



Understanding  
Our Natural World

# Field Nats News No.285

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.

May 2018

## From the President

When it comes to the study of biodiversity and the interactions between organisms, the saying that "the truth is often stranger than fiction" is frequently applicable. The life cycles of some trematodes such as *Fasciola hepatica*, *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* and

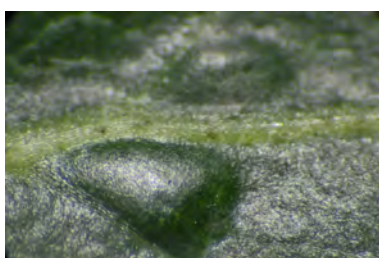


Photo1. Domatia as they appear on top of the leaf.

*Typhlocoelium cymbium* are perfect examples of life cycles that challenge belief. Look them up and be amazed at their complex life histories. By comparison, many science fiction scenarios are not at all far-fetched.

There are many other examples of complex relationships right under our noses. I was recently examining the leaves of an introduced, invasive plant, *Coprosmia robusta* or Karamu from New Zealand. I was looking for the domatia or tiny chambers that occur on the underside of the leaves near the central rib



Photo 2. Opening of the same domatia from underneath.

(photos 1-3) (from Latin "domus", meaning home). Karamu has a symbiotic relationship with tiny eriophyoid mites that wander over the leaves and control fungi and possibly other organism that pose a threat to the plant. They retreat (photos 4-7) to the security of the domatia where they are protected from heat, wind, rain, desiccation and predators. The mites defecate in the domatia and presumably provide fertiliser for their host. It is very difficult to

observe and photograph the tiny mites which move at high speed over the surface of the leaves. Video recording and grabbing stills is the easiest way to capture them.

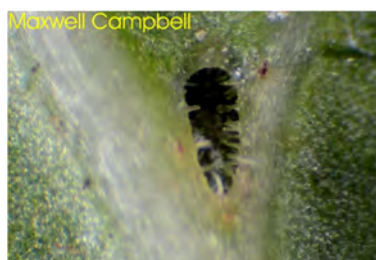


Photo 3. Close up view of the opening.

Domatia are found on many plant species and are thought to be the result of a symbiotic relationship between plants and the animals that provide a service which may improve the plant's survival chances. Removing fungi and sap sucking organisms is beneficial to the plant. Domatia that house mites are called acarodomatia and, similarly, myrmecodomatia house ants. African Acacias such as *Acacia sphaerocephala* are known to provide domatia

for ants which drive off plant eaters. In some species, the ants also poison other competitive plants and keep the site around their host free from other vegetation. *Maieta spp* in the Peruvian rainforest also produce domatia at the base of their leaves. The domatia are produced by the plant itself and not induced by the organisms that occupy them as is the case for galls.

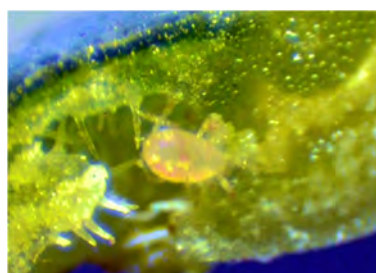


Photo 4. A mite sitting in a dissected domatium.

Photos 5-7 see p7

The deadline for FNN 286 will be **10 am on Tuesday 1st May**. FNN will go to the printers on the 8th May with collation on Tuesday 15th May

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Make sure you have the AGM date, Sunday 6th May in your diaries. Hope to see you there. AGM update: see p9

Maxwell Campbell



## 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.**

### May 2018

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Aspects of the Pacific Gull in Australia.***

Speaker: Bruce Robertson, ornithologist and PhD candidate. Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury6@gmail.com

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> – Annual General Meeting:** Join this important event in the life of our club and congratulate our new Long Term (40 year) members. Meet at 2 pm. Speaker Dr Mark Rodrigue, Program Leader – Marine and Coasts, Parks Victoria. His topic is *Wet Wild and Wonderful - Victoria's Marine Protected Areas*. **Special Resolution: see p10**  
Contact: FNCV Office 9877 9860; admin@fncv.org.au

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Foray: *Bunyip State Park, Gembrook.*** Meet at 10.30am at Mortimer Picnic Ground, off the Gembrook–Tonimbuk Road (Mel Ed 37 Map 14 R12). Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388 cpage356@gmail.com  
**ON DAY OF FORAY ONLY** 0438 446 973

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Meeting: *Surveying fungi for conservation*** Speaker: Sapphire McMullan-Fisher : Fungimap Mycologist. Sapphire is an ecologist with a particular interest in the conservation of biodiversity, particularly macro-fungi and mosses. She has been actively involved with Fungimap since 1999. Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388; cpage356@gmail.com

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group Meeting: *Field trip roundup.*** Join us as we review where we have been and what we have seen over our field work season. Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Collate FNN 286:** Starting about 10 am. Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Meeting: *To be advised.***

Contact: Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181 AH; mcam7307@bigpond.net.au

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group Meeting: *Insect Pollinators.*** Speaker: Max Campbell. Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Survey: *Survey and Nest-box checking at Rushworth.***

Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651; rgibson@melbpc.org.au **Prior registration essential**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Foray: *Silvan Reservoir Park, Silvan.*** Meet at 10.30 am in the top car park, first left turn along Stonyford Rd coming from Monbulk Rd, (C404) Silvan. (Mel Ed 37 Map 120 H11). Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388 cpage356@gmail.com **ON DAY OF FORAY ONLY** 0438 446 973

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Juniors' Group Excursion:** Dandenong Valley Wetlands. Leader Kelly Baton, Waterways and Land Officer, Melbourne Water. Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Day Group Meeting: *King Island.*** Speaker: Nicky Zanen. Meet for coffee and a chat at 10.30 am, speaker at 11 am. Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Geology Group Meeting: *The giant Ni-Cu-PGE sulphide deposits of Sudbury, Canada: The products of a lucky strike by a giant meteorite.*** Speaker: Prof Reid Keays, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University. Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424; rrhoskin@gmail.com

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group Meeting 7.30 pm. *Plastics and wildlife,*** speaker Lydia Low. Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Survey: Additional Survey for the Swamp Skink on the Mornington Peninsula (not in COE).** Contact: David De Angelis 0409 519 829; [d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au) **Prior registration essential**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - FNCV Council 7.30 pm sharp.** Apologies, agenda items etc. to Wendy: admin@fncv.org.au or 9877 9860



**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.

Steven Knight, Rachel McAlavey, Donald Dehnert, John Molloy and City of Melbourne.

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 285

Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare  
Sally Bewsher

Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 284

Hazel Brentnall  
Edward Brentnall  
Andy Brentnall  
Cecily Falkingham  
Keith Marshall  
Neil McLachlan  
Sheina Nicholls  
Anne Warren

### Black Wallaby Visit

This beautiful Black Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) recently visited Sally Bewsher's garden. The wallaby was observed eating rhubarb leaves in the vegetable garden (to no ill effect), as well as browsing on assorted other plants. She has a small pouch young, evident in this photo of her sitting on the driveway.



### Freshwater Crayfish

Whilst on a short break up at Warburton (Victoria), I was doing my usual early morning bird walk. The walk along the Yarra River away from the camping ground usually produces some good bird sightings such as: Golden and Rufous Whistlers, Ground Thrush, Rufous Fantails in spring and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Satin Flycatchers and sometimes the lovely Sacred Kingfisher. On this morning my attention was drawn to a slight movement ahead of me on the edge of the muddy track beside the Yarra River. As I drew closer I realised it was a crayfish. I had walked that track many times in the last couple of decades and never seen one here before. As I slowly approached it bravely rose up on its back legs showing bright red on the leg joints. Every other morning I had carried binoculars AND camera, this morning I had left the latter behind (after all I was seeing the same things every time). Big mistake! Here was a creature I had NEVER seen before.

There are fifty Australian species ranging from the large Murray Cray to a small dwarf group from south-east Queensland. This one measured roughly thirty centimetres and was very angry at being disturbed on its morning stroll and quickly headed to a muddy section of the river and disappeared from view over a steep embankment. Just in time as two small dogs (off lead in an on-lead area) approached, the owners asking had I seen anything interesting? I told them how special this area was and how important it was to keep even little dogs on a lead and about the beauty of the Ground Thrush etc. The reply was, "Oh yes we know, we are locals, we walk here almost every day". In that case rare cray sightings like mine will be very limited and the shy Ground Thrush will keep to the undergrowth. I also learned another important lesson that morning, NEVER leave your camera behind!

Cecily Falkingham



Images: S. Bewsher

## Members' news (continued)

## Fiery Skimmer Dragonfly and Spotted Swamp Fly Near Melbourne

The Fiery Skimmer, *Orthetrum villosovittatum*, is a medium size dragonfly with males having a conspicuous bright red abdomen. Until recently its documented range in Victoria (based on records in the Atlas of Living Australia) was Gippsland, east of the Dargo area. Reiner Richter, this Club's expert on dragonflies and damselflies, advised us that he has not seen this species west of the Dargo area.

On 17th January this year Carol Page and I observed and photographed Fiery Skimmers at a boggy depression near the Upper Yarra Reservoir. On a return visit to this site on 24th January we were fortunate to find the rare, beautifully marked Spotted Swamp Fly, *Pelecorhynchus nigripennis*. A Web search failed to locate any other images of a living specimen of this fly. Unfortunately this boggy site, which supported a wonderful diversity of invertebrates, has since been cleared.

On 6 February this year Carol and I explored the margins of a large dam on the Buttongrass Nature Walk in the Bunyip State Park and again found Fiery Skimmers. These observations represent a substantial extension to the known range of Fiery Skimmers in Victoria.

John Eichler and Carol Page



Fiery Skimmer, Reefton

Image: John Eichler



Spotted Swamp Fly, Reefton

Image: John Eichler



## Master Your Camera

[www.MasterYourCamera.com.au](http://www.MasterYourCamera.com.au)

### So many ways to help you improve your photography

- Short Courses on how to use your camera off auto
- Advanced short courses for those who are ready for the next step
- Workshops on specific subjects like Macro or Photoshop
- Day Trips to interesting places with instruction on what settings to use on your camera
- Longer Trips to wonderful locations to learn more about light and technique
- Review classes to discuss your photos and ask questions
- Advice on choosing a new camera
- Lessons on Camera Set Up – great for when you buy a new camera
- Private lessons for those who prefer one on one learning

Phone Wendy now on 0435 377 065 to talk about what would suit you.





## Members' news (continued)

## The Jewel in the Tomb

Fig. 1. The "Jewel" is the beautiful little Jewel or Spiny Spider, *Austracantha minax*, an example seen here in its web at Marraweeney in the Strathbogie Ranges, Vic., on 13 January 2018.

The other photographs were taken during the afternoon of 5th February 2018, on the sheltered outside wall of a house at Marraweeney. The wasp is a mud-dauber, *Sceliphron laetum*. We did not witness the capture or transport of the spider.

In Fig. 2 the wasp's mud chamber is nearly complete; the striking ventral pattern of the contained spider is clearly visible.

Fig. 3 provides the final view of the spider before the chamber is sealed.

In Fig. 4 the wasp has almost completed sealing of the chamber.

In Fig. 5 the seal on the first chamber has dried, and the wasp has quickly commenced work on a second chamber immediately beneath it.

In Fig. 6 the second chamber is ready for use. The wasp is about to depart, presumably to hunt for another spider, but it was now late in the afternoon and she did not return that day or the next day; we did not see her again.

We thank Ken Walker (Museum Victoria) for his help with identification and taxonomy.

Sue Martin and Angus Martin



1.



4.



2.



3.



5.



6.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

"All fauna captured in accordance with the FNCV's DELWP Wildlife Research Permit and National Parks Act Permit and animal ethics approved Standard Operating Procedures".

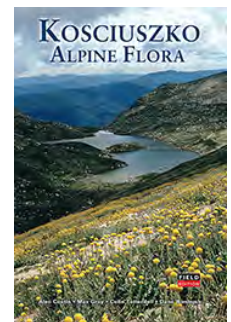
## NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (May 2018)

Mt Kosciuszko is our highest mountain and supports a unique assemblage of flora. *Kosciuszko Alpine Flora* was first published in 1979, with a second edition released in 2000. Now this magnificent book has been reprinted with corrections and is available on the bookshop shelves. Many thanks to Mr Arnold for ordering this book and for allowing it to be shared with our other members.

This month there are two titles that I recently came across that some of you may already have in your collection, one on feathered dinosaurs and the other an interesting book on tidal waters. The final book this month is a new one released from the CSIRO, which if you are interested in, will need to be ordered. 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.

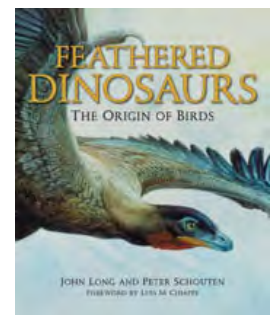
Happy reading, Kathy

**Kosciuszko Alpine Flora: Field Edition (Costin, Gray, Totterdell & Wimbush)** describes and illustrates the area's 212 flowering plants and ferns, of which 21 are endemic. It discusses the geological and human history of the area, the life-forms and habitats of the plants, and explores the various plant communities and their environmental relationships. Around Australia's highest mountain lies a rare ecosystem, an alpine area of outstanding beauty and diversity, strikingly different from other alpine ecosystems of the world, yet with common features. (PB, 248 pp., 2017 reprint) . RRP \$39.95, Members \$31.95



**Exploring Tidal Waters on Australia's Temperate Coast (Colman & Mitchell)** is a very readable, well illustrated handbook and field guide to the creatures and processes commonly seen on Australian shore platforms. Containing over 190 colour illustrations this book will be invaluable in helping you understand just how wonderful, how diverse and how valuable our coast really is. The book was awarded a 2013 Whitely Book Award as the best book in the category of Explorer's Guide. Tim Flannery recommends that anyone who enjoys the beach should have a copy of this book. (PB, 122 pp., 2011) RRP \$25, Members \$20

**Feathered Dinosaurs (Long & Schouten)** dramatically brings to life all the known groups of dinosaurs that bore feathers through spectacular double-page illustrations and informative text. Through the eyes of one of the world's most acclaimed natural history artists, Peter Schouten, their peculiar physical traits are matched with living creatures to develop a series of imaginative life paintings of this fascinating extinct group. Palaeontologist and popular science author John Long provides an easily readable text that explains each of the steps in going from dinosaur to bird and how flight evolved. (HB, 208 pp., Aug 2008) RRP \$49.95, Member \$37



**Recovering Australian Threatened Species: A Book of Hope (Garnett, Latch, Lindenmayer & Woinarski)** showcases successful conservation stories and identifies approaches and implementation methods that have been most effective in recovering threatened species. These diverse accounts – dealing with threatened plants, invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals – show that the conservation of threatened species is achievable; that it can be done and should be done. This is a book of hope and inspiration. It shows that with dedication, knowledge and support, we can retain and restore our marvellous natural heritage. (PB, 360 pp., March 2018) .RRP \$59.95, Member \$47.95

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



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

**Botany Group:** At the meeting on Thursday 15th March Dr Gary Presland presented a talk on *The indigenous use of trees bark and wood* to an interested audience of twenty people. Gary told us that Australia was made up of 200 nations of indigenous people. They covered many different regions with different environments, plants and animals, so the different nations did things differently across different regions. Gary stated that indigenous people used trees for:

- 1) constructing shelters
- 2) making canoes and other water craft
- 3) as material for making artefacts
- 4) as a source of foodstuffs and medicines
- 5) as a component of ceremonial practices.

Gary then gave us many examples of these. Thank you to Gary for a most enjoyable and informative presentation.



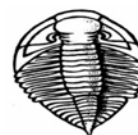
**Fungi Group:** At the meeting on Monday 5th March we had 18 members and 4 visitors.

Dr Tom May, Senior Mycologist at the Herbarium, spoke on "What do approximately 10,000 observation records from the FNCV Fungi Group tell us about Macrofungal communities in Victoria?"



**Geology Group:** Thirty-three attendees at the Geology SIG meeting on 28th February were treated to a trip away to Northern Ethiopia. Ruth Robertson's description of the geology, culture and scenery was graphic and detailed – and we are looking forward to hearing about her Southern Ethiopian trip later in the year. Her photos certainly added to the picture of a fascinating country still using traditional farming techniques yet with a rich cultural and historical past.

Before the main talk, Graham Patterson introduced a new book (Written in Stone by Philomena Manifold) which describes the Otway Coast in detail and with beautiful photos and Ken Griffiths described his visit to the London Geological Society. Many thanks to all our contributors.



**Juniors' Group:** We had a great excursion on the 25<sup>th</sup> March to the Wombat State Forest. It is incredible that it is so close to Melbourne yet not very busy. It took us only 1½ hours to get there on Sunday.

Initially, we had a limited number of member families wanting to come, apart from my family, as well as a limited number of non-member families wanting to come. In the end due to ill health, three families dropped out. There were six children in total and seven adults. The two families taking part in the excursion were non-members, but keen to join. We were lucky to have Philippa Burgess participating in our excursion.

The weather forecast for the day was not the best with an 80% chance of rain so I took advice from Max Campbell and Gayle Osborne regarding postponing it. Talking to both of them I understood that this weather forecast was not that bad and even had some advantages so the excursion went ahead as planned.

Gayle Osborne and Trevor Spiers, both from Wombat Forestcare, took the children to the Wombat Forest and into a treasure hunt. The children were invited to look for motion sensing cameras with high tech GPS. Once the cameras were located, the card was removed and photos captured were seen on the computer. We saw Agile Antechinus, a Feathertail Glider, Mountain Brushtail and Common Ringtail Possums, as well as wombats and wallabies.

Gayle also prepared a show and tell presentation for the Juniors' with Wedge-tailed Eagle, falcon and kookaburra feathers, Powerful Owl pellets and bird nests amongst others. Once the two non-member families left we were invited to walk to the trees where the Powerful Owl was last spotted. We did not see it, but the walk deep in the forest was the highlight for me and my son.



There was no evening meeting for March because the last Friday of this month is Easter Friday and we will be camping.



*Continued from page 1*

Photos 5 to 7. A mite approaching and entering the domatium.

*M. Campbell*



# Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

## Excursion to Sherbrooke Forest 25 February, 2018

Sherbrooke Forest is a popular destination for Melbournians, particularly on weekends. The forecast for the day was for it to be partly cloudy and not reach 20°C. It was totally clouded over for us with the sun only coming out briefly later in the day. This meant insects on the wing were going to be hard to find so it was surprising when we immediately found a couple of butterflies in the O'Donohue Picnic Ground. The advantage of the cool temperature is that, when disturbed, they don't fly too far (and will not readily take off again). This allowed us to get close to the resting insects and get decent photographs. We had an attractive Striped Xenica, *Oreixenica kershawi* (which I misidentified as a Silver Xenica on the day) and a Shouldered Brown to train our cameras upon.

Because invertebrates were harder to find, we just had to look harder into places where they were hiding, and at smaller things too. I was surprised by how many different critters we saw at the first spot I stopped: there were two small snails, at least one species of harvestman, several different flat-worms, millipedes and an attractive, freshly moulted bug nymph.

*Pillomena dandenongensis* is a small, white snail found in wetter forests from the Otways to east Gippsland. It is fairly common but at only 3.5mm diameter its easily overlooked.

With my intention to walk the reasonable distance to Sherbrooke Falls, most of us had walked past a large dragonfly perched conveniently at camera height on the trunk of a towering mountain ash, right beside and facing the track. It took Carol Page's more thorough study of the forest to spot it. As it turned out, we found more going slowly near the start than travelling further and faster later. As historically many wise people have already said, 'It's not the destination but the journey that matters.'

By the end of the day when there were only three of us left, we were concentrating on a wooden post that had a tiny treehopper with very attractive circular pattern on its face. We tried very hard to get our best shots of this tiny insect despite it only being a few millimetres long. Also resting on the side of the post was a cranefly with wings appealingly splattered with black blotches. Thanks to Zac Billingham for the identification.

Reiner Richter



Jumping Spider

Image: Paul George

**Right:**  
Snail *Pillomena dandenongensis*

Image: Reiner Richter



"Bug"

Image: Carol Page



Cranefly *Leolimnophila pantherina*

Image: Paul George



*Oreixenica kershawi*

Image: Reiner Richter





## FNCV Annual General Meeting, Sunday 6th May 2pm *update:*

We are pleased to advise that our speaker for the AGM is Dr Mark Rodrigue,  
program leader – Marine and Coasts, Parks Victoria. His topic is

### ***Wet Wild and Wonderful - Victoria's Marine Protected Areas.***



Don't forget that if you can't make it to the meeting, it's important that you lodge your proxy vote (below).

Please consider nominating to become a member of Council. There are only 11 meetings per year, and your contribution would be welcomed! A nomination form can be obtained from the office or on p12 FNN 284

Finally, the following notice is given of a **Special Resolution** which Council is recommending to be adopted.:

Council recommends some minor changes to the wording of the Constitution as follows:

Wording to state that *the Secretary may also hold any other office within the association*. This is because the title "Secretary" has legally replaced the title "Public Officer" to designate the person who lodges the returns for an organisation, but is not necessarily the person who performs the normal secretarial tasks of the Club. Our proposed change follows the guidelines laid down by Consumer Affairs Victoria and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Changes to clarify that the election of the Council members representing each Special Interest Group should take place prior to the election of any additional Council members, and that they may hold other offices within the Council but have only one vote.

**The current wording and the proposed changes are listed on the following page** →



The Field  
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Club of  
Victoria Inc.

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*Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, A.C., Governor of Victoria*

## Proxy Voting Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_

current member of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

appoint (full name) \_\_\_\_\_

of (address) \_\_\_\_\_

or in their absence, the AGM Chair, to be my proxy at the 2018 Annual General Meeting to be convened on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn and authorise them to vote on my behalf.

***This form must be given to the FNCV Secretary before the start of the AGM.***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ April/May 2018

*Understanding Our Natural World*

**The current wording and the proposed constitutional changes are listed below**

**Old clause:**

**48. Composition of Council**

The Council consists of —

- A. a President; and
- B. a Vice-President; and
- C. a Secretary; and
- D. a Treasurer; and
- E. a representative from each of the Special Interest Groups
- F. up to six additional Full members of The Association.

**New clause:**

**48. Composition of Council**

The Council consists of —

- A. a President; and
- B. a Vice-President; and
- C. a Secretary; and
- D. a Treasurer; and
- E. a council member representing each of the Special Interest Groups; and
- F. up to six additional council members, who are Full members of The Association.

**Note**

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer may concurrently hold the office of council member representing a Special Interest Group but are entitled to only one vote.

**Old Clause**

**51. Secretary**

- 1. The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under The Act to be performed by the Secretary of an incorporated association.

**New clause**

**51. Secretary**

- 1. The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under The Act to be performed by the Secretary of an incorporated association. The Secretary may also hold any other office within the association.

**Old Clause**

**57. Election of additional council members and Special Interest Group representatives**

- 1. Election of up to six additional council members---
  - A. single election may be held to fill all of those positions.
  - B. If the number of members nominated for the position of additional council member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those members to be elected to the position.
  - C. If the number of members nominated for the position of additional council member exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 58.
- 2. Election of Special Interest Group representatives—  
The Chairperson of the meeting must declare the nominated representative of each Special Interest Group to be elected to the position.

**New Clause**

**57. Election of council members representing Special Interest Groups and additional council members**

- 1. Election of council members representing Special Interest Groups—  
The Chairperson of the meeting must declare the nominated council member representing each Special Interest Group to be elected to the position.
- 2. Election of up to six additional council members---
  - A. A single election may be held to fill all of those positions.
  - B. If the number of members nominated for the position of additional council member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those members to be elected to the position.
  - C. If the number of members nominated for the position of additional council member exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 58.





# Day Group

## What are your photos saying?

*A look at what you put in photos, what you leave out and a few other tricks to make your photos say what you want.*

Wendy Clark's, (Empathy Photographics & Master Your Camera) presentation to the March Day Group was filled with wonderful, non-technical advice relevant to anyone who owns a camera.

A picture, whether it is a single flower, insect or landscape will have a focus point, which is the subject. This should be what the camera is focussed on. This focus point is what the eye is drawn to when the image is viewed. The eye then moves around the picture following lines and points of interest. Many things can get in the way of this happening. Listed below are some of the issues Wendy raised.

- Religiously use single point focus, (also known as spot focus).
- As compact cameras default to a wide angle it is preferable to zoom or walk forward rather than crop.
- The camera often needs to be turned for vertical subjects e.g. people orchids, kangaroos.
- The background to a subject can be very distracting. The aim is for a dark, uncluttered background perhaps a shadow or the sky. To achieve this the photographer frequently has to seek a different angle, often from a lower position. The aperture can be stopped down to blur the background, provided the shutter speed is fast enough.
- An Australian treed landscape lit by the sun tends to have no focal point. Turning 180 degrees so that sun is shining through the trees allows detail to be seen.
- The focal point for any bird or animal photo should be the eyes, except in the rare case the eyes are set too deeply or perhaps are closed.
- A photographer paints with light. There are many types of light; dull, bright, contrasty, artificial etc. Full sun is difficult, morning and late afternoon light work best.

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*Image; J. Broadberry*



*Above: Feather*

1. This is what you saw
2. This is what you took

To make your photo look like the first one you need to zoom in, turn your camera vertical, get down low and position the feather against the shadows in the background



*Above: Melba Gully—A good photo takes your eye on a journey through the image.*

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- When auto-focus fails, align a finger or hand on the same plane as the subject, focus, keep the shutter half depressed and reposition.
- Wendy prefers to reflect light onto a subject rather than use flash.

Each point Wendy made was carefully illustrated with selected images, often contrasting a poor composition with a more successful one. She has kindly allowed a few of the images to be reproduced here .

This was education at its best: enjoyable, and thought provoking with many concrete examples. The audience asked many questions. As a follow up, Wendy has generously offered to lead a practical hands-on photography session for the Day Group in spring. For more details of what is offered through *Master Your Camera*, see p5..

**Joan Broadberry**

*Below: Tongue Orchid*

1. Tongue Orchid whole plant - even light
2. Close up - difficult to see - Depth of Field too large
3. Close up - blurred background using small depth of field



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