



Understanding
Our Natural World

Field Nats News No. 301

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.

October 2019

From the President

It is nice to see some Spring sunshine although I have yet to see many invertebrates moving about the garden. On the other hand there have been many small protoctists to observe. Wendy Gare recently provided me with moss and water samples from her garden pond in Blackburn and once again I have been delighted to see the extraordinary biodiversity of "infusoria" in a small urban pond. Microscopical examination revealed numerous amoeboids, ciliates, flagellates and a host of small arthropods and annelids including mites, copepods, fly larvae and tiny freshwater oligochaetes. Gastrotrichs, nematodes, rotifers, tardigrades and diatoms were also well represented. Some of the protozoan organisms from Wendy's pond are pictured below. There were also many spirochaete bacteria swimming about. Even under the frigid conditions of late Winter there is a lot to be observed in aquatic microenvironments. Observing them under a microscope is an excellent indoor activity for the cold weather.

Don't forget to register for the October Biodiversity Symposium, "Environmental Restoration or Green Deserts and Ecological Traps" Eleven speakers will be presenting on grasslands, wetlands, post-industrial sites, streams, saltmarshes, fungal communities and more. The symposium will conclude with a guided, afternoon tour of Westgate Park on Sunday 13th October. Forms are available from the office and online. Further details page 5.

All images
M. Campbell

Max Campbell



Photo 1. *Quadrullella* a lobose, testate rhizopod fully extended

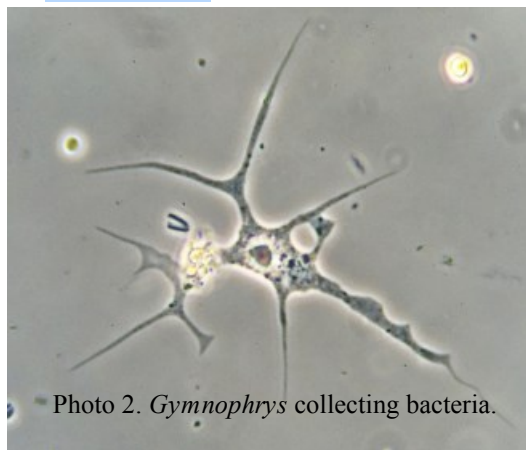


Photo 2. *Gymnophrys* collecting bacteria.



Photo 4. *Diffugia* a lobose testate rhizopod with a test covered in small grains of sand.



Photo 5. *Diffugia* extended

NOTE EARLIER DEADLINE

The deadline for FNN 302 will be **10 am on Monday 30th September as the editor is hoping to go to Annuello.** FNN will go to the printers on the 8th with collation on Tuesday 15th October

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Photo 3. *Trimena* a small filose, testate rhizopod with fine pseudopodia extended.

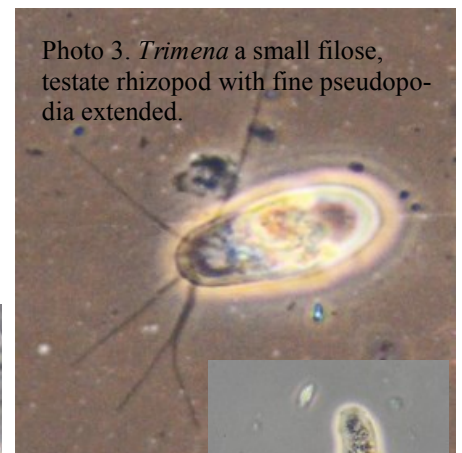


Photo 6. *Sac-camoeba*, a small rhizopod.





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.

(Sept.) October

Saturday 28th September—Working bee. Meet at 10 am for tidying and cleaning up the garden and inside the hall. Please BYO lunch, gloves, tools etc. Contact; Barbara Burns 0425 842 489 [Further details p3.](#)

Sunday 29th September—Saturday 5th October—Fauna Survey Group Survey: Annuello Nature Conservation Reserve and Moss Tank Flora and Fauna Reserve. *Prior bookings essential.* Contact: Andrej Hohmann 0410 934 779 ; A ndrej_hohmann@yahoo.com.au

Monday 7th October - Fungi Group Meeting: *Planning for 2020 forays.* Committee meeting 7.30 pm; General meeting 8 pm Please bring a selection of photos of interest from the 2019 surveys to share. New or old survey sites for next year? Do we want new sites for our long weekend away? Have a think about it prior to the meeting. Contact: Carol Page 9857 6388; cpage356@gmail.com

Tuesday 8th - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Remote acoustic survey methods for documenting Victoria's vocal fauna* Speaker: Dr Karen Rowe, Museums Victoria. Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651; rgibson@melbpc.org.au
Note: Because of the Annuello camp the FSG meeting has been moved to the 2nd Tuesday of October.

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th – Biodiversity Symposium—Venue: RSL, South Parade, Blackburn: *Environmental restoration or green deserts & environmental traps?*

Saturday: Registration 8.30 am. Speakers 9 am to 4.30 pm, lunch, morning & afternoon tea included.

Sunday: speakers 9 am till noon then a guided excursion to Westgate Park all afternoon. Morning tea only provided.

Prior registration & payment required . For details see website www.fncv.org.au or FNCV office admin@fncv.org.au
[Further details p5.](#)

Monday 14th - Marine Research Group Meeting: For details contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Wednesday 16th - Microscopy Group Meeting: *Practical evening using our compound, dissecting & digital microscopes with guidance & help in identification. Also screen videos of live microscopic organisms.* BYO specimens or view any of our many botany, marine, freshwater & invertebrates specimens. Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

Tuesday 15th—Collate FNN 302: Starting about 10 am. All welcome. Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Thursday 17th – Botany Group Meeting: *Alps Pt 1: Alpine environments and their plants.* Speaker: Ken Griffiths, FNCV member. Contact: Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 22nd – Day Group Excursion: *Guided tour of historic Schwerkolt Cottage and museum, Mitcham 10.30 am—noon. 2-10 Deep Creek Rd. Mitcham. Melway 49 D7.* Meet in the carpark off Deep Creek Rd at 10.15. **Cost \$8.** BYO lunch to for a picnic after the tour. [Further details p3.](#) Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 23rd – Geology Group Meeting: *Bluestone in Cut Paw Paw: Effects of Basalt Extraction on Urban Organization in Melbourne's West.* Speaker: Laura Harper, Practising Architect & lecturer in Architecture, Monash University. Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424; rrhoskin@gmail.com

Friday 25th – Juniors' Group Meeting: 7.30 pm. *Why is Melbourne where it is?* Speaker: Gary Presland
Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

Sunday 27th – Juniors' Group Excursion: *Serendip Sanctuary, Lara.* A wildlife oasis in the Western Volcanic Plains, this
(Continued on page 3)



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.

(Calendar continued from page 2)

250 hectare sanctuary is home to a rich and diverse array of birds and mammals. Come and learn about the grassland and wetland habitats that these animals call home. Meet at 10.45 am for a tour at 11 am. Serendip Sanctuary is at the base of the You Yangs, 60 km from Melbourne and 22 km north of Geelong, 100 Windermere road, Lara. It is signposted from the Princes Highway. *Bookings in advance essential! There will be a small cost: places are limited.* Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

Monday 28th FNCV Council Meeting 7.30 pm sharp. Please send apologies or agenda items to Wendy Gare in the FNCV office, admin@fncv.org.au

Sunday 27th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Beaumaris / Black Rock – Peacock Spiders

Park along the streets near cnr Fourth St/ Ebdon Ave, Black Rock (Mel 85 K5) and meet 10 am at the roundabout. From there it's a short walk to the spider site. Afterwards we will visit nearby reserves. **Further details p4.**

<https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.9805,145.0196> Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rnr.id.au

Working bee 28th September

We plan to tidy up the garden. Please bring your own garden tools, such as trowels, gloves, secateurs, loppers, spades, forks, etc. We are hoping to get a load of mulch so wheelbarrows would be very helpful.

We will also be cleaning and tidying inside the hall which will require gloves, dusters, buckets, rags, window, bathroom cleaners etc

There are some small repairs such as evening up the table legs. If you can help, suitable tools will be needed.

Contact: Barbara Burns 0425 842 489

All welcome even for an hour or so. Every little bit helps to keep our premises spick and span.



Fauna Survey Group Special Survey Twice Monthly from October to March 'Tile Boxes' as a tool to increase capture success of Reptiles

Venue: Grasslands in Melbourne's west.
Fridays and/or weekends. No prior experience necessary as training will be provided.

Prior booking is essential

Contact: Andrej Hohmann 0410 934 779
andrej_hohmann@yahoo.com.au



DAY GROUP visit to the historic Schwerkolt Cottage Museum Complex Tuesday 22nd October 10.15 am

You don't have to go all the way to Ballarat for some pioneer history lessons. You just need to pop up the road to Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham. The original stone cottage was built around 1886 and is surrounded by beautiful gardens which in themselves are well worth a visit. The cottage has been restored to its original condition and is furnished in the style of the period with items curated by the Whitehorse Historical Society. It is of an unusual design with individual external doors, but no doors between rooms. Instead there are delightful communication holes.

The site also features reconstructed outbuildings including blacksmith, barn, stone smokehouse and underground wine cellars. A new building houses the extensive collection of the Whitehorse Historical Society which includes photographs, clothing, newspapers, toys, memorabilia and objects highlighting the domestic and working lives of the original settlers.

Schwerkolt Cottage offers so much to see and learn, we have taken the opportunity to book a guided tour for which we will ask \$8 per person or donation. The minimum charge for the tour of \$110 will be covered by the Club if necessary, but we hope that members, friends and visitors will take the opportunity to join us as we visit this local gem. (On this occasion the \$5 charge for non-members excursion will not apply.) Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218



Coming events continued page 4.



Beaumaris / Black Rock

Sunday 27th October, 2019

We hope to see the peacock spiders that John Eichler regularly observes there each spring. Park along the streets near the corner of Fourth Street and Ebdon Avenue, Black Rock (Melways Map 85 K5) and meet at the round-a-bout. From there it's a short walk to the spider site. Afterwards we will visit nearby reserves.

<https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.9805,145.0196>

TIG excursions are not formally structured and generally involve meandering around with a camera to see what we can find. All FNCV members are free to attend (non-members \$5). Bring your own picnic lunch and camera. We will start at 10 am and finish around 3 pm. We are usually back at the cars for lunch taking a different walk in the afternoon. Hope to see you there.

Leap into Nature Stewards program offerings this Spring in the City of Melbourne and City of Melton areas! Come and discover more about your local environment, where you can get active for nature through volunteering, and meet like minded people along the way!

Applications open from the 12th to the 30th August, with programs running October 3rd to December 14th!

To find out more and to apply: <https://outdoorsvictoria.org.au/nature-stewards/>



DIARY DATE: Cup Day Weekend Fauna Survey, Saturday 2/11 – Tuesday 5/11/2019. **Ralph Illidge Sanctuary, Naringal, Western Victoria**

The Fauna Survey Group will be conducting a survey at this wonderful Trust for Nature property over the Cup Day weekend. This is a very interesting sanctuary that has not had a full-scale fauna survey for many decades. We will be camping but male and female toilets and a shower will be available at the information centre.

This will be a very easy fauna survey trip and is ideal for new members and family groups. Once you arrive at the property there will be no need to drive. All the activities, including setting surveillance cameras, spotlighting, birding and setting and checking traps, will involve easy walking on flat walking tracks.

The four days will include a major training component for members in a range of fauna survey techniques. Because the activities will include live-trapping, there will be the opportunity for club members to gain experience in handling and processing small mammals.

To register for the trip and for further information please contact Peter Homan, mobile 0407 525 103; email: homanpn@gmail.com

Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 300

Andy Brentnall
Edward Brentnall
Hazel Brentnall
Sheina Nicholls

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 301

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

bookshop@fncv.org.au

for any orders or bookshop queries.

If you don't have access to email, the FNCV office will pass on your message. Kathy will then be in contact with you.

Annual Biodiversity Symposium 2019
'Environmental Restoration or Green
Deserts and Ecological Traps'

Venue: RSL Hall, 2 Diggers Way Blackburn
Sat 12th & Sun 13th October 9 am - 4.30pm

The FNCV presents a two-day program covering aspects of the regeneration and rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems. Human activity is rapidly increasing the number and size of damaged areas. This two-day symposium will include 11 presentations on various aspects of regeneration and a guided excursion of Westgate Park on the Sunday afternoon.

Note: MORNING TEA, LUNCH and AFTERNOON TEA included on Saturday.
MORNING TEA only on Sunday.

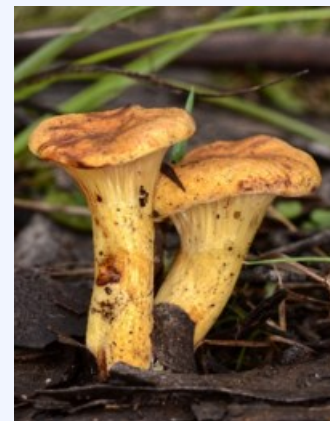
Speakers Include:

Dr Sapphire McMullan Fisher
Prof Ian Rutherford
John Harris
Damien Cook
Geordie Scott-Walker
Dr. Geoff Carr
Dr Graeme Lorimer
Dr. Luke Barrett
Darcy Duggan
Dr David Cheal
David Sparks

Topics include:

Mallee Habitat Restoration
Reviving Degraded Wetlands
Waterways and streams
Saltmarshes
Westgate Park Project
Ecological Traps
Grassland Rehabilitation
The Role of Fungi in Revegetation
Weed Management
The nature of offsets
And more

For more information and to register, contact:
Max Campbell 0409 143 538
FNCV Office 03 9877 9860; admin@fncv.org.au
www.fncv.org.au





The President and Council of
The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
have pleasure in inviting you to the presentation of the

Australian Natural History Medallion 2019

to **Dr Simon Grove**

for his contribution to natural history, entomology and malacology.

The Medallion will be presented by

Nicola (Nick) Williams, Vice President, Royal Society of Victoria

on **Monday 11th November 2018** at
1 Gardenia Street
Blackburn Vic 3130.

Reception at 6:30 pm with light buffet. **Cost \$22.**

Presentation of the Medallion will be at 8 pm and is free for those who do not require the buffet.

Following the presentation, our speaker will be Dr. Grove on
Sinking to new depths in pursuit of rare Tasmanian molluscs

Please RSVP to Wendy (03) 9877 9860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Payment for buffet by 4th November please,
preferably direct into the Club's bank account. Details are:

Bendigo Bank: BSB 633-000 Account No: 123098725
Account Name: The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
Please put "ANHM" along with your surname as your reference.



If you would rather pay by cash, cheque or card, that's fine.
Cash would need to be brought into the office between 9.30 am and 4 pm on Mondays or Tuesdays.
For card payments, it would be easiest to phone during those hours and I'll take down your details.

A tax receipt will be issued by email for your payment.

APOLOGY: The Fungi Group report published in FNN 300, page 4
inadvertently omitted the full name of the speaker.

The heading should have read—

Meeting: 1st July 2019

Sharing knowledge through images.

Presenter: Bruce Fuhrer OAM

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 by the first Monday in the month.

Welcome Welcome

Warmest greetings to the following new members who were welcomed at our last Council meeting.

Alanna Botten, Tord Ranhein Sveen, Sarah Hayward, Stephanie Pontet, Rachel Lee, Cathal Coughlan, Fiona Sutton and Albert Marcelletti.

Eastern Spinebill Eating Flies

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris

Each Autumn and Winter, The Eastern Spinebill comes into my garden in Blackburn and feeds on nectar from flowers that I have specifically planted for nectar feeders. It has a distinctive call and when I hear it I emerge with camera in hand and try and photograph this extremely fast and flighty bird. This year there are also some Pardalotes around and a larger number of Brown Thornbills.

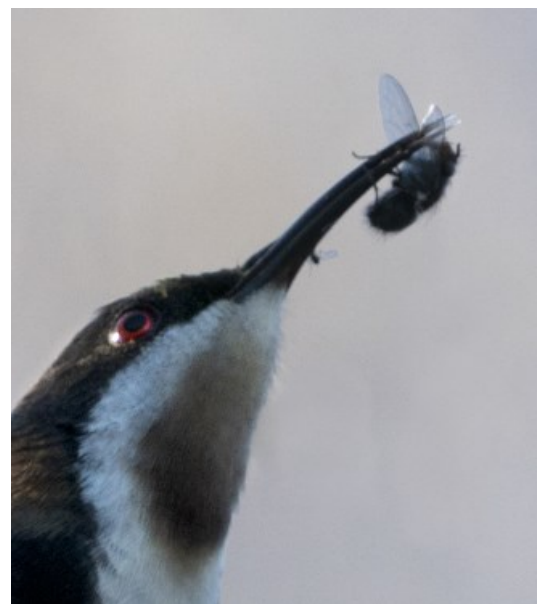
Nectar Feeders still require protein and they do this by catching insects. They are amazing to see with their aerial acrobatics. This time I was fortunate that he caught a rather large fly and was having trouble swallowing it. It meant he stayed still long enough for me to get some good photos.

When I enlarged these photos, I was amazed to see that he had a tiny fly still on his beak as he was wrestling with the large one.

The first photo taken was the one with his beak open as he was trying to swallow the fly. The next is when he had it back at the end of his bill. I didn't see what happened after that, as he flew away.



Wendy Clark



Photos Wendy Clark



Botany Group

An Australian Garden at Cranbourne

Speaker: John Arnott Manager of Horticulture at RBG Cranbourne

15th August

History

The current Australian Garden is 15 ha of the 363 ha at Cranbourne. Effectively, a landscaped garden is situated in a bushland reserve. First settled in the 1820s, the region was developed for agriculture in the 1850s, but some bush was left uncleared. From 1922 to 1959 a large quantity of building sand was removed.

In 1969 a site was selected for Australian plants, from a region of heath, wattles and orchids. Early plantings included West Australian proteaceae. A survey in 1978 identified five vegetation communities: dry heathland, wet heathland (along drain lines), swamp scrub, grassy woodland and wetland complex. In the south was a grassland. Ten percent of Victoria's flora was present. For example, *Correa reflexa* var. *lobata* was found, as an isolated remnant occurrence at Cranbourne. Forty six orchid species, twenty-five mammals and 200 birds were present. Fire is used in management of the bushland, in a mosaic manner, avoiding tree canopy burns.

Australian Garden

This landscape architecture project had two stages, the first was completed in 2006. Its design brief included: to display Australian plants, to educate the public and to link with suburban gardens. Clearly, one notes, in a frame quite different to the South Yarra gardens!

The gardens at Cranbourne are not arranged naturalistically. Straight lines and rows are used for beds. Plantings do not duplicate, but rather allude to, certain habitats, using landscape design. Some plants are selected for their wide range of environmental tolerance. This is ongoing research. In earlier days plants were sourced from Kings Park (Perth) and ANBG (Canberra). There are now 170,000 plants in the Australian Garden.



Care for the rare

Victoria has 42 regional Botanic Gardens, many established in the 19th century, which have a marked tendency towards exotic species. Cranbourne RBG is running a pilot project with six of the regional Victorian gardens. Local rare and endangered species will be identified, then propagated at Cranbourne and finally returned to the regions. Funding will cover interpretive signs. Those gardens include: Sale, Shepparton, Geelong, Wilson Park and Dandenong Ranges [formerly the National Rhododendron Garden, Olinda].

John described a similar project focussed on tropical mountain plants from Innisfail to Port Douglas. Above 1,000 m there is cloud forest environment. Global warming, leading to extinctions is a major threat to these cloud forests. *Elaeocarpus linsmithii* for example, is only found on a few peaks. Cranbourne is working through the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) to collect such rare and threatened plants and to propagate them in botanic gardens up and down Australia's east coast, from the mountain to the plain.

Ken Griffiths

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Fauna Survey Group: The meeting on 6th August was a workshop run by David De Angelis and Robin Drury on using The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. There was no fieldwork this month.



Ray Gibson

Geology Group: 46 members attended the Geology group meeting on July 24th to hear Dr Stephen Poropat describe the fascinating story of Australian Mesozoic (250 to 66 mya) dinosaurs.



Can you imagine the eastern part of inland Australia covered by sea? This would certainly have been the scene particularly during the 140-130 million years ago during the Cretaceous. And what amazing animals roamed its shallow edges and swam in its waters! He briefly described the 21 dinosaur species which have been discovered so far as well as bones from birds and tiny mammals.

Stephen is involved in the exploration of the Queensland fossils and footprints of mammoth dinosaurs such as *Austrosaurus mckillopi*. Many of the fossils are now displayed in the Winton Age of Dinosaurs Museum. But the range of discovered fossil sites reaches far wider than Queensland with, of course, important digs in southern Victoria.

This was an amazing talk describing an exciting, ongoing exploration of an impressive part of Australia's prehistory. Many thanks to Dr Poropat for his comprehensive and most interesting talk.

Ruth Hoskin

Juniors' Group: Meeting 26th July: We had the usual club business and then Max Campbell spoke to us about *Pollination*: how the different components of a flower work, how flowers have evolved and the evolutionary changes that occurred to flowers once insects arrived. He showed us specific flowers and how they adapted to their insect pollinators. Also the adaptation that occurred in animals such as moths with an extra long proboscis in order to reach nectar in particular orchids.

In total we had 25 attendees. Four of whom were visitors. Next month will be our birthday party meeting.

The planned planting day excursion was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Esther Schouten.



Marine Research Group: The MRG held an Identification evening on 12th August. MRG regulars and a number of other FNCV members (13 members in total) brought specimens, images and small presentations of the more unusual marine animals. Identification of the sea urchin *Brissus agassizii* was accompanied with a story of its sub-tidal life in Port Phillip Bay, while the "Big Thingy", a one meter diameter gelatinous blob remains unidentified. Other presentations resulted in discussions and interest.



Leon Altoff

Microscopy Group: Meeting was held on Wednesday 21st August with several microscopes set up for members use. Many specimens were available with members bringing botany specimens from home for dissection. We also viewed many new videos of microscopic freshwater life.



Six Members attended, one being a keen newly-joined member.

Philippa Burgess

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

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



Day Group

Chasing fauna in far north Queensland– Part 1 Speaker: John Harris

Former FNCV president and director of Wildlife Experiences, John Harris set himself a challenge to mark his 50th birthday. His goal for 2019 was to add 50 new species of fauna, (birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals), to his life lists. He named his quest, **#50formy50th**. John's first 'lifer', seen at the Western Treatment Plant Werribee, was a vagrant Tufted Duck. Then in February John and his wife Kathy flew to Cairns, the gateway to the wet tropics and based themselves there for a fortnight.

Using strategies for finding wildlife such as: visiting many different habitats, following up advice from friends, locals and the internet, driving the roads and spotlighting at night, John found and photographed numerous species, many of which appear in this summary of his presentation. All were greeted with his trademark enthusiasm, with those not seen before providing the greatest excitement.

Carlia longipes, the Closed-litter Rainbow-skink turned up at his resort in Cairns. The Spotted Whistling Duck, a lifer (photo right) and Rajah Shelduck were easily seen on the lakes in the Cairns Botanic Gardens. The small breeding populations of Spotted Whistling Ducks have been self-introduced from areas to the north of Australia. A colony of Spectacled Flying Foxes roosts in the heart of Cairns. Unfortunately thousands died in a recent heat event, causing the species to be moved from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered' almost overnight. Volunteers and the Tolga Bat Hospital cared for those that could be saved. (Photo right.) Other wildlife hot spots were: Cairns Esplanade, Mangrove Boardwalk and Crystal Cascades. Species seen included: Amethystine (Scrub) Python (photo page 11), Fawn-footed Melomys, Northern Long-nosed Bandicoot, Scaly-breasted Munia, (an introduced bird formally known as the Nutmeg Finch), Bush Stone Curlew and Lesser Sooty Owl. Fruiting palms hosted Metallic Starlings, Green Fig-birds and Torresian Imperial Pigeons. John and Kathy's visit to Etty Bay resulted in elation with many selfies as they came upon a male Southern Cassowary with a half grown chick. The Cassowary drought broken, John then notched up no fewer than 10 individuals for the trip. (Photos below.)

Spotted Whistling Ducks



Spectacled Flying Foxes at Tolga Bat Hospital



John's first
Cassowary at
Etty Bay



All photos: John Harris

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

In company with a Belgian engaged in a year-long, world-wide bat twitch, John added a number of bat species to his list. These included the Northern Long-eared Bat, Greater Northern Freetail and a colony of Dusky Leaf-nosed Bats. (Photo right.) Finding them involved much searching under bridges, in sheds, caves and beneath a highway flyover. A Bent-wing Bat was photographed in the so called, 'love tunnel' at Paronella Park, a heritage-listed castle south of Cairns.

The Atherton Tableland is another faunal hot-spot. A Lumholtz Tree-kangaroo seen at the Nerada Tea Gardens was a major highlight. (Photo right.) Other species seen included the shy Red-legged Pademelon, Green Ring-tailed Possum, Yellow-bellied Glider, Feather-tailed Glider and the Giant White-tailed Rat. The largest snake in Australia is the Amethystine (Scrub) Python and the largest native frog the White-lipped Tree Frog. Impressive specimens of both were spotted while driving at night (photos below) as was the Orange-thighed Tree Frog. Further reptile sightings were Spotted Python, Saw-shelled Turtle and Boyd's Forest Dragon. A cruise on the Daintree River added bird species such as Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Black Butcherbird, a nesting Black Bitten, Little Kingfisher, Shining Flycatcher as well as Estuarine Crocodile. An unusual sighting occurred at the Daintree Discovery Centre when a *Concinnia tigrinus*, Yellow-blotched Forest Skink, poked its head out from under a poster featuring its image! Mt Lewis was, as always, productive for wildlife; Cape York Rat, Small-eyed Snake, Green-eyed Tree Frog *Litoria serrata* and the rainforest sub-species of the Southern Boobook were added to the list. John and Kathy also travelled to drier inland areas such as Mt. Morgan and the Lake Mitchell Dam. Some finds were: Northern Snapping Frog, (a frog that eats other frogs), Wall Skink *Cryptoblephares adamsi* and Water Python.

Dubuji Boardwalk on the road to Cape Tribulation produced a jackpot. John, having been alerted to the Striped Possum's habit of crashing noisily through the canopy, spotlit and photographed the animal feeding in fruiting Fan Palms. Other sightings there included: Northern Brown Bandicoot, Fairy Gerygone, Cassowary, Orange-footed Scrub-fowl and Buff-Breasted Paradise Kingfisher.

To date John's has added 21 species to his life list and importantly has had a fabulous time chasing fauna. His passion, humour and deep knowledge of wildlife made this an unforgettable presentation. Of course, **#50formy50th** is not yet finished, (hence part 1 in the title). The Day Group is cheering for its success. Maybe John will come back and tell us how his 'big year' finished up some time in the future.

Joan Broadberry



Dusky Leaf-nosed bats



Lumholtz Tree-kangaroo



Amethystine (Scrub) Python



White-lipped Tree Frog



Library News

Recently accessioned volumes

The following works by a recent Australian Natural History Medallionist have been added to the collection recently.

- Lloyd, Sarah (2015) *The feathered tribes of Van Diemen's Land* [598.2/946 LLO]
 Lloyd, Sarah (2011) *Munginabitta's country: flora and fauna at Panatana and Marshall's Hill* [508.946 LLO]
 Lloyd, Sarah (2013) *Bugs, birds, bettongs & bush: conserving habitats for Tasmania's native animals* (Revised edition) [333.7 LLO]

The following three volumes have been added to the Library's Reserve collection, at RES 593.6 VER. These volumes may be consulted in the Library, but are not to be borrowed.

Veron, John Edward Norwood; Stafford-Smith (Scientific Editor) (2000) *Corals of the world*. Volumes 1, 2 and 3.

Recent periodicals

Wildlife Australia 56(2) has amazing photos of Australia's peacock spiders. Also articles about the effects of artificial lighting on urban wildlife, bioluminescence, sperm whale's stunning big 'nose' and more.

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

A reminder that you can now search the library's collections on the FNCV website. Click 'About us' —> 'Library' and you will be able to download searchable lists of books, periodicals, maps and photos.

Gary Presland
Honorary Librarian

Trivia via John Harris:

There have been many anniversaries of late. Here is one more. ATM's have been in Australia for 50 years, the first one appearing in 1969.

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)

It is Club Policy that all attendees carry a medical form with them e.g. in day pack, and inform the excursion leader of its location. This form needs to include any and all medications being taken, medical conditions and an emergency contact as well as any special instructions or allergies.

Pro forma on the FNCV website.

Another wildlife addict

I have included two of the animals mentioned in the report of John Harris' presentation on pages 10–11.

Left is a Striped Possum, and on the right is a Red-legged Pademelon.

These were photographed a few months ago when I too, after a birthday, (sadly not 50), went chasing wildlife in North Queensland.

Joan Broadberry, editor

