



Understanding
Our Natural World

Field Nats News No.282

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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Governor of Victoria

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

February 2018

From the President

Welcome back to another busy year for FNCV. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and productive start to 2018.

There was an excellent Terrestrial Invertebrates Group, TIG, excursion on January 7th to Cardinia Reservoir where a large number of participants were able to indulge in the macro photography of invertebrates, orchids and anything else that interested them, see FNN p10.. There are more TIG excursions to come so keep an eye out for them and join in. The principal "focus" is still invertebrate macro photography.

There will be many excellent meetings, symposia, excursions and presentations again this year and I hope to see more of you coming along to them. Don't forget the SEANA get-together, on Friday April 27th to Sunday April 29th. This is a very important part of our calendar as this year, we at FNCV are the hosts. For more information see FNN p12.

Now that I have fully retired, I am spending even more time in the garden observing the seasonal changes. One aspect of nature that never fails to impress me is the brutal predation that is constantly taking place. Spiders of all kinds are endlessly trapping or actively catching and consuming all manner of prey and the mantids are constantly stuffing themselves with anything they can catch and subdue. Hoverfly larvae and lacewing nymphs are busy sucking the juices from their minute prey. However, for me, there are two outstanding predators that really set the standard for ruthlessness and sangfroid; the asilid or robber flies and the butcher birds. Large robber flies have one again been patrolling my garden to great effect, catching flies, wasps and other flying insects in mid air. They can be seen sitting on higher vantage points waiting for passers-by to ambush. Their anatomy bespeaks the perfect hunting and killing machine. Once they catch their prey they inject it with what seems to be a potent venom which rapidly subdues it. This summer has again seen the appearance of very large, noisy specimens of *Colepia* (photo below). A much smaller asilid can be seen on a lemon tree stem; alert and waiting. Photo see page 3. *Continued page 3*

The deadline for FNN 283 will be
10 am on Tuesday 6th Feb 2018. FNN
will go to the printers on 13th
with collation on Tuesday
20th February 2018

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Colepia sp (Asilidae) sitting on the edge of the roof guttering waiting for prey.
(400mm telephoto) Photo: M. Campbell

Botanical Names

Acacia, Greek, akakia, from akazo, to sharpen. The first species named in ancient times was sharp-pointed.

Dioscorides the Greek physician and botanist used the word in the 1st century AD for a prickly species in Egypt.

Thanks to *Dictionary of Botanical Names*, compiled by Don Perrin.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

February 2018

Sunday 4th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Bunyip State Park. Meet at 10 am on Camp Road at the start of Guide Track. Contact Reiner Richter fncv@RNR.id.au Google maps <https://www.google.com.au/maps?q=-37.986,145.642> It's just off the Melway detailed maps, but is on the Key map page 14 R12

Monday 5th - Fungi Group: No meeting.

Tuesday 6th - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: Wildlife and conservation of the rainforests, wetlands and volcanoes of the African Rift Valley. Speaker: Dr. Mark Antos, Science and Management Effectiveness Branch, Parks Victoria. Contact Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury6@gmail.com

Saturday 10th - Fauna Survey Group Survey: For Swamp Skinks on the Mornington Peninsula. Contact David De Angelis 0409 519 829; d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au

Monday 12th - Marine Research Group Meeting: Speaker to be announced. Contact Leon Altoff 9530 4180AH; 0428 669 773

Thursday 15th - Botany Group Meeting: Demystifying the grassy plant families. Speaker Dr. Graeme Lorimer. Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Saturday 17th - Working Bee for FNCV garden: 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. Bring your own tools please for trimming, weeding and tidying. Many hands make light work! Contact: Barbara Burns 9846 2608

Sunday 18th - Juniors' Group Excursion: Rickett's Point Beach Day with John Eichler. Melway 86 C9. Meet at the southern end of the parking area at 11am for the low tide. Parking fees apply - free parking may be found in side streets over Beach Rd. Contact Patricia Amaya 9560 9854 geluipatricia@gmail.com

Tuesday 20th - Collate FNN 283. Starting about 10 am. The new four monthly COE will be an insert. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 21st - Microscopy Group Meeting: Videos taken this summer, and ecology of intriguing pond life. Presenter Max Campbell. Contact Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

Friday 23rd - Juniors' Group Meeting: Komodo Dragon research. Speaker Alison Fysh. Contact Patricia Amaya 9560 9854 geluipatricia@gmail.com

Sunday 25th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Sherbrooke Forest Meet at 10 am O'Donohue Picnic Ground, Sherbrooke Lodge Rd, Sherbrooke (Mel p75 G3). Contact Reiner Richter fncv@RNR.id.au (

Monday 26th - FNCV Council 7.30 pm sharp. Apologies, agenda items etc to Wendy Gare admin@fncv.org.au or 9877 9860

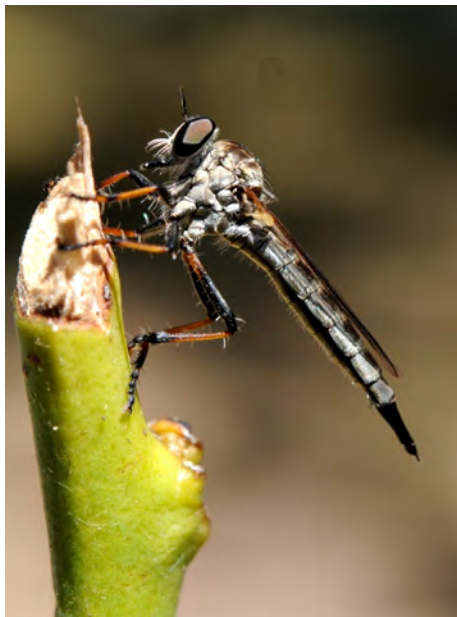
Tuesday 27th - Day Group 10.30 am Meeting: The Biodiversity of Bhutan. Speaker Penny Richards. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218. Meet for coffee and a chat, speaker at 11 am. All welcome.

Wednesday 28th - Geology Group Meeting: A historical, cultural and geological journey through Ethiopia Speaker Ruth Robertson, geologist. Contact Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424; rrhoskin@gmail.com

Wednesday 28th Marine Research Group February to Saturday 3rd March field Work: Mallacoota area. Wednesday 28th February, tide height 0.1, time 14.02 Exact locations and meeting times will be decided while on site. For further details contact Leon Altoff 9530 4180AH; 0428 669 773



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.

From the President, continued from page 1

On the lookout

turned out to be a young black rat, minus its head and partially eviscerated. (Photos right). The juvenile butcher bird happily disembowelled the rat and eventually finished the meal provided by its parents. I have often seen mice, birds, reptiles and other prey wedged into the branches of trees and shrubs in recent months. Butcherbirds clearly terrorise a broad range of prey.

All photos by Max Campbell

Max Campbell



The sad remains of a young Black Rat wedged in branches.



The young Butcherbird consuming the rat.

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 new members who were welcomed at our last Council meeting.

Alex Thong, Justin Thong, Amy Bonshek, Bernard Connor and Jane Morton Colbert

facebook 6870 followers,
thanks to Ian Kitchen &
Jurrie Hubregtse

**Many thanks to those
who helped collate
and label FNN 281**

Barbara Burns
Keith Marshall
Neil McLachlan
Joan Broadberry
Sheina Nicholls

**Thanks to the editorial
and layout team who put
together FNN 282**

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

From a happy editor.

How wonderful, for the first time ever to have 2 pages of members' photos and observations, including all of those on p5 from our local area of Blackburn.

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



Government House Visit

It was mentioned in the Dec/Jan FNN on p5 that The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, the Governor of Victoria had invited all organisations of which she is patron to provide a decoration that best represented their organisation to hang on the Victorian Community Christmas Tree. A reception to launch the tree was held in the state drawing room in government house on Friday 15th December 2017. Philippa (photo left) and Wendy Gare (below on the left) attended.

A booklet describing the ornaments included the following:

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

“Our ornament has been crafted by our Vice President, Philippa Burgess, in the form of the FNCV’s logo—the flowers of the native fuchsia, *Correa Reflexa*. It is made of earthenware clay which has been carved, painted and glazed.

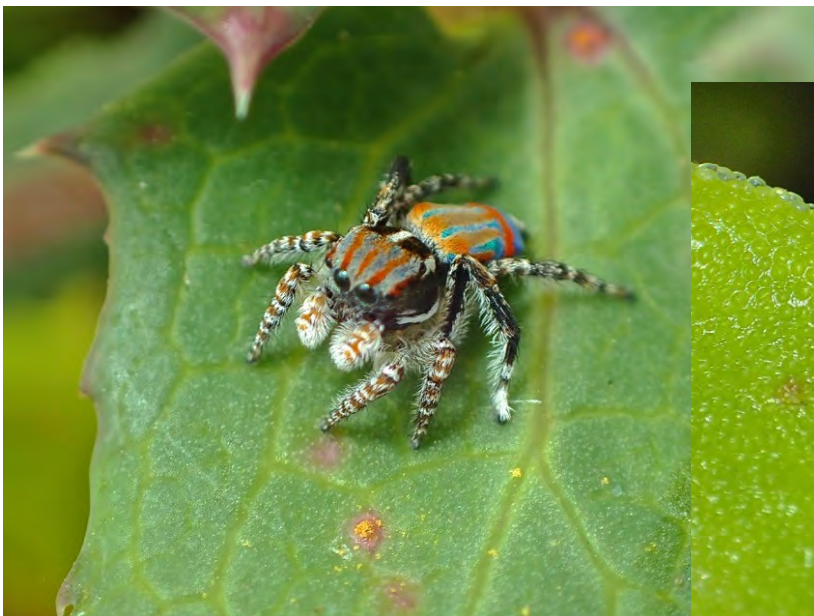
The FNCV is Australia’s oldest natural history group, established in 1880. Its aims are to stimulate interest in our natural environment and to preserve, conserve and protect the natural environment of Australia and in particular the flora, fauna and fungi of Victoria”.

J.B.



PEACOCK SPIDERS

John Eichler found a nice population of the Peacock Spider, *Maratus tasmanicus*, at Black Rock and sent FNN these stunning images. This spider is only a few millimetres in size.



The Imperial Blue Butterfly

The Imperial Blue Butterflies appear as beautiful, small, brown -patterned butterflies until the male opens his wings and then you see a metallic pale blue. It is quite stunning in the sun.

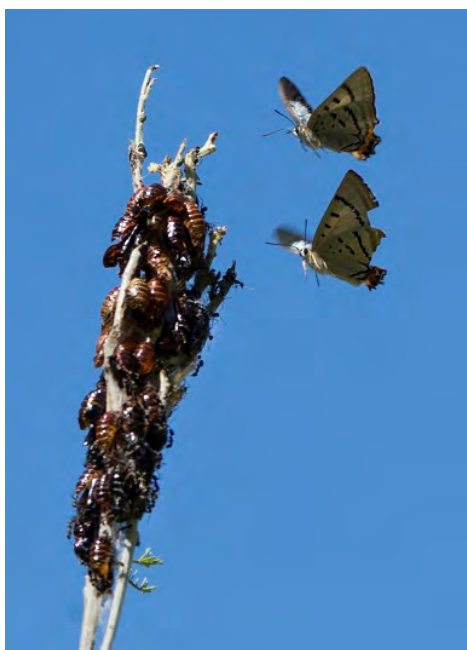
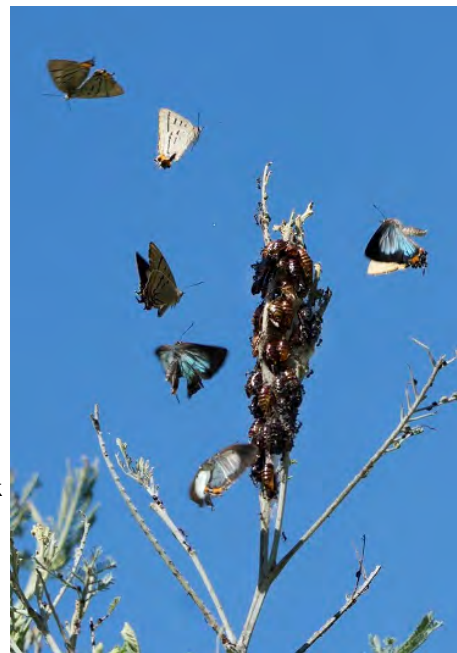
The other interesting thing about these butterflies is their life cycle. The larvae and pupa are looked after by ants. They larvae feed on small Silver Wattles and sometimes Blackwood Wattles and when it is time to pupate, they gather in groups and pupate together, again attended by ants. At hatching time, the males hatch first and then hang around the bush waiting for the females to hatch so they can mate. The result of this can be a wattle bush surrounded by butterflies as they all wait for the females to emerge. This can go on for several weeks as other larvae mature and pupate.

They usually hatch around January. This year they were early, hatching in mid December. These images were taken very near the FNCV club rooms in Kalang Park Blackburn. You may still be lucky enough to see some.

Imperial Blue Butterflies approaching pupae

Wendy Clark

Imperial Blue Butterflies in flight



Imperial Blues at all stages



Imperial Blue Butterflies, ants and larvae



In Wendy and Colin's Backyard



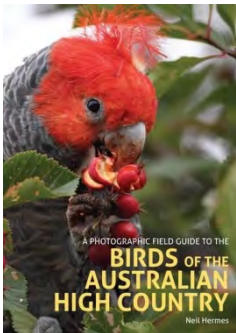
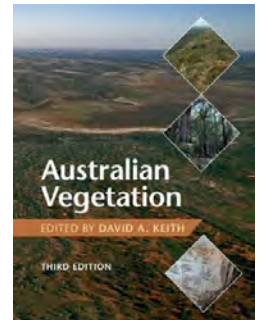
Above: Striped Marsh Frog,(?); right,: St. Andrew's Cross Spider photographed by Colin Gare in his Blackburn Garden

Our thanks to Colin, Wendy's husband, who came into the FNCV office during the holidays to set up the new modem now that we've transferred back to iinet for our internet service. This was very much appreciated, after all, what are we these days without the internet?

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (January 2018)

Welcome to 2018! This month we have new five books that are not included in the 2018 FNCV Bookshop catalogue. I have recently added Aquatic Photographics to my wholesale list, so look out for more of the titles that showcase the excellent photographic skills by Rudie Kuiter. Three of his books are now on the shelves at the clubrooms. It is a perfect time of year for exploring the High Country, so grab this photographic bird guide to complement your explorations. The Grampians is always a great place to visit and this book is an essential guide that can be used time and time again. A great classic resource, *Australian Vegetation*, has been recently updated so make sure you grab your copy. And there is more, so come into the clubrooms and have a look at the full range of books available on the shelf, or to order or inquire about a book, please send an email to me, at, bookshop@fncv.org.au and I will reply as soon as I can. **Happy reading, Kathy**

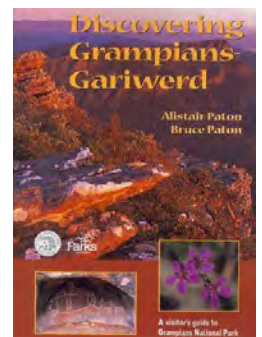
Australian Vegetation (D. Keith) is fully updated with a new team of authors. This third edition presents the latest insights on the patterns and processes that shaped the vegetation of Australia. The first part of the book provides a synthesis of ecological processes that influence vegetation traits throughout the continent, using a new classification of vegetation formations. New chapters examine the influences of climate, soils, fire regimes, herbivores and aboriginal people on vegetation, in addition to completely revised chapters on evolutionary biogeography, quaternary vegetation history and alien plants. The second half of the book presents detailed ecological portraits for each major vegetation type and offers data-rich perspectives and comparative analysis presented in tables, graphs maps and colour illustrations.. (HB, 766 pp., June 2017) .RRP \$110.95, Member \$89



A Photographic Field Guide to the Birds of the Australian High Country (N. Hermes) is a fully comprehensive field guide to the 322 bird species of the High Country, including all common, rare and vagrant species. The area covered in this book extends from Wollemi National Park and the Blue Mountains to the west of Sydney, through the Kosciuszko and Alpine National Parks and south-west into Victoria, almost to the edge of Melbourne. The main identifying features of each species are described and key facts cover size, habits, habitat, breeding, distribution, voice and status in the region. The book also includes information on climate and topography, types of habitat, orders and families, residents, migrants, vagrants and the key birdwatching sites.

(PB, 336 pp., October 2017) RRP \$45, Members \$36

Discovering Grampians-Gariwerd (A. Paton, B. Paton) is an essential guide that will help you plan your visit to Grampians National Park and will enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of this natural wonderland. The book includes suggested itineraries, 48 walks and maps, three scenic drives, rock climbing and other activities, Gariwerd creation stories and wildflowers and wildlife. Rich in flora and fauna, the dramatic mountains that rise from the Wimmera plains are a living history of Australia's continuing Indigenous culture. (PB, 112 pp., 2004) RRP \$15, Member \$12



Victoria's Summer Orchids (R. Kuiter) is an extensively illustrated guide covering nearly 100 taxa with about 1150 images. The book includes the colourful terrestrial orchids of Victoria that flower from spring over summer. There are the yellow or purple blooms of the *Diuris* from late spring, whilst the mostly pink *Dipodium* hyacinth-orchids are summer flowering. The magnificent blue, pink or yellow coloured *Thelymitra* sun-orchids show over spring and summer, and *Prasophyllum* leek-orchids from spring to the end of summer.

(PB, 266 pp., Jan 2017) .RRP \$70, Member \$56

Victoria's Galaxiid Fishes (R. Kuiter) describes and illustrates all known members with multiple images, including many apparently new species. Galaxiid fishes are of Gondwana origin and are well represented in Victoria. With nearly all natural habitats destroyed and predatory trout recklessly introduced, many species are critically endangered and surviving in headwaters of river basins as high localised small populations in forested habitats. This book serves to make people aware of these special fishes living in our forests. (PB, 104pp., 2016) RRP \$30, Members \$25





FNCV Christmas function



*Photos:
J. Broadberry*

On Saturday December the 9th, 2017 FNCV members and friends joined together to celebrate another 12 months of learning, discovery, fun and friendship.



As has become a tradition, images from the life of club over the year were projected during the evening. Thanks to Gary Presland for co-ordinating this.

Thanks also to Faye and Max Campbell and Joan Broadberry who arrived early to decorate the hall; to Max and Ray Gibson who looked after the BBQ and to all those who brought delicious food, wonderful raffle prizes and helped with the clearing up. **Highest commendation goes to our president, who bravely chopped a whole bag of onions (frozen onions were sold out).**

The raffle made \$213 for FNCV general funds.





Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

Visit to Wonga Park Sunday 19th November 2017

We all managed to fit our cars into Alistair Trail's Land for Wildlife property at Wonga Park. The first thing we saw were some Paper Wasps building nests under the eaves of the house. Alistair had set up a camera so he could film the construction process. We also admired the swimming pool, converted to a pond that attracted damselflies, which in turn, attracted some FNCV visitors.

We photographed many more things as we headed down the hill, including a bug that lives with ants and somewhat resembles them and a black flatworm. This was difficult to photograph due to its size and general featureless appearance. For identification it is often helpful to focus on the 'eye' structures near the head end.

In the gully was a larger dam surrounded by shrubs that was home to invertebrates such as the extremely skinny Whip Spider. John Eichler photographed a Scorpion Fly and commented, "it shows everted vesicles on the abdomen. These apparently release a male sex pheromone to attract females". The image below shows it holding a Crane Fly to offer to a female Scorpion Fly should he meet one.

Reiner Richter



Paper Wasp

Photo: Reiner Richter



Scorpion Fly, *Harpobittacus* sp. Photo: John Eichler



Whip Spider

Photo: Carol Page

Master Your Camera

Using Photoshop or Photoshop Elements

Learn basic Photo Editing skills with these programs
You need to have either of these programs and be able to bring your Laptop to class

Class Size: 6 People

1 x 2 hr class \$75

Saturday 10th Feb 2 - 4pm

Location: Blackburn

More Info - Ring Wendy 0435 377 065

www.MasterYourCamera.com.au



For those with an interest in Native Bees:

diggers.com.au have bee posters for sale, A2 size illustrating 20 plus bees, mainly the common ones, with one or two examples from most genus. For each bee, there is an over-scale photo of the bee and a shadow of its actual size.

There are three posters, one each for Vic, NSW and QLD.

Just type 'bee posters' into the website search box





TIG excursion to Cardinia Reservoir, 7th January 2018

On Sunday 7th January a very enjoyable day was had at Cardinia Reservoir photographing insects, orchids and anything else that caught the eye. It is a little unusual for the FNCV to hold excursions in January, but the large attendance showed this was a popular move. Thanks to Reiner Richter our leader. There was space in FNN 282 to include a few images, but we look forward to a future, detailed report, showing some of the more unusual terrestrial invertebrates species found.

Photos: J. Broadberry

Anticlockwise from the top left:

Distant shot of group; Fiddler Beetle on Teatree; Soldier Beetles on Teatree; photographing a spider (photo: Carol Page), group searching; *Spiranthes sinensis* (Austral Ladies Tresses); close up of orchid flowers.



Extracts from SIG reports given at FNCV Council Meetings

Botany Group: The speaker was unwell and didn't show up. Unfortunately Jordan failed to advise me that he was unwell until the following Saturday so there were six of us in attendance. We enjoyed the short film *The Great Forest* by Marli Lopez-Hope.



Geology Group: The Geology SIG members were treated to an intriguing talk on 22nd November by Dr Dermot Henry, Acting Head of Sciences, Museums Victoria. His talk, titled 'The Providence of the Provenance: A 'ripping yarn' of gold, travellers, and shipwreck'. It was certainly a fascinating tale which started with a very small gold nugget in the Museum's collection which had been rescued after a 1859 shipwreck off the coast of Ireland. Dr Henry wove the backgrounds of the owner of the nugget and the donor to the Museum, into the history of the ship and the Irish town where the victims were buried, along with an early Melbourne Museum (the Industrial and Technological Museum). He also mentioned how the staging of Museum exhibits can reflect the religious beliefs of the day! Although not strictly geology, this talk was a great example of how following the provenance of an object can open many fields. And many, many thanks to Max Campbell for filling in at the last moment at our October 25th meeting.



Juniors' Group: We had a great speaker on Friday 27th October. Jordan Crooka spoke to us about his works and the work of his organisation to save the forest from logging. We understood that it is not an easy task and it requires commitment and genuine love of the natural world.



Jordan mentioned about the Leadbeater's Possum, its habitat, how they live, and the fact that it is now critically endangered. He also mentioned other animals we may encounter (if lucky) in our next excursion. He explained in detail how he uses thermo-cameras at night in order to find the Leadbeater's Possums and other mammals up in the trees. Jordan also emphasised the importance of keeping old Gum trees, as they are an ideal home for these possums and many other animals. We are looking forward to going to the Toolangi Giant trees tour with him to see the forest he had previously worked in. I must add the attendance was low (sadly).

We also had our Melbourne camp in Mt Baw Baw organised by Claire but without her taking part in it. 36 members attended. Eileen Laidlaw (from Friends of Mt Baw Baw) was meant to meet us on Saturday for an excursion (that was arranged a few months in advance by Claire Ferguson) but due to a medical problem Eileen was unable to attend. Claire did a great job finding her and it was really unfortunate Eileen was not able to go. We had a nice walk ourselves to the Summit of the ski resort with lots of mud, some snow and beautiful gum trees. Thanks to the manager of the lodge we had a wonderful speaker Deon Gilbert from Zoos Victoria. Deon is doing research about Mt Baw Baw frogs and came to talk to us about his findings and the future of this frog.

On Sunday we spoke and learned about Leadbeater's Possums. The children were very happy to receive their posters and answered questions with the help of the older children. Thank you Sue for providing them. We also went to the Mushroom Rocks walk at Mt Baw Baw National Park. Vicky Fraser, one of our members, was very happy to lead the walk as she has been there before. This was the highlight of the camp for most of the children.

Patricia

19th November excursion Steve Meacher, president of the Friends of the Leadbeater possum group, took our group of 18 for a tour of Toolangi. We met at the Toolangi visitor's centre which had a display to mark 150 years of the Leadbeater possum discovery that Steve was able to explain to us. We then drove to the Toolangi State Forest to see "Rusty" coupe (area to be cut down) which had been logged and is being left to decompose instead of burning a year later. (photo below) Next we headed to Wirrawilla Walk where we walked the circuit to see the cool temperate rainforest and taste the freshly filtered water. We then drove to a site where we could see the difference between one side of the road which had been logged and reforested and the other which has been protected for logging. Our last stop was to see the Kalatha Giant (mountain ash tree) and were able to see the endangered Galaxia fish swimming in Kalatha creek. During the tour Steve shared his wealth of knowledge about the surrounding region and the political situation that his group are currently involved in through the courts which so far has put a hold on 34 coupes being logged until the outcome in the December hearing.

24th November meeting Diana Gentu spoke to a small number of us on "Getting Active on Environment" from her experience in digital communications and her involvement with Toolangi's Little Red Treehouse. We all had an opportunity to draw pictures and write letters addressed to Daniel Andrew's with what we had learned about the situation in Toolangi and what we wanted to change about the situation. Diana took our envelopes to post.

Claire





Day Group

An Introduction to Marine Invertebrates

28th November 2017

Speaker: John Eichler

WHEN TO LOOK

At the lowest tide of the month - For tide charts see Bureau of Meteorology website. Look during the warmer months but not on really hot days

WHERE TO LOOK

A few invertebrates are found in the open - readily seen and conspicuous

Most shelter out of sight

- Under rocks or in crevices
- Amongst or below sea-grass or algae (sea-weed)
- Below sand (some nocturnal)
- In burrows in sand or mud
- Inside the shelters of other invertebrates
- Using other animals or plants as camouflage

WHICH HABITAT?

- All habitats support marine invertebrates
Rocky, sand flats, muddy/mangroves, sea grass meadows, algal beds
- Each habitat supports a characteristic fauna
- Some invertebrates are found in several habitats
- Others are restricted to particular habitats

Rocky habitats

- Includes shore platforms and areas of jumbled rocks
- The most productive habitat with greatest species diversity
- Most animals are found under rocks, rock overhangs or in crevices
- Some 'specialists' are found amongst loose rocks at high tide level
- A few species are exposed on rock surface
- Basalt best, granite worst
- Moderate to low wave energy areas best

Sandy habitats

- Includes extensive sand flats and patches of sand between other habitats
- Animals are mostly found under sand including in burrows
- Some feed just beneath the sand (look out for raised sand trails)
- Others emerge at a particular stage of the tide or at night to feed

Muddy habitats

- Includes inter-tidal mudflats and areas of saltmarsh and mangroves
- Animals live in burrows or partially buried in the mud
- A few live on the trunks and pneumatophores of mangroves or amongst saltmarsh plants
- A difficult habitat in which to search

Sea-grass and Algal habitats

- Includes meadows of Eel-grass (*Zostera* and *Heterozostera*) and patches of Sea Nymph (*Amphibolis*)
- Also includes algal (sea-weed) beds
- Animals tend to live on or under these plants
- Some prefer particular parts of these plants
- Decorator crabs cultivate sea-grass or algae on their shells as camouflage

Pelagic invertebrates

- Occasionally prolonged onshore winds wash in animals that live drifting on the surface of the open ocean
- Some have 'counter colouring' (blue upper and pale lower surface) to avoid predation from above and below
- Others hide amongst drifting algae or debris
- These drifting animals include predators (eg slugs and snails) and their prey (eg Bluebottles and By-the-wind Sailors)

Living with other animals

Includes invertebrates that:

- Live with other animals in their shelters
- Live on a particular animal
- Use other animals as a disguise
- Utilize the shelters of dead animals

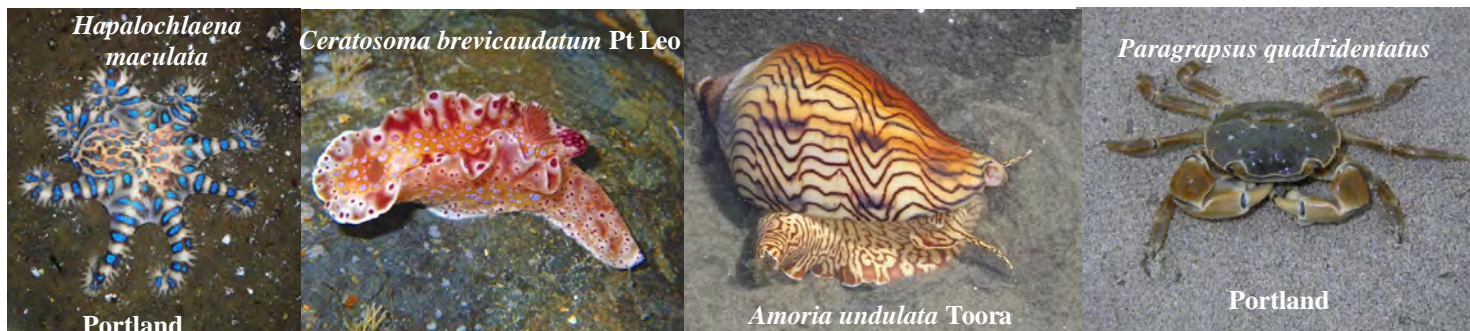
THE SEASHORE OFFERS A CHANCE TO MAKE EXCITING DISCOVERIES & ADD TO KNOWLEDGE BASE

- New species
- Rarely seen species
- New records for Victoria or mainland Australia
- Observe previously unrecorded behaviour

On behalf of the Day Group I would, once again, like to thank John for his excellent presentation, an outline of which (prepared by John) appears above. His images were of outstanding quality, (see below). As John included the location on each photo, it was interesting to note that a number of these beautiful animals were seen locally on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, in our own backyard so to speak.

This year's Marine Research Group's program can be found in the Calendar of Events with more detail in Field Nats News each month. If you are interested in participating please contact Leon Altoff on 0428 669 773.

John Eichler/J. Broadberry





From the office...

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Dear Members, Happy New Year to you all, and welcome to a packed schedule of meetings, excursions and camps. I'm having trouble squeezing everything on to the next Calendar of Events (COE) which will be coming to you along with this newsletter.

NBN Co will be coming to the FNCV office sometime this year – it's been imminent for the past few months, but now seems to have been put on hold. However we need to be ready for it when it does arrive, so to that end we've had a new modem installed which is NBN compatible. If you've had any problems sending emails or leaving a message on the office phone over the holiday break, it will have been when we were in transition from one system to the next. It's all up and running now though!

Those of you who receive their *Victorian Naturalist* by Australia Post will notice over the course of 2018 that we'll be trying to enthruse you to the idea of changing to the digital version. You would then receive a link to a special page on the FNCV website which has the new *Vic Nat* issue available to download on to your computer, where you can save it into a file so that it's neatly archived without using up physical space or paper, and the silverfish won't get a meal. It also has the advantage of allowing you to zoom in on photos and diagrams so the details are easily seen.

Please consider making the swap – postal prices for bulk mail are going up again in March! Just email the office.

Wendy Gare
Administration Officer



SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION (SEANA) Autumn get-together at Badger Creek near Healesville

Friday April 27th— Sunday 29th 2018

The FNCV is hosting this year's get-together. A huge thank you to the many people who have already offered to assist with the running of this weekend. We will be contacting you with a lot more information very soon. It is not too late to volunteer; just email Wendy on admin@fncv.org.au or phone 9877 9860

A reminder that participants need to fill in the registration form that was sent out in December last year. It can also be obtained from our website or the FNCV office. **Final date 1st March 2018.** In particular think seriously about booking accommodation. We have been told that the Healesville area is very popular in Autumn.



Advertising in the Field Nats News

VERY REASONABLE RATES

Contact Wendy in the Field Nats
Office

admin@fncv.org.au
9877 9860

(Mon –Tues 9.30–4)

Field Nats News 282



The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
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