Understanding Our Natural World

Field Nats News No.277

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130
Telephone 03 9877 9860
P.O. Box 13, Blackburn 3130 www.fncv.org.au
Newsletter email: fnnews@fncv.org.au
(Office email: admin@fncv.org.au)

Editor: Joan Broadberry 03 9846 1218
Founding editor: Dr Noel Schleiger

Reg. No. A0033611X

Patron: Governor of Victoria

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

August 2017

From the President

The Club has received a letter from its Patron, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, expressing her pleasure in having that connection to the Club. She writes, in conclusion, 'Life in our State is so much richer because of the generosity of those who seek, each in their own way, to contribute to the 'Peace and Prosperity' of which our State motto speaks. I can only say, as Governor, how grateful I am for everything you and your colleagues do for Victoria. I would be grateful if you would please pass on to everyone at The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc my and my husband's heartfelt thanks.'

I recently decided to clean up some old boxes of natural history stuff I had accumulated over the years and found some of my old micropaleontology preparations from Sunnyside Beach near Mornington. I hadn't looked at them for over four decades but immediately found myself immersed in the amazing biodiversity of the Tertiary Foraminifera. The variation is astounding; the many small calcareous shells make for fascinating study. The fact that they were produced by unicellular organisms, not multi-cellular life forms like molluscs with their well-developed nervous systems, adds to the interest. Unicelluar organisms have been around since the Precambrian in various forms and may not have changed very much since then. These microscopic fossils have left us a tantalising glimpse of the remote past.

A significant portion of the Earth's crust (circa 16%) is covered by thin light-coloured layers of ooze which, upon microscopic examination, is found to be composed mainly of the shells of tiny unicellular organisms. The soft protoplasm has decomposed but the hard shells have persisted through time. Many of the groups have extant forms which are often similar to the fossils, so it is possible to get a good idea of what the living organisms were like and how they related to their environment. Studying today's protozoan assemblages and their ecological relationships enables us to make quite reasonable assumptions about communities of the past. Some of the testate rhizopods of today also have the capacity to produce hard structures such as loricae, shells, agglutinated coverings and other structures which can be fossilised. Observing extant, living protozoans going about their normal activities and studying their anatomy opens a window into the past. The common, testate rhizopod protozoans living in soil, mosses, bogs and freshwater today include *Trinema, Difflugia, Quadrulella, Nebela, Euglypha, Centropyxis, Cyphoderia* and *Arcella*. Their relative numbers and presence indicate climatic and environmental conditions at the time they were deposited in sediments. I never progressed with the clean up and spent a considerable period re-examining the foram specimens.

Don't forget that the FNCV Annual Biodiversity Symposium, 'Marine Biodiversity in the 21st Century' is on August 19th and 20th. Make sure you mark the date in your diary and book your seats.

Maxwell Campbell

(Photos by Max Campbell)

Trinema test

The deadline for FNN 278,will be **10 am on Tuesday 1st August.**

FNN will go to the printers on the 8th August with collation on Tuesday 15th.

Foram Shells; brightfield

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.

July

N.B. The following information relates to the Fungal Foray planned for **30 July** and replaces the detail published in FNN 276**.** Mt Macedon Ranges National Park –Sanatorium Lake / Days Picnic Ground–– (Melway Edition 37 Map X909 G/H 10, more detail in Vic Roads Ed 8 Map 60 B 7/8). Drive north uphill on Mt Macedon Road C322 through the town; near top of hill do not turn left on C328 to Camels Hump and Memorial Cross; about 100 m further on C322 turn right on to Barringo Road (first section may be called Lions Head Rd). Picnic Ground is about 1.5 km along Barringo Rd. Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388 0438 4469 73 (day of foray only) .

August

Tuesday 1st – Fauna Survey Group Meeting: ***When predators go missing: native mammal herbivore imbalance and the predator-prey ecology of southeast Australia.*** Speaker: Dr Jeff Yugovic (Consultant Ecologist).
Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury6@gmail.com

Monday 7th – Fungi Group Meeting: Speaker: Teresa Lebel, Senior Mycologist at RBG Victoria. Teresa will talk about fungi she has seen, worked with or hopes to see, and projects you can help with. Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388; cpage356@gmail.com

Sunday 13th – Fungi Group Foray: ***Cathedral Range State Park*** Meet at 10.30 am at Ned's Gully car park (Mel Ed 37 Map X910 T9). Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388; cpage356@gmail.co; (on day of foray ONLY): 0438 446 973 .

Monday 14th – Marine Research Group: No Meeting; winter break is extended.

Tuesday 15th – Collate FNN. We meet in the hall at about 10 am. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 16th – Microscopy Group Meeting: Speaker to be advised. Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

Thursday 17th – Botany Group Meeting: ***Aspects of the ecology of the Tall Astelia, a threatened rainforest herb.***
Speaker: Linda Parker, PhD candidate, The University of Melbourne. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Sat 19th & Sun 20th – Biodiversity Symposium. ***Marine Biodiversity in the 21st century.*** 9.30 am to 5.00 pm each day. For further detail see brochure and registration form, page 11, or consult our website.
Prior registration & payment required. Contact: FNCV office 9877 9860; admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 22nd – Day Group Meeting: ***Members' morning.*** We meet at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat with our speakers starting at 11 am. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 98461218

Wednesday 23rd – Geology Group Meeting: ***Resources for Tasmanian Geology from a mountain walker.***
Speaker: Ken Griffiths, member of Geology SIG and FNCV Council and a long-time mountain walker with interests in geology and the history of science. Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911 0425 729 424; rrhoskin@gmail.com

Sunday 20th – Juniors' Group Excursion – Exploring the Organ Pipes National Park. Meet in car park at 1030am.

Friday 25th – Juniors' Group 7.30 , Meeting: ***Party Night.*** The theme is FUNGI. Come dressed in costume for us to guess what type of fungi you. Bring a plate of party food; there will be games and prizes! Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; to-clairef@gmail.com.

Monday 28th – FNCV Council 7.30 sharp. Agenda items, apologies etc to Wendy Gare, FNCV office 9877 9860; admin@fncv.org.au

The policy of the FNCV is that non-members pay $5 per excursion and $3 per meeting, to contribute towards Club overheads. Junior non-member families, $4 for excursions and $2 per meeting.

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 the following eight new members who were welcomed at our last Council meeting.

Mr Attilio Demicheli; Mr Paul Handreck ; Ms Maryse Hermence; Ms Jana Kuehn; Ms Karen Mather; Ms Susan Jane Spiers;
Mr Stuart Thompson; and Mr Paul Yates

Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*)

Last month members of the Day Group enjoyed a walk in Sherbrooke Forest see FNN 276. Despite the cool weather and the Lyrebird breeding season being underway, we had a glimpse of only one male.

It is a wonderful experience to observe males doing their courtship dance on a mound, their filamentary feathers, wires and lyrates shimmering over their head and to listen to the wide repertoire of bird-song they mimic. It truly is ear-piercing should you be close by.

The female constructs her domed nest of sticks in a variety of places including the forks of trees, on the ground, in the tops of tree ferns, in tree stumps and along creek and road embankments. Nesting in a tree fern is often not successful when the fronds grow up through the nest.

She lays a single egg (though on occasions more than one has been found). The female removes the faecal sacs of the young chick from the nest, generally depositing them in near-by creeks or in puddles. She forages for food both near and far from the nest. I was lucky enough to snap a photo of a female with her gular pouch (crop) full and worms trailing from her beak. *Photo upper right.*

Three dawn surveys are held annually throughout Sherbrooke forest, around June and July. Members are welcome to participate.

Sally Bewsher, (text and photos)

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 277

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher
Gary Presland

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group: At the meeting on 15th June, John Harris presented on flora of the Kwongan in Western Australia. These are the sand plains in south west WA. There is a huge diversity of vegetation in this region. All present enjoyed John's magnificent photos.

Fauna Survey Group: At the April 4th meeting Simon Verdon (Latrobe University) spoke on 'Fire and the Mallee Emu-wren'. The occurrence of the Mallee Emu-wren is linked to spinifex and is now found only in the Big Desert and Sunset Country. Until recently, planned burning in the Mallee was based on plant attributes but recent research by NGOs and management authorities has shown that fauna should also be considered when setting burning intervals.

On May 5th Robin Drury presented a summary of the FSG's work with remote cameras to survey for mammals. Cameras have given a great boost to our fauna survey results and complement our trapping or spotlighting efforts. Some hard-to-find animals have been recorded such as Brush-tailed Phascogale, Squirrel Glider, Feathertail Glider and Long-nosed Potoroo.

At the June 6th meeting Nick Bradsworth spoke about the general biology and spatial distribution of the Powerful Owl. Despite the fact that urbanisation is a threatening process, a few do persist in the suburbs, and some of these birds were captured and fitted with radio trackers. The birds were found to travel an average of 4.4km per night and had widely varying home ranges of 137 to 1162 ha.

Fungi Group: The following dates and locations were set for the SIG in May and June. **Meetings**: FNCV Hall May 1st; June 6th. **Forays**: May 7th, Bunyip; May 19th, Anglesea; May 20th Lorne; May 21st, Anglesea; June 4th, Mt Worth; June 16th, Blackwood. Attendances ranged from 9 to 20 members and visitors.

Juniors' Group: On 17th June there was a visit to Mount Burnett Observatory at 6:30 pm. There were seven families present, making 24 members and one visitor. James Murray (current President) gave an overview of the telescope and how it came to be handed over to them from Monash University in 2009. The Group was shown the sky at night. One highlight was seeing Saturn and its moons, and seeing a globular cluster.

There is some doubt as to who is going to be in charge of the excursions or camping from August onwards.

Library News

Recently accessioned books:

The following couple of volumes have been accessioned and may be borrowed from the Library:

Berry, D (Ed) (2017) *Fighting for the trees: the story of the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society 1959–2016.* [570.6 BER]

Lindner, J (2015) *Flora and fauna of the Victorian and South Australian Mallee.* [508.945 LIN]

Recent periodicals:

As usual, *Wildlife Australia* covers many interesting topics. Vol.54(2) looks at energy-saving strategies, such as hibernation and torpor, of Australian mammals. These strategies may help them to live through ecological disasters. There are also articles on venoms, and soil ecosystems.

Wildlife Research 44(1) reports on study of a Holocene deposit from a bird roost in the Lower Murray Valley in SA. The fossil remains, thought to be from an Australian barn owl roost, provide a baseline census of mammals living there between 1300 and 1900 years ago. Sadly, this has increased the estimate of mammal decline in the Murray Darling Depression to around 50% of species.

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.

Library collections are now on the website

A reminder that you 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.

Gary Presland, **Hon. Librarian**

Fungi Group

Members' nights provide an excellent opportunity for members to show and discuss their photos of fungi, and to communicate results of any research they have done on species they have found.

At this meeting, (June 6th) the nine members who braved the rain and cold were rewarded with information about, and photos of, a fascinating array of fungi. Four members (Jurrie Hubregtse, Paul George, Ed Grey and Carol Page) spoke about their finds.

In a presentation titled "Anglesea Surprises", Jurrie Hubregtse talked about three fungi that we saw at Anglesea during our recent foray weekend (19-21 May):-

1. *Hygrocybe persistens* was growing in the sand dunes at Point Roadknight. For those of us who hadn't seen this species before, it was surprising to see the red-orange to yellow-orange fruit-bodies coming up through the sand. DNA analysis of *H. persistens* complex of species, with various names from Europe and North America, has shown that they are mostly the same species, resulting in a name change to *H. acutoconica* based on precedence. However, until the DNA of the Australian species is examined, we will continue to use the name *H. persistens.*

Hygrocybe persistens. Photo: Jurrie Hubregtse

2. A white coral fungus seen at Distillery Creek nature trail closely resembled the one labelled *Clavaria alboglobospora* in *A field guide to Australian fungi*, by B. Fuhrer. However, microscopic examination revealed that the spores were ellipsoid, not globose, and there were no clamp connections in the tissue. The spore and basidia sizes indicated that our specimen was in fact *Clavaria fragilis* (= *C. vermicularis*). This species has been reported from Australia, North America, Europe, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Japan, the Solomon Islands and South Africa (see photo p. 6).
3. A *Lyophyllum* sp. near the Blanket Leaf picnic ground had some similarities to a *Lyophyllum* sp. seen near Rawson, in 2013. However, the caps of the former were a darker brown, and the gills buff rather than white. Microscopically, the two species were very similar, but the dried fruit-bodies showed a definite difference: the gills of those from Blanket Leaf picnic ground dried almost black, while those from Rawson dried yellowish brown, consistent with the *L. decastes* complex.

Paul George spoke about a small red *Mycena*-like agaric, which he had found at Mount Worth in 2014, 2015 and 2017, and also at Cambarville in 2016. Ed Grey wondered if it might be the same as a red *Mycena* sp. described by Dr Tom May in *The Victorian Naturalist*, v. 106, 1989, pp. 49-50, as '*Mycena* sp. *A'*. However, macroscopically there were significant differences in the size and growth habit, and brown spores that had been shed on some of the caps by those higher up ruled out *Mycena.* In 2016, Paul made a herbarium collection from a colony of fruit-bodies at Cambarville and, after microscopic examination, Dr Tom May found that this fungus could be a species of *Simocybe*, *Phaeomarasmius* or *Tubaria*, and most likely the latter. A photo of this fungus can be found in *A field guide to fungi of south-eastern Australia*, by R. Macdonald and J. Westerman, who, surprisingly (and incorrectly), called it *Laccaria laccata*! (See photo, p. 8)

Recently, Paul visited Greens Bush, on the Mornington Peninsula, where he photographed many types of fungi. Paul was impressed by the presence of a number of gilled fruit-bodies that were yellow or had yellow gills. An interesting find was *Entoloma mathinnae*, a stout species with a dull brown cap, striking bright yellow gills, and a pale grey stem. According to the Atlas of Living Australia, this fungus has not been recorded outside Tasmania.

There was also a very yellow *Tricholoma*-like specimen, distinguished by an orange-brown annulus, which appeared to be growing in soil and leaf litter. It was possibly *Gymnopilus junonius*, which usually has more orange tones and is generally associated with wood.

A third unusual specimen was also large and stout. It had a deep bright yellow cap, gills and stipe, which was slightly bulbous at the base. It was superficially very similar to *Cortinarius canarius* (=*Dermocybe canaria*). However, it seemed to lack the typical *Dermocybe*-like diagonal banding on the stipe, although there was some slight evidence of brownish fibrils on the cap margin and the stipe. Five of these fruit-bodies were found in both moss and leaf litter. Unfortunately the colour of the spores and mycelium was not noted.

Ed Grey showed John Eichler's photo of a small gilled fungus growing on a eucalypt twig beside the nature trail leading from Sheoak picnic ground, at Lorne. The cap, about 6 mm across, was orange-brown and scaly; cystidia on the gill edges gave a jagged appearance; and the stipe was short and pallid. Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, who was present at the foray, identified this fungus as a *Pleuroflammula* sp. (*Pleuroflammula praestans*, which occurs in Western Australia, looks similar to what we found.)

After our forays at Anglesea, Carol Page stayed for an extra day, which she used to foray at Lake Elizabeth – a hot spot for fungi. Carol showed us photos of a wide variety of fungi, including many corals, one of the most stunning of which was *Ramariopsis pulchella* (see photo p. 6). There were also beautiful images of specimens of the lovely green *Hygrocybe stevensoniae,* distinguished from *Gliophorus* (formerly *Hygrocybe*) *graminicolor* by the lack of a gelatinous thread on the gill edges; a group of brilliant red *Hygrocybe* sp.; a cluster of *Flammulina velutipes*; and the tiny pink *Mycena roseoflava* (see photo p. 6). Another interesting image was of an abnormal *Agaricus* sp. with gills emerging from the centre of the cap.

Thank you to all four speakers for contributing to a most satisfying evening, and for helping to prepare this report.

Virgil Hubregtse

Fungi Group (cont.)

Clavaria fragilis (= *C. vermicularis*).
Photo: Jurrie Hubregtse

Mycena roseoflava. Photo: Carol Page

Ramariopsis pulchella. Photo: Carol Page

Fungi group foray 4 June 2017
Mount Worth State Park

Moonlight Creek Area

Mount Worth State Park protects a remnant of the forests that once covered the western Strzelecki Ranges. Tall wet forests of Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gum and Blackwood grow on the hills and slopes. Soft Tree-ferns *Dicksonia antarctica* and Rough Tree-ferns *Cyathia australis* flourish within the sheltered gullies. What a foggy drive up from Darnum but to our surprise the fog cleared on the descent into Moonlight Picnic Ground and we had a fine, sunny day.

The morning was spent on the loop of the Giant Ciruit. The rachises of Smooth Tree Fern *Dicksonia antarctica* yielded numbers of the the Tiny Blue Lights *Mycena lazulina.* All growth stages were seen from little balls of blue to fully developed groups with blue stems and blue stained caps. Throughout the morning and dotted through the litter were the tall thin stems of the Horse-hair Marasmius *Marasmius crinisequi*. A hand lens showed the key features of dimpled cap with dark pimple and the gills attached to a collar around the stem. An unusual form of *Byssomerulius corium* was found on a eucalypt twig. This had the maze-like fertile surface but the edges of the fruit-body had developed into soft shelves projecting to ca 10 mm.

Coral fungi were not abundant but on Soft Tree-fern stems examples of the Delicate Coral *Ramaria ochracia* were found (photo upper right). These were typically cream to pale ochre, finely branched (to 1-1.5 mm) with whitish pointed tips. The white mycelial tuft from which the stem rises was clearly seen. On another Soft Tree-fern stem and on wood nearbye were several fruit-bodies of the Pale Buff Coral *Ramaria filicicola* (photo lower right). These were multibranched upright buff coloured with a short stem and whitish branch tips ending in 2-5 points. Two fruit-bodies of the Blackening Russula *Russula ingwa* were showing signs of blackening, mostly on the gills but with some on the pale cap

Photo: Pat Grey

Photo: Ed Grey

Fungi Group (cont.)

and stem. The blackening with age and bruising is typical of the species (photo below). On a large fallen eucalypt log was a massed display of the tiny orange hemispherical striate caps of *Xeromphalina leonina,* diameter to 6 mm with pale decurrent gills and a relatively long brownish stem. The genus *Xeromphalina* contains 30 species with a world-wide distribution.

Photo: Pat Grey

Janet McClean found a *Lentinellus* sp growing on a small piece of eucalypt. The genus can be deduced by the serrate gills and its growth habit on wood. The species can be determined by the following key. Our species had a smooth, pale brown cap, with distinctive black hairy stem (photo upper right). Using the following key by David Ratkowsky and Genevieve Gates ('Lentinellus Entinellus Reconsidered Reconsidered' *The Tasmanian Naturalist* (2006) 128: 8-10).

KEY TO THE TASMANIAN SPECIES OF LENTINELLUS

1.a) Stipe well developed, central or slightly eccentric ..... *Lentinellus tasmanicus*

1.b) Stipe absent or if present, short and lateral.....2

2.a) Pileus generally dark brown and densely hairy; lamellae crowded; spores small, 3-5 x 3-4 µm.....Lentinellus castoreus

2.b) Pileus light-coloured and usually glabrous towards the margin; lamellae distant; spores larger than the above, 5-7 x 4-6 µm…..Lentinellus pulvinulus

Our species is *L. tasmanicus*.

Photo: Pat Grey

At lunch time Sally Green brought around her basket of 'edible' fungi (photo right). They included the Morels, Horns of Plenty *Craterellus cornucopioides*, various *Agaricus* spp and a Stinkhorn. Nobody fancied the latter, but Sally assured us that it is edible, a fact she discovered from her book on edible fungi. Our afternoon foray along Moonlight Track did not start until after 1.30 pm because we arrived back so late from 'doing' the Giant's Circuit.

Photo: Carol Page

Just along from the picnic rotunda Carol Page found an interesting black jelly fungus with tiny stalked grey discs growing on the surface of it (Photo left).

Photo: Reiner Richter

The roundish jelly was 15 mm diameter and growing on a mossy upright trunk of a *Cassinia* sp. Although not seen in the field, Carol's photo showed black ostioles embedded in the jelly. This identified it as an *Exidia* sp., *E. glandulosa.* But what were the discs with a long stem penetrating into the jelly? Perhaps they were parasitising the jelly.

Reiner Richter again found the white Bladder Fungus *Physalacria australiensis (P. inflata)* looking like 5 mm diameter wrinkled balloon. They were again in the moss on the same standing tree trunk as last year. Reiner also found the 'Rose-pink Mycena' *Insiticia roseoflava (Mycena roseoflava)* high up on a log. Both these species were past their best, only a small group of *P. australiensis* and a couple of fruit-bodies of *I. roseoflava*. The group (or rather Reiner) often sees *Hymenotorrendiella* (*Torrendiella*) *eucalypti* on dead Blackwood Acacia melanoxylon leaves, but this week Reiner also found *H. clelandii* (photo below) growing on a eucalypt twig. It has a much larger disc (to 3 mm diameter) than *H. eucalypti* (to 1 mm diameter) and has a flattish cream inner cup, and a dark outer cup with a blackish stem Both the cap and stem are hairy and the black hairs stand up around the cup margin. The stem tapers towards its base.

Photo: Reiner Richter

Alannah Matheson pointed out a patch of *Annulohypoxylon bovei* var *microspora* (*Hypoxylon bovei*). These are minute (less than 1 mm) hard brittle volcanic black cones on wood. It has a black spore print. The *Hypoxylon* name was changed to *Annulohypoxylon* because the ostioles are always higher than the surrounding stromatal surface and the ostiole is encircled with an annulate disc. The 'var *microspora'* effectively means that it grows on eucalypt wood while *A. bovei* itself only grows on the rainforest tree Myrtle Beech *Nothofagus spp.*

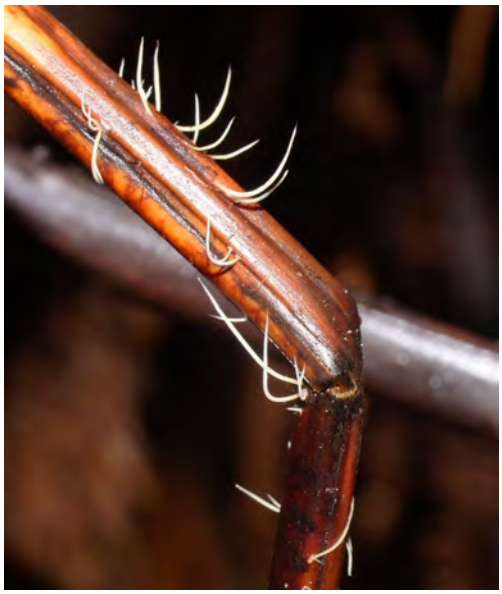
We noted a lot of *Mycena subgalericulata* growing on numerous tree trunks. Apart from the characteristic growth habit on tree trunks the fruit-bodies were very variable and sometimes it was difficult to determine the species, but closer inspection revealed the pointed 'nipple' on the cap and the pale margin around the the cap edge of the young specimens.

Reiner Richter 'One of the first mushrooms I photographed was a young colony of *Flammulina velutipes* at the end of a sawn log. I think these are one of the most photogenic species with their white gills and velvety golden cap and stipe that darkens towards the base, giving a glowing appearance. As

Fungi Group (cont.)

we entered the wet gully of the Giants Circuit and looked under all the Soft Tree-ferns *Dicksonia antarctica* we saw numerous colonies of equally photogenic but much more challenging Tiny Blue Lights *Mycena lazulina.* One dead frond also contained some upward pointing white spikes of a rarely encountered *Pterula* species (photo right). These are difficult to photograph because of the high contrast with their normally dark background.

On the trunks of some Soft Tree-ferns there were scattered colonies of pinkish *Mycena*. I also saw these most recently in the Otways, where they were quite common. I'd be interested to know what they are, if they have a name. I had considered that it might be a variation of a known species but that it appears a little different to normal because of the substrate, as several species do (like *Podoserpula pusio*). Speaking of the pagoda fungus *Podoserpula pusio*, which mostly grow from soil but also occur on Soft Tree-fern, there was one growing on the lower, brittle bark of a Mountain Ash *Eucalyptus regnans*, something I did not know this species is also happy enough to grow on."



Pterula species. Photo: Reiner Richter.

A few forayers walked up to Trevorrows Mill where they found this strange-looking fungus with black spiky ends over a yellowish base and a long stem (photo below left). It was, of course, a malformed Dark Vegetable Caterpillar *Coryceps gunnii*. Indications of identification were the black spikes over yellow, a long stem and growing under a wattle. Apparently, nearby there was the normal form of the club (deep olive green or black club merging gradually into a yellowish stipe), as well as numerous moth larva cases of Ghost/Swift Moths *Oxycanus diremptus.* The base of the stem would have been attached to a moth larva which it had 'mummified' with mycelium, so that the outer shell of the host would be preserved.

Paul George looked for, and found a tiny red fungus (photo below right) which he had seen at the site before. Paul said 'I first saw this red fungus at Trevorrow's Mill, Mount Worth, 8 June, 2014 and later that day on Giant's Circuit. Again in 2015 and 2017 also in 2016 at Cambarville with Torborn von Strokirch. There were about 80 very small fruitbodies, mainly from the underside of the branches. The convex cap (to 7 mm diameter) is red as is the tall stem (to 9 mm), and the whitish gills have an uneven margin (cystidia?). No spore print was detected. Tom May did a microscopic examination (26/6/2016) and considered that the species may be Simocybe, Phaeomarasmius or Tubaria. He was leaning towards the latter, and thinks it may be new. Macdonald & Westerman (1979, A field Guide to Fungi of South-eastern Australia) p.50 has photographs of this, and describes it as *Laccaria laccata*, which is clearly wrong!'

Photo: Eileen Laidlaw

Thanks to Paul George and Reiner Richter for their contributions and identification in the field, which add to our knowledge of the species. Thanks to Paul George and Reiner Richter for their contribution to the report. Thanks to the photographers Paul George, Ed Grey, Pat Grey, Carol Page and Reiner Richter who supplied many photos of their sightings to select for the report.

Pat Grey and Ed Grey

Photo: Paul George

Juniors' Group

Excursion, 17 June 2017

The Mt Burnett Observatory excursion was well attended, with 25 participants. The night sky smiled on us as we had no clouds and the Milky was way above for us to see, admire and explore with the telescopes.

James Murray (President of the group that operates the observatory) had two volunteers to assist during our group's visit.

What we saw:

- Spectacular views of Saturn and two of its moons.
- Jupiter with its four more visible moons. Europa, Io, Callisto and Ganymade;
- A Globular cluster that has approximately 100.000 stars in it.

We also learned that the spectogram of the stars is like the finger prints of the stars. Astronomers can learn lots of the stars characteristics from them, including their composition. (photo middle right)
We also learned that our sun is really minute compared with some of the other stars that can be found in the universe. (photo top right).

Some things we learned:

- That the brightest star of The Southern Cross named Acrux is in fact two stars, but we perceive them as one without a telescope;
- that the observatory was handed over by Monash University to the current managers in 2009.

Patricia Amaya

Vale Lindsay Crawford

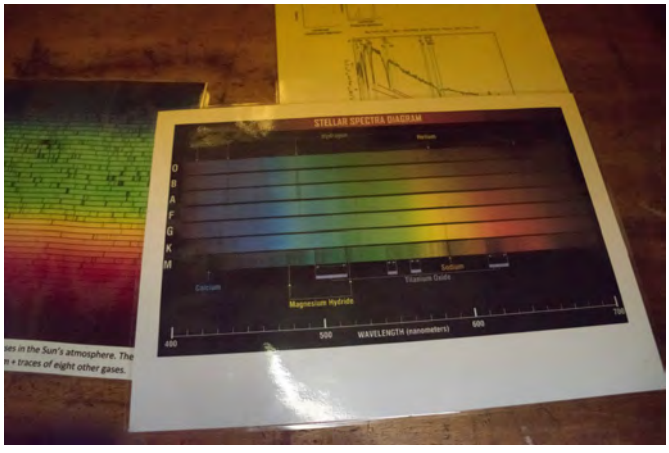
The FNCV Council notes with sadness the death of Lindsay Crawford, an Honorary Member of this club, on 2 June 2017.

Lindsay was elected to the FNCV on 14 November 1960, nominated by the Secretary E.H. Coghill and seconded by M.J. Curtis. At the time he had recently began employment as an entomologist at the Plant Research Institute at Burnley. He remained at Burnley until retiring in 1986.

Prior to moving to Melbourne Lindsay had worked in a number of environments across Australia. He had grown up in Tasmania and after developing an interest in insects trained as an entomologist under Dr Woodhill at Sydney University. His working life began with a position in the Launceston Museum in 1950. He went on to work in the more remote tropical climes of Darwin, where he was the only entomologist for over a thousand miles or more; and temporarily at the Waite Institute in Adelaide, where he studied pasture pests in the south-east.

Lindsay was presented with a certificate of Honorary membership at the April 2010 TIG meeting, by the President John Harris.

Charts showing relative sizes of some stars



Spectrogram

Save the date

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Fauna Survey Group

'Birds of Victoria'

Two-day Seminar

Sat 21 – Sun 22 October

9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Venue: TBC

The Fauna Survey Group of the FNCV presents some of Victoria's and Australia's leading ornithologists and up-and-coming researchers in a two-day seminar highlighting the birds of Victoria.

The two-day program includes discussions on a variety of birds, the issues facing them, current research, and other associated topics.

Topics include: Mallee Emu-wrens; Plains Wanderers; Helmeted Honeyeaters; Powerful Owls; Raptor rehabilitation; Regent Honeyeaters

MORNING TEA, LUNCH and AFTERNOON TEA included each day

For more information and registration, contact:

John Harris: 0409 090 955

FNCV Office: 03 9877 9860

First Aid course

The Club is making available to members a one-day first aid course, to be held in our hall, on either Saturday 23rd September or Saturday 14th October. Prior to the training the participants will need to complete an open book multiple choice test which they will need to bring with them on the day. They will be taught how to provide first aid, basic life support, both adult and child CPR and how to use a defibrillator (AED).

On completion of the course all participants will receive two certificates: Basic Life Support (HLTAID001) and Provide First Aid (HLTAID003). The cost is $99 per person; however, the Club is willing to partially subsidise active FNCV volunteers. If you are interested in participating please let Wendy know at admin@fncv.org.au or phone 9877 9860. Please advise if either of the dates would not suit you.

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Understanding Our Natural World

Biodiversity Symposium 2017

'Marine Biodiversity in the 21st century'

Venue: Manchester Unity Hall, 8 Main St, Blackburn

Sat 19 & Sun 20 August 9.30am—5.00pm

The FNCV presents a two day program to coincide with the 60th birthday of the Marine Research Group & the 20th anniversary of its merger with the FNCV. It will cover aspects of Marine Biodiversity with an emphasis on the Victorian marine environment including:

sea slugs, marine mammals, hydroids, saltmarshes, sea grasses, bryozoans, environmental impacts of plastics, echinoderm reproduction, intertidal zones, sub tidal vegetation, invasive marine species, shark conservation, abalone ecology, global marine biodiversity, Victoria's marine parks, Short-tailed Shearwaters and more.

Speakers include: Dr Gary Poore, Dr Rebecca McIntosh, Philip Bock, Dr Robert Jones, Molly Fredle, Dr Mark Rodrigue, Dr Duncan Sutherland, Mark O'Loughlin, Dr Hugh Kirkman, Jan Watson, Robert Burn, Andrew Christie, Geoff Carr, Dr Kate Charlton-Robb and Leon Altoff.

There will also be the opportunity to purchase books on Marine topics from the FNCV bookshop during the seminar. As usual, there is a member discount on most books in the bookshop.

Note: MORNING TEA, LUNCH and AFTERNOON TEA included on both days

For more information contact Max Campbell 0409 143 538
or the FNCV office 9877 9860 Mon & Tues 9.30—4 pm or admin@fncv.org.au

---

Name: _____ _____

Organisation: _____ _____

Address: _____ **P'code:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Dietary Requirements: _____

Registration & payment by 25/7/2017

	Either Day	Both Days	Includes GST
FNCV Members:	$60	Sat $ 100	
Member Concession:	$50	$ 80	
Non-members:	$75	Sun $ 135	
Non-member Concession:	$65	$ 115	

PAYING BY *(Please tick)* : Cash ☐ **Direct Entry** ☐

Visa ☐ ***MasterCard*** ☐ ***Cheque*** ☐

Direct EFT payment option:
Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Acc No: 123098725
Name: The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
Please use your name with "Symp" as your reference

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ***Exp*** ☐☐ / ☐☐

Cardholder's name: _____

Signature _____

Number attending

TOTAL $

Return registration form by *25th July 2017* to : FNCV Inc., PO Box 13, Blackburn Vic 3130
OR : Scan & email to: admin@fncv.org.au

From the Office …

Dear Members

I apologise for nagging, but Print Post costs are going up again this month by a hefty 4.9%. If you are already receiving your Field Nats News and *The Victorian Naturalist* electronically, we are grateful; it is a great help to the Club's finances. So if either of our publications is mailed to you via Australia Post, please consider swapping to email! Thank you.

This year's Whitehorse Festival is on **Sunday 15th October**. As usual, the FNCV will be setting up a stall, which aims to publicise our activities, and the benefits of belonging to the Club. We need volunteers to staff the display, during the day; if you can help out for an hour or two, please let me know at admin@fncv.org.au or phone 9877 9860.

Wendy Gare, Administration Officer

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

All capturing of fauna by the FSG is done in accordance with the FNCV's DELWP Wildlife Research Permit, as well as the National Parks Act Permit and animal ethics approved Standard Operating Procedures.

Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 276

Andy Brentnall
Edward Brentnall
Hazel Brentnall
Cecily Falkingham
Keith Marshall
Ian McDonald
Sheina Nicholls
Neil McLachlan

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

Field Nats News 277

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
P.O. Box 13
BLACKBURN VIC 3130
Reg.No. A0033611X

PRINT POST 100002072

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA