



Understanding  
Our Natural World

# Field Nats News No. 299

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.

August 2019

## From the President

We have managed to do a great deal of environmental damage in our attempts to control, improve and manage nature to meet our own needs. Wisdom is seldom involved in many of our most disastrous decisions and the consequent actions.

Up until 1967 it was still possible to find large numbers of Growling Grass Frogs, Spotted Marsh Frogs, Brown Tree Frogs, Southern Froglets and so-called toadlets (*Pseudophryne spp*) along the Darebin Creek at Preston, near Northland Shopping Centre. Once the shopping centre was built and opened in 1966, the large carpark led to significant stormwater run off into the creek carrying additional pollutants from the cars. This would have impacted the frogs and the numerous invertebrates to be found in and along the creek. However, the River Improvement strategy of the MMBW certainly impacted the biodiversity of the area (Photos 1 and 2.) It beggars belief that such wanton vandalism and disregard for the ecosystem could have been permitted even at that time. There were many who opposed it but to no avail. I was very upset about it when I took the photographs.

The deadline for FNN 300 will be

**10 am on Tuesday August 6th**

FNN will go to the printers on the 13th with collation on Tuesday 20th August

Photo 1. River Improvement at its most destructive.  
M. Campbell 1969



Photo 2. Improving the Darebin Creek. M. Campbell 1969

The scene depicts the destruction of a section of the creek that had larger pools where large numbers of Growling Grass Frogs could be seen calling. There were numerous reptiles (including turtles) and the Green Lined Beetle was common along the banks. I frequently encountered them all before the improvements were undertaken.

We are still damaging the environment in similar ways in our forests and in our marine environments. There is a mistaken and persistent belief that we can actually improve upon nature and easily restore damaged environments. Ecosystems are extraordinarily complex, involving so many thousands of organisms embracing incalculable numbers of relationships, that no intelligent person could presume to be able to restore them to their original state or anything approaching it. We have many sterile, green deserts as a consequence of misguided thinking of this kind. I believe that underlying much of the flawed decision making is a high level of ignorance, particularly among politicians, regarding the natural systems of which we are an integral part.

The Biodiversity Symposium in October, "Restored Ecosystems or Green Deserts and Ecological Traps" will be around the theme of revegetation, recovery, rehabilitation, reinstatement, replacement, regeneration and "restoration" of ecosystems after they have been damaged if not destroyed by human activity. The realities of the complexity of biodiversity and what needs to happen to monitor and measure real success to achieve better outcomes in a range of environments will be subjects for open and frank discussion. The actual value of "offsets" in the real world will also be discussed.

Max Campbell

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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.*

### August

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Foray:** *Foray: 10.30 am Badger Weir Healesville* (Melway Key Map 10 R5. Vic Roads Edition 8 Map 80 B4) [https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/315630/Park-note-Yarra-Ranges-NP-Healesville-Area.pdf](https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/315630/Park-note-Yarra-Ranges-NP-Healesville-Area.pdf) Park near new toilet amenities.

Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388; 0438 446 973 (mobile number for day of foray only)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Fungi Group Meeting: Members' night.** Bring along some of your 2019 photos for discussion and identification. Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388; cpage356@gmail.com

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: Workshop covering the workings of the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.** Speakers: David De Angelis and Robin Drury Contact: Sally Bewsher 9752418

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group Excursion: Yellingbo planting tree day activity.** Leader: Sue Bendel  
Contact: Zoe Burton/ Esther Schouten juniors@fncv.org.au

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group Meeting: To be advised.**  
Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group Meeting: An Australian garden at Cranbourne.** Speaker: John Arnott, Horticulture Manager, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne.  
Contact: Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Collate FNN 300.** 10.00 am in the hall. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Microscopy Group Meeting:** Speaker: *To be advised.*  
Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Biodiversity Symposium. Rescheduled to 12th—13th October.**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup>—FNCV Council meeting 7.30 pm sharp:** Please send apologies or agenda items to Wendy Gare at the FNCV office. admin@fncv.org.au

**Tuesday 27<sup>nd</sup> – Day Group Meeting: Chasing fauna in far north Queensland.** Speaker: John Harris, Director *Wildlife Experiences*. Meet at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat, speaker at 11 am. All welcome.  
Contact: Joan Broadberry, 9846 1218

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Geology Group Meeting: Cretaceous Odonata (Dragonflies and Damsel Flies) from the rich fossil bed at Koonwarra, Victoria.** Speaker: Elaine Anderson, Honours student, Swinburne University.  
Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424; rrhoskin@gmail.com

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – Juniors' Group Meeting 7.30 pm: Birthday Party - theme "Tree-dwelling Animals". Prizes for costumes.** Speaker and special guest: Wendy Clark. Contact: Zoe Burton juniors@fncv.org.au



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

## Members' news, photos & observations

We always have space for members' 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.

Paul Bowden, Matilda Bowden, Bridget Bowden, Millie Wan, Erin Lennox, Jordan Crook, Romy Robbins-Davis, Leuwin Robbins-Davis, Jordan Robbins, Naomi Davis and Sarah Grinlinton

### King Parrots

It was once the case that to see King Parrots we would need to be in Kinglake, Healesville, Marysville, Warburton etc. Now many people living in the Eastern suburbs have regular sightings of these lovely birds. Once when camping at Kinglake National Park we had one land on the side-mirror of the car and another time I had one land on one of the stakes holding up the tomatoes in my vegetable patch.

Some years ago the council planted *Pyrus assuriensis* (Manchurian Pear) in the family of Rosaceae as a street tree. When it displayed its beautiful Autumn foliage, I decided I had to have one in my garden. I planted it outside the lounge window where it was visible whilst having morning tea, a welcome pause in the day's activities to do some bird watching. The round cherry-like fruit were soon discovered by the King Parrots and we now have the parrots two metres from our window. The Manchurian Pear is native to Korea, Japan and Russia, the fruit not so tasty to humans but is eaten by deer, mice, rabbits and birds. (Photo below)

I think sometimes Australians take our wonderful variety of parrots for granted. My British penfriends respond with envy when I send them photos of the Crimson and Eastern Rosellas and Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets that visit our garden. As I write a King Parrot is just outside the window calling its typical metallic "Kwiek, Kwiek" call. If I appear outside it becomes a screech, "karrark, karrark", reminding me I am too close to its territory in the *Eucalyptus rosea*.

We are indeed lucky to live in "the land of the parrots". If you would like these beautiful visitors to your garden, there is no better tree to plant than a Manchurian Pear. Another bonus is the riot of colour from the leaves in Autumn.

Cecily Falkingham, Donvale



Photos: C. Falkingham

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



Members' news continued

## Caspian Terns

Recently whilst on holidays at Phillip Island I saw two Caspian Terns on some off-shore rocks at Ventnor Beach. Caspians are an easy Tern to identify because of their size (48-54cm) and their bright red bill. They fly with their large bills pointed down in the direction of the water, ever watchful for fish which is their main food item. They are usually in pairs or sometimes in small flocks. *(Photo from the internet)*



Caspian Terns don't breed in colonies like many other tern species, but in isolated pairs. The breeding season is September through to February. They use islands or sometimes headlands along coastal inland waters.

My observation took place on the second week of June. The two birds seemed to be taking part in an out of season mating ritual. Both birds bowed slowly to each other, gently touched bills, and then repeated these graceful movements. I wondered if terns, like some other species of birds, have extended their breeding season because of the unusually warm weather this Autumn and Winter? Every day we were at Phillip Island the daily temperature was 17° to 18°.

On the circuit drive from The Nobbies I was delighted to also see Black-browed Albatross with its 2.1m - 2.4m wingspan. It was blowing a gale and the birds flew in a slow deliberate flight. It was hard to keep myself and the binoculars steady in the strong wind and many people doing the drive were content to watch the birds from the protection of their cars. It was well worth the effort. After all it is sightings like these that make bird watching so exciting and Phillip Island a magic place for Naturalists.

Cecily Falkingham

### Vale Joan M Dixon

We were saddened to learn of the death recently of Miss Joan Dixon, a Long-term Member since 2014. She had joined FNCV in May 1972.

Joan studied zoology and botany at the University of Tasmania and held teaching positions at the University of Queensland and Monash University. In 1965 she became Curator of Vertebrates (from 1979 Mammals) at the National Museum of Victoria, a role she continued for more than 30 years. For much of that period Joan was the sole female curator in the Natural Sciences area of the Museum. Joan also served as President of the Australian Mammal Society.

Joan published 14 articles on Victorian mammals and contributed two book reviews, all in *The Victorian Naturalist* between 1968 and 2001. She also acted on a number of occasions as a referee of manuscripts submitted for publication in the FNCV journal. In addition Joan was a contributing author to four major volumes on Australian mammals.

The Club's sympathies are extended to Joan's family.

Gary Presland, FNCV Archivist

Thanks to the editorial  
and layout team who  
put together FNN 299

Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare

#### Correction FNN 298:

The service for Ray Power  
was held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
May, not Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Many thanks to those who  
helped collate and label  
FNN 298

Andy Brentnall  
Sheina Nicholls  
Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare

*Members' news continued*

## Native Water Rat (Rakali) found at Gardiners Creek Reserve in Burwood

On Tuesday 2nd July I found a dead rat lying on the side of a track half way up a hill about 50m from the Creek. It looked very wet with its fur all spiky. At first I thought it was a large black rat, but the following features made me think otherwise

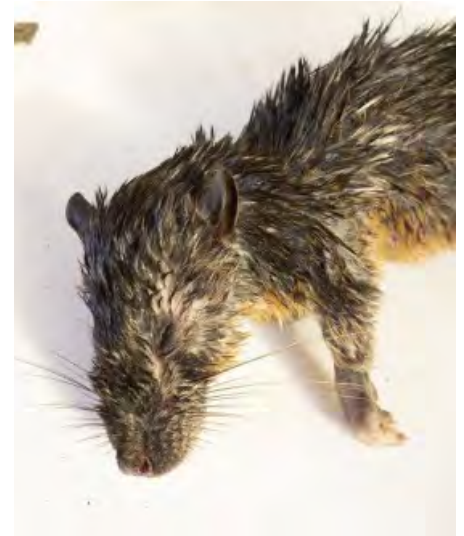
- It had a furred tail with a white tip on the end like a Ringtail Possum
- It had a large rat-like face with a mass of whiskers and very pronounced cheeks to go with it (for sensing edible invertebrates around rocks and logs)
- Very small ears
- Its hind feet were very large with webbing between the toes
- It had dark fur above and golden fur on the belly

It could only be a Water Rat or Rikali - *Hydromys chrysogaster*.

The sad thing was, other than being dead, it was covered in a light oil which caused its fur to clump and expose the skin. It would have frozen to death as its dense fur could then not insulate its body from the cold water.

People and industry often dump chemicals etc into this creek and the wildlife usually suffer.

It is good to know that the Rakalis are returning to our suburban creeks, but it was not a good way to find out.



Wendy Clark



All photos W. Clark



Native Water Rat or Rikali showing webbed feet.



## Boobook Owl in Blackburn *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

We were first alerted to its presence when the birds in our aviary started crashing about in the cage. We went out with a torch and found it sitting on a post just near the compost heap where there are some resident rats! I hope it caught a few.

It stayed for some time, looking around, which gave me time to get some photos. I used a video light on the camera which isn't as intense as the flash.

Wendy Clark





## Fungi Group

At this meeting four of our members spoke about a variety of fungi.

Ed Grey drew our attention to two species of coral fungus. The first was an *Aphelaria*, which Ed identified as *Aphelaria complanata*, found again this year at Stevensons Falls, near Forrest (Fig. 1). This fungus has been growing in the same place for many years, indicating that it may be mycorrhizal. The second species appeared to be another *Aphelaria*, which Joan Broadberry found at Mt Disappointment on 14 April this year (Fig. 2). This fungus had very broad branches (Fig. 3).

Virgil Hubregtse concentrated on two similar-looking *Mycena* species (Figs. 4 and 5) that proved to be very different from one another when examined with a microscope. Both were similar in size; their striate brown caps each had a small central depression; and their stipes (stems) were viscid. Microscopically, their spores were roughly the same size, but the cystidia on their gill edges were totally different. One species closely matched *Mycena subvulgaria*; the identity of the other is a mystery.

Jurrie Hubregtse described some of the fungi he has been investigating for inclusion in *Fungi in Australia*, including *Armillaria novae-zelandiae* and *A. hinulea*, and a species of *Crepidotus* (Figs. 6 and 7) that has been misidentified as *C. variabilis*, or *C. sphaerosporus* (which is now *C. cesatii*). Jurrie demonstrated that 'our' *Crepidotus*, which appears as *C. variabilis* in a number of Australian field guides, has quite different microscopic features from the real *C. variabilis* described by Senn-Irlet (1995) in "The genus *Crepidotus* (Fr.) Staude in Europe", published in *Persoonia* Vol. 16 (1), pp. 1–80. It is also different from *C. sphaerosporus* as described in C. Grgurinovic (*Larger Fungi of South Australia*, 1997, p. 93), and from the real *C. sphaerosporus* (= *C. cesatii*) described by Senn-Irlet (1995, as above). Jurrie suggested that we use the name *Crepidotus* aff. *variabilis* until this fungus is formally named.

Richard Hartland treated us to a veritable smorgasbord of fungi photos, starting with a *Pisolithus* species that appears after fire, and several *Lentinellus* species. These were followed by a lovely pink *Hygrocybe* and a beautiful *Cortinarius* (Fig. 8), which Richard said resembled *C. tasmacamphoratus* (see G. Gates & D. Ratkowsky *Continued page 7*  
*A Field Guide to Tasmanian*

## MEETING REPORT *Members' Night, 3rd June 2019*



Fig. 1. *Aphelaria complanata* at Stevensons Falls, near Forrest.  
Photo: Pat Grey



Fig. 2. *Aphelaria* sp. at Mt Disappointment.

Photo Joan Broadberry



Fig. 3. Close-up of *Aphelaria* sp. at Mt Disappointment.  
Photo: Joan Broadberry



*Continued from page 6*

*Fungi*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 2016, p. 56), with a purple cap, white fibrillose margin, lavender gills and a blue stipe. Richard has seen this *Cortinarius* at Silvan, Forrest, and the Ada Tree Rainforest Walk. Next came two *Clitocybe* species, some boletes and numerous other fascinating fungi. Richard always presents excellent images of amazing fungi that most of us have not been lucky enough to see.

This proved to be a very interesting evening, leaving us all with much to think about.

**Virgil Hubregtse**



Fig. 5. Probably *Mycena subvulgaris*, at Forrest.  
Photo: Virgil Hubregtse.



Fig. 4. *Mycena* sp. near Sheoak picnic ground, Lorne. Photo: Virgil Hubregtse



Fig. 6. *Crepidotus* aff. *variabilis*, upper surface.  
Photo Jurrie Hubregtse.



Above: Fig. 7. *Crepidotus* aff. *variabilis*, lower surface. Photo Jurrie Hubregtse.

Right: Fig. 8. *Cortinarius* sp. at Ada Tree Rainforest Walk. Photo Richard Hartland.







## FNCV FUNGI FORAY

### Wanderslore Sanctuary, Launching Place, 19th May 2019

We were once again privileged to stroll around this private remnant bush block that, despite its northerly aspect, tends to provide all sorts of interesting fungi.

One that was quite abundant was the cute little pored mushroom *Fistulinella mollis*, *photo right*. Like many other boletes they tend to appear earlier in the season. They are also one of the smaller boletes with their caps generally not exceeding much more than 5cm.

A small log was painted a little purple with *Hypoxylon placentiforme*. This fungus is probably more common but easily overlooked as it appears to be not very distinctive. On close inspection the ostioles (small holes where the spores emerge from) are very like other Hypoxylaceae. *Photo below*.

Up a large *Eucalyptus* was a reasonably sized *Laetiporus portentosus* (White Punk ) in good condition. It was also attractively distorted with its folds. Although a common species it is uncommon to find it in such a perfect state. *Photo page 8*



*Fistulinella mollis*

Image: R. Richter



*Hypoxylon placentiforme*  
Images: R. Richter

Unusually on a stump with moss and lichen was a healthy colony of *Chlorociboria* cf. *aeruginascens*. Normally we find these on bare wood lying on the forest floor. A characteristic of *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* is that it stains wood green, but this was not observed for this group. *Photo page 9*

Previously we have found numerous colorful *Entoloma* mushrooms but this year it was drier than on previous visits but John Eichler did still find one member of the genus in *Entoloma viridomarginatus*. This is an uncommon and green fungus with diagnostic darker edges of the gills. *Photo page 9*

(Continued on page 9)



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We recorded about 65 identifiable species. For more observations the project page can be found via the following web link:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fncv-2019-wanderslore>

**Reiner Richter**



*Above: Entoloma viridomarginatus*  
*Image: R. Richter*

*Above: Lotus and Liron meet Laetiporus portentosus*  
*Image: Sue Forster*

*Right: Chlorociboria sp.*  
*Image: R. Richter*

**Reminder:**

It is Club Policy that all attendees carry a medical form on their person (backpack) and inform the excursion leader of its location. This form needs to include any and all medications being taken, medical conditions and next of kin, as well as any special instructions or allergies.

**Pro forma on the FNCV website.**



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

### Fauna Survey Group:

**Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> June:** The speaker for the night was Dr Naomi Davis, scientist with Parks Victoria. Of the 16 species of deer that acclimatisation societies attempted to introduce into Australia, six species are now present in Australia. Most research on deer impact has been with the Sambar and Fallow deer. Deer defoliate and strip bark from trees, reduce biomass and grass density. They can affect small mammals by reducing cover, and also the quality of peat lands and alpine swamps. Naomi's research has been on Hog Deer at Yanaki Isthmus and Sambar Deer in alpine areas at Wellington and the Bogong high plains. The focus of Naomi's research is diet and the impact on the flora.



**Survey, 7-10<sup>th</sup> June:** The group continued our survey of rare fauna in western Victorian conservation reserves with a survey at Deep Lead NCR. The methods used were; deployment of cameras and day and night transects. The best part of the survey may be yet to come when the photos from the cameras can be analysed after they have been left for a month in the bush. We did find some interesting fauna from the bird watching and spotlighting transects. In particular, birds feeding on the flowering Yellow Gums. The highlight were some small flocks of Swift Parrots. There were also many small and large honeyeaters in some areas of Yellow Gum. Night time spotlighting produced a few Sugar Gliders, Common Brushtails, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Red-necked Wallabies.

Raymond Gibson

### Day Group:

Lisa Maloney, Environment Education Officer, Whitehorse Council spoke on the topic, *An indigenous view of weather and seasons*. The meeting was well attended.

Gary Presland proposed the vote of thanks to the speaker.



### Geology Group:

The participants at the last Geology meeting on 26th June were treated to Maxwell Campbell's photos, videos and descriptions outlining the evolutionary history of the Arthropods from the time when fossils of hard covered animals were first found in the early Cambrian to the present. We marvelled at the incredible diversity of both extinct and extant arthropod species. Some fossil forms, such as Horseshoe Crabs, share very close similarities with living species. On the other hand, whole assemblages such as the amazing varieties of Trilobites, with over 20,000 described species, are extinct and have no modern representatives. Fossils being excavated from Moroccan sediments show astounding biodiversity of Trilobite forms. The large and highly diverse Eurypterids also vanished. The Phanerozoic can be rightly termed the "Age of Arthropods".



Max however emphasised that these fossils are really only trace remains of life of the past and direct behavioural, biochemical, colour or genetic information is not available. Some aspects of behaviour, biology and ecology may be inferred from living counterparts where they exist. We know nothing of their microbiomes and other associations.

Fossilization, in particular good preservation, is a relatively rare occurrence. Not all life forms are preserved so there are always going to be gaps and we should be aware that there are real limits to interpretation. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. As an example, Max stressed that the so-called, Cambrian Explosion was not necessarily a dramatically sudden appearance of arthropods without ancestors. It might simply be the result of gradual evolution over millions of years from the Ediacaran into the Cambrian without leaving good fossils. (550 to 490 Ma). It is thought that at this time oxygen levels were high and the climate was warm and virtually a greenhouse, which supported a rapid increase in biodiversity. Extraordinary fossilization events gave us the Burgess Shales and the Chengjiang sediments where even relatively soft-bodied organisms were preserved in

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detail. Hard-bodied arthropods are more likely to leave fossils than soft-bodied ancestors so will bias their representation in the fossil record.

This was a most interesting overview of the early evolution of the Arthropods. We look forward to the second part of this presentation at our November meeting. Many thanks Max.

**Ruth Hoskin & Max Campbell**

**Juniors' Group:** At the end of last month we had one of the most amazing presentations of this year. William Terry, who works as Environmental Programs and Engagement Officer at Macedon Ranges Shire Council, came to talk to us about his PhD research in the habits of Phascogales. The attendance was also great with 36 participants, (the highest in number for this year), including five non-members. Considering the fact that it was a cold night, this was really superb.



**21<sup>st</sup> June evening meeting:** we had a great night with Wendy Clark. The attendance was good with 22 people in total, including two visitors. Wendy gave all of us tips to help us take better nature photos and improve our understanding of some of the basic functions of our cameras. It was indeed a very fruitful night for all.

**23<sup>rd</sup> June Excursion:** What a great excursion this one was, despite the cold frosty weather. We spend two hours at Badger Weir, and learnt useful skills to take better photos of plants and animals. One family was fortunate enough to see a Lyrebird digging up food in front of the camera!! Eight members attended this excursion.

**Patricia Amaya**



William Terry giving his presentation on Phascogales and some of the children enjoying the exhibits.

**Photos:** from *Juniors' Newsletter*

## From the office...

Dear Members

Next time you're at the FNCV hall, have a look and see how smart it looks! We've had it spruced up with the peeling fascias, gutters and downpipes freshly painted. The whole place now looks much more professional and inviting!



As usual, any donations of biscuits, teabags, coffee, toilet paper, hand-wash etc would be gratefully received. Every little extra helps to keep our costs down.

Don't forget that if you have any queries about the Club, get in touch with me at [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au) and if I can't give you the answer, I'll find someone who can!

**Wendy Gare**  
Administration Officer



## The Possums' Case, Federal Court, Melbourne:

After three months adjournment, the hearing of *Friends of Leadbeater's Possum v VicForests*, held before Justice Debra Mortimer, opened in the Federal Court, Melbourne on Monday, 3rd June. The three-week hearing has just been completed.

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum's legal team was ably led in court by Jim Delany QC with Julia Watson and Tanya Skvortsova. They were instructed by Danya Jacobs and Emily Giblin from Environmental Justice Australia (EJA).

The first two days were taken up with opening statements on behalf of the parties, laying out the arguments to come. This was followed by evidence given by several witnesses whose affidavits and reports were already before the Judge. Steve Mueck (BIOSIS), Dr Andrew Smith and Professor John Woinarski appeared for us. VicForests' witnesses were Mr William Paul, Dr Stuart Davey and Professor Patrick Baker. One morning was occupied with arguments relating to parts of our case (Tendency Evidence) to which VicForests had objected. Ms Skvortsova represented us for this part of the case and the morning ended with a ruling from Justice Mortimer, "that the three 2019 affidavits are admissible and VicForests' objection is overruled." That was a significant win for us, early in the case!

An important part of the case was the "View", in which the Judge was taken on a tour of the forest to see for herself many of the coupes in the case. VicForests made the late inclusion of an additional coupe, Castella Quarry, which is not listed in the case but has been partially logged using a number of new "adaptive silvicultural methods" which they sought to rely on in their defence. The tour then travelled through Toolangi forest visiting coupes at Nolan's Gully, Sylvia Creek and Hermitage Creek before taking the Acheron Way to Warburton. The tour ended on New Turkey Spur via Starling's Gap and the Ada Tree coupes. During the tour the judge saw a range of forest types, including habitat agreed by the experts to be "as good as it gets", scheduled to be logged, as well as several logged coupes.

The hearing ended with brief oral closing statements on behalf of the parties, followed by discussion on a number of issues selected by Counsel and Her Honour for further clarification. The Judge then made orders for written Closing Submissions to be filed by the 2nd of August and Submissions in Reply by the 30th of August. So the case is not finished yet and there is still work to do!

If Friends of Leadbeater's Possum are successful in winning the case it could lead to a review of native forest logging under the nine other Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) across Australia.

Sue Bendel

### If you would like to support the case please donate through

Chuffed - <https://chuffed.org/project/possums-case?fbclid=IwAR3cW0TQsdMWR845pt-R1YpqTR7hkiiCW5ebsMNFjERiyXXkWnnpzoSECKA>

**or** by donating through  
<https://www.givenow.com.au/friendsofleadbeaterspossum>

**or** by Direct Transfer to Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc, Bendigo Bank  
 BSB: 633 000 Acc: 163 484 702 (Ref: Possums case).

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, contact the EJA directly and be sure to reference "The Possums' Case".



## Library News



The following monographs have been accessioned into the FNCV Library's holdings since the most recent report. With the exception of the volume by Michael Braby, *et al*, which was purchased from the author at the recent AGM, all of these works were acquired through donations to the Library.

All of these books are available for borrowing for up to two months; don't forget to put the relevant details in the Borrowing Book.

Ovington, Derrick (1978) *Australian endangered species: mammals, birds and reptiles* [591.994 OVI]

Upton, Murray S (1991) *A rich and diverse fauna: the history of the Australian National Insect collection 1926-1991* [595.7 UPT]

Stevens, Lyla; Anne Lissenden (Illustrations) (1955) *Birds of Australia in colour* [598.2/94 STE]

Braby, M F; Fanklin, D C; Bisa, D E; Williams, M R; Williams, *et al*. (2018) *Atlas of butterflies and diurnal moths in the monsoon tropics of northern Australia* [595.78 ATL]

Paczkowska, Grazyna; Alex R Chapman (2000) *The Western Australian Flora: a descriptive catalogue* [582/941 PAC]

**Gary Presland**  
Honorary Librarian

## Advertising in the Field Nats News

**VERY REASONABLE  
RATES**

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