



Understanding
Our Natural World

Field Nats News No. 302

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.

November 2019

From the President

Another year is nearly over and FNCV continues to maintain its high level of contribution to Citizen Science. The Biodiversity Symposium was held on 12th and 13th of October and the Australian Natural History Medallion for 2019 will be awarded to Dr Simon Grove on November 11th. The Nature Stewards program is running three courses this semester and seems set to thrive. A second round of Environment Grants will also be awarded this year. All of this activity requires a great deal of dedication and hard work by Council and highly motivated individuals. I urge all members to become involved in the Club's activities whenever possible and to perhaps think about nominating for Council. Working bees and FNCV functions would benefit from additional support. Your ideas and contribution are essential for FNCV's continued success.

From the outset FNCV has supported the protection of the environment and the establishment of national parks and I believe there are many ongoing and future challenges that we will need to embrace. Community education about natural history and biodiversity is something in which we continue to excel. The concern over Climate Change and the "Sixth Extinction"

is clearly rising within communities throughout the world. Greta Thunberg's impassioned address to the United Nations highlights the current anxiety and concerns for the future being expressed by the youth of the world who stand to inherit the resulting chaos. Anthropogenic environmental degradation and destruction is proceeding at an alarming and accelerating rate and seems to be beyond the capacity or even willingness of our society to effectively address. As a naturalist, the changes I have seen over the past six decades leave me in little doubt that human activity in its many forms is systematically destroying the ecosystems on which we depend. Loss of biodiversity is apparent to me whenever I undertake fieldtrips these days.

On 20th September I gave a presentation to the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club and decided to spend a few days in the Grampians to photograph invertebrates and native flowering plants. At the venue on the outskirts of Hamilton, it was pleasing to see a few moths on the outside of the windows, attracted to the light inside. There were some flying about the carpark lamp, hotly pursued by microbats.

It rained continually but there were plenty of short bursts of sunshine to facilitate practical photography. Surprisingly there were very few invertebrates to

(Continued on page 3)

The deadline for FNN 303 will be
**10 am on Tuesday 5th November
(Cup Day).** FNN will go to the printers
on the 12th, with collation on Tuesday
19th November.



Spectators' gallery on the ninth hole at Wartook.

Photo: Faye 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.

November 2019

Saturday 2nd to Monday 4th – Juniors' Group—Camp: Ballarat – Devil's Kitchen Geological Reserve, Nimon's Bridge and Enfield State Park. Camping on a private property. **Registration essential ASAP.**
Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

Saturday 2nd to Tuesday 5th - Fauna Survey Group—Survey: Fauna survey at Trust for Nature's Ralph Illidge Sanctuary, at Naringal, east of Warrnambool. Prior bookings essential. Contact: Peter Homan 0407 525 103

Monday 4th – Fungi Group—No Meeting

Sunday 10th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group—Excursion: Braeside Park. Meet 10am at Red Gum Picnic Area. We will spend time in the south of the reserve, including near the wetlands, searching for invertebrates in the bushes and trees.
Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rnr.id.au <https://www.google.com/maps?q=-38.0084,145.1342> See also page 3

Monday 11th – Australian Natural History Medallion—Reception & Buffet 6.30 pm. Presentation 8.00 pm. The 2019 ANHM is to be awarded to Dr. Simon Grove. It will be presented by Nicola Williams, Vice President Royal Society of Victoria followed by a talk from the recipient. Presentation and talk – no charge, no booking required. For buffet (charge \$22) bookings required: contact the FNCV Office by 4th November please. **Invitation page 7.**

Monday 11th - Marine Research Group—No Meeting: ANHM

Tuesday 12th - Fauna Survey Group—Meeting: Creating chainsaw hollows for Brush-tailed Phascogales
Speaker: William Terry, Environmental Programs and Engagement Officer, Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Contact: Su Dempsey 0437 172 333

Tuesday 19th Collate FNN 303 10 am in the hall. All welcome Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 20th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group—Meeting: Speaker: Reiner Richter speaking on his newly published book, "*Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania*" and the adventures he went on searching for species in Victoria. Contact: Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181 AH; mcam7307@bigpond.net.au

Thursday 21st – Botany Group—Meeting: Alps Pt 2: Research on varied growing conditions of Alpine Daisies
Speaker: Megan Hirst, Victorian Conservation Seedbank Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
Contact: Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Sunday 24th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group—Excursion: Brisbane Ranges Meet 10 am at the Fridays Picnic Area (adjacent to the campground), Steiglitz-Duridwarrah Rd (about 5km south-west from Geelong-Ballan Rd or 2km north of Meredith-Steiglitz Rd). We will visit Grahams Creek and surrounding areas hoping to see orchids as well as invertebrates.
<https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.8594,144.1902>. Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rnr.id.au See also page .

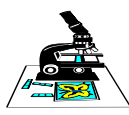
Monday 25th - FNCV Council meeting 7.30 pm sharp. Apologies or agenda items to Wendy Gare admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 26th – Day Group—Meeting: 10.30 am for coffee and a chat. Speaker 11 am.
All welcome. *Alaska, the Inside Passage, Sea Otters and more.* . Speaker: Joan Broadberry.
Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218.

Wednesday 27th – Geology Group—Meeting: Evolution of the Arthropods Part 2. Speaker: Maxwell Campbell. Contact: Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424; rrhoskin@gmail.com

Friday 29th – Juniors' Group—Meeting: 7.30 pm. Speaker: To be advised. Contact: Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

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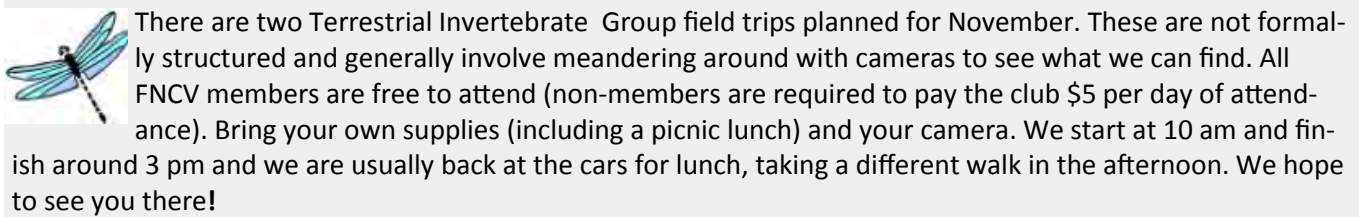
The policy of the FNCV is that non-members pay \$5 per excursion and \$3 per meeting, to contribute towards Club overheads. Junior non-member families, \$4 for excursions and \$2 per meeting.

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

A close-up photograph of a Scorpion-tailed Spider (Arachnura higginsii) on its web. The spider has a yellowish-brown body and a long, thin, scorpion-like tail. It is positioned vertically, with its head at the top and its tail pointing downwards. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Scorpion-tailed Spider
Arachnura higginsii
© Reiner Richter



graph; far less than my experiences at the same sites and time over many decades. I did not notice a single “bug” impact with the windscreen over the four days and the radiator remained clean. The windscreen is still clear of insect remains two weeks later so I expect there is not a lot of activity around urban Melbourne either. My own garden remains depauperate and I have not seen



Brown-clubbed spider-orchid
Caladenia parva
M. Campbell

Pink Fingers, *Caladenia carnea*. M. Campbell



Nodding Greenhood.
Pterostylis nutans
M. Campbell

A couple of spotlight searches at War-took were disappointing. However, after prolonged daylight searching, I did manage to locate a few invertebrates and take some photos. Orchids, on the other hand were out in force and I have included some photos here. Pobblebonks could be heard throughout the Grampians and were pleasantly deafening at a few places. I intend to revisit the Grampians in the coming months and hope to see a different scenario.

Maxwell Campbell

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.

Isaac Edwards, Clare Mendes, Anneke Monte, Lachlan O'Donnell, Bill Borrie, Charlie Gregg, Sam Gregg, Jessica Porcino and Andrew Morrison.

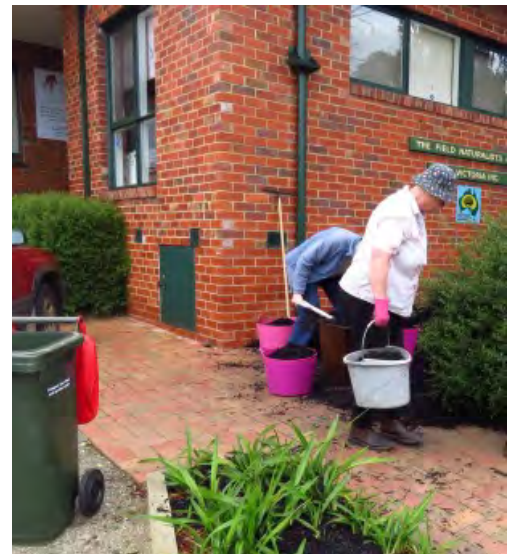
FNCV WORKING BEE 28th September 2019

Who would hold a working bee in football-mad Melbourne on Grand Final day? It was possibly an odd choice but a successful one. A group of six willing workers spent Saturday morning weeding, mulching, pruning and cleaning. Barbara was the driving force behind the arrangements. A load of mulch was ordered for 10 am, with half dropped at the front and half at the back of the hall. This division made the job of spreading it much easier. Barbara, Joan and Mark pitched in with large containers and rakes and soon had the job done. Max arrived with a serious looking electric pruning tool on a long power cord and made short work of the overhanging foliage. June Anton took on the job of cleaning inside the hall. Su helped out with various tasks. Barbara did the final tidy up and made sure all the debris was disposed of.

I think we all appreciate how fortunate the FNCV is having such wonderful premises. Working bees are infrequent but a garden does not look after itself and as a field naturalist club it is important that it is maintained and kept looking attractive. It is about four years since the garden was mulched. After a relatively wet winter and with moisture in the ground, October was a great time to do this. We employ a cleaner for the hall, but there are always extra jobs that need doing. Please take a few moments to admire the garden and enjoy our sparkling club rooms.

Photo below from left: Max Campbell, Barbara Burns, Joan Broadberry, June Anton, Mark Anderson, with Su Dempsey behind the camera

J. Broadberry, including photos



Members' news (continued)

Net-casting Spider with Egg Sack

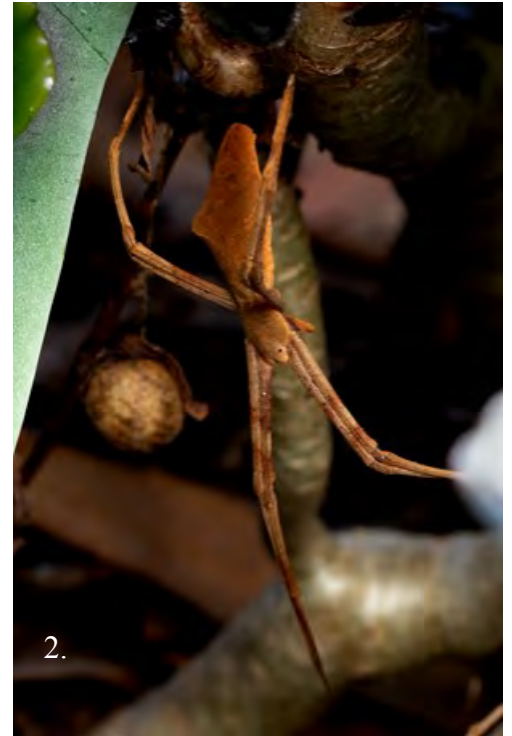
Deinopis subrufa

I have been following the growth and habits of Net-casting Spiders in my garden in Blackburn for many years. I have seen what I thought was their egg sack but never had proof until now. The photos were taken on the 7th July 2019.

The female at this stage has finally laid her egg sack and is guarding it. She is sheltering under some foliage and there are sticks around that make her fairly camouflaged. She still comes out at night and occasionally makes a net, but lately it hasn't looked as well made.

I will continue to observe .

Wendy Clarke



All images: Wendy Clarke.
1 and 2: Net Casting Spider with egg sack.
3. Net Casting Spider spinning net.
4. Net Casting spider with damaged net.



Editor: Learn more about Net-casting Spiders

For those who would like to learn more about this interesting spider, a naturalist note entitled, 'The Secret World of the Net-casting Spider *Deinopis subrufa*' appears on p153 of the latest edition of *The Victorian Naturalist*, August 2019. Wendy's images of the Net-casting Spider's egg-case, are a welcome addition to this report, (which does not deal with the spider's reproduction).

The above mentioned naturalist note posed a question as to how it was discovered that the Net-casting Spider's light sensitive retina was regrown every evening. A response came from Christchurch, New Zealand. A museum curator wrote, attaching an article citing work done by a former colleague on that very question. It is hoped a summary of this paper will appear in a future edition of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (November 2019)

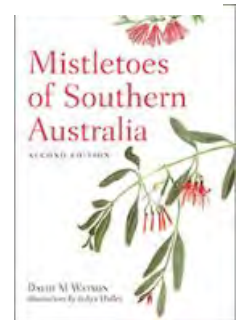
Have you missed the bookshop article? Did you even notice it had been absent over the last few editions of the FNN? Apologies to all that are waiting on orders, I am catching up after a very busy couple of months and I will get to you when I can. If you are waiting on more copies of Leon Costerman's *Native Trees and Shrubs of SE Australia*, stock has now arrived and is available at the clubrooms. Please note this is a reprint and there have been no changes. Not intending to scare anybody, but Christmas is only just around the corner and books make the ideal gift. The display cabinets at the clubrooms will soon be bursting with hundreds of titles to choose from (as if they are not already!). Presented this month are five books, hot off the press, with many more new titles being added to an updated FNCV Bookshop catalogue will be available soon. To order or inquire about a book, please send an email to, bookshop@fncv.org.au and I will reply as soon as I can.

Happy reading, Kathy



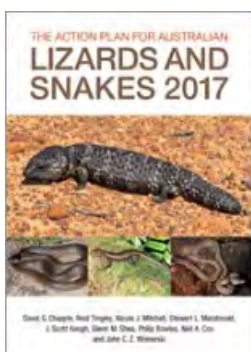
Australia's First Naturalists (Olsen & Russell) provides an invaluable information for those wanting to learn more about our original inhabitants' contribution to the collection, recognition and classification of Australia's unique fauna. It heightens our appreciation of the previously unrecognised complex knowledge of indigenous societies. As silent partners, Aboriginal Australians gave Europeans their first views of iconic animals and helped to unravel the mystery of Australia's bizarre (to a European) fauna. Indigenous people were routinely engaged by collectors, illustrators and others, but barely acknowledged. (PB, 228 pp., May 2019) .RRP \$44.99,

Mistletoes of Southern Australia (2nd ed) (D. Watson) is the definitive authority on these intriguing native plants. This second edition has been fully updated throughout, with new distribution maps and new sections on fire, climate change and mistletoes in urban areas. It also describes the ecology, life history and cultural significance of mistletoes, their distribution in Australia and around the world, and practical advice on their management. Includes specially commissioned water colours by artist Robyn Hulley and more than 130 colour photographs, it provides detailed species accounts for all 47 species found in the region. (PB, 224 pp., Oct 2019) RRP \$59.99, Member \$48



A Hollow is a Home (Mitchell & Hicks) is perfect for primary-aged readers. This book is full of fun facts about animals that use tree hollows as places for resting, nesting or hiding. Discover more than 340 species of Australian animals that call hollows home. With colour photos of glorious gliders, darting dunnarts, minute microbats and many more. Find out how hollows are created, why they are threatened, and meet scientists who spend their time hollow-hunting. (PB, 104 pp., Oct 2019). RRP \$29.99, Member \$24

Saving the Tasmanian Devil (ed. Hogg, Fox, Pemberton & Belov) documents the journey taken by partner organisations in discovering what Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) is, the effect it has on wild devil populations, and the outcomes achieved through research and management actions. Chapters describe all aspects of devil conservation, including the captive devil populations, applied pathology, immunology and genetic research findings, adaptive management and the importance of advocacy and partnerships. This book is available via orders only. (HB, 348 pp., Aug 2019) .RRP \$120, Member \$96



The Action Plan for Australian Lizards and Snakes 2017 (Chapple, Tingley, Mitchell, Macdonald, Keogh, Shea, Bowles, Cox & Woinarski) provides the first comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of Australian squamates in 25 years. Conservation assessments are provided for 986 species of Australian lizards and snakes (including sea snakes). Over the past 25 years there has been an increase in the range of threatening process which has resulted in an increase in the proportion of the Australian squamate fauna that is considered Threatened. Notably over this period, the first known extinction of an Australian reptile species occurred. This book is only available via orders. (HB, 680 pp., Dec 2019) .RRP \$160, Member \$128



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.

Thanks to the editorial
and layout team who put
together FNN 302

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

Many thanks to those who
helped collate and label
FNN 301 and send out the
4 monthly calendar.

Andy Brentnall
Hazel Brentnall
Edward Brentnall
Ian McDonald
Neil McLachlan
Sheina Nicholls

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 con-
tact with you.



Fungi Group

Fungi In Australia Revision 2.2

The latest revision of *Fungi In Australia* has just been uploaded onto the FNCV website.

It can be downloaded from :- <http://www.fncv.org.au/fungi-in-australia/>

This freely downloadable e-book (PDF format), which consists of 7 parts, is intended to serve as a resource to assist in the identification of some fungi that may be encountered in our native forests. It contains 380 species and over 2000 photographs of fungi, plus references for further study. All books have an interactive "Table of Contents" and "Index" for ease of navigation.

- **Part 1** "Introduction" introduces you to *Fungi In Australia* and also to the **Kingdom Fungi**.

- **Part 2** "Ascomycota: Pezizomycotina" contains the descriptions of ascomycetes.

Part 3 "Basidiomycota: Agaricomycotina – I" contains the Order Agaricales, which includes most of the gilled fungi.

- **Part 4** "Basidiomycota: Agaricomycotina – II and Pucciniomycotina" contains the rest of the Orders that make up Agaricomycotina, plus some Orders from Pucciniomycotina. These are predominantly species of non-gilled fungi.

Parts 5, 6, and 7 comprise the "Photographic Guides", which can be used in the field to assist in the identification process.

These books are best read on a tablet or iPad, but any device or computer with an up to date PDF reader will also suffice.

It is our intention to keep adding to the species list as more identifications become available.

Jurrie Hubregtse



FUNGI IN AUSTRALIA

J. Hubregtse

Part 1

Introduction



© Jurrie Hubregtse

Mt Field National Park, Tasmania



Est. 1880

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

FNCV Facebook 14,325 followers.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



Day Group

Walking the Larapinta Trial (*sic*)

Speaker: *Dr Gary Presland*

The September Day Group was delighted to welcome as speaker Gary Presland., who with the Late Sheila Houghton, was the instigator of the present incarnation of the Day Group. His presentation was titled *Walking the Larapinta Trial (sic)*

In May/June this year, Gary with three friends, Lawrie, Bill and Tony, (who were in the audience) undertook the challenging Larapinta End to End walking trip with World Expeditions. The Larapinta Trail is one of Australia's most well known walks. It is wholly within the West MacDonnell National Park and follows the spine of the range for 223km beginning at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station and ending at Mt Sonder. The End to End walk takes two weeks and is divided into 12 sections. World Expeditions grades it as moderate to challenging. Gary rated it as always hard. The trek involves 6-12 hours walking starting about 7 am each day over rugged terrain, with some steep ascents and descents. Surfaces varied between rock and dry sandy creek beds. Distances per day were between 14 km and 31km. Gary's group consisted of six walkers and two guides. Participants carried day packs including three to four litres of water. All luggage, camping gear and provisions were transported from campsite to campsite by one of the support crew. Meals, rated by Gary as very good, were prepared by the crew. Campsites were generally used for one night, with a couple of longer stays. Many of the over-night sites were at waterholes.

Accommodation was a ground-sheet and swag, laid out under the stars. Showers were only available at Glen Helen and, on one occasion, when facilities intended for an accommodated walk were used. The trip culminated in a 4.30 am start to climb Mt. Sonder (1380m) in order to watch the sun rise. Depending on conditions, participants could decide each day whether to walk or be transported in the vehicle. Gary covered a distance of 160km on foot and did not climb Mt. Sonder.

Below is an outline of the itinerary. A detailed description for each day can be found on the website worldexpeditions.com

Day 1 - Alice Springs Telegraph Station to Simpson's Gap (25km)

Day 2 - Simpson's Gap to Jay Creek (27km)

Day 3 - Jay Creek to Standley Chasm (15km)

Day 4 - Standley Chasm to Birthday Waterhole (19 km)

Day 5 - Birthday Waterhole to High Gorge (16.5km)

Day 6 - 7 High Gorge to Ellery Creek (31km)

Day 8 - Ellery Creek to Serpentine Gorge (14km)

Day 9 - Serpentine Gorge to Serpentine Chalet (17km)

Day 10 - Serpentine Chalet to Ormiston Gorge (31km)

Day 11 - Ormiston Gorge to Finke River (10km)

Day 12 - 13 Davenport Creek and Redbank Creek (28km)

Day 14 - Mt Sonder, return to Alice Springs (16km)



Euro Ridge

Photo: *Gary Presland*

Gary's account of the walk was candid and personal, delivered of course in his inimitable style. You really had to be there. The combination of talented photographers, who shared their images and the vivid landscape itself, meant the photographs shown were absolutely breathtaking. I will conclude with just a few observations from what was a fascinating presentation.

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(Continued from page 9)

- Larapinta is an Arrernte name for the Finke River, a word meaning salty stream.
- Sleeping in a swag allowed full appreciation of the magnificent night sky.
- The Dark Emu, a feature of the night sky identified by Aboriginal people, is found in the black spaces between the stars of the Milky Way.
- Very little wildlife was seen during the trek. However, towards the end of the walk, a dingo raided the kitchen supplies and even managed to find some trail mix secreted in Gary's swag.
- Head torches were the only light available in the evenings. Their white light attracted a deluge of moths. As Gary put it, "barramundi garnished with moth". However, switching to red light solved the problem.
- In the late 1950s a Chalet (Serpentine Chalet) was built at the halfway point between Alice Springs and Ormiston Gorge. All that remains is a rubbish dump and a sign giving some of its history.
- Among the many scenic highlights were: the Ochre Pits, the Finke River, Redbank, Glen Helen and Serpentine Gorges.
- Days 12 and 13 were dominated by the bulk of Mt Sonder whose colours changed constantly with the light.

On behalf of the Day Group I would like to express our thanks to Gary for allowing us, through the power of words and images, to be transported for a short while to Australia's iconic Red Centre. Armchair travel at its best.

Joan Broadberry



The Dark Emu

Photo: John Donatiu

From the Office



Dear Members

It's now two years since we held a 1st Aid Course for our members, and we think it's time for another training session. This time we will be having a trainer come in to teach CPR, including defibrillation, and a certificate will be issued. The cost is \$40; more details including dates and times will be advised in due course. If you think you might be interested please let me know at admin@fncv.org.au. We'd like to get an initial idea of how many of you are interested.

I'll be going to Adelaide for Cup Weekend, so the office won't be open on Monday 4th November, nor on the Cup Day Tuesday public holiday. I'll be in the office on Wednesday 6th November instead, so feel free to get in touch then if you need to.

Wendy Gare
Administration Officer

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Fauna Survey Group: Meeting 3rd September 2019: The speaker for the night was Dr Ben Phillips, Associate Professor of Biosciences, University of Melbourne: *'From Toads to Quolls, and back again'*.

Cane Toads were introduced in 1935 and quickly spread north in Queensland then across the top end. At present the rate of spread is now at 50km per year. There is a potential barrier possible on the coast near the Great Sandy Desert by closing water points and creating a dry barrier.

Ben's initial research was with Death Adders ahead of the toad front, studying their interaction with three species of native frogs, one of which is toxic to the snakes. 'Prepared Cane Toads that were presented to the snakes were rejected by only 46% of the Death Adders. When the toads arrived to the Northern Territory floodplains there was a 90% drop in the population of Death Adders.

To preserve Northern Quolls, some animals were moved to islands off Arnhem Land for protection. Taste aversion was used to train quolls not to eat the toads. When the quolls were released to the mainland again they were unexpectedly preyed upon by dingoes. The island-bred quolls had lost their wariness to dingoes and cats in 13 generations.

An experiment was undertaken to build resilience in the quoll population ahead of the arrival of Cane Toads, by introducing quolls from Queensland which have experience in avoiding Cane Toads.

R. Gibson

Juniors' Group: Meeting 30th August: We had the usual club business and then Wendy Clark spoke to us about the history of the Juniors. She showed us photos of her time in the Juniors and the kinds of activities they did back then. We had a costume parade, (images below) then did party games: guess the object, BatBatMoth, What am I and Skip Rope. Prizes were then awarded.

We concluded with a birthday cake and party food. In total we had 19 attendees.

Esther Schouten



(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Geology Group: On Wednesday 28th August, 34 Geology group members and visitors examined the fossil evidence of Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) found at Koonwarra and elsewhere in Australia. Elaine Anderson, who achieved first class Honours in her study of the fossils last year at Swinburne University, led us through the explanations of the fascinating details of Odonata species e.g. their eyes have an anti-fog mechanism and have the most developed colour vision of any creature. Their four wings are individually controlled and their feet have hairs to help them grip. They appear to be some of the first winged insects to evolve and have a very long standing fossil record back to the Permian (approximately 300 million years ago) where fossils have been found in the NSW Newcastle coal measures. Triassic fossils have been found in Queensland and Ipswich, and a Jurassic species found at Talbrag. The Queensland Cretaceous fossils are similar to English finds.

The Koonwarra fossils are sited in fine grained fluvial sediments (or mudstone) including some volcanic tuff formed when Victoria and Antarctica were separating along a rift valley. An extensive layer of fossilised fish were found plus the exciting find of a dinosaur feather. The weather at that time (113-125mya) was thought to be humid, then later, cool temperate.

Elaine compared three different families from 5 specimens of Dragonflies and probably three families from 9 specimens of Damselflies. She pointed out that these comparisons were difficult because most of the specimens were partial and also likely to be moults. But a very interesting talk about a species which has successfully evolved over an incredibly long time. Many thanks Elaine.

Ruth Hoskin

Marine Research Group: At the meeting on 9th September, Don Cram spoke on DNA -Type specimens and Taxonomy.

Leon Altoff

Terrestrial Invertebrates Group: At the meeting on Wednesday 18th September, Rudie Kuitert, well-known photographer and author, spoke about the role of small flies in native orchid pollination in Victoria. The large audience enjoyed this fascinating presentation.

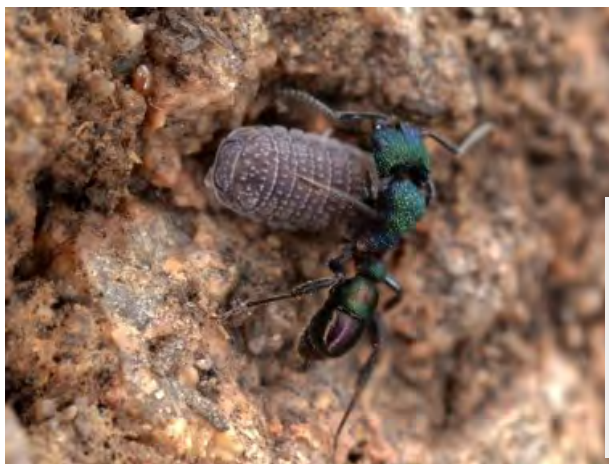
M. Campbell

Botany Group: Geoff Carr spoke on native plants as weeds in Victoria, such as *Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae* (Coast Wattle) invading inland. He took questions during his presentation, as well as afterwards. Fifteen attended.

Ken Griffiths

Day Group: Meeting 27th August: John Harris spoke on chasing fauna in far North Queensland. The large appreciative audience of 31 people found the presentation highly entertaining.

Joan Broadberry



Green-headed Ant, *Rhytidoponera metallica* with an inquilinous Armadillidiid isopod. Photo: M. Campbell

For those
who receive
a digital
FNN two
extra
photos



Terrestrial flatworm. *Fletcheria quinquelineata*
Photo: M. Campbell