



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No.250

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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March 2015

From the President

Hello members. Welcome to the March Field Nats News. Time seems to fly at this time of the year, I often get home from work and think that there is time to work in the garden after dinner and having eaten, look out the window to find that it is dark outside. I personally blame Channel 9 and 10, 7 not so much, for their "naturalist" programming involving ducks, invertebrates and more recently Silver Gulls. That is the Test, ODI and Big Bash Cricket!! I was at the MCG, cheering on my stars while Kathy cheered on the Perth Scorchers, when the gull got struck by the ball. I, along with the 33500 others, was amazed when it came back to life. Not only are they a pest, but it seems like they are made of strong stuff....

Talking of cricket, I made my long-awaited comeback after 6 years on the sidelines recently and have felt very sore for it, (I must be getting older :-). It has been a blessing in disguise though as I have picked up a number of my bird-a-day species while at training or playing. Also of note was a little sign in the garden at the Kalorama Memorial Park where I played my last game, talking of the Stinkhorn fungi growing in the garden mulch. I just had to get out and have a look and take a snap (see below). Don't let it be said that my interests only lie with vertebrates!



Clathrus archeri Photo: J. Harris

There are two major events coming up which I would like to talk about. Firstly the FSG "Mammals of Victoria" two day seminar and the fund raising second-hand book sale.

Second-hand Hand Book Sale

The FNCV is again having a second-hand book sale on March 14th at the hall. This has been a very good fundraiser for the Club in the past and we hope that it will be again. There is more information on p 11 of this newsletter. I encourage people to have a look on their shelves for books that may be surplus and donate them or volunteer to help with getting the stall set up during the couple of days prior, or both.

Mammals of Victoria Seminar

February 28th, March 1st

We have some of Australia's best known and highly regarded mammalogists such as Lindy Lumsden, Peter Menkhorst, Euan Ritchie, John Woinarski and 12 others speaking across the two days. Saturday is devoted to the more common mammals, while on Sunday we highlight some of Victoria's threatened species. There is also a field trip to Mt Rothwell Sanctuary on Saturday evening to look at their breeding program and for a spotlight walk around their predator proof enclosure.

Places are filling very quickly, so if you are interested in attending, I suggest you don't wait too long to register. Please download the full program and registration form from our website fncv.org.au or contact the office for a copy to be mailed out.

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

Potential New President Sought

Finally as I announced last year this will be my last year as President, so the Council is seeking possible a candidate to take over at the AGM in May. If you know of someone who you think would fit the bill, please contact me or ask them to contact me to discuss this role. It is the most important position on Council and one that we cannot have vacant come the AGM. Please give this some serious consideration for a possible candidate.

Regards to all, John Harris

Index	Page
From the President	1
Calendar of Events	2
Members' news, photos & observations.	3
Geology Group News: <i>Bioluminescence of the Gippsland Lakes.</i>	4
Index to FNN 238-248	5,6-9,10
Future of the Day Group; Library News; Juniors' Group News: <i>Meeting—Sean Dooley.</i>	7
Day Group News: <i>An intro to Invertebrates with ref to Leaf Litter Fauna.</i>	8,13
Applications to Enviro. Fund; Second-hand Book Sale	11
Fungi Group News: Wanderslore Sanctuary.	12
Marine Research Group News	13



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

March 2015

Saturday 28th (February) - Sunday 1st—Fauna Survey Group Seminar, *Mammals of Victoria*. See p1 this newsletter, p9 FNN 249, contact the office or visit the FNCV website for full program and registration details—fncv.org.au

Monday 2nd – Fungi Group meeting: *An Introduction to Fungi*. Speaker: Ian Bell is a regular presenter and even if you only have a casual interest in Fungi you will find his talk fascinating. Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 3rd - Fauna Survey Group meeting: *Fauna Survey at Port Campbell and Bay of Islands*
Speakers: Su Dempsey and Ray Gibson, FSG/FNCV. Contact Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury6@gmail.com

Saturday 7th to Monday 9th - Fauna Survey Group, survey: *Baluk Willam Reserve, Belgrave South*.
Contact Su Dempsey 0437 172 333

Monday 9th - Marine Research Group. No Meeting: *Labour Day*

Saturday 14th—FNCV second-hand book sale 9 am—4 pm. All details page 8. Contact Su Dempsey 0437 172 333

Sunday 15th – Juniors' Group. Excursion: *Phillip Island Adventure*. Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairf@gmail.com.au

Tuesday 17th—Collate FNN. Starting about 10.00 am. All welcome morning tea supplied.
Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 218

Wednesday 18th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group meeting: Please contact Max Campbell for details—0409 143 538; 9544 0181; mcam7307@bigpond.net.au

Thursday 19th – Botany Group meeting: Speaker: Daniel Ohlsen, *Diversity and biogeography of Victorian ferns*.
Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd - Fauna Survey Group, survey: *Camera deployment at Wilson's Promontory*
Contact Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury@gmail.com

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: Speaker: John Harris, FNCV president, *Fauna surveying in the Gibson Desert*. Meet at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat. Speaker at 11 am. Contact Joan Broadberry 98461218

Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th - Marine Research Group, field work: *Port Campbell area*. For details of locations and meeting times contact Leon Altoff 0428 669 773; 9530 4180 AH.

Wednesday 25th – Geology Group meeting: Speaker, Dr Gary Presland: *The Geological Basis of Melbourne's History*.
For more details contact Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; rrajh@optusnet.com.au

Friday 27th – Juniors' Group meeting 7.30 pm: Speaker Dr Tom May, Senior Mycologist at Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, *Fungi*. Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairf@gmail.com.au



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:

Heather Phillips, Lestyn Hosking, Ester Schouten, Brandon Koot, Helen Maynard, Daniel Maynard, Greg Maynard, Kelly Maynard, Colin Maynard, Wallace Holcombe, Colleen Nazareth, Sharron Pfueller, Nicholas O'Brien, Emily Scicluna, Swinburne University, Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Congratulations to Robin Drury photographed at Braeside Park in late Nov 2014, having accepted an award to the FSG for work done over the last two + years with Parks Victoria on the 'Eastern Fauna Focus' Project. Robin oversaw the project, putting in many long hours of work. The certificate for outstanding volunteer service is now hanging in the conference room.

Sally Bewsher

TRACE FOSSILS AT BEAUMARIS

In his book *Coastal guide to nature and history: Port Phillip Bay* (2013) Graham Patterson mentions the fossil burrows at Black Rock Point with a photo on p. 86. Eric Bird, in his review of Graham's book in *The Victorian Naturalist* (Oct 2014) also mentions the burrows. Graham was kind enough to put me in touch with Professor John Buckeridge of RMIT University who has co-authored a paper naming the fossil burrows *Ophiomorpha beaumarisensis* (*Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* Vol. 124, Issue 3, 2012). John generously gave of his time to show me the various trace fossils (also known as ichnofossils) along the shore. *Ophiomorpha Beaumarisensis* is probably the burrow of a mud lobster. These creatures line their burrows with pellets of mud which gives rise to the bobbly surface preserved in the hard iron mineral goethite.

Rob Hamson

FACEBOOK
We now have 775 people signed up to the FNCV Facebook page. Ian Kitchen has set up the page and regularly posts articles and photos of interest to members and prospective members. Please take a look.



Captions: From top left, clockwise.

1. Reef-like mass of fossil serpulid worm tubes
2. Professor John Buckeridge indicating fossil worm tubes
3. *Ophiomorpha beaumarisensis* - burrows, probably of a mud lobster
4. Location of burrows in Beaumaris Sandstone



Geology Group

GEOLOGY MEETING

November 26, 2014

Bioluminescence of the Gippsland Lakes

Speaker: Phil Hart

Phil Hart is a keen astronomer and astro-photographer, but his 20 years of experience in these fields did not at first allow him to understand the phenomenon of bioluminescence on the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria, the subject of his presentation to the Geology group.

But firstly, how did an astrophotographer become involved in lights closer to the ground? Phil is a leader at Camp Cooida, a camp for teenagers on the Gippsland Lakes and he spends a number of weeks there each summer. In the summer of 2008-9, he was able to observe and photograph a special occurrence of bioluminescence in the Lakes.

The bioluminescence story is a complex one of linked events. It starts in 1889 with the dredging of a permanent opening in the 90 Mile Beach allowing sea water to regularly mix with the fresh water of the lakes. Previously, it was an irregular occurrence when there was a breakout in the sandbar that normally blocked the exit to the sea.



Bioluminescence on Lake Victoria, Gippsland Lakes, time lapse photograph against the night sky, 2009. *Photo: Phil Hart*

Fast forward to the end of 2006 when massive alpine bushfires burnt for 69 days and destroyed over one million hectares. The fires burnt a large area of the catchment of the six rivers that feed into the Gippsland Lakes – the Latrobe, Thomson, Avon, Mitchell, Nicholson and Tambo Rivers.

In the following winter of 2007, a torrential downpour dumped over 100mm rain over many locations across Gippsland. The result was to wash ash and soil, rich in nitrogen and other nutrients, from the burnt areas into the Gippsland Lakes. The torrential rain caused flooding; higher water levels in the Lakes allowed greater sea water entry at the entrance, mixing and increasing salinity in the lakes.

Concerns were held that these combined events would lead to an outbreak of 'blue-green algae' and sure enough, the following summer there was an outbreak of 'algae'. But this was not the usual cyanobacteria phytoplankton, but another phytoplankton called *Synechococcus*, not previously identified in the lakes, but which is found in low concentrations in sea water.

Forward again to the summer of 2008-9. The *Synechococcus* had persisted in low levels though the winter months, but a new microplankton appeared as the summer took hold. This was a dinoflagellate called *Noctiluca scintillans* and appeared as red patches on the water.

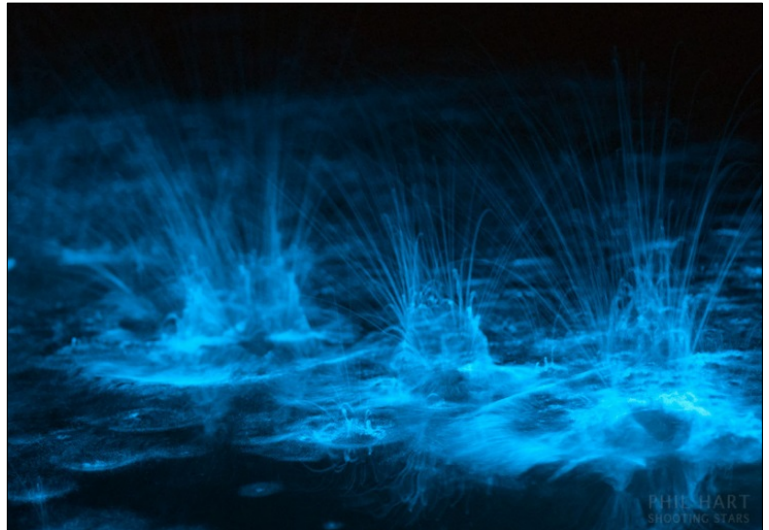
However, at night it put on an electric blue display of vivid bioluminescence. Wherever there was move-

ment in the waves breaking on the shore or ripples, the water glowed brightly. Phil proceeded to show photographs of this bioluminescence and the fun he and friends had playing with the water and bioluminescence and creating special effects and images. His images have received world-wide attention.

During 2009, the Lakes returned to better health and the water cleared as the life cycle of the phytoplankton exhausted the nutrient supply from the sequence of fires and floods that started in late 2006. It may be another lifetime before such a vivid display of bioluminescence is seen again.

We were fortunate we could enjoy Phil's impressive photographs and learn the story behind them.

Kaye Oddie



Bioluminescence fun play on water, Gippsland Lakes, 2009.

Photo: Phil Hart

Thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 249 and prepare the Feb—March 2015 Calendar of Events (COE) for posting

Hazel and Edward Brentnall
Keith Marshall
Bill Fenner
Barbara Burns
Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare

A small but very productive group who finished both tasks by 12.30 pm.

PS. Congratulations to Hazel and Edward on their 60th (diamond) wedding anniversary.

Field Nats News - Index for Issues 238 (February) -248 (December/January), 2014-15*Compiled by Pat Grey**(Reports of Special Interest Group activities (SIGS), are listed chronologically according to FNN issue)*

- ADT Security, Mt Waverley, Smoke Alarms:** credit \$100 to FNCV smoke alarms when other members purchase a system **245:3; 246:3; 248:12**.
 Altoff, Leon: Finds at Shoreham Beach (illus) **239:8**; More on recently collected SA material **247:13; 248:12**. **Photo Credits:** *Depastromorpha* on *Caulerpa brownie*, *Depastromorpha* in petri dish, *Tegulatherpia tasmanica* **239:7-8**; *Trinchesia sororum* **247:13**.
 Antos, Mark: **Photo Credits:** camping at Maringur, Little Pied Bat, White-browed Treecreeper **247:11**.
AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION: Presentation by Dr Bill Birch to 2013 medallionist Marilyn Hewish (illus), report of talk (J Broadberry) **238:12**; Invitation to 2014 Medallion presentation to Dr Tom May 10/11/14 **246:12**; 2014 Medallion presentation to Dr Tom May **248:1**; Congratulations to Dr Tom May – awarded the 2014 medallion **248:8**.
Photos: 2013 Presentation by Dr Bill Birch to Marilyn Hewish **238:12**; 2014 Medallion presentation to Dr Tom May by Gary Presland **248:1**.
 Bewsher, Sally: Exploring Svalbard, Arctic Norway (illus +map) by Sally Bewsher **239:12-13**. **Photos Credits:** Name the bird **239:1** (answer - Little Auk **239:13**); Walrus, Bearded Seal, Polar Bear **239:12-13**.
Biodiversity Symposium: Volunteers needed to help organise **243:1**; Topic: Farming and Conservation Sat 22/11 and Sun 23/11 **245:1&3**; Details and registration **246:4**.
BOTANY GROUP: Reports to Council: South African and Australian plants: mountains, poles and pollinators by Trevor Edwards **241:8**; Managing fire in the Australian Landscape by Dr Tom Duff **242:6; 243:8**; Recovery of the Tall Astelia in Kurth Kiln Park by Jasper Hails **244:8**; Excursion in Toolangi led by Bernie Mace, Conservation status of Victorian Flora by David Cameron **245:9**; Decline of Eucalyptus Camphora at Yellingbo by Dr Joe Greet **247:10**; excursion with Juniors to Toolangi, meeting – use of the Virtual Herbarium **248:9**.
 Bridle Thelma & Phil: Fungi foray report **245:5-6**.
 Broadberry, Joan: **Day Group Reports:** **238:8; 239:12-13**; (illus) **241:6**; (illus) **244:10&12; 245:10-11**; **Reports:** ANHM presentation and talk **238:12**;
 Marine Research - Broome region (illus) **239:7**; Day Group - Hard-core Birding on Ashmore Reef and the Lacepede Islands (illus) **240:7-8**; Day Group - Excursion to Dandenong Ranges (illus) **241:6**; answer to the mystery photo on p 1 **244:7**; Platypus sighting **248:3**.
Photo Credits: ANHM presentation by Dr Bill Birch to medallionist Marilyn Hewish **238:12**; Ashmore Reef -West Island, Long-toed Stint, Birding from a dingy, Birding on a sandbank **240:7-8**; Dandenong Kokoda Track Memorial & members **241:6**; Adriana Simons with orphaned joey **244:10**; Bernard Joyce **245:10**; Sue Bendel with orphan Brush-tail Possum **246:1**; Blue-beard *Pheladenis defomis*, Blunt Greenhood *Ptetostylis curta*, Blue-fingers *Cynaculia caerulea*, Veined Helmet Orchid *Corybas diemenicus*, Early Caladenia *Caladenia Praecox* **246:3**; Presentation to Dr Tom May of the Natural History Medallion 2014 by Gary Presland **248:1**; Platypus sighting **248:3**.
 Burns, Barbara: Garden Working Bee, Thank you 21/6/14 **244:4**. **Photo Credits:** Christmas Party **238:3**; Local MP with council members **240:3**. AGM members attending **242:1**; John Harris presents awards to Sue Bendel and Graeme Lorimer **242:9**; Dr Euan Richie, speaker at AGM **243:10**.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MONTHLY **238:2; 239:2; 240:2-3; 241:2; 242:2; 243:2; 244:2; 245:2; 246:2; 247:2; 248:2**.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 4 MONTHLY (*insert*) Oct 2013 - Jan 2014; Feb - May 2014; June - Sept 2014; Oct 2014 - Jan 2015.
 Campbell, Maxwell: Terrestrial Invertebrate report **241:9-10**. **Photo credits:** Moth larva in litter, Helena Gum-moth, Dark Spotted Tiger Moth, Emperor Gum-moth caterpillar, Cup Moth, Looper Caterpillars **241:9-10**.
 Camilieri, Tamara: Mid-palaeozoic Ostracods of Central Victoria (illus) **245:12**. **Photo credits:** *Velibeyricha* 1, *Velibeyricha* 2 **245:12**.
Christmas Party 2013: photos by Barbara Burns **238:3**.
 Clark, Wendy: Juniors' talk, How to grow your own Australian Orchids (illus) **238:7**; Day Group talk, Across the Nullarbor and back **247:6**.
Photo Credits: Star Orchid, Dendrobium **238:7**; *Kingea* sp. Stumpy-tail Lizard, Spinifex ring, Murphys Haystacks **247:6**.
 Connelly, Christine: *Caught on camera* – using motion sensing cameras for wildlife monitoring (illus) **248:10**. **Photo credits:** Training at Hindmarsh, Common Wombat **248:10**.
 Copley, Martin: vale **245:1**.
 Costermans, Leon: Geology Group report **241:4-5**.
 Cram, Don: Molluscan radulae **239:7-8**. **Photo Credits:** *Janthina janthina* - shell, ptenoglossate radula & close up of teeth **239:8**.
 Dashper, Stuart: Biodiversity in Taiwan **242:6**.
DAY GROUP: Reports of Meetings & Excursions: Survival & re-colonisation following wildfire at Moyston West by Peter Homan (Joan Broadberry) **238:8**; Exploring Svalbard, Arctic Norway (illus +map) by Sally Bewsher (Joan Broadberry) **239:12-13**; Hard-core Birding on Ashmore Reef and the Lacepede Islands (illus) by Joan Broadberry (Joan Broadberry) **240:7-8**; Excursion to Dandenong Ranges (illus) by Peter Fagg & Joan Broadberry; Natural History around Port Phillip Bay (illus) by Graham Patterson (Peter Fagg) **242:7**; Island Hopping in Galapagos Islands (illus) by Lynsey Poore (Joan Broadberry) **243:5&7**; Our Native Wildlife (illus) by Adriana Simons (Joan Broadberry) **244:10&12**; Volcanoes and Heritage of Western Victoria and the Kanawinka Geopark (illus, chart) by Bernard Joyce (Joan Broadberry) **245:10-11**; Mistletoes (illus) by Peter Rogers (Joan Broadberry) **246:6-7**; Across the Nullarbor and back (illus) by Wendy Clark (Joan Broadberry) **247:6**; 'Caught on camera' motion sensing (illus) by Christine Connelly **248:10**.
Photos: Black-winged Stilt, Sand Hopper, Shiny Sand Mat **242:7**; Bartolome Island, Flightless Cormorant, Lava Cactus **242:5**; Mistletoe Bird, Drooping Mistletoe, Tree loaded with Mistletoe **246:6-7**; *Kingea* sp. Stumpy-tail Lizard, Spinifex ring, Murphys Haystacks **247:6**; Training at Hindmarsh, Common Wombat **248:10**.
Reports to Council: Managing fire in the Australian Landscape by Dr Tom Duff **242:6; 243:8**.
DEPI - Fire Management Planning **245:1**.
 Duff, Dr Tom: Managing fire in the Australian Landscape **242:6**.
Environment Fund: Call for Grant Applications and notice for donations **238:9**.
 Eichler, John: Broome and Darwin (illus) **239:8**; **Photo Credits:** *Ophiothrix cf martensi*, *Porpita porpita* **239:8**; *Amarinus laevis* **243:11**; *Paranepanthis grandis* **245:13**; *Cortinarious globuliformis* **245:7**.
 Endersby, Margaret: vale **247:6**.
 Fagg, Peter: Day Group Reports & Excursions: **241:6; 242:7**; Possum versus Raven **248:3**.
FAUNA SURVEY GROUP (FSG): Reports of Meetings, Camps, Field trips, Surveys: Progress on the Eastern Parks Survey **238:7**; Details of events **239:11**; Ecology, behaviour and conservation of Musk Duck by Dr Patrick Guay **240:6**; Volunteering at Yookmurra (illus) (Joan Broadberry) **242:11-12**; Report on Mallee Survey in Yarrara & Mallanbool NCR (illus) by Robin Drury **247:11**.
Photos: Volunteers, old growth Mallee, map, Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat **242:11-12**; camping at Meringur, Little Pied Bat, White-browed Treecreeper **247:11**.

Reports to Council: Progress on Eastern Parks survey **238:7; 239:11; 240:6**; Eastern Parks Fauna Survey - Spot lighting and bat surveys **241:8**; Biodiversity in Taiwan by Stuart Dashper, Eastern Parks Fauna Survey **242:6**; nominated for a Kookaburra Award for "Connecting People & Parks". **243:8**; Survey for Arboreal Mammals **244:8**; Equatorial Guinea by Mark Antos **245:9**; Issues with Victorian Freshwater Fishes by Jarad Lyon **246:5**; Fauna survey in parks and reserves of Eastern Melbourne by Robin Drury **247:10**.

Falkingham, Cecily: A Harsh Summer (illus) (Crested Pigeon) **241:3**; Southern Pygmy Squid (illus) **241:10**; Creating a Bird-friendly Garden (illus) **242:12**; Helmet Shells (illus); Fungi Poem **243:3**. **Photo credits:** Crested Pigeon **241:3**; Southern Pygmy Squid **241:10**; bird by elevated bath **242:12**; Helmet Shells **243:3**.

Ferguson, Claire: Carrajung, Juniors end of year camp **238:7**; thanks for helping with new banner and sign **245:3**. **Photo Credits:** *Phlebotopus marginatus* **243:3**; *Cruentomyces viscidocruenta* **245:8**; *Amanita armeniaca* **247:7**.

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

FNCV Administration: From the Office (Wendy Gare):

Address: **CHANGE OF ADDRESS - PO Box 13, Blackburn Vic 3130 - 238:3.**

Apology: **244:12.**

Bonus membership: Council has decided to discontinue the bonus month's membership **241:12.**

Calendar of events: inclusions needed **240:12.**

Environment Fund: call for donations **239:14.**

Facebook, FNCV: thanks to Ian Kitchen for FNCV Facebook page **239:3**; thanks to Ian Kitchen for maintenance of site **247:2.**

Fax: discontinued 1 August 2014 **242:3.** **FNCV new banner and sign:** (illus) **245:3.**

For sale: Current model Brother Fax 878 **245:3.** **Fund Raising: Good Will Wine:** **240:12; 244:9.**

Give away: Periodicals left over from the Book Sale **241:5.**

Garden crew: Thank you for 21/6/14 (Barbara Burns) **244:4**; Thank you for 1/8/14 (illus) **245:12.**

Hall: Solar Panels credit balance **238:3.**

Membership Fees: new fees from 1/7/14 **244:7.**

Notices: Christmas Raffle - donations needed **246:10**; Fund raising Christmas Raffle **247:1; 248:5**; Christmas party 13 Dec 2014 **247:2.**

Office: Closed 24/9-13/10 2014 **246:10**; Wendy returns from holiday **247:2**; Closed 17 Dec - 12 Jan 2015 **248:5.**

Subscriptions: if paying direct to the FNCV Bank Account include membership number and name **242:3.**

Supplies needed for Hall: **239:3; 240:12; 241:12; 243:12; 245:14; 247:3.**

Thanks to: Helpers who staffed FNCV stall - Australian Plant Expo **247:9**; Helpers who staffed FNCV stall - White Horse Festival **248:3**; Pieter Boschma - repainting the FNCV sign **248:5.**

Volunteers Wanted: to organise the *Biodiversity Symposium* **243:1**; Australian Plants Expo, Whitehorse Spring Festival **243:12**; Eltham Copper Butterfly Festival, Australian Plants Expo, Whitehorse Spring Festival **244:12**; Australian Plants Expo **245:1**; for 'housework at the hall' **246:3**; to sell unwanted FNCV items on Ebay **248:5**; extra jobs around the FNCV hall **248:12.**

Working Bee: Thanks for the help 3/4/14; Help wanted for 21 June 2014 **242:1.**

FNCV BOOK SHOP (Kathy Himbeck): notice on ordering books **238:8**; news and new books **239:13**; new books **240:5**; selected books available **242:5**; selected books available **244:11**; selected books available **245:4**; email address and orders **247:14.**

FNCV COUNCIL:

Annual General Meeting 4 May 2014: notice Special Resolution to Amend the FNCV Constitution (Rules), Invitation to AGM **240:9; 241:12**; AGM plus photo of members attending **242:1**; Minutes of AGM **243:4**; Guest speaker - A PNG Adventure by Dr Euan Richie (illus) **243:10&12.**

Council Members: List of elected Councillors **242:1.**

Nomination form for Council: **240:10; 241:7.**

Notices: Special Resolution proxy voting form for adopting draft rules of FNCV **240:10**; Special Resolution proxy voting form for adopting draft rules of FNCV **241:7.**

News: Smoke detectors linked to the security system

SIGS extracts: **238:7; 239:11; 240:6; 241:8; 242:6&12; 243:8; 244:8; 245:9; 246:5; 247:10; 248:9.**

FNCV Annual Report: available on FNCV web site **244:12.**

FNCV: DEPI - Fire Management Planning **245:1.**

FNCV Environmental Fund Awards: Awards given (illus) (Barbara Burns) **242:9.**

FNCV Grant: Printing FNCV History, photo of Robin Drury and Gary Presland receiving Certificate from Lorraine Wreford of the Local History Grants Program **244:9.**

FNCV MEMBERS: Congratulations to those awarded Long-term Membership at AGM (illus) **242:3.**

FNCV: New sign and banner **245:3.**

FNCV POLICY RE CAPTURE AND HANDLING OF ALL ANIMALS: **238:5; 240:12; 241:5; 242:12; 244:8; 247:11.**

FIELD NATS NEWS:

Advertisements: Kimberley Coast, Kimberley Whale Watching **238:6**; Book - Coastal Guide to Nature and History Port Phillip Bay by Graham Patterson **238:10**; Coates Wildlife Tours **238:11**; Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, calendar of events **240:6**; Invitation to the launch of Jean Galbraith's Biography **243:7**; Photography Expo, Photo and Art Show **244:4**; Photography Expo **245:3**; Coates Wildlife Tours **247:12**; Master your Camera, Andrew Isles, Natural History Books **248:5.**

Advertising Rates: **238:5; 239:11; 240:8; 241:3; 244:9.**

Index for 2013 - issues 227 (February) - 237 (December/January) **239:5-6, 9-10.**

Notices: Dr. Euan G. Ritchie and crowd funding support **231:3**; Juniors' excursion, Melbourne Museum **233:3**; Photo Competition

People's Choice **234:3**; Grey-headed Flying Fox Counts **234:9**; Open Day at Wanderslore Sanctuary 26/10/14 **247:14.**

Thanks to: Collation & labelling team: FNN 237 **238:5**; FNN238 **239:3**; FNN 239 **240:12**; FNN 241 **242:1**; FNN 242 **243:8**; FNN 243 **244:4**; FNN 244 (illus - collator and labelling team) **245:9**; FNN 245 **246:7**; FNN 246 **247:9**; FNN 247 **248:12.**

Editorial & layout team- Joan Broadberry, Wendy Gare, Sally Bewsher: FNN 238 **238:3**; FNN 239, **239:3**; FNN 240 **240:12**; FNN 241 **241:3**; FNN 242 **242:3**; FNN 243 **243:8**; FNN 244 **244:4**; FNN 245 **245:6**; FNN 246 **246:7**; FNN 247 **247:5**; FNN248 **248:12.**

Forster, Joan: vale **246:10.**

Fortington, Wendy: **Photo Credits:** *Marasmius cylindraceocampanulatus* **246:8.**

FUNGI GROUP: Foray Reports: Cambarville 13/4/14 (illus) (Pat & Ed Grey) **242:8-9**; Bunyip State Park, Mortimer Reserve 27/4/14 (illus) (Ed & Pat Grey) **243:6-7**; Gembrook, Whites Corner & Shiprock Falls 11/5/14 (illus) (Ed & Pat Grey) **244:5-6**; The Ada Tree 25/5/14 (illus) (Ed & Pat Grey) **244:6-7**; Grampians Weekend 16-18/5/14 (illus) (Thelma & Phil Bridle, Paul George, Ed & Pat Grey, Virgil Hubregtse **245:5-6**; Blackwood

The Future of the Day Group



On behalf of everyone who has attended wonderful FNCV Day Group presentations and excursions, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Dr Gary Presland for the outstanding effort he has put into co-ordinating this unique section of the Club. As Gary himself quips, “not a SIG (Special Interest Group) but a GIG, (General Interest Group)”. Gary was instrumental, (with Sheila Houghton), in setting up the Day Group, the first meeting being on 24.6.2008. Gary himself was the speaker and 18 members attended. Since then he has arranged the program, chaired the meetings and provided technical support for more than six and a half years. Through Gary’s tireless work, the Day Group has thrived and has become one of the most valued sections of the FNCV.

Gary now feels it is time for him to relinquish this role. For the Day Group to continue a new team must step forward to take up these tasks. The FNCV is a volunteer organisation and its program only takes place through the work of club members. Nothing happens unless we make it happen. For a short time Sally Bewsher and Joan Broadberry have offered to steer the Day Group through its transition to new leadership, but to ensure its long-term future, others must also contribute to the running of the program.

There are four tasks:

- Arranging a program of speakers and excursions for 10 meetings a year. This task is not as difficult as it might seem. Because the Day Group is generalist, it can invite speakers from the other eight SIGs within the Club and, overall, there is a very wide field to draw on.
- Chair the meeting including setting up the hall, putting out morning tea etc. One person cannot always be present, so this should be a shared task.
- Technical support—Gary has generously agreed to continue this role if needed
- Report on the meetings and liaise with the FNCV Council—Joan is willing continue with this job if required

Please give the future of the Day Group serious thought and don’t underestimate what you can contribute. Many of us have been on, or have friends who have been involved in interesting nature-based activities or trips. If you can invite or suggest a speaker, organise an excursion or possibly give a short talk yourself as part of a members’ morning, this would be exactly what we are hoping for. **Please contact Joan 9846 1218, joan.broadberry@gmail.com or Sally 9752 1418 with ideas.**

Juniors’ Group: November Meeting Report - Speaker: Sean Dooley (Birdlife Australia)



Sean has been a birdwatcher from an early age and started viewing them at a swamp in Seaford where he lived. He became obsessed with finding species he hadn’t seen before, which led him to look further from home.

In 2002 Sean set out to break the record for the most birds sighted in a year with the existing record being 638 birds. This journey took him all over Australia (and off shore islands) and he wrote a book about the experience called “The Big Twitch.”

Some of the birds he showed photos of and spoke on were the Golden Whistler (who has a beautiful song); the Spotted Pardalote (who has a spotted head and nests in banks of creeks); the Rainbow Bee-eater; Powerful Owl (who was photographed with a possum he was keeping to eat later); the rare Orange-bellied Parrot (only 60 birds left in the wild); Grey-headed Lapwing (breed in India/China and happened to fly off course and ended up in western NSW where many bird lovers drove 14 hours to see it!).

To see an albatross, Sean went on a boat ride with other birding enthusiasts, in rough seas with people vomiting overboard. He went to remote regions like the Simpson Desert, Lord Howe Island, Christmas Island, swamps in Broome, and succeeded in breaking the record with over 700 birds sighted. He says birding is not a wimpy hobby; it is a hard core sport!

By Louise & Claire



Library News

Library collections now on the website

Readers are reminded that they can now search the library’s collections on the FNCV website. Click ‘About us – Library’ and you will be able to download searchable lists of books, periodicals, maps and photos.

Recently accessioned books:

The following volumes have been added to the Library’s shelves and are available to borrow:

An eye for nature, by Penny Olsen (F758 OLS)

Jean Galbraith, by Meredith Fletcher (921 FLE)

Gemstones in Victoria, by WD Birch and DA Henry (553.8 GEM)

Curious minds, by Peter Macinnes (508.94 MAC)

Recently received periodicals:

As usual, *Wildlife Australia* is packed with interesting items. Issue 51(4) includes articles on the amazing diversity of land snails in the Kimberley, New Caledonia’s ‘Australian’ biota, the impact of fire in inland Australia, the dismal record of Australia’s mammal extinctions and ‘citizen science’.

Fungimap newsletter 53 has a flier about the Fungimap conference in April at Batemans Bay.

The latest periodicals are displayed in a rack in the library. You can borrow periodicals in the rack, as well as previous issues. Don’t forget to fill in the borrowing book.

Gary Presland
Honorary Librarian

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.

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



Day Group

An Introduction to Invertebrates with Special Reference to Leaf Litter Faunae Speaker: Maxwell Campbell

The presentation was supported by numerous high definition photomicrographs, macro images and video.

Biodiversity is a well-used term and in many instances its use does not really take into account that it comprises predominantly invertebrates, plants and fungi. Numerous species of invertebrates can be found in leaf litter, most of them undescribed by science. It is a good example of us not knowing that we don't know or out of sight being out of mind. We are largely unaware of the remarkable complexity of cryptozoic communities living right under our feet in the soil and leaf litter. In reality, the complexity of living things and their mutual interaction is largely unknown and poorly understood. Even when something is thought to be well understood, the story is often found to be incomplete, oversimplified or simply incorrect; often with serious ramifications.



Leaf litter under the dissector

For example:

- Fungi and plant interactions.
- Ecology of host parasite interactions.
- Invasive plants and animals – cane toads, rabbits, deer, blackberries, European wasp and, more recently, Buffel Grass.
- Revegetation, translocation and so-called restoration.
- Use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Use of fertilisers.
- Control of predators.
- Control burning.
- Pest control in general.

- Genetic manipulation.
- Overuse of antibiotics, anthelmintics, antiseptics and detergents.
- The excessive use of plastics.
- Clearing of wetlands.

Leaf Litter is:

- A “sand pit” for invertebrate enthusiasts.
- An indicator of biodiversity and ecological health – the changing ratios of taxa are indicators of change.
- The place where ecosystem nutrients are recycled by fungi, bacteria and leaf litter animals. (Soil building activity - composting).
- Critical to forest health.
- A rich source of food for small vertebrates.
- Cover for macro invertebrates and small vertebrates.
- Variable from site to site in many ways, depending upon constituent vegetation, soils, moisture and climate. It may range from a few mm to many metres in depth. (High complexity and sensitivity).
- It can store many times the amount of carbon actually contained in the vegetation producing it.

Other aspects of leaf litter:

- If present, termites may have a significant impact.
- Thickness is related to productivity.
- The level of moisture varies considerably and leaf litter helps retain moisture and retard runoff.
- Has seasonal and geographical variations in terms of both composition of species present and total biomass.
- The various faunae comprise both permanent and temporary inhabitants. Adult stages may move out of the litter for dispersal and dietary needs. (Some spiders live in leaf litter as juveniles then move to the shrubs and trees as adults.)

The animals found in leaf litter:

- What is terrestrial? – most need a lot of moisture at least some of the time.
- A host of unseen animals underfoot – beyond census.
- An assemblage of invertebrates known collectively as

‘cryptozoa’.

- Most are under 1mm in length.
- Often termed primitive, they are nonetheless highly adapted to their niche. They may resemble earliest terrestrial invertebrates as we may imagine them.

Generalised leaf litter statistics

- One acre of moist soil and its litter may contain over 550kg of earthworms (= one steer)
- One m² of moist soil (10cm deep) and its litter may contain over 500g of invertebrates (excluding protozoa) or many tens of thousands of animals.
- One m² soil and litter in arid South Australia may have up to 4,500 animals comprising mainly mites, Collembola (*Folsomides sp.*, *Iso-tomidae*) and a few crustacea. Some springtails can survive dry conditions for months.

A limited range of Phyla mainly:

- Protozoa
- Platyhelminthes
- Nemertea
- Nematodes and other pseudocoelomates
- Annelids
- Molluscs
- Arthropods



A flatworm. These are aggressive predators which are even known to prey on spiders in their burrows.

Concluding observations. Leaf litter:

- Is a diverse and complex system of many organisms.
- Involves many complex interactions.
- Is an effective and important carbon store.
- Builds soil and influences its fertility – recycling of nutrients.
- Its organisms mix the soil & aerate it.
- Attracts smaller vertebrates that feed on the invertebrates and help aerate the soil.

(Continued on page 13)

1/6/14 (illus) (Les Hanrahan) **245:7**; Kinglake, Jehosaphat Gully 15/6/14 (illus) (Pat Grey) **245:7-8&14**; Toorongo Falls 4/5/14 (illus) (Ed & Pat Grey) **246:8**; Mt Worth 8/6/14 (illus) (Pat Grey) **246:9-10**; Baldry Crossing, Greens Bush 22/6/14 (illus) (Ed & Pat Grey) **247:7-8**; Cathedral Range 29/6/14 (illus) **247:8-9**; Woodlands Historic Reserve 6/7/14 (illus) (Pat & Ed Grey) **248:6**; Badger Weir 13/7/14 (illus) (Pat & Ed Grey) **248:7-8**.

Photos: *Phylloporus rhodoxanthus*, *Entoloma* sp. **242:8**; *Asterophera mirabilis*, Sally with Crochet **243:6**; *Bolletellus emodensis*, *Banksiamyces macrocarpa* **244:5**; *Calostoma fuscum*, *Beenakia dacostae* **244:6**; *Hypocrea gelatinosa*, Slime mould *Physatum viride*, *Cortinarious globuliformis*, *Auriscalpium* sp., *Cruentomyces viscidocruenta*, *Scutellinia scutellata* **245:5-8**; *Marasmius cylindraceocampanulatus*, *Lichenomphalia umbellifera* **246:8**; *Hericium coralloides*, *Hydropus* sp. **246:9**; *Amanita armeniaca*, *Austroboletus novaezealandiae* **247:7-8**; *Entoloma caeruleogracillius*, *Clavaria amoena* **247:8-9**; *Octospora* sp. *Pilobolus* sp. **248:6**; *Chromocypella muscicola*, *Geoglossum umbratile* **248:7-8**.

Reports to Council: Time-lapse photography by Ian Bell **241:8**; Identifying Fungi by using Keys by Dr Tom May **242:6**; Making a collection for Herbaria by Nimal Karunajeewa **243:8**; Tropical Fleshy Fungi by Gregory Bonito **244:8-9**; Anglesea Fungi by Richard Hartland **245:9**; Brisbane Fungi Festival by Paul George **246:5**; Members night – *Mycena subgalericulata* by Virgil Hubregtse, *Biscogniauxia* by Ed Grey, *Coprinellus truncorum* by Bill Leithhead, *Lachnum* sp. by Jurrie Hubregtse, Peruvian fungi by Carol Page **247:10&14**; **248:9**.

Gare, Wendy: *see* From the office; thanks for helping with new banner and sign **245:3**.

GEOLOGY GROUP: Talks at Meetings: Precambrian Reefs of the Flinders Ranges and the rise of animal life (illus) by Ashleigh Hood (Kaye Oddie) **238:4-5**; Forecasting the Weather: Advances over the past 40 years (illus charts) by Dr Mark Williams (Kaye Oddie) **239:4 & 11**; Links between the World Heritage Naracoorte Caves and the Kanawinka Fault ... (chart Hydnum Range) by Ian D Lewis (Graham Patterson) **240:4**; Filling the gaps: using geophysics to help make geological maps (charts) by Dr Vince Morand (Leon Costermans) **241:4-5**; Excursion report to Bay West (illus) – leader Graham Patterson (Kaye Oddie) **242:4**; Mid-palaeozoic Ostracods of Central Victoria (illus) by Tamara Camilieri (Ruth Hoskin) **245:12**; Seven 'wonders' of the mineral world (illus) by Dermot A Henry (Kaye Oddie) **247:4-5**; The Geomorphic Effectiveness of urbanisation (illus) by Dr Geoff Vietz (Graham Patterson) **248:4**.

Notices: Excursion to Bay West **239:11**; Christmas Cake Raffle **247:9**; **248:3**.

Photos: Reef diagram, dolomite marine cements, cathodoluminescent image of dolomite cement, micrograph of chambered fossils, Permian *Sphinctozoon* sponge **238:4-5**; Brachiopod fossil, Kirkpoint-Avalon, Doug Grant Reserve-Altona, Gastropod fossil, Moorpanyal Park, North Shore-Geelong, Werribee River **242:4**; *Velibeyricha* 1, *Velibeyricha* 2 **245:12**; Zircon, olivine, garnets, Permskaya oblast, Heulandite **247:4-5**; Mullum Mullum Creek erosion, Little Yarra River **248:4**.

Reports to Council: Naracoorte Cave formations by Ian D Lewis **241:8**; The 7 Wonders of the Mineral World by Dr Dermot Henry **242:6**; Chasing Ice DVD by James Balog **244:9**; Dr Peter Jackson spoke on "Snowball Earth" **248:9**.

George, Paul: Fungi foray report: **245:5-6**; *Photo Credits:* Slime mould *Physatum viride* **245:6**.

Gibson, Ray: Receives Deakin Community Award (ill) **244:3**.

Grey, Ed: *Fungi Group Reports:* **242:8-9**; **243:6-7**; **244:5-6**; **244:6-7**; **245:5-6**; **246:8**; **247:7-9**. *Photo Credits:* *Asterophera mirabilis* **243:6**; *Lichenomphalia umbellifera* **246:8**; *Geoglossum umbratile* **248:8**.

Grey, Pat: *Fungi Group Reports:* **242:8-9**; **243:6-7**; **244:5-6**; **244:6-7**; **245:5-6**; **245:7-8&14**; **246:8**; **246:9-10**; **247:7-9**. *Photo Credits:* Sally and Crochet Stink Horns **243:6**; *Bolletellus emodensis* **244:5**; *Scutellinia scutellata* **245:8**; *Austroboletus novaezealandiae* **247:8**.

Guay, Patrick: Ecology, behaviour and conservation of the Musk Duck **240:6**.

Hails, Jaster: Recovery of the Tall Astelia in Kurth Kiln Park **244:8**.

Hancock, Ken & Michele: Summer in the Garden **239:3**; *Photo Credits:* Marbled Gecko **239:3**.

Hanrahan, Les: Fungi foray report **245:7**.

Hartland, Richard: *Photo credits:* *Entoloma* sp. **242:8**; *Banksiamyces macrocarpa* **244:5**; *Beenakia dacostae* **244:6**; *Auriscalpium* sp. **245:7**; *Chromocypella muscicola* **248:7**.

Harris, John: *From the President:* **238:1**; **239:1**; **240:1**; **241:1**; **243:1**; **244:1**; **245:1**; **246:1**; **247:1**; **248:1**.

Photo Credits: Eastern Brown Snake **238:1&3**; Regent Honeyeater **244:1**; Sandy Inland Mouse, Desert Banded Snake, Pygmy Desert Goanna **246:1**; Perentie *Varanus giganteus* **247:1**;

Hendy, Peter: Rare Mammal - White-footed Dunnart **240:3**. *Photo Credits:* *Sminthopsis leucopus* (White-footed Dunnart) **240:3**

Henry, Dr Dermot: '7wonders' of the mineral world **247:4-5**. *Photo Credits:* Zircon, Olivine, Garnets, Permskaya oblast, Heulandite **247:4-5**

Himbeck, Kathy: notice for FNCV book orders **238:8**.

Homan, Peter: Survival & recolonisation following wildfire at Moyston West **238:8**.

Hood, Ashleigh: Reefs of the Flinders Ranges and the rise of animal life (illus) **238:4-5**. *Photo credits:* dolomite marine cements, cathodoluminescent image of dolomite cement, micrograph of chambered fossils, Permian *Sphinctozoon* sponge **238:4-5**.

Horobin family: Juniors meeting report (illus) **238:7**.

Hoskin, Ruth: Geology Group report **245:12**.

Houghton, Sheila: vale **247:3**.

Hubregtse, Jurrie: *Photo credits:* *Hypocrea gelatinosa* **245:5**; *Octospora* sp. **248:6**.

Hubregtse, Virgil: Fungi foray report **245:5-6**. *Photo credits:* *Entoloma caeruleogracillius* **247:8**.

Injured Wild-life: what to do **246:3**; Help for injured wildlife **247:14**; **248:3**.

JUNIORS' GROUP: Brief Reports of Excursions: (*see: The Junior Naturalist*); Carrajung, end of year camp by Claire Fergusson **238:7**;

Excursion to Black Rock **239:11**; Excursion to Point Nepean **240:6**.

Photos: Juniors' excursion to Pt. Nepean **240:1**; Killawarra Easter Camp members **242:12**.

Talks at Meetings: How to grow your own Australian Orchids (illus) by Wendy Clark (Horobin Family) **238:7**.

Reports to Council: Nov camp **238:7**; Excursion to Black Rock **239:11**; Point Nepean excursion **240:6**; Victorian Turtles by Graham Stockfield (ill), Queenscliff Marine excursion, Inverlock Dinosaur site excursion **241:1**; (illus) **241:8**; Looking at the night sky by James Murray **243:8-9**; Easter Camp in Killawarra Forest (illus) **242:6&12**; Identifying Bones by Russel Thompson **244:9**; Victorian endangered Leadbeater's Possum by Sue Bendel, Moonlit Sanctuary night excursion (illus – Nora & her Rainbow Lorikeet) **245:9**; Yarra River Keeper, Ian Penrose led excursion **246:5**; Frogging at Lysterfield Lake **247:14**; Melbourne Water-watch excursion **248:9**.

La Fontaine, Fran: *Photo Credits:* *Pilobolus* sp. **248:6**.

Leithhead, Bill: *Photo Credits:* *Phylloporus rhodoxanthus* **242:8**.

Lewis, Ian D: Links between the World Heritage Naracoorte Caves and the Kanawinka Fault ... (diagram) **240:4**.

Library News: **238:8**; **240:8**; Recent additions **244:4**; access to library holdings on FNCV web site **246:7**; **247:5**.

Lyons, Michael: diving in Southern Port Phillips & Westernport Bays (illus) by Michael Lyons **247:13**. *Photo credits:* *Natica sagittata* **247:13**.

MacIntosh, Dr Hugh: Boring bivalves: Shipworms (illus) **240:11**; Dr Hugh: Boring bivalves: Shipworms pt 2 (illus) **241:11**; diagrams of various

- stages of teredo (shipworms), shipworm-related damage to wood **240:11**; *Lyrodus turnerae* **241:11**.
- MARINE RESEARCH GROUP (MRG): Reports of Meeting, Talks & Field Trips:** Members Night by P Vafiadis – *Stauromedusa cnidarians* (illus) by Audrey Falconer; Broome region (illus & map) by Joan Broadberry; P Vafiadis introduced the newly published book by FNCV member Graham Patterson ‘*Coastal Guide to Nature and History: Port Phillip Bay*’; molluscan radulae (illus) by Don Cram; Broome and Darwin (illus) by John Eichler; finds at Shoreham Beach (illus) by Leon Altoff **239:7-8**; Boring bivalves: Shipworms pt 1 (illus) by Dr Hugh MacIntosh (P Vafiadis) **240:11**; Boring bivalves: Shipworms Pt 2 (illus) by Dr Hugh MacIntosh (P Vafiadis) **241:11**; Field excursions - Barwon Heads, Aireys Inlet, Lorne, and Urquhart Bluff (illus) **243:11**; Biodiversity in the deep ... by Dr Ana McCullum, Excursion reports Anglesea, Point Leo (illus) (P Vafiadis) **245:13**; Fieldwork summary (illus) by Leon Altoff, John Eichler, Recent Marine Invertebrate Survey in SA (illus) by Leon Altoff, Papua New Guinea (chart) by Peter & Carol Bathie (P Vafiadis) **246:11**; Members night (illus) – diving in Southern Port Phillips & Westernport Bays by Michael Lyons, Functions of the Molluscan foot by Platon Vafiadis, More on recently collected SA material (illus) by Leon Altoff **247:13**; Report on Balnarring excursion (illus) by Platon Vafiadis **248:11**.
- Photos:** *Depastromorpha* sp. on *Caulerpa brownii*, *Depastromorpha* sp. in petri dish, Red Fiddler Crab, *Janthina janthina* shell, ptenoglossate radula and detail of individual teeth, *Ophiothrix* cf. *martensi*, *Porpita porpita*, *Tegulaherpia tasmanica*, **239:7-8**; *Teredo* – damage to wood, details of Shipworm, release of gametes, stages of growth **240:11**; *Lyrodus turnerae* **241:11**; *Ischnochiton elongatus*, *Patelloida Victoriana*, *Mitrella acuminata*, *Amarinus laevis*, *Octopus maorum*, *Biffarius ceramicus* (?) **243:11**; *Mitrella leucostoma*, *Paranepanthia grandis* **245:13**; *Epiactis austaliensis*, *Haustrum baileyannum*, *Plesiastraea versipora*, *Siphopteron* sp. 1, *Siphopteron* sp. 2 **246:11**; *Vexillum vincentianum*, *Natica sagittata*, *Trinchesia sororum* **247:13**; *Nassarius pyrhrhis*, *Pilumnus tomentosus*, *Nicula pusilla*, *Mysella donaciformis*, *Sepia apama* **248:11**
- Reports to Council:** **239:11**; **240:6**; **242:12**; Papua New Guinea by Peter Bathie **246:5**; **248:9**.
- May, Dr Tom: Identifying Fungi by using Keys **242:6**; Winner of 2014 Australian Natural History Medallion **246:12**; illus of presentation **248:1**; Congratulations on being awarded 2014 Australian Natural History Medallion **248:8**.
- McLachlan, Neil: Presentation talk on Arctic Travels (illus) **228:4-5**.
- Martin, Lois: Eastern Water Dragon **241:3**. *Photo Credit:* Eastern Water Dragon **241:3**.
- MEMBERS NEWS, PHOTOS & OBSERVATIONS:** New members welcome; Eastern Brown Snake by John Harris; Christmas party by Barbara Burns **238:3**; New members welcome; Stunning Moth (Saunders Case Moth) ill Parks Vic Ranger; Summer in the Garden (illus) by Ken and Michele Hancock **239:3**; New members welcome; Local MP Michael Sukkar visits club (illus) by Barbara Burns; Rare Mammal *Sminthopsis leucopus* (White-footed Dunnart) (illus) by Peter Hendy **240:3**; New members welcome; Eastern Water Dragon (illus) by Lois Martin; A Harsh Summer (Crested Pigeon) (illus) by Cecily Falkingham **241:3**; Congratulations to those awarded Long-term Membership (illus) **242:3**; New members welcome; Helmet Shells (illus) by Cecily Falkingham; Fungi Poem by Cecily Falkingham; photo confirmed as *Plebeopus marginatus* by Penny Richards **243:3**; New members welcome; Congratulations to Ray Gibson for Deakin Community Award (illus); Maxwell Campbell presented with Long-term Membership by John Harris; Mystery photo, answer p 7 **244:3**; New members welcome; new FNCV banner and sign (illus) – thanks to Wendy Gare and Claire Ferguson **245:3**; New members welcome, illus Melbourne bush orchids by Joan Broadberry **246:3**; New members welcome, Vale Sheila Houghton (illus) **247: 3**; New members welcome, Possum versus Raven by Peter Fagg, Science Talent search (set up by Noel Schleiger) 2014 result, sighting of Platypus swimming by Joan Broadberry **248:3**.
- MICROSCOPY GROUP: Reports to Council:** Members night **246:5**.
- Mill, Helen: *Photo Credit:* Doug Grave Reserve, Altona **242:4**.
- Murray, James: Looking at the night sky **242:12**.
- NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME:** **238:3**; **239:3**; **240:3**; **241:3**; **242:3**; **243:3**; **244:3**; **245:3**; **246:3**; **247:3**; **248:3**.
- Oddie, Kaye: Geology Group Reports: **238:4**; **239:4 & 11**; **242:4**; **247:4-5**.
- Office, see FNCV Administration.
- OpticsCentralAffiliate Program:** credit monies to FNCV when members purchase binoculars, microscopes etc **244:3**; **246:3**; **247:14**; **248:5**.
- Page, Carol: *Photo Credits:* Red Fiddler Crab **239:7**; Mystery photo (Joan Broadberry pulling dead Kangaroo to side of road) **244:3**
Calostoma fuscum **244:6**.
- Patterson, Graham: Geology Group report **240:4**; leader for Geology Bay West excursion **242:4**; Natural History around Port Phillip Bay **242:7**; Library news **247:5**; Geology Group report **248:4**. *Photo Credits:* Werribee River **242:4**; Black-winged Stilt, Sand Hopper, Shiny Sand-mat **242:7**.
- Poore, Linsey: Island Hopping in Galapagos Islands (illus) **243:5&7**. *Photo Credits:* Bartolome Island, Flightless Cormorant, Lava Cactus **243:5**.
- PRESIDENT, From the President, John Harris:** Illus. **238:1**; **239:1**; **240:1**; Notice for Special Resolution to Ament the FNCV Constitution (Rules) **240:9**; **241:1**; **243:1**; (illus) **244:1**; **245:1**; president, away west of Alice Springs, sent photos (illus) **246:1**; emails from the President at Gibson Desert WA, notice re stepping down in 2015 **247:1**; **248:1**.
Photo Credits: Eastern Brown Snake **238:1,2**; Regent Honeyeater **244:1**; *Sandy Inland mouse*, *Desert Banded Snake*, *Pygmy Desert Goanna* **246:1**; *Perentie Varanus giganteus* **247:1**;
- Presland, Gary: Library News: **238:8**; Library News, recent additions **244:4**; access to library holdings on FNCV web site **246:7**.
- Richards, Penny: photo confirmed as *Plebeopus marginatus* (ill) **243:3**.
- Richter, Reiner *Photo Credits:* *Hericium coralloides*, *Hydropus* sp. **246:9**; *Clavaria amoena* **247:9**.
- Ritchie Dr. Euan G: A PNG Adventure (talk at the AGM) **243:10&12**.
- Rogers, Peter: Mistletoes **246:6-7**. *Photo credits:* Mistletoe Bird, Drooping Mistletoe (*Amyema pendulum*), Tree loaded with Mistletoe **246:6-7**.
- SEANA (South East Australian Naturalists' Association): Notices:** dates for 2014 SEANA & ANN camps, Autumn Camp, Marysville **238:10**;
Spring Camp hosted by Portland FNC 26-29/9/14 **245:3**.
- Simons, Adriana: Our Native Wildlife (illus) **244:10&12**.
- Simpson, Ken: vale **245:1**; obituary **245:11**.
- Sukkar, Michael MP: visits the FNCV club **240:3**.
- TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATE GROUP (TIG): Reports of Meetings:** Common Moths of the Urban Environment by Peter Marriot (Maxwell Campbell) (illus) **241:9-10**; Urban Spiders (illus) by Wendy Clark and Max Campbell **243:9**.
Photos: Golden Orb-weaving Spider, Desert Wolf Spider **243:1**; Dolooptiones, Huntsman, Red-back & Jumping Spider, Net casting Spider **243:9**
- Vafiadis, Platon: *Marine Research Group Reports:* **239:7-8**; **240:11**; **243:11**; **245:13**; **247:13**; **248:11**; Functions of the Molluscan foot **247:13**.
Photo Credits: *Ischnochiton elongatus*, *Patelloida Victoriana*, *Mitrella acuminata*, *Octopus maorum*, *Biffarius ceramicus* (?) **243:11**; *Mitrella leucostomas* **245:13**; *Nassarius pyrhrhis*, *Pilumnus tomentosus*, *Nicula pusilla*, *Mysella donaciformis*, *Sepia apama* **248:11**.
- Vale: notice:** Ken Simpson – naturalist (especially birds); Martin Copley – Australian Wildlife Conservancy by John Harris **245:1**; obituary for Ken Simpson (illus) by Gary Presland **245:11**; Joan Forster **246:10**; Sheila Houghton (ill) **247:2**; Margaret Endersby **247:6**.
- Vietz, Dr Geoff: The Geomorphic effectiveness of urbanisation (illus) **248:4**. **Photo Credits:** Mullum Mullum Creek erosion, Little Yarra River **248:4**.



FNCV Environment Fund: Call for Grant Applications

The FNCV Environment Fund has been set up to support the objectives of the Club in relation to the environment. Donations to the FNCV Environment Fund are tax deductible. Donations are welcome. Donation forms can be downloaded from our website or are available from the FNCV Office, Ph 98779860.

The FNCV Environment Fund has the following purposes:

- To support and finance environmental research, in particular research into the biodiversity of Victoria.
- To support and finance dissemination of information on the natural environment by any legitimate means, including public lectures, seminars, field trips, courses and publications.
- To support and finance practical projects aimed at preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Victoria.

The FNCV Environment Fund is administered by a committee consisting of Malcolm Calder (Chair), Barbara Burns, (Secretary & Treasurer), Bob Rogers, John Harris, Ian Moodie and Cathy Willis.

The Committee calls for applications for the next round of funding from the FNCV Environment Fund.

Requests for projects between \$200 & \$1,000 will be considered.

Applications can be from organisations or individuals, but in the latter case must be supported by an organisation. Suitable organisations are established natural history or environmental organisations (Field Naturalist Clubs, Landcare Groups etc.), educational institutions or government departments. Multiple applications from one research group are not encouraged.

Applications for this round of funding close **Monday 30 March 2015**. All applications will be acknowledged and results of applications communicated by **24 April 2015**.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Successful projects are required to be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with a report supplied on completion. The report will be published by FNCV and successful applicants are encouraged to communicate their results to the Club via articles, talks or field trips. Additional information about the Environment Fund is available at www.fncv.org.au.

Please include the following information in the application:

- Project Title.
- Project description (max 250 words).
- How the project meets the aims of the fund.
- Budget (include GST in all relevant items). (Also indicate other sources of funding)
- Indicate if the application is from an individual or organisation and give the name of the individual or organisation.
- Applicant name and contact details (including mailing address/phone/fax/email).
- Signature of applicant.
- Endorsement of organisation (signature of responsible person such as President, Secretary, Manager, Head of Department, include name and position held).

Donations to the FNCV Environment Fund are **tax deductible**. Donations are always welcome, and donation forms can be downloaded from the website www.fncv.org.au or are available on request from the FNCV Office. Ph 98779860 or email admin@fncv.org.au

**Applications (two copies) should be sent to: Secretary FNCV Environment Fund
Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
PO Box 13, Blackburn Vic 3130
or emailed to admin@fncv.org.au**



FNCV SECOND-HAND BOOKSALE - SATURDAY 14th March

The second-hand Book Sale will be held on Saturday 14th March, and we will be accepting donations of good quality books on March 10th, 11th 12th and 13th. There will be someone here at the hall from 9.30am to 4.00 pm on those days.

Please note that we cannot accept magazines, or poor quality books. Last sale we had to dispose of over 20 boxes of scruffy, below par, unpopular books after the sale, which was a huge job. We also received some collapsing boxes of silverfish-ridden ancient paperbacks which had been stored in garages for years. Sorting through those was not a pleasant duty for a volunteer! We trust you all to only make useful, clean donations – after all, the whole idea is to raise funds for your club so it can go on providing fascinating talks and excursions, and spreading naturalist knowledge. It will be your chance to purchase lovely books which other members have already read, for a good price. If it is not possible for you to deliver books on these dates, please contact Su Dempsey (9878 6829, 0437 172 333 or sudempsey@bigpond.com) to arrange another time.

Please note: we cannot accept any books before March, due to lack of storage, and the need for maximum space in the hall for the Mammals of Victoria Seminar Feb 28th - March 1st. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the sale, either helping to sort the donations of books, or on the actual sale day, will be welcomed with open arms! Just contact Su.



Fungi Group

FUNGAL FORAY

27th JULY 2014,

Wanderslore Sanctuary, Launching Place

We had a fungal feast today, both visually and gastronomically – large numbers of a wide variety of fungi were seen, and, for lunch, Geoff Durham and the Friends of Wanderslore provided damper and a mushroom sauce (we were assured that the mushrooms came from a shop!). Wanderslore is a Trust for Nature Property consisting of 10.05 hectares. It consists of a dry ridge running N-S, on the east is a permanent stream gully, on the west a stream runs through the gully after rain, and the vegetation includes Manna Gum, Mountain Grey Gum, Red Stringybark, Brown Stringybark, Messmate, Common Peppermint, and Soft and Rough Tree-ferns.

On the side of the road to the Friends' Shed were a number of fungi including a group of *Psilocybe subaeruginosa*. These were old specimens with large caps to 25 mm diameter and showing blue tints on the pale stem and caramel cap. The Rainbow Bracket or Turkey Tail *Trametes versicolor* is a tough, thin pliable wood rotting bracket. It was identified by the following characteristics: a velvety or finely hairy upper surface, with contrasting colour zones (brown, greenish, pale)



Hygrocybe graminicolor Photo: Jurrie Hubregtse

and a white margin and minute white pores, more than 3 per mm. The Rooting Shank *Oudemansiella gigaspora* (*O. radicata*) (Fungimap Target species), a tall stately species whose brown cap contrasts with brilliant white gills.

Near the Friends' Shed, a dead Hakea was covered in the very small black stromata (fruit-bodies) of what appeared to be a *Hypoxylon* species. Microscopical work on spore and asci size and the eruption of the stromata through the bark indicated that this was most probably *H. diatrypeoides*, albeit very old specimens. Samples will be sent to Prof. Jack Rogers in the USA for confirmation as this is the first time that we have seen it. Another *Hypoxylon*, the red-brown cushions of *H. howeanum* were growing on a fallen eucalypt log together with masses of the brown ropey strands of its anamorph (asexual stage) while another species was an example of the purple sheet of *H. aff. placentiforme* (*H. rubiginosum*) was growing on a fallen branch.

A group of the Collared Earthstar *Geastrum triplex* was growing next to a fallen log and interestingly several of the dark brown, young fruit-bodies were found, looking like puffballs. This was the first sighting of this young stage for most of the group. We also saw one example of the apricot *Panellus ligulatus*, another fungus that we don't often see. It grows on wood, is spoon-shaped and has decurrent gills and a pale lateral stem. The uncommon Brown Forest Cup *Urnula campylospora* (*Plectania campylospora*) (Fungimap Target Species) was seen growing on an upright mossy tree trunk deep down in the gully. It is a large brown to black rubbery cup with a very short central stem. The inside of the cup is smooth and the

outside rough-textured.

What a day for Corals and Cortinarius! By the shed was our first coral – small clumps of the greyish *Clavulina cinerea* often tinged with purple tones growing either as single clubs or a large, many-branched form all of which have fat blunt tips. These were found on the ground at the base of the slender, dead Hakea shrub on which the Hypoxylon was growing. The simple clubs of pink-red clubs of *Clavaria corallinorosacea* were most abundant and seen all day. They can be differentiated from the Flame Red Coral, *C. miniata* by the powdery pink bloom of maturing spores on the top section which differentiates it from the red stem. *Clavaria miniata* was also common among the litter and moss and its clubs can be simple, smooth, cylindrical or occasionally somewhat flattened, and often longitudinally grooved, but the stem is not clearly differentiated from the upper fertile portion. Numerous yellow coral tongues *Clavaria amoena* were also scattered throughout the bush, mostly in the ridge section, where we also saw one small group of the small, delicate, yellow, branched coral fungus *Ramariopsis crocea* growing on soil amongst moss. Typically it had a long pale yellow stem, whitish at base and yellow arms that were divided with a 'u'-shape and pointed at the tips. *R. crocea* has a white spore print which distinguishes it from *Ramaria* species which have a yellow-brown spore print. While kneeling down to smell the sweet scent of the large white flowers of the Scented Sundew, *Drosera whittakeri*, we saw another coral *Clavulina vinaceo-cervina*, which is pinkish-brown to mauve, but always has some dark tips which helps identify it. Amongst it was a group of small black earth tongues *Geoglossum* sp. which was identified by the lack of hairs on the stems or heads and a grooved, rough pitted head which is distinct from the rough stem.

Brown *Cortinarius* species, many of which we were unable to identify, were also abundant, although Richard Hartland was able to identify the golden brown *Corinarius abnormus*. However, we did see three Fungimap Target Species (not brown). The Elegant Blue Webcap *C. rotundisporus* with its typically blue cap with a yellow umbo. After seeing this fresh specimen we realized that many of the other yellow capped fruit-bodies of *Cortinarius* sp. were, in fact, old *C. ro-*

(Continued on page 14)



Marine Research Group News

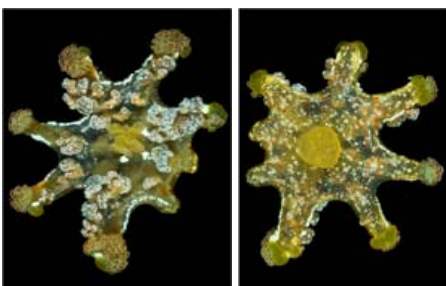
Summary of MRG meeting held Mon. 13th October 2014: Audrey Falconer of the MRG spoke on the topic **Stauromedusae in south-eastern Australia – an update (and a quick revision of Stauromedusae of Victoria).**

Audrey spoke on her current work with this group of sessile stalked jellyfish and her role in an international collaboration studying its global diversity and systematics, which will also result in descriptions of new Victorian species.

The following is based on Audrey's Powerpoint presentation, which showed images of stauromedusae and preliminary cladograms of world-wide species. (All of the following photographs have been taken by Leon Altoff.)



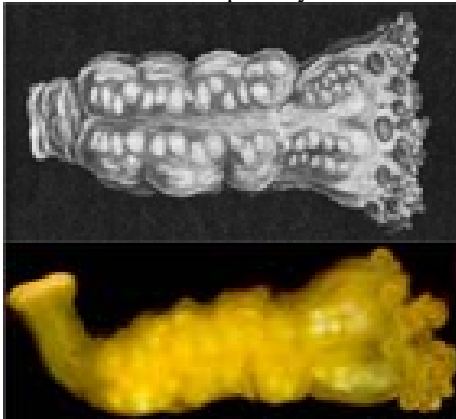
The above images show *Lucernariopsis tasmaniensis*. It has large glandular cushion on clusters of secondary tentacles, no remnant of primary tentacle and the gonads are in a single row.



The above images show *Lucernariopsis* sp. It has large glandular cushion on clusters of secondary tentacles, no remnant of primary

tentacle, gonads in irregular double rows and many more tentacles than *L. tasmaniensis*.

The images below (source of drawing not stated) show *Depastroporpha africana*. It has glandular cushions on some secondary tentacles and an oval glandular cushion on remnant primary tentacle.



Another *Depastromorpha* (undescribed) is shown below. It has glandular cushions on some secondary tentacles, and long, finger-like primary tentacles with prominent glandular cushions.



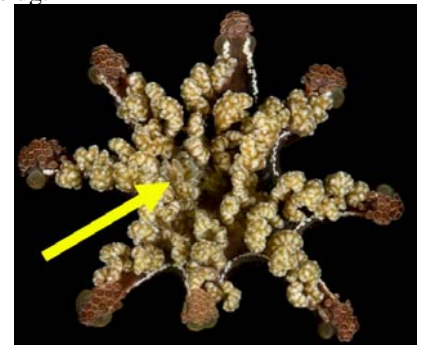
Stenoscyphus is another genus, an undescribed species of which is shown below. It has no glandular cushions on secondary tentacles and the primary tentacle is present only as prominent glandular cushion – the anchor.



Audrey also showed another undescribed Victorian species, which has large glandular cushions at the base of secondary tentacle clusters, finger-like primary tentacles rounded at their ends with no glandular cushion.



Audrey has also discovered a relationship between stauromedusae and the nudibranch *Burnaia helicochorda*, finding the latter species nestled within a stauromedusan (arrowed below, and also shown in close-up). The stauromedusan may be a possible food source for the slug.



We thank Audrey for her presentation and wish her ongoing success with her research into this group.

Platon Vafiadis

(Continued from page 8)

- Is critical to ecosystem (forest) health.
- Is a sensitive ecosystem requiring long periods of stability and low disturbance to develop naturally.
- Herbicides and insecticides may have significant impact



A pseudoscorpion, a small predator a few mm in length

on its biodiversity.

The restoration of complex, ecological systems such as those found in leaf litter are not easily restored once lost. It

is better to prevent the destruction in the first place.

Maxwell Campbell

I would like to thank Max for generously offering to speak to the January Day Group at very short notice. He has also provided a summary of his presentation and many images for the newsletter, both greatly appreciated. JB

(Continued from page 12)
tundisporus. Very striking was the single example of the Green Skinhead *C. austrovenetus* (*Dermocybe austroveneta*) and down in the wet gully we saw the Australian White Webcap *C. austroalbidus*. The cap was slimy with a 'gloop' around the margin, but we were unable to determine the curry smell; perhaps these were too young. Later, Jurrie



Hygrocybe aurantiopallens

Photo: Richard Hartland

Hubregtse made a collection of *Cortinarius austrofibrillosus* which used to be included as *Inocybe austrofibrillosa* because of the dense covering of fibrils on the cap. However, DNA testing confirmed it as a *Cortinarius* sp. The pale brown conical cap is covered with whitish fibrils, and very young specimens had pinkish-brown, deeply convex caps, totally covered with white fibrils.

John Eichler spotted a large fungi with intense velvety orange cap and stem and white gills. This could have been either *Russula flocktoniae* or *Lactarius clarkeae*. In the field the difference can be detected if the latter exudes a white latex which this did not (although it may not be evident in dry weather). In both species the flesh is crumbly and the stipe will snap like a piece of chalk.

It was thrilling to see the abundance of the Slimy Green Waxcap *Hygrocybe*

graminicolor (Fungimap Target Species) (see p 12), I had never seen so many, they were scattered throughout the ridge section. The cap colours varied from the young green cap to the older reddish brown, orange and pale straw (dried grass), but all retained the characteristic light green slimy stem. The very pale green gills are decurrent and usually have a grey-green glutinous thread along the edges, but we did not see this identifying characteristic. However, Paul George has noticed that this can be absent as a result of drying out which is often indicated when the cap colours change to 'straw-coloured'. We also saw groups of bright orange *Hygrocybe aurantiopallens* (see above) in both the gully and on the ridge area, and one fruit-body of the beautiful, watery Mauve Splitting Waxcap *Humidicutis lewellinae* (*Hygrocybe*

lewellinae) (Fungimap Target Species)

Altogether we found ten Fungimap Target species the others were Golden Curtain Crust *Stereum ostrea*, Ruby Bonnet *Cruentomycena viscidocruenta* (*Mycena viscidocruenta*) - just a couple of red fruit-bodies in the litter - and Little Ping-pong Bat *Panellus pusillus* (*Dictyopanus pusillus*) small but with large pores growing on several tree trunks throughout the foray.

Thank you Geoff and Friends for a delicious lunch and providing so many fungi for us to look at (c.111 recognised, at least, to genus).

Thank you to the photographers: John Eichler, Ed Grey, Pat Grey, Richard Hartland, Jurrie Hubregtse, Virgil Hubregtse.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the forays this year, look forward to seeing you next season.

Pat & Ed Grey

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 250

Joan Broadberry, Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

CONGRATULATIONS

Peter Marriott was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM); and Cam Beardsell was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). Many of you may know these awardees. Our warmest congratulations.

Field Nats News 250



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