... but that's another story.

Bird-a-day

I have signed up again for Bird-a-day and this year my aim is to beat the 119 species (6th May) that I set last year. Well my year started off well in WA, and I was hoping to start off with a bang of cockatoos - Carnaby's, Baudin's (Short-billed and Long-billed) and Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Western Corella for the first four days. I was on track, I thought, until I had some photographs looked at by some WA birders more familiar with their black cockies than I. Alas the photos I had taken of what I thought were Baudin's were in fact Carnaby's (see photo below) so I had to settle for a Splendid Fairy-wren on Jan 2.

If you are interested in keeping track of what birds are seen across the world in this "competition" between time, money, location and willing-

(Continued on page 3)



Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*

The deadline for the March issue of Field Nats News will be **10 am on Tuesday 3rd February**. FNN will go to the printers on Tuesday 10th with collation on 17th.

If you find injured wildlife:

Wildlife Victoria

1300 094 535

Help for Wildlife

0417 380 687

Will connect you to your nearest suitable wildlife shelter

PUT THESE NUMBERS IN YOUR PHONE NOW.

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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.

FEBRUARY 2015

Monday 2nd - Fungi Group: No monthly meeting

Tuesday 3rd - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Fauna Surveying in the Gibson Desert.* Speaker John Harris, FNCV President. Contact Ian Kitchen 9795 7423

Monday 9th - Marine Research Group Meeting: Contact Leon Altoff for details 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Saturday 14th to Sunday 15th - Fauna Survey Group: *Checking nestboxes at Long Forest*
Contact John Harris 0409 090 955

Sunday 15th – Juniors' Group Excursion: *Blue Lotus Watergarden, Yarra Junction.* Cost \$16 for adults, children free. Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

Tuesday 17th - Collate FNN: Starting about 10.00 am. All welcome, morning tea supplied.
Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 18th - Microscopy Group Meeting: Contact Philippa Burgess for details 0409 866 389

Thursday 19th – Botany Group Meeting: *The wonderful world of plants: adaptations to environment.*
Speaker Dr Mary Gibson. Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Monday 23rd - FNCV Council Meeting 7.30 pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Wendy, 98779860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 24th – Day Group Meeting: *A visit to the World Heritage listed Isle de Reunion.* Speaker Rob Hamson. Meet at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat, speaker at 11 am. Contact Gary Presland 9890 9288

Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th - Marine Research Group: *Field Work in the Port Welshpool area.*
For details of locations and meeting times contact Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Wednesday 25th – Geology Group Meeting: *The World's Largest Limestone Sheet – History and recent research on the Nullarbor Plain, its Blowholes and Giant Caves and its modern relevance.* Speaker Ian Lewis, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia.
Contact Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; rrajh@optusnet.com.au

Friday 27th – Juniors' Group Meeting: *Gibson Desert Fauna Survey.* Speaker John Harris, FNCV President.
Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairef@gmail.com

Sat 28th to Sunday March 1st - Fauna Survey Group Conference: *Mammals of Victoria Workshop (including field trip).* Contact: Ian Kitchen 9795 7423 or John Harris 0409 090 955 for all details.



The policy of the FNCV is that non-members pay \$5 per excursion and \$2 per meeting, to contribute towards Club overheads. Junior non-member families, \$2 per excursion only.

Members' news, photos & observations

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

Welcome
Welcome

Warmest greetings to these new members who were welcomed into our club at the last Council meeting:

Luke Nicholson, Monarc Environmental Pty Ltd, Anna Martiensen, Virginia Keiller, Annamieka Longmuir, Cassandra Longmuir, Graeme Longmuir, Julia Longmuir, Manu Saunders

WOULD ANYONE VOLUNTEER TO DO SOME EXTRA JOBS AROUND THE FNCV HALL FROM TIME TO TIME?

Help

We have a cleaner who comes fortnightly and does a great job, but there are a few things that still need attention e.g. cleaning out the fridge, washing tea-towels, freshening up the noticeboards, tidying up things left around. Please contact the office if you can help out. Maybe a few people could share the job?

Please contact the office.

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ness, not to mention the birds themselves, you can do so at www.birdaday.net.

To prove it can be done, a retired Australian couple were the only birders from across the world to see a bird-a-day for the entire 2014. Other Aussie birders were among those that saw more than 340 birds for the year.

FSG Mammals of Victoria seminar

The Fauna Survey Group are well into the planning for their two day seminar on "Mammals of Victoria" in late February, Saturday 28th and Sunday March 1st. So far 12 of Victoria's and Australia's mammalogists and up and coming researchers have confirmed that they will be presenting at this weekend (see the flyer on page 9. As a special bonus, there is an optional fieldtrip to Mt Rothwell Sanctuary on Saturday evening to see the breeding program there and go on a spotlight walk in the predator-proof enclosure. A bbq tea and bus travel is also included.

As this is likely to be popular, especially the fieldtrip, it is advisable to register early. Forms will be available from the office (email or pick-up) or can be downloaded from our web page.

This seminar is a fund-raiser for the FSG to purchase equipment, cover ethics approval costs etc. I would personally like to see the other SIG's have similar seminars/

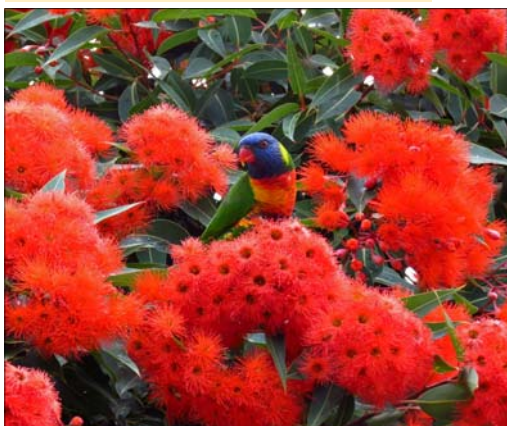
workshops to help raise awareness and fulfil one of the Club's aims and our motto of "Understanding Our Natural World".

John Harris

A few photos and observations from January

A pair of Little Falcons (Hobbies) raised a brood of two chicks in Preston (photo of juvenile, right). It surprised me to realise these small raptors were able to breed successfully in urban Melbourne. I have also enjoyed the blossoming of the commonly planted street tree, *Eucalyptus ficifolia* (photo below) and the many lorikeets and honey-eaters they attract.

Joan Broadberry



Secondhand booksale

**Provisional Date:
Saturday 14th March**

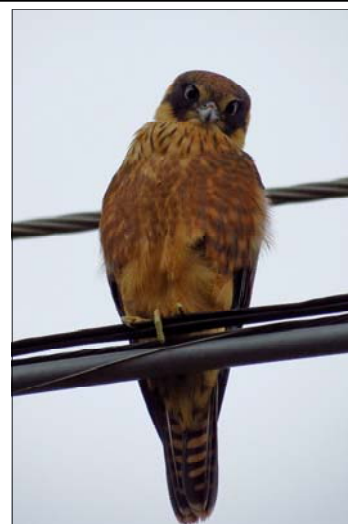
If the booksale is to take place this year, we will need several helpers to commit themselves to the work. It could easily be shared between a few volunteers.

HELP
WANTED

Preparations beforehand will include unpacking and sorting boxes of books, pricing, setting up. Some folk will need to be in attendance on the sale day. All help appreciated.

Unless we have enough assistance, the sale will not go ahead. Please let Wendy know by the end of January at the latest, if you can commit to giving some time to this important Club fund-raising event.

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE BOOKS UNTIL A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER THE SALE WILL GO AHEAD. This will be announced in FNN 250.





Geology Group

Snowball Earth

**Dr. Peter Jackson,
Geologist, former
Director of Geology,
Morning Star Mine**

October 22, 2014

The oldest recognised ice age in Earth's history was the Huronian glaciation during the early Proterozoic era 2400-2200 million years (Ma) ago. Although long and severe, evidence does not support it being global.

In contrast, 'Snowball Earth' was the most persuasive cold period in Earth's history and occurred in the Neoproterozoic era 750-600 million years ago. There were 3-4 glaciations during this era and long periods when the whole Earth's surface was thought to be frozen, leading to the hypothesis of 'Snowball Earth'. Two particular episodes are recognised for their 'Snowball Earth' significance: Sturtian 720-700 Ma and Marinoan 660-635 Ma. [An alternate theory is 'Slushball Earth' where thin layers of watery ice occupied otherwise open seas of the equatorial oceans.]

SNOWBALL EARTH



Evidence for 'Snowball Earth' has been built up from the early 19thC.

Neoproterozoic glacial rocks (tillite) were found in Europe, South Australia and those from Greenland were found to have been deposited at tropical latitudes at sea level. Evidence is widespread and found on every continent. It shows that ice extended from the poles to the equator. American palaeomagnetist Joseph Kirschvink in 1992 introduced the term 'Snowball Earth' to describe these periods when the whole of the Earth's surface froze.

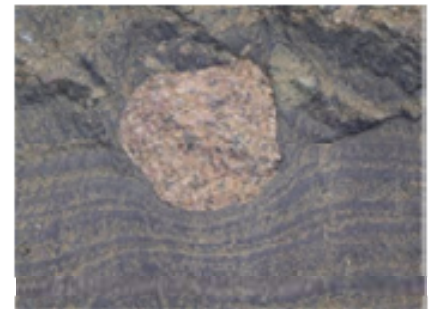
Neoproterozoic glacial sediments



Ice-rafted dropstone, Namibia



Tillite, Canada



Dropstone, Northern Flinders Ranges, SA



Tillite, Flinders Ranges, SA

Peter then posed the questions: What scenario could produce conditions that caused the Earth to completely freeze and why hasn't the phenomenon occurred more frequently?

Mikhail Budyko (USSR) and Michael Sellers (USA) in 1960s used scientific modelling to demonstrate a combination of low atmospheric CO₂ and low solar input would lead to cooling of the Earth's surface and ice would start

to advance beyond polar regions. When ice advanced to within 30° of equator, a positive feedback mechanism called "ice-albedo feedback" occurred which increased reflectiveness and led to further cooling in a runaway process with the whole Earth freezing.

So, what evidence was provided for such cooling of the Earth? According to astronomers the Sun's radiation was weaker at the time. A decrease in greenhouse warming occurred due to depletion of atmospheric methane following the 'Great Oxygen Event' (whereby cyanobac-

terial photosynthetic activity resulted in increased O₂ in the atmosphere) and there was a draw down in atmospheric CO₂ due to decrease in volcanic activity. The configuration of the continents was probably a significant factor. Another possibility was the high obliquity of the Earth's axis.

Peter then detailed some of the evidence, including carbon isotope ratios (C¹³ and C¹²) in sediments

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above and below glacial deposits whereby C^{13} negative spikes indicated the glaciations. Banded iron formation (BIF) is linked with ocean oxygen levels; during 'Snowball Earth' episodes ocean oxygen levels were depleted and BIFs were not formed.

Sturtian and Marinoan sediments are globally distributed. Post 'Snowball Earth' phenomena include deep flooding of previous shallow water shelves and 'super greenhouse' effects.

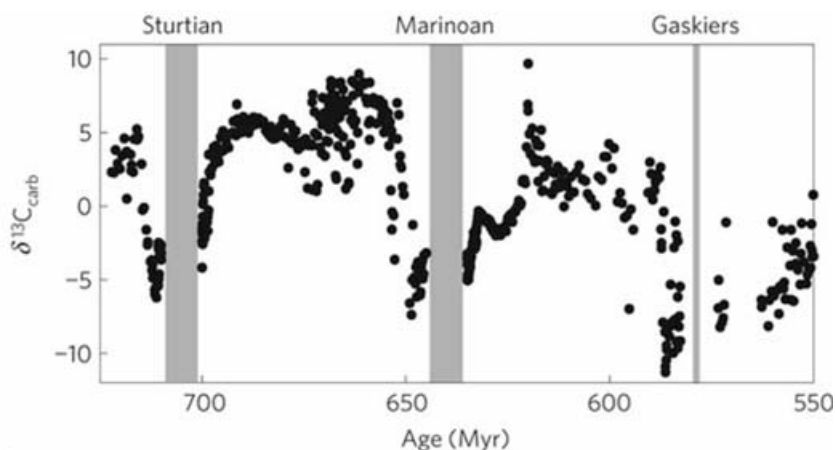
Carbonate sediments (dolomites and limestones) immediately overlie Neoproterozoic glacial sediments. These are called cap carbonates and have been called a 'Snowball Earth' enigma. Peter explained the processes whereby these cap carbonates could acutely and rapidly be formed post 'Snowball Earth'.

During 'Snowball Earth' how did life survive? Although there was a marked decline in eukaryotes (organisms that have cells and a nucleus), several situations allowed life to survive: The ocean did not freeze to the sea floor and light could still penetrate if the ice was less than 2m thick, as in narrow equatorial zones. Hydrothermal vents and springs existed; as could polynyas (open patches of water). Psychrophiles (cold-living organisms, e.g. bacteria, discovered in polar ice fields) can thrive at low temperatures ($-20^{\circ}C$ to $+10^{\circ}C$) and use photosynthesis or chemoautotrophy for energy.

Peter concluded his talk by citing and rebutting arguments put forward against the 'Snowball Earth' theory, with support for the theory coming from an ever increasing amount of evidence.

Kaye Oddie

Carbon-13 isotopes in Late Neoproterozoic rocks



GEOLOGY COMMITTEE 2015

Interested persons are invited to join the Geology Group Committee to help organise speakers for meetings, excursions and FNN reports. Present member, Kaye Oddie, is standing down from the beginning of 2015.

Please contact Ruth Hoskin (9878 5911) or Kaye Oddie (9329 0635) if you would like to contribute to the future FNCV Geology Group as part of this committee.



Thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 248

Margaret Brewster
Keith Marshall
Sheina Nicholls
Ian McDonald
Joan Broadberry
Barbara Burns
Ray Power
Andy Brentnall

Good Will Wine – fundraiser

Goodwill wine is a fundraising website, which offers Charities and not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to raise money through wine sales. Simply go to the website: www.goodwillwine.com.au or call them on 03 5348 2848 and order either half a dozen or a dozen bottles of wine. Most of the wine is sourced within Victoria, Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula etc, with the rest coming from elsewhere in Australia.



For every dozen bottles sold the Club will receive \$20.00 (\$10.00 per ½ dozen). The wine comes with a 100% money back guarantee and will be delivered to your door. These bottles of wine, with our FNCV label, would make a great gift and are a wonderful way to advertise the Club

Since we started our relationship with Goodwill Wine the Club has received \$750 from sales of our FNCV labelled bottles.

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 249

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

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



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialists in Nature Tours since 1986

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



Sri Lanka Wildlife, History and Culture

18 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Colombo 16th March 2015
Experience the exotic birdlife and natural riches of this enchanting island.

South West Endemics Birding Tour

8 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Perth 9th May 2015
Australia's South West region is considered an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) by Birdlife International, the region has over 280 native bird species found here, 12 of which are endemic.

Pilbara Reef and Ranges Expedition

15 Day Camping tour – Departs Perth 11th April 2015
This trip provides a great opportunity to experience the natural history highlights found at the Ningaloo Reef, Aboorhos Islands & Karijini National Park.

South Australian Outback Expedition

16 Day Camping Tour – Departs Adelaide 4th May 2015
Join us as we return to some of the Lake Eyre Basins most spectacular outback locations and experience the wildlife found that is found in this arid zone region.

Eastern and Southern Kimberley Expedition

12 Day Camping Tour – Departs Kununurra 17th June 2015
Highlights include Purnululu National Park - Ramsar listed site, Lake Gregory– Wolf Creek Crater–Keep River National Park and an Morning Birdwatching Cruise on Lake Argyle.

Kimberley Discovery

15 Day Camping/Accom Tour – Departs Broome 13th June 2015
Enjoy a wonderful outback experience as we discover the Kimberley's wildlife, spectacular outback scenery, and many wonderfully refreshing waterholes as we Explore Purnululu N.P, the many gorges of the Gibb River Rd, El Questro and Mornington Stations.

Western Explorer

13 Day Camping Tour – Departs Newman 11th August 2015
Highlights – Karijini N.P, Mt Augustus and Kennedy Ranges.
This trip is designed to coincide with the northern wildflower season and provides the opportunity to explore the wonderful Karijini, Mt Augustus and Kennedy Range National Parks.

Rudall River Expedition

14 Day Camping Tour – Departs Broome 30th July 2015
Join us as we head to the very remote, harsh, yet beautiful Rudall River National Park, situated approximately 400km east of Newman in Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert. This is truly one of the most remote wilderness areas in the world.

W.A.'s Mid West Wildflowers

10 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Perth 5th September 2015
See botanical hot-spots north of Perth during wildflower season. The trip covers a diverse array of landscapes with the farm lands of the wheat belt, the station country around Mt Magnet and Yalgoo before covering the highlights of the Kalbarri National Park and the northern sandplains around Eneabba, Badgingarra and the Mt Lesueur National Park.

Helena Aurora Ranges and Great Western Woodlands

15 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 19th September 2015
Join us and experience the features of the world's largest temperate woodland, including the historic woodlines (where timber cutters operated from 1899 to 1964) and the Helena Aurora Ranges.

Lorna Glen and Canning Stock Route

11 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 22nd August 2015
Join us as we explore the remote DPaW controlled Lorna Glen Station North East of Wiluna, Western Australia. The station supports an extraordinarily rich array of flora and fauna with more than 480 vascular plant species and 220 vertebrate species identified. There is also a strong Aboriginal connection with Sydney Head/Imbin Rockhole and we will spend time looking around this area.

Silk Road (Part 2)

27 Day Fully Accommodated Tour – Departs Van 20th September 2015
Join our good friends Jeremy Perks and Jan Barrie from Global Gypsies as they follow in the footsteps of the early wandering merchants bringing the spices, fabrics and hand made goods from China. They will bring this vibrant history to life on "Silk Road Safari – Part 2". The group will travel overland for two weeks to the Turkish coast, spend a week sailing through the Aegean islands on a private 32m yacht, stay two nights on Mykonos and conclude the journey in Athens. En-route they will visit markets, mosques, museums, temples, World Heritage sites, legendary ruins and scenic attractions and learn about the fascinating history of the region.

Contact us for further information on these and other natural history expeditions.

Ph: 1800 676 016 or 08 9330 6066 Web: www.coateswildlifetours.com.au Email: coates@iinet.net.au

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group: On the 9th November a small group met at a Trust for Nature property in Blacksands Road, Three Bridges to do a vegetarian survey. We surveyed the drier part of the property and even found some Bird Orchids. We plan to return in April to survey the wet gully.



At our November meeting, Professor Tim Entwisle presented on *Entwisleia bella*, Hobart's Wollemi Pine. Tim began by speaking about how Wollemi Pine was a new genus of a very rare plant found in only one small location. He then showed us the tree of life and pointed out where the algae sat. Then he spoke at length about Australia's freshwater red algae and how they grow adhered to rocks by a holdfast in fast flowing mountain streams. These red algae appear green when growing in fresh water. 95% of red algae are marine. When a new red algae was recently discovered off the coast of Hobart it was put in a new family. Like the Wollemi Pine, *Entwisleia bella* is very rare, has only been found in one small location, and is in a new genus, hence described as Hobart's Wollemi Pine.

Fauna Survey Group: Bay of Islands Coastal Park Survey November 1st – November 4th 2014

Eleven members of the Fauna Survey Group and three very enthusiastic and energetic youngsters, spent the Cup weekend surveying for Southern Brown Bandicoot and other fauna within the Bay of Islands Coastal Park, near Peterborough, and on an adjacent private property where a sighting of a Long-nosed Potoroo has been recorded.



We thank Parks Ranger Megan for her friendly guidance and assistance with maps, local knowledge, and shovels, and also locals Bill and Wendy for allowing us access through and onto their property.

100 Elliott traps, including 10 large ones, 10 cage traps and two pit-lines were deployed throughout the area, with varied results. The sites along the densely vegetated Great Ocean Rd yielded 17 healthy Bush Rats, *Rattus fuscipes*, two Swamp Rats, *Rattus lutreolus*, and evidence of Blue Tongue Lizard and a Tiger Snake. Two Swamp rats were trapped in Elliott traps in the north east section of the Park.

Sally Bewsher



Beautifully-striped Tiger Snakes were observed at all sites; spotlighting revealed many Ringtail Possums, rabbits, a Black Wallaby and 4 species of frogs, *Lymnodynastes peronii* and *dumerilii*, *Crinia signifera* and *Litoria ewingi*. One Southern Brown Tree Frog, one Striped Marsh Frog and an Eastern Three-lined Skink caught in the pitlines. A skull and bones of an Eastern Grey Kangaroo were also found. Three species of microbats, two *Flasistrellus tasmaniensis*, (photo left), two *Nyctophylus geoffroyi* (Lesser Long-eared) and one *Chalinobus morio* (Chocolate Wattled Bat) were caught in harp nets

It will be interesting to see what is captured on the 17 remote cameras left at the sites for the next three weeks. Watch for the next report!

35 species of birds were recorded at the camp site, the most significant and exciting being a pair of Rufous Bristle Birds! 23 species were recorded at the Bay of Islands National Park sites and 26 on the private property. These numbers included 18 species different from the home camp site at Port Campbell.

Despite gale force winds along the Shipwreck Coast for the first two nights and no bandicoot or potoroo sightings, we all had a most enjoyable time!

Juniors' Group:

At October's meeting we had Kinglake Ranger, Tony Fitzgerald, speak to us about the Kinglake region and the effect the fires had on that community. He showed us a 10 minute DVD of a mosaic project that had been put together as a post-fire community engagement with a local primary school. We will visit this area with Tony in December.



The November camp to Mt. Baw Baw on 7th - 9th was a great weekend of weather and fun with friends exploring. We had a group of 41 staying in a lodge in Baw Baw village

(photo right) where we based ourselves for walks on the Saturday, spotlighting that night (where a family spotted a group of Lead-beaters Possums!) and we had a visit from the Baw Baw Frog research team on the Sunday. On Sunday a few families returned home via Mushroom Rock walk (Southern Baw Baw) and Walhalla.



From the Office.....



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Happy New Year to all members! I'm back from an amazing holiday in Myanmar and Laos - both countries are a curious mixture of new and old: solar panels and i-phones being used by people living in huts with dirt floors, doing open air cooking over a fire. The people are very friendly and welcoming, and particularly in the villages in Myanmar, white people are still a curiosity and quite often we were asked to pose with the locals for them to take our photos! I would thoroughly recommend a holiday in both places.

The office is now open for business for 2015 and the first Council meeting is coming up. Thank you to Barbara for monitoring the emails for me while I was away.

Items needed for the kitchen are "ordinary" teabags and as usual biscuits. For guidance I can tell you that I've noticed that the cream and chocolate biscuits are gobbled up, but the plain ones linger till sometimes they even get stale and have to be thrown out.

Thank you for your donations, which over the course of a year save the Club quite a lot of money.

Regards, **Wendy Gare**
Administration Officer

Club Christmas Party

The Christmas party was, as usual, well attended by young and old alike. The major raffle was drawn on the night with John McCallum winning first prize of the Optic Central Voucher, which I believe he spent buying a microscope.

Many thanks to those that donated prizes for this major raffle - Andrew Isles bookstore, The Good Guys, Wendy Clarke - *Master Your Camera* and those people added small items to the naturalist hamper. Thanks must also go to the people who donated prizes for the raffle on the night, I think from memory we had over 25 individual prizes.

Special thanks to Su Dempsey who put in the many hours of work needed to organise and sell raffle tickets and obtain the great prizes.

John Harris, President

Photos: J. Broadberry



Congratulations to the winners of the FNCV fund-raising raffle.

1st Prize: \$300 voucher from Optics Central Superstore
John McCallum

2nd Prize: five Natural History books donated by Andrew Isles
Pat Crowley

3rd Prize: \$75 voucher from Wendy Clark, "Master Your Camera"
Brendan Murphy

4th Prize: \$50 voucher from the local Good Guys
Andrej Hohmann

5th Prize: Hamper of field-naturalist friendly goodies.
Heather Eadon



The raffle tickets sold raised \$1644 less expenses of \$109 making a net profit of \$1535





The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

“Understanding Our Natural World”

FAUNA SURVEY GROUP – Workshop

“MAMMALS of VICTORIA”



Venue: FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn Sat 28th February and Sun 1st March

9.30am—4.30pm

The Fauna Survey Group of the FNCV presents some of Victoria's and Australia's leading mammalogists and up and coming researchers in a seminar looking at mammals of Victoria.

The two day program highlights a variety of mammals on the Saturday and concentrates specifically on some of Victoria's threatened mammal species on the Sunday.

The seminar also includes an optional field trip to Mt Rothwell Sanctuary at Little River, on the Saturday evening, to experience first-hand the threatened species breeding program at the Sanctuary. This trip includes a barbeque dinner and spotlight walk.

Note: MORNING TEA, LUNCH and AFTERNOON TEA included each day

Speakers include:

Peter Menkhorst
Dr Lindy Lumsden
Assoc Prof Graeme Coulson
Dr Euan Ritchie
Dr Dan Harley
Andrew Murray
Dr Rodney van der Ree
Dr Pam Whiteley



Topics include:

Bats
Predators
Leadbeater's Possum
Southern Ark Project
Squirrel Glider
Wildlife Diseases
Southern Brown Bandicoot
and more. . .



For More Information or to Register, contact: John Harris 0409 090 955 or FNCV Office 03 9877 9860

www.fncv.org.au

www.facebook.com/groups/191099460990243/

The costs will be:

- **FNCV members**, \$55 for one day, \$95 for both days.
Concession members, \$45 or \$80.
- **Non-members**, \$70 or \$130. Non-member concession \$60 or \$110.

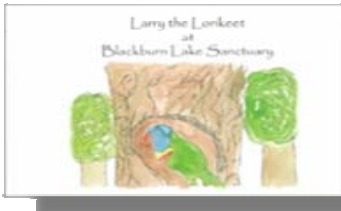


The bus trip to Mt. Rothwell will be \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members. (No concession for bus trip)
Places are likely to fill fast, especially for the field trip. It is advisable to get your registration forms in early. These will be available from the office (email or pick-up) or can be downloaded from the FNCV webpage.

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (February 2015)

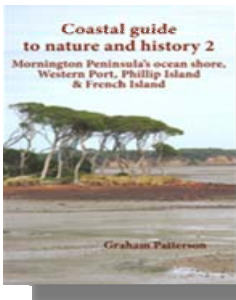
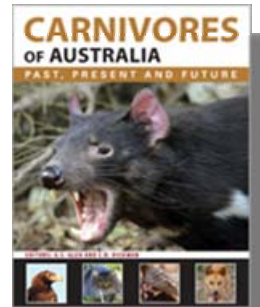
Below is a range of titles that are relatively new to the shelves of the bookshop. Leading up to Christmas we had record sales, so a big thank you to all who bought books in 2014. I hope you enjoyed them or those that were given as gifts. The book shelves at the club rooms are brimming with new and old titles. There are many specialist subject books that are mostly not available to view or purchase from the shelf, but I am happy, where possible, to order them in. One such area of interest formed the basis of the recent FNCV Biodiversity Symposium; "Farming & Conservation". A small selection of books were compiled into a catalogue that can be found on the website. These books still able to be ordered in.

Please send me an email to, bookshop@fncv.org.au to submit your order or make an inquiry. Happy reading!



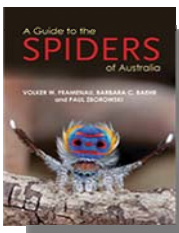
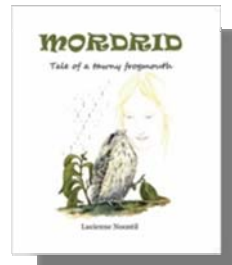
Larry the Lorikeet (at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary) Larry the Lorikeet loses his home to tree felling and needs to find a new one. Join him on his journey to find a safe place to live at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. Supported by The Rotary Club of Forest Hill and created by students of Box Hill High School, this book was launched in August 2014. *Price \$15*

Carnivores of Australia: Past, Present and Future (ed. Glen & Dickman) explores Australia's unique predator communities from pre-historic, historic and current perspectives. It examines the debate surrounding how best to manage predators to protect livestock and native biodiversity. Readers will benefit from the most up-to-date synthesis by leading researchers and managers in the field of carnivore biology. *RRP \$89.95, Members \$72.*



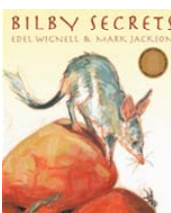
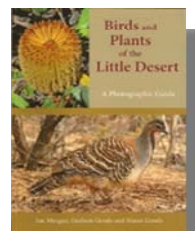
Coastal Guide to Nature and History 2: Mornington Peninsula's Ocean shore, Western Port, Phillip Island & French Island (G. Patterson) This book, like Graham's previous one, is a guide for readers who are curious about what they see along the coast. What are the animals and plants that live along the shore? How were the rock layers in the cliffs formed? What was this place like 150 years ago? Who used this decrepit jetty?. *RRP \$30, Members \$23.*

Mordrid: Tale of a Tawny Frogmouth (L. Noontil). Mordrid is not your every-day bird. She survives a car accident but is left blind. How will she eat? How will she fly? Where will she live? She will never again live a normal Tawny Frogmouth life in the trees. But fate is on her side and she is adopted by some wonderful carers. This is a tale of survival and triumph, teaching and learning, compassion and friendship. *RRP \$17.95, Members \$14.50*



A Guide to the Spiders of Australia (Framenau, Baehr & Zborowski) is a definitive guide, written by three experts in the field & offers a window into a fascinating world. The book is beautifully illustrated and deals with Trapdoor Spiders and Modern Spiders. Within each section, there is a chapter on each of the 80 or so spider families that occur in Australia. *RRP \$45, Members \$36*

Birds and Plants of the Little Desert (Morgan, Goods & Goods) is a photographic guide and includes over 950 photos depicting more than 200 birds and 430 plants that live in the Little Desert. This beautiful book would be a great companion for anyone visiting the Little Desert and also other similar communities. *RRP \$50 Members \$40.*



Bilby Secrets (Wignell & Jackson) is a narrative non-fiction picture book in a paperback edition. The sun beats down on the red earth of the Australian desert. It is a hostile place to live in, but deep underground, a mother bilby and her baby share the secrets of surviving in this harsh environment. Short-listed for the Eve Pownall and Environment Awards for Children's Literature. *RRP \$16.95 Members \$13.50.*



Fungi Group

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY, STARLINGS GAP, 20 JULY 2014

Starlings Gap, near
Powelltown

Wet Eucalypt Forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest Gullies.

We were able to enjoy a cool dry day after a cold snap earlier in the week that saw snow fall down to 400m. Evidence of the snow was in small patches of ice along the track to Ada Mill, fallen shrubs and bent Tree-ferns. However, the abundance of ferns, mosses and great forest made for a wonderful walk. A large number of mature fungi fruit-bodies had gone to mush but some young ones were appearing. Most of the fungi were growing on vegetation (saprotrophic).

growing on a stump and the peppery taste was almost instantaneous.

The group was then forced to look for 'minutiae' with frequent stopping and looking. One little group of three horse-hair *Marasmius* (*M. crinisequi*) was found growing on dead leaves and identified by the thin, black 'horse-hair' stem and the cap with a dark 'pimple in the dimple' at the centre of the cap. The yellow cushions of *Hypocrea victoriensis* with their dark ostioles needed a hand lens for identification. Several *Lachnum* species were found – *L. aff pteridophyllum* with yellow disc and hairy outer cup and stem on dead Rough Tree-fern (*Cyathia australis*) fronds, the all-white *L. virgineum* on dead Soft Tree-fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) fronds, and an unknown white species growing on dead stems



Fabrae rhytismoidea Photo: John Eichler

Large fungi were scarce and it was good to find a *Ganoderma australe* with a diameter of 250 mm and white pores which stained brown when scratched. On a dead Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) was a group of four *Gymnopilus ferruginosus* with red-brown caps, wet and shining from the recent rain. The Peppery Wood Coral *Artomyces austropiperatus* (*Clavicornia piperata*) with its characteristic 'turret' tips to the branches, was

of Tall Sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma elatius*). As there were such a large number of these small white *Lachnum* sp. Jurrie Hubregtse was able to make a collection.

Small convoluted examples of the truffle *Hydnoplicata convoluta* (*Peziza whitei*) (photo page 12) were growing on the sheltered bank at the side of the track. The new name 'convoluta' perfectly describes it.

This is the first time we have seen it since 2012 at the Cathedral Range. Bougher & Syme (*Fungi of Southern Australia* by N Bougher and K Syme 1998) p 102 write that "This is amongst the most common truffle-like fungi in southern Australian forests and woodlands. Its fruit-bodies occur just below or on the surface and resemble cup fungi that have become greatly inrolled and convoluted.has a fruit body structure in between that of cup-shaped, above-ground fruit bodies and that of completely enclosed below-ground fruit bodies".

Paul George pointed out a colony of the very distinctive lichen, *Baeomyces heteromorphus*, with very small (less than 5mm) pale pink stalked lobes growing on a green bed of lichen and algae. The lobes are sometimes a little darker than the thick stalks which become narrower towards the base. The very similar *Dibaesis arcuata* has a longer narrower pale stem and pinkish-orange heads (apothecia).

Two small (to 15mm diameter) *Lentinellus pulvinulus*, growing on a dead branch, were immediately recognised as a *Lentinellus* by the serrate gills. The widely-spaced, irregularly serrate gills, the smooth brownish cap and the absence of a stem distinguished this species from *L. castoreus* which has a hairy cap and crowded gills, and *L. tasmanicus* which has a stem.

John Eichler's sharp eyes spotted *Fabrae rhytismoidea* (note that Index Fungorum gives the spelling as *Fabrae rhytismoidea*, cf. *F. rhytismoidea* in Fuhner) (photo left) on the upper surface of the leaves of the prostrate daisy, Mountain Cotula (*Leptinella filicula*) (see A field guide to Australian fungi by Bruce Fuhner 2011 no 489). This is a new species for our group. At first glance the fungus looked like a brown mark on the leaf, but under the hand lens the colony of discs could be made out. The species is restricted to the Mountain Cotula. In addition John also pointed out the uncommon Tree Geebung *Persoonia arborea* that is restricted to Victoria, mainly in moist mountain gullies (at 500-1300 m) from Toolangi to Baw Baw.

Further along the Ada Mill track, John found some tiny white clubs growing on an algal mat, on the trunk of a living wattle tree and thought that despite its small size (length c. 2 mm), is most likely *Mul-*
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

ticlavula mucida. Bruce Fuhrer commented "I first saw it in the Otways in the 1960s on stream-side algae-coated rocks and since then in Tasmania. Most uncommon". Virgil Hubregtse said that 'R.H.Petersen (in 'Notes on Clavarioid Fungi.VII. Redefinition of the *Clavaria vernalis* – *C. mucida* Complex', The American Midland Naturalist vol. 77 no. 1 pp. 205-221) and G&R p. 167, give a size close to 10 times this. However, our fruit-body and spore sizes (spores c. 7 x 3 um) agree with measurements given for this fungus in a paper by Andrus Voitek and Esteri Ohenoja, titled 'Genus *Multi-clavula* in Newfoundland and Labrador' which you can find on the Internet by Googling the fungus name'. John also saw the whitish conidial (anamorph) stage of *Biscogniauxia nothofagi* and he also sent in a second photo of this stage taken at Marysville. He discussed these finds with Bruce Fuhrer and confirmed that the whitish patch was the conidial stage which precedes the black teleomorph stage. The conidial stages of *Biscogniauxia* spp can be brown or light coloured powdery patches. Ed Grey had only seen this species as black patches (teleomorph) erupting through tree bark.

In the afternoon along the Smythe Road track to Big Pat's Creek, minute yellow pointed cones of *Neobarya agaricicola* (*Barya agaricicola*) were found on an old agaric, probably a *Galerina* sp. The cones are smooth and firmly gelatinous, and cover the stems and caps of their host. The agaric was growing on the trunk of a living eucalypt.

Paul George pointed out the 'Hedgehog Fungus' *Hydnum repandum* 'dark form' which had a brown cap, over the apricot teeth. Usually we see this species with a pale cap. Dr Tom May had said that the dark form was uncommon. A distinctive *Hygrocybe*, *Hygrocybe austropratensis*, is somewhat heavier than most *Hygrocybes*. Cap and stem are pale orange, and slightly powdery, while the gills are slightly paler and deeply decurrent, thick and forking at the margin.

The piece of wood with thick yellow strands running along is not, as we thought it might be, *Rhizochaete filamentosa* (A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi (2014) by Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky, p210). After doing microscopical work on it Virgil Hubregtse had this to say: 'the yellow skin with ropey structures on the fallen branch is not *Rhizochaete filamentosa* because it had no real structure (just a lot of

tangled hyphae), cf. Cunningham's description (as *Peniophora filamentosa*), and it is full of clamp connections, which *R. filamentosa* isn't supposed to have. *Rhizochaete filamentosa* forms a flat patch of yellow with additional thick yellow rhizomorphs.

Thanks to the photographers for their contribution: John Eichler, Paul George, Pat Grey, Ed Grey.

Pat & Ed Grey



Hydnoplicata convoluta

Photo Pat Grey

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