



Understanding  
Our Natural World

# Field Nats News No.283

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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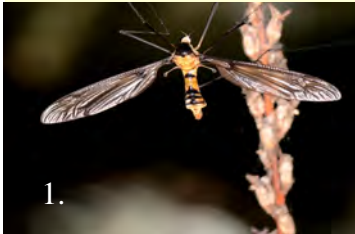
Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC  
Governor of Victoria

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

March 2018

## From the President

It has been a busy start to the year with two successful TIG excursions to Cardinia Dam and Gembrook/Tynong respectively. There were quite a few crane flies (*Diptera, Tipulidae*) hanging from foliage (Photo 1) or incompetently fluttering about as though they can barely manage sustained flight. The clearly visible, stalked and club-like halteres are the reduced and modified wings of the relatively atrophied metathorax. All of the flight muscles are in the hypertrophied mesothorax. The base of the halteres is richly supplied with sensory organs that facilitate flight control.



The much maligned White Tailed Spiders (*Lampona*) are wandering around the weatherboards of my house and killing the *Badumna* or black house spiders that live in the crevices and gaps (Photo 2). Spiders do not always hunt active prey and the one in photo 3 is munching on a small cockroach egg case.

I currently have a large number of huntsman spiders wandering around inside the house, in the garden, patrolling the weatherboards and hiding in the door handle cavities of the car. It is quite interesting if not exciting to feel the hairy body move when you attempt to open the car door. They are also entering the cars and the touch test for inside or outside of the windscreen can also prove challenging for some of my passengers. The trick of sitting under the sunshades and surprising anyone opening them is also quite an interesting habit of huntsman spiders.

Fortunately I can count very few arachnophobes amongst my acquaintances which is probably due entirely to my fondness for spiders. The huntsman in photo 4 jumped at the lens as I approached it. One spent over a week in and around the same wheel of my car and must have experienced some harrowing turns for the worse (Photo 5). I can only marvel at how its sensory system coped with the spinning as it clung to the inside of the hubcap.

Photo 1. A crane fly quietly hanging from the foliage; the halteres are clearly visible. I have been observing even more brutal predation around my garden.

Photo 2. *Lampona* eating a small house spider under its victim's web.

Photo 3. A sac spider (*Clubionidae*) eating a cockroach egg case which has been attached to the foliage.

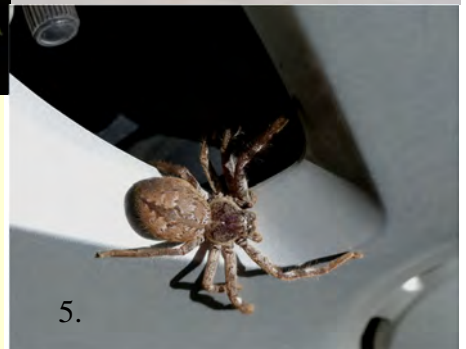
Photo 4. A seemingly unafraid and slightly aggressive huntsman spider hunting insects under the front porch light.

Photo 5. One good turn deserves another.

(All photos by Max Campbell)

Max Campbell

The deadline for FNN 284 will be **10 am on Tuesday 6th March**. FNN will go to the printers on the 13th with collation on Tuesday 20th March



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### March 2018

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Survey: Survey for the Swamp Skink on the Mornington Peninsular.** Prior registration essential. Contact David De Angelis 0409 519 829, [d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Meeting: What do nearly 10,000 observation records collected by the FNCV Fungi Group tell us about macrofungal communities in Victoria?** Speaker: Dr Tom May, Senior Research Scientist (Mycology) at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388; [cpage356@gmail.com](mailto:cpage356@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: Calling all Citizen Scientists - utilizing crowd-sourced data to understand a changing world.** Speaker: Ashley Whitt, PhD Candidate, School of Life & Environmental Sciences, Deakin University  
Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; [robindrury6@gmail.com](mailto:robindrury6@gmail.com)

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Survey: Survey for arboreal mammals and birds at Jallukar NCR (near the Grampians).** Prior registration essential. Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; [robindrury6@gmail.com](mailto:robindrury6@gmail.com)

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group Excursion: Blue Lotus water garden, Yarra Junction.** Meet at 10.30 am  
Contact: Patricia Amaya 9560 9854; [geluipatricia@gmail.com](mailto:geluipatricia@gmail.com)

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Marine Research Group. No Meeting: Labour Day**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group Meeting: Aboriginal use of trees, bark and wood.** Speaker: Dr Gary Presland  
Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Licola, Tamboritha & Moroka Camp** along the Wellington River (or stay in Licola). Prior registration by March 12<sup>th</sup> essential. Contact: Reiner Richter [fncv@rnr.id.au](mailto:fncv@rnr.id.au)  
A flyer has been sent out to all club members on email. Those without email please contact the office.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>—Collate FNN 284** Starting about 10 am. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Meeting:** For details, contact Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181 AH; [mcam7307@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mcam7307@bigpond.net.au)

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Marine Research Group Field Work: Point Danger, Torquay.** Meet at 9:15 am at the car park (Mel Page 506 B8). Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup>—FNCV Council 7.30 pm sharp.** Apologies, agenda items etc. to Wendy, [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au) or 9877 9860.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Day Group 10.30 am Meeting: What are your Nature Photos Saying?** A look at what you put in your photos, what you leave out and a few other tricks to make your photos say what you want. Speaker: Wendy Clark. 10.30 am., meet for coffee and a chat, presentation at 11 am. All welcome. Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Geology Group Meeting: Everything you wanted to ask about Volcanoes!** Question and Answer session from an Expert Vulcanologist. Speaker: Prof Ray Cas, School of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment, Monash University  
Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424; [rrhoskin@gmail.com](mailto:rrhoskin@gmail.com)

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Juniors' Group Easter Camp at Perry Bridge East Gippsland (SE of Stratford).**  
Contact: Patricia Amaya 9560 9854; [geluipatricia@gmail.com](mailto:geluipatricia@gmail.com) An email flyer has been sent out, or please contact the office.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Fauna Survey Group Survey: Survey for Plains Wanderers, Bael Bael Nature Conservation Reserve (near Kerang).** Prior registration essential. Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651; [rgibson@melbpc.org.au](mailto:rgibson@melbpc.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](mailto: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.

Tanya Fagg, Angus McNab, Cameron Algie, Megan Carve, Olive Tonkin-Smith, Eliza Smith, Jane Greig, Philipp du Cros, Sue Harris, Libby Proud and James Douch.

### *Alstroemeria aurea*, yellow alstroemeria/Peruvian lily

On a trip to Mount Macedon and the Camel's Hump (both within the Macedon Regional Park) on 10 January 2018 I noticed a colourful flower as a widespread ground cover under the trees. See photo. Later reference to *Weeds of the*



*South-East – an identification guide for Australia* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Richardson *et al*, 2011), revealed that it was *Alstroemeria aurea* – known as yellow alstroemeria or the Peruvian lily, which belongs to the Alstroemeriaceae family, formerly in the Lily family. It is native to Chile and Argentina.

Wikipedia notes that the plants

send up fertile and sterile stems and the roots/tubers are hardy to a temperature of  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This could help explain why his species can survive the snow and low temperatures that often occur in winter on Mt Macedon (elevation  $\sim 1000$  m). According to Richardson *et al* (2011), *A. aurea* is a perennial and has numerous unbranched stems to about 1 m arising annually from tuberous roots and spreading underground stems (rhizomes).

The tree cover in the areas infested by this colourful weed is predominantly Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) and/or Alpine Ash (*E. delegatensis*) that regenerated after the 1983 bushfires. Richardson *et al* (2011) says that *A. aurea* can be locally abundant in gullies and moist, shady sites, and is occasionally found as a garden escape in NSW, Victoria and SA. At Mt Macedon it has clearly been an 'escapee' for many years, given the extent of it. While it is attractive, this weed should be removed, or at least restricted from further spread, to allow native understorey species space to grow.

Peter Fagg, Blackburn

### Coastal banksia Gall Wasp

Whilst on a walk recently down at Phillip Island I found a Banksia that was infected with galls. The Coastal Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) being one of my favourite plants is always attended by birds, mainly honeyeaters when flowering. I had

stopped to do some bird watching and when I looked closely at the Banksia cones I saw strange protrusions on them. I have always been interested in galls and have photographed and written about them in

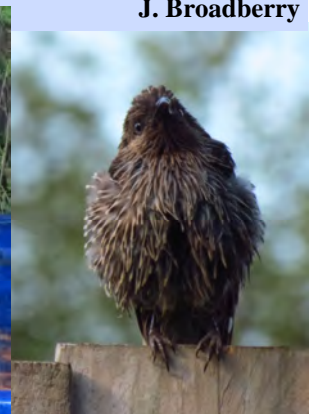


the past. I am fascinated by the variety of shapes and colours of galls and how closely some of them resemble the host plant's leaves or seeds. This one was quite new to me, it was a mustard-colour and not unattractive. The gall was caused by tiny eight-legged microscopic mites that suck the sap from the plant, or in this case a Banksia seed cone. I wondered what nourishment would the hard, dead cone provide, or did the mite live on the cone when it was softer and alive? The identification of these minute arthropods is usually left to a specialist in that field. The Banksia Mite Gall is apparently quite common and just another reason when on walks, to search for more of these fascinating relationships between plants and animals.

Cecily Falkingham

Had a lovely sighting of a pair of Little Wattlebirds bathing in my Templestowe birdbath. One sat on the fence and waited while his mate finished its ablutions.

J. Broadberry



## Bequest from the late John Walsh

On a Tuesday in mid-February, FNCV president, Max Campbell and vice-president Philippa Burgess, ( see photo below) who lead the microscopy group, welcomed two visitors—Mike Boudry from Nagambie/ Beechworth and Barbara Anderson from Shepparton, (see photo below, right). Barbara is the sister of the late John Walsh and Mike a close friend. John Charles Royston Walsh joined the juniors on the 11.6.1956 at age 14.

Over the years John became particularly fascinated with and skilled in the use of microscopes and macro-photography.

The next few paragraphs are from his (highly recommended) website, <http://www.micrographia.com> (maintained by Mike).

"Micrographia is for those who use microscopes in their investigations of the world around them.

It is for students and teachers of (especially) fresh water biology in their search for creature identification and illustrative material, for both amateur and professional light microscopists seeking to extend the performance of their instruments and to record the images they produce ..... and for anyone at all who feels like a browse through a minutely detailed world of small animals, small plants, and small things.

This website was created by John C Walsh, who died on 18th November 2012. It is maintained by his friends in order that John's thoughts and micrographs may continue to be seen by anyone who shares his fascination with the world of very small things."

John left the FNCV a generous bequest in his will and Barbara and Mike travelled to Melbourne to deliver a large number of cases and boxes containing microscopes, photographic equipment, accessories and books. In the last few days Max has devoted many hours to unpacking, cataloguing, cleaning, organising and repairing where necessary.

The FNCV would like to acknowledge John's generous bequest and the effort that has been made to bring it to us. Many like-minded people in the club share John's love of "the world of very small things", and will now be able use his legacy to extend their knowledge and open up this world to others.

J B



## Library News



The following items have been accessioned recently, and may be borrowed from the Library:

### (1) Books

- Burch, John (2017) *Returning the Kulkynne* [994.5 BUR]
- Christian, Margaret (2005) *Norfolk Island ... the birds* [598.2/948 CHR]
- Fuhrer, Bruce (2016) *A field guide to Australian fungi*. Revised edition. [589.2 FUH]
- Heard, Tim (2016) *The Australian native bee book: keeping stingless bee hives for pets, pollination and sugarbag honey* [595.799 HEA]
- Hewish, Marilyn, (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 7: Bark Moths and allies – Geometroidae (D)* [595.78 MOT]
- Hewish, Marilyn, with P Marriott, T Edwards, A Kallies & S Williams (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 5: Satin Moths and allies – Geometroidae (A)* [595.78 MOT]
- Kallies, Axel, with P Marriott and M Hewish (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 6: Ghost Moths – Hepialidae and allies* [595.78 MOT]
- Karouta-Manasse, Fanny (2017) *Discovering Australian flora: an Australian National Botanic Gardens experience* [582/94 KAR]
- Marriott, Peter (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 1: Silk Moth and allies – Bombycoidae* [595.78 MAR]
- Marriott, Peter (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 2: Tiger Moth and allies – Noctuidae (A)* [595.78 MAR]
- Marriott, Peter (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 3: Waves and Carpets – Geometroidae (C)* [595.78 MAR]
- Marriott, Peter (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 4: Emeralds and allies – Geometroidae (B)* [595.78 MAR]
- Marriott, Peter, *et al* (2012) *Moths of Victoria. Part 8: Night Moths and allies – Noctuidae (B)* [595.78 MOT]

### (2) Periodicals

*Wildlife Research* 44(6&7) has a number of articles about koalas including a myth-busting piece on the ecological history of the koala. Others cover methods of surveying for the swamp skink, and a trial to translocate Eastern barred bandicoot to French Island.

*Australian Wildlife* (Summer 2018) includes items about koalas (with a different slant from the item above), platypus and Tasmanian devil.

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 now on the website

Don't forget 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, Honorary Librarian

**FIELD NATS NEWS Index for Issues (February) – (December/January), 2017-18 Compiled by Pat Grey**  
(Reports of Special Interest Group activities (SIGS), are listed chronologically according to FNN issue)

- Adam, Paul: Winner of the 2017 Australian Natural History Medallion **280:9**; Medallion presentation by David Zerman **281:3**.
- Altoff, Leon: Fieldwork at Shoreham Marine Research Group Members night **272:13**.  
*Photo Credits: Phasianella australis 272:13; Lysidice sp., Leptochiton liratus, Conus clarus 275:11.*
- Amaya, Patricia: Mt Burnett Observatory excursion (illus) **277:9**. *Photo Credits: Charts showing relative sizes of some stars, Spectrogram 277:9.*
- AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION:** Invitation to 2017 Medallion presentation to Paul Adam on Monday 13th November 2017 **280:9**; Presentation of medallion (illus) **281:3**.  
*Photo: Medallion presentation to Paul Adam by David Zerman 281:3.*
- AUSTRALIAN NATURALISTS' NETWORK:** notice of get-together in WA, October 2016 **261:11**.
- Bathie, Carol: (also on behalf of Janet Pett) Marine Research Group Members night **272:13**. *Photo Credits: Ciona intestinalis 272:13.*
- Bendel, Sue: Botany meeting report **278:5**.
- Bewsher, Sally: Superb Lyrebird **277:3**. *Photo Credits: Superb Lyrebird display, Lyrebird with worms, Lyrebird nests 277:3; Speakers at the Fauna Survey Birds of Victoria Seminar 281:9.*
- BOTANY GROUP: Reports to Council:** (illus) **271:4; 273:4; 274:4; 275:8; 276:4; 277:3; 278:5; 279:7; 280:11**.  
*Photo: Juniors & giant tree 271:4.*
- Boxshall, Grace: Investigation of toxicity within southern Australian members of the mushroom genus *Agaricus* in a phylogenetic context (illus) **280:4**. *Photo Credits: Agaricus xanthodermus 1, 2 & 3 280:4.*
- Broadberry, Joan: FNCV 2016 Christmas Party **271:12**; Second-hand Book Sale **272:4, 12**; Urban Reptiles (illus) **275:3**; Brittle Greenhood (illus) **276:3**; Monash University Earth Science Garden Excursion **278:10**; An Introduction to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands (illus) **278:11-12**; Brief summary of Field Trip with DELWP Southern Ark Project 1-7 October (illus) **280:11-12**; Biodiversity Monitoring with remote cameras by Robin Drury **281:10**. *Reports from Day Group: 271:6; 273:9; 274:11; 276:9; 280:10; 281:10.*  
*Photo Credits: Juniors and giant tree 271:4; FNCV Christmas Party 271:12; interesting marines collected by John Eichler 272:7; from Apollo Bay – Marine Research group members, Nectocarcinus tuberculatus, Austraeolis ornata 274:7; Marbled Gecko 275:3; camera over reptile drift-net fence, Centralian Bearded Dragon 275:9-10; Brittle Greenhood (illus) 276:3; Dawsonia superba, fungi (Armillaria sp.), members at lunch 276:9; Lesser Noddy, Australian Sea lions, Beacon Island 278:11-12; Southern Ark Project manager with a Possum in the bag, Echidna, released Brushtail Possum, Lace Monitor sunbaking, members working 280:11-12; Peter Homan, Inserting microchip into Potoroo 281:10.*
- Burgess, Phillipa: Thanks for help for the Whitehorse Festival (illus) **281:8**. *Photo Credits: FNCV stall at Whitehorse Festival 281:8.*
- Burns, Barbara: Government House visit **272:3**; Scarlet Honey-eater (illus), course conducted by Gavin Harrison (illus) by Barbara Burns **281:12**.  
*Photo Credits: Anne Morton thanked by President Max Campbell, for her work on the Victorian Naturalist editorial team from 2003 to 2016, David Cheal accepts his long-term member's certificate 275:12; Processing bats, Australian Pipit 276:10; Scarlet Honey-eater (illus), first aid learners and Gavin Harrison 281:12.*
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MONTHLY:** **271:2; 272:2; 273:2; 274:2; 275:2; 276:2-3; 277:2; 278:2; 279:2; 280:2; 281:2-3.**
- Campbell, Maxwell: *From the President:* (illus) **271:1, 3; 272:1, 273:1; 275:1, 276:1; 277:1; 278:1&3; 279:1&3; 280:1; 281:1**.  
*Terrestrial Invertebrate Reports: 274:10.*  
*Photo Credits: St Andrew's Cross Spider 271:1, 3; young St Andrew's Cross Spiderlings, Robber Fly 272:1; Spiderlings, Green headed ant Rhytidoponera metallica, Mymecophila sp., Isopod and tiny snail, Isopods 273:1; Golden Orb Spider 273:3; scorpion, Urodacus manicatus, Eriophora transmarina, Convolvulus Hawk Moth caterpillar Agrius convolvuli 274:10; Fat-tailed Dunnart, scolopendrid centipede 275:1; Tapeigaster sp., Helicarion niger, Green-lined Ground Beetle 276:1; Foram Shells; brightfield, Trinema 277:1; Mite, photo with Meat Ants, Leaf Hopper, Free-loader Fly, close up of Free-loader Fly 278:1&3; Spiderlings, Springtails, Proturan, Heterojapyx –full body, close up of head, close up of forceps 279:1&3; Huntsman spider with caterpillar, bull ant defending itself, Conthurina feeding and after retreating 280:1; Butcher Birds 281:1; collage of 7 invertebrates. 281:6.*
- Chapman, Mary: Using Oamaru & Mt Somers limestone in buildings (illus) **274:5**. *Photo credits: Oamaru stone in old stock exchange building 273:4; Bank of Australasia, Adelaide, Cathedral Room of the former Stock Exchange building, Uniting (Presbyterian) Church, Toorak, Ormond College, University of Melbourne, pulpit, Hunter Baillie Memorial Church, Sydney, dome of the former Commercial Bank of Australia 274:5.*
- Crawford, Lindsay: vale (illus) **277:9**.
- DAY GROUP: Reports of Meetings & Excursions:** The Conservation & Monitoring of the Rakali, (Aust. Water-rat) (illus) by Geoff Williams (Joan Broadberry) **271:6**; Associations between birds and plants (illus) by Janet Hand (Joan Broadberry) **273:9**; Wildlife watching on the west coast of Mexico (illus) by John Harris (Joan Broadberry) **274:11**; Excursion to the Dandenongs (illus) led by Sally Bewsher (Joan Broadberry) **276:9**; An Introduction to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands (illus) by Joan Broadberry **278:11-12**; Members morning including Dinosaur Stampede National Monument by Rob Hamson (illus) **279:11-12**; Melbourne's Boggy Beginning (illus) by Gary Presland (Joan Broadberry) **280:10**; Biodiversity Monitoring with remote cameras by Robin Drury (Joan Broadberry) **281:10**.  
*Photos: map, Rakali 271:6; Rainbow Lorikeets, Spotted Turtle-dove 273:9; Star-throated Hummingbird, artificial nest-boxes, Military Macaws, Amblypygi sp., Eared Poorwill 274:11; Dawsonia superba, fungi (Armillaria sp.), members at lunch 276:9; map, Lesser Noddy, Australian Sea lions, historic sketch of fighting, Beacon Island 278:11-12; Building housing Dinosaur Stampede, inside view of Dinosaur Stampede 279:11-12; maps Melbourne & remnant wetlands 280:10; map, Possum 281:10. Reports to Council: 278:5.*
- Drury, Robin: June survey at Killawarra Section, Warby Ranges National Park **278:9**; Biodiversity Monitoring with remote cameras **281:10**.  
*Photo Credits: map, Possum 281:10.*
- Eichler, John: Pelagic species washed ashore, Marine Research Group Members night **272:13**; illustrating Bruce Fuhrer's photo of a grey Coral **278:6**; Contribution to Fungi Foray report **279:4-5**. *Photo Credits: Glaucus sp. 271:1; Fiona pinnata 272:13; Gliophorus perplexus 273:6-7; Culicia hoffmeisteri 275:11; Asterophora mirabilis 276:5-6; Hypocreopsis amplexens 279:4-5.*
- Falconer, Audrey: *Marine Research:* Fieldwork at Breamlea **275:11**. *Photo Credits: Stenochiton 275:11.*
- Falkingham, Cecily: Our Valley **272:3**; Antonio Park, city of Whitehorse (illus) **280:3**.  
*Photo Credits: Common Bronzewing, Wonga Vine, Pandorea pandorana 280:3.*
- FAUNA SURVEY GROUP (FSG): Reports of Meetings, Camps, Field trips, Surveys:** FSG Training Workshop at Annuello Flora and Fauna Reserve (illus) by John Harris **271:9-10**; Annuello Flora & Fauna Reserve Easter survey (illus) by John Harris **275:9-10**; Bael Bael Grassland Nature Conservation Reserve (illus) by Raymond Gibson **276:10**; June survey at Killawarra Section, Warby Ranges National Park (illus) by Robin Drury **278:9**; Brief summary of Field Trip with DELWP Southern Ark Project 1-7 October (illus) by Joan Broadberry **280:11-12**; Southern Ark Project at Cape Conran (illus) by Peter Homan **281:11**.  
*Seminar: Notice: Birds of Victoria – two-day seminar Oct 21-22 277:10; Agenda for Birds of Victoria seminar 281:9.*  
*Reports to Council:* (illus) **273:4; 277:3; 279:7.**

**Photos:** Regent Parrot, preparing pit lines, Mallee Fowl, Red-tailed Worm Lizard, view, Nobbi Dragon **271:9-10**; Mitchell's Short-tailed Snake, Eastern Striped Skink, Malleefowl and mound, camera over reptile drift-net fence, Beaded Gecko, Centralian Bearded Dragon, Mallee Tarantula **275:9-10**; Processing bats, Australian Pipit **276:10**; White-browed Babbler, Noisy Friarbird Squirrel Glider **278:9**; Southern Ark Project manager with a Possum in the bag, Echidna, released Brushtail Possum, Lace Monitor sunbaking, members working **280:11-12**; Speakers at the Bird Seminar **281:9**; Peter Homan, Green and Golden Bell Frog, Long-nosed Potoroo, inserting microchip into Potoroo **281:11**.  
Fennel, Bill: Vale **279:3**.

Ferguson, Claire: **Juniors SIGS 272:7**; Organ Pipes excursion report (illus) **279:7**.

**Photo Credits:** Metallic Sun-orchid **271:5**; Damsel fly, Juniors in the field **274:4**; Juniors in camp **275:8**; Juniors in the field **279:7**.

**FNCV ADMINISTRATION: From the Office (Wendy Gare):**

**Postage costs:** postage costs are up, consider receiving FNN by email **277:12**.

**Facebook, FNCV,** (by Ian Kitchen & Claire Ferguson): 4461 **273:3**; 4786 **274:3**.

**Memorandum – IMPORTANT – DO NOT RECORD THE MEETINGS WITHOUT CONSENT 276:12.**

**Notices:** AGM Sunday 7th May, consider being a Council Member, office closed **274:12**.

**Supplies needed for Hall:** toilet rolls **272:3**; biscuits, tea and coffee, office paper **276:12**; Tea, English Breakfast style **279:9**.

**Thanks** to the help given at the Whitehorse Festival (illus) **270:11**.

**Volunteers Wanted:** Publicity Officer **271:8**; Whitehorse Festival 15 October **277:12**; **278:4**; Thanks for help for the Whitehorse Festival (illus) **281:8**.

**FNCV AGM 7th May 2017:** results (illus) **275:12**; emailed to members **276:12**.

**Photos:** Anne Morton thanked by President Max Campbell, for her work on the *Victorian Naturalist* editorial team from 2003 to 2016, David Cheal accepts his long-term member's certificate **275:1**

**FNCV BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM, 19-20th August 2017:** Marine Biodiversity notice **274:12**; registration form **277:11**; Marine Biodiversity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century list of speakers (illus), thanks to volunteers **279:8**.

**FNCV BOOK SHOP (Kathy Himbeck):** Report on book sales 2016 **272:7**; books on sale **272:14**; contact details **273:3**; contact details **274:3**; books for sale **275:7**; contact details **276:3**; books for sale **276:11**; News **278:4**; News **279:9**; News **280:8**; News **281:7**.

**FNCV Christmas Party:** December 2016 (illus) by Joan Broadberry **271:12**; Invitation to 2017 Party **281:8**.

**FNCV COUNCIL:**

**Annual General Meeting:** Invitation **273:8**.

**Council Papers:** Revised manual for risk management within the SIGS **261:1**.

**Photos:** Barbara Burns, Phoebe Burns, Moira Minty with Max Campbell, Dr Sapphire McMullen-Fisher **264:9&11**.

**Nomination form for Council 2017-2018:** **273:10**.

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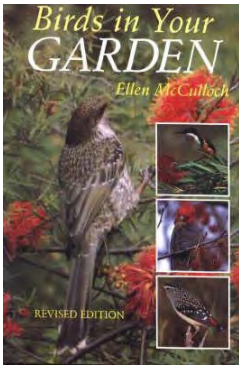
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## NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (March 2018)

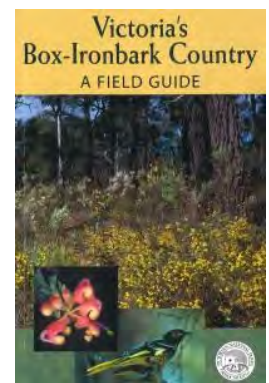
This month we have a collection of older publications that I have recently discovered or have secured as a wholesale distributor. There are three titles from Victorian National Parks Association showcasing our depleted Box-Ironbark Forest, wonderful Wilsons Promontory and our interesting rocky shores. Another similar guide book by the VNPA that is in stock is *Discovering Mount Buffalo*. Included also this month is another title from Aquatic Photographics and the spectacular photography by Rudi Kuitert and a popular book on how to better entice birds into your garden. Before you head out on your adventure over summer, make sure you grab your field guides. 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](mailto:bookshop@fncv.org.au) and I will reply as soon as I can.

Happy reading, Kathy



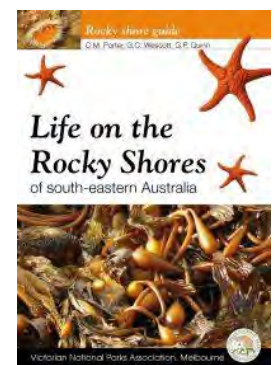
**Birds in Your Garden (E. McCulloch)** is a popular book that has been totally revamped, with updated text and many new photographs. This is the complete guide to that most of relaxing pastimes – birdwatching. The book provided helpful hints on how to attract more and rarer birds to your garden. It provides advice on preserving habitat and environment and shows how to build nesting boxes. It discusses and suggests what plants attract birds to your garden and provides some information on the identification of some of the more common birds in gardens – from Silvereyes to Fairy-wrens and cockatoos. (PB, 128 pp., 2000) RRP \$24.95, Member \$20

**Victoria's Box-Ironbark Country – A Field Guide (M. Calder & J. Calder)** is a definitive field guide to the Box-Ironbark forest of Central and North-East Victoria, one of the most depleted forest types in Australia. Mining, grazing, timber cutting and the infamous gold rush period have devastated these forests. This book contains over 200 colour photographs of fauna and flora, scientific and common names, as well as essays about the ecological communities and ecological history of the Box Ironbark country. (PB, 120 pp., 2002) RRP \$30, Members \$24



**Discovering the Prom (P. Ingamells)** is an essential visitor's guide that will help you plan your visit to Wilsons Promontory National Park. With its great granite boulders, tall forests, coastal heathlands, sweeping sandy coves and crystal surf, Wilsons Promontory is deservedly one of Victoria's best loved national parks. Beautifully written and illustrated, this guidebook has something for everyone, from the Prom devotee to the first-time visitor. The book includes 27 walks, intriguing nature trails, diving and car touring suggestions, 11 maps and Aboriginal and European history. (PB, 96 pp., 1999) RRP \$15, Member \$12

**Life on the Rocky Shores of SE Australia (Porter, Wescott & Quinn)** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of a popular publication. This indispensable guide includes colour photographs, descriptions and ecological notes for 96 of the more common animals and plants found on rocky shores in south-eastern Australia. It is written in a style that is authoritative yet simple enough to be understood by the more novice rockpool rambler. With this handy pocket guide, everyone can appreciate the beauty and diversity of life on Australia's rocky shores – and appreciate the importance of protecting this interface between sea and land. (PB, 130 pp., 2010) RRP \$18.50, Member \$14.50



**Seahorses & their Relatives (R. Kuitert)** is the most comprehensive publication of the world's seahorses and their relatives ever produced. If you have the slightest interest in syngnathids you cannot fail to be absolutely enthralled by this book. The book contains detailed information on over 370 different species of the world, including new and recently found species. Included in this book are seahorses, seadragons, pipehorses, pipefishes, bellowfishes, flutemouths, trumpetfishes and seamoths. It features more than 1200 spectacular colour photographs, most of which were taken in the wild, plus informative text for each species. (HB, 333pp., 2009) RRP \$80, Members \$64

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

## Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

**Juniors' Group: 19<sup>th</sup> November excursion:** Steve Meacher, president of the Friends of the Leadbeater's Possum group, took our group of 18 for a tour of Toolangi. We met at the Toolangi visitors' centre which had a display to mark 150 years of the Leadbeater's Possum discovery that Steve was able to explain to us. We then drove to the Toolangi State Forest to see "Rusty" coupe (an area cut down) which had been logged and is being left to decompose instead of being burnt a year later.



Next we headed to Wirrawilla Walk where we completed 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 from logging. Our last stop was to see the Kalatha Giant (Mountain Ash) 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.

**24<sup>th</sup> 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 Andrews 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.

**Marine Research Group:** Our annual members' night was held on 11th December. Presentations were given by Don Cram, John Eichler, Janet Pett, Carol Bathie and Leon Altoff. The meeting was attended by 15 members. Our field work program begins on 28 February 2018.



**Terrestrial Invertebrates Group:** The first meeting of TIG was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> and members attended to discuss their macro images taken at the excursions held over the past few months. It was agreed that there should be more sessions where naturalists can get together to discuss their photographic results and compare macro photographic techniques. There was some discussion over the possible causes of an apparent reduction in invertebrate numbers observed during field excursions. Wendy Clark also discussed the format that could be used to record data and images from field excursions. This matter will be continued at the next meeting.



### CONGRATULATIONS CECILY

Cecily Falkingham has been awarded a Community Achievement Award by the Whitehorse Council for her many years of service to conservation and for caring for and preserving large areas of local bushland. The Presentation took place at the Whitehorse Centre on Australia Day, Friday 26th January. Our warmest congratulations Cecily; so well deserved. We all are very proud of you.

*Photo from left: CEO Tony DeFazio, Cecily Falkingham, Major of Whitehorse, Cr. Andrew Davenport*



## 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)

### From the Dictionary of Botanical names. Compiled by Don Perrin.

Adena: a gland  
Adenosma: Scent  
Affine: allied to another species  
Alata: Winged  
Alba: White  
Albicans: Whitish  
Alpestris: of the mountains  
Alpina: Alpina



## Terrestrial Invertebrates

### Excursion to Cardinia Reservoir, 7th Jan.

The main aim of visiting this site was to find interesting insects on the flowers of the aptly named prickly tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*). As the flowering time can vary, particularly with preceding rainfall, it's not easy to synchronize such a planned event during the holiday period and we probably missed the peak by a week. As a result we had to search a bit harder, but we were kept busy nonetheless.

The first highlight for me was seeing the attractive wood white or Red-spotted Jezebel (*Delias aganippe*) butterfly fluttering above the tea-tree. Looking at my records it turns out this is the first time I have photographed this species.

On visits during previous summers I had seen numerous colorful jewel beetles but flower-feeding beetles were few on this day. We only saw a couple of non-colourful jewel beetles in the morning, although one was a species of *Diphucrania* I had not seen before, (not having seen many in this genus anyway). It was not found on the flowers but on the leafy stem of a nearby shrub and when this plant was handled the beetle dropped to the ground. I have found many beetles to be quite sensitive to vibration like this (jewel beetles in particular) – when you try to hold the branch steady on which they are, the insects go into their “play dead” mode and just drop.

At one point we found a wolf spider burrow with the occupier well concealed deep inside until we encouraged its appearance with the appropriate application of a grass stem. Although probably quite happy to grasp something passing its burrow during the day, these spiders are generally more active at night. Thanks to Max Campbell for showing us his technique as I had never even considered doing this before.

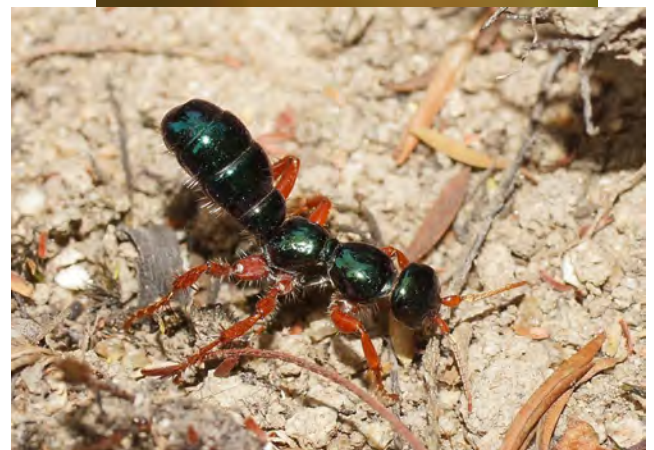
We also saw two large, attractive beetles: the Fiddler Beetle (*Eupoecila australasiae*) and Punctate Flower Chafer (*Neorrhina punctatum*). This season I have noted these on flowers more often than in previous years, but that's maybe because I've been paying more attention.

In the afternoon, down by the creek, we found a tea-tree in good flower with numerous beetles and other insects on it, including our first colourful *Castiarina* species of jewel beetles. The more we studied the shrub the more we found. There was a common green Garden Mantid feeding on a fly and in one clump of grass nearby there was a brown and a green colour form of False Garden Mantids.

Scurrying on the ground we saw what is commonly called a Blue Ant – with its tail raised as we must have disturbed it somewhat. These distinctive insects, with their attractive metallic blue bodies, are actually the wingless females of the wasp species *Diamma bicolor*. They are parasitic in that they dig under ground looking for larvae on which to lay their eggs, but as adults they feed on nectar (so are sometimes found on flowers too). As their wings would be a burden underground they have lost this feature much like ants have. By contrast male *Diamma bicolor* look quite different, much more like a typical wasp: winged with a mostly black body.

Many questions were asked of different people about camera techniques and I trust this experience was useful and enjoyable to all.

**Reiner Richter**



#### Photos– down

Wood White Butterfly (*Delias aganippe*)

Jewel-beetle (*Diphucrania* sp.)

Jewel-beetle (*Castiarina bella*)

False Garden Mantis (*Pseudomantis albofimbriata*)

Blue Ant (*Diamma bicolor*)

## From the Office



Dear Members You'll be pleased to hear that in mid-February the FNCV hall is having reverse cycle air conditioners installed. Our council decided that with climate change already making itself felt, we should look after our members and make the hall as comfortable as possible. So look forward to your next meeting: if it's hot outside, inside it should be cool and comfortable!

In the kitchen, we currently don't have many biscuits or nibbles for meetings. If you're able to make a donation of something tasty to keep in the cupboard it would be much appreciated. Thank you!

**Wendy Gare, Administration Officer**

### Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 283

Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare  
Sally Bewsher  
Pat Grey (index)

Once again I would like to record a personal thank you to Pat for continuing to prepare an excellent index to FNN. **JB**



### **SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION (SEANA)** Autumn get-together at Badger Creek near Healesville *Friday April 27th— Sunday 29th*

Thank you to those who have offered to assist with the running of this weekend. A huge thank you to those who have already contacted the office with their job preferences. If you have not done so, please reply as soon as you can as there is a great deal to co-ordinate before we can finalise the program.

**At this stage we are especially seeking people who can lead or shadow half-day excursions in the Healesville area. We particularly require volunteers for the morning of Sunday 29th. As Badger Creek is not too far from Melbourne it would be possible to attend just for the day. No-one has yet volunteered to run the fund-raising raffle. Never fear, we will be able to offer a lot of help.**

For those who are not on the current volunteer list, it is never to late, just email Wendy on [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au) or phone 9877 9860.

The registration form for the weekend can be obtained from the FNCV website or the office. Final date 1st March 2018.



### **Australian Naturalist Network 29th Sept—8th Oct 2018**

The get-together will cover the Grampians, Western District, Warrnambool, Great Ocean Rd and Anglesea.

A flyer with a registration form and details has been circulated by email. For those without email please contact the office. There are 90 places available and various packages for those who may prefer to use their own vehicle and book their own accommodation. **Final date for registration 31st March.**

### **Many thanks to the wonderful people who helped collate and label FNN 282 and send out the COE**

Hazel Brentnall  
Edward Brentnall  
Keith Marshall  
Neil McLachlan  
Joan Broadberry  
Sheina Nicholls  
June Anton

*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 283



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