



Understanding
Our Natural World

Field Nats News No. 303

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130

Telephone 03 9877 9860

P.O. Box 13, Blackburn 3130 www.fncv.org.au

Newsletter email: fnnews@fncv.org.au

(Office email: admin@fncv.org.au)



Editor: Joan Broadberry 03 9846 1218

Founding editor: Dr Noel Schleiger

Reg. No. A0033611X

Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC
Governor of Victoria

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

December 2019-January 2020

From the President

We are not too far away from the next FNCV Christmas Party and BBQ on December 7th. I urge everyone to come and celebrate the end of another very successful year with fellow naturalists at the FNCV Hall.

I have continued to search for invertebrates both at home in suburbia and in parts of regional Victoria. I spent some time at Korumburra recently and was surprised at the paucity of native invertebrates. What I have noticed is an increase in the numbers of introduced invertebrates virtually everywhere I look. The Portuguese millipede, *Ommatoiulus moreleti* is in considerable numbers. The introduced slaters, *Armadillidium vulgare* and *Porcellio scaber* are doing very well as is their specialised and imported predator, *Dysdera crocata*. Large numbers of the imported centipede *Lithobius forficatus* have returned to my garden. The most noticeable population explosion at my place is that of *Forficula auricularia*, the introduced European earwig which is breeding rapidly. They are munching through my vegetable garden and hiding under every surface in droves. Unfortunately, *Helix aspersa*, the garden snail, is also rapidly building its numbers after recent rain. A few hover flies are about, but there are currently no aphids on the weed plants that I grow specifically to attract them. The hover flies and brown lacewings lay eggs where there are aphids for their larvae to eat. There are no Blue-banded bees in the garden so far this year either, but European Wasps are back again.

In mid-October I noticed the first, and so far, only garden Orb Weaver to set up in my garden. (I normally have dozens at this time of year.) It was only 1 cm long but seemed to be thriving. Small salticids or jumping spiders are appearing and I have seen one small huntsman so far this spring. I noticed a green lacewing and a small geometrid moth on the front porch light. The street lamps are not attracting many, if any, insects and therefore the usual microbats are absent. Some of our members are reporting an occasional St Andrew's Cross and Net-casting Spiders. I am interested in hearing from anyone who is keeping a record of what's in their garden over the coming weeks.

Max Campbell

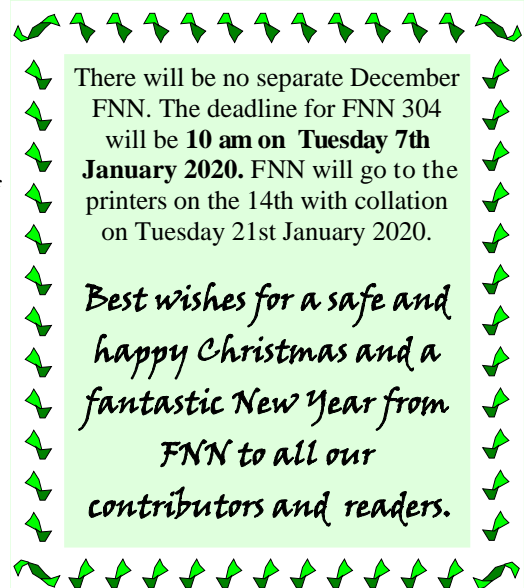
All photos M. Campbell.
Two more photos page 13



8mm *Aranea transmarinus*



Porcellio scaber dominating the space
under bark at Korumburra



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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.

December 2019

Monday 2nd – Fungi Group - No Meeting

Tuesday 3rd - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: End of year BBQ will be held at Blackburn Lake Visitor's Centre at 6.30pm. There will be a recap of 2019 activities. Bring your own meat and drink and a sweet or salad to share. Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861; rgibson@melbpc.org.au

Saturday 7th – FNCV Christmas Party BBQ 6.30 pm in the hall. Join us and help to celebrate another wonderful year with your fellow naturalists. As usual there will be a raffle with a lot of prizes! All welcome. **Full details page 5.**

Sunday 8th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn

Meet at 10 am near the west end of Beckett Park car park, at the end of Parring Rd (350m north of Whitehorse Road). This is a formal garden packed with native plants from around the country. <https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.8109,145.0912> Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rn.id.au



Monday 9th – Marine Research Group Meeting: Annual members' night. Everyone is welcome to bring along exhibits, items of interest or questions on marine invertebrates. Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Tuesday 17th - No separate January FNN so no collation this month.

No further Special Interest Group meetings in December 2019

January 2020

Sunday 5th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Cardinia Reservoir Park

Meet at 10 am in the Crystal Brook Picnic Area car park (off Wellington Road). We will walk uphill in the morning looking for insects on tea-trees that will hopefully be in flower. In the afternoon we will walk along the creek. <https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.9704,145.3942>. Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rn.id.au



Sunday 19th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Yarra River, Warburton

Meet at 10 am in the car park along Thomas Ave (behind the shops). We will stroll along the Yarra River Walk observing what species might be hanging around the water. <https://www.google.com/maps?q=-37.7531,145.6883> Contact: Reiner Richter fncv@rn.id.au



Monday 21st Collate FNN 304 Starting about 10 am. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 98461218

Fri day 24th to Monday 27th - Fauna Survey Group Survey: Small mammal survey on the Mornington Peninsula **Prior bookings essential.** Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury6@gmail.com

Tuesday 28th FNCV Council Meeting 7.30 pm sharp. Please send apologies or agenda items to Wendy Gare at the FNCV office, admin@fncv.org.au Note: this meeting is being held on Tuesday not Monday as would be usual

No Special Interest Group MEETINGS in January 2020

Fauna Survey Group Special Survey Twice Monthly from October 2019 to March 2020

'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



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 by the first Monday in the month.

Welcome Welcome

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

Andrew Morrison, Tony Faithfull, Geoffrey Boyes, Cathy Dowling, Sean Rogers and Laura Huish

Thanks to those volunteers who assisted with the FNCV's stall at the Whitehorse Spring Festival

Anne Warren, Maureen Peden, June Anton,
Ray Gibson and Judith Sise

Coordinator: Philippa Burgess

The day went very well. There were a lot of people visiting the stall all day. Many membership forms and information sheets were taken.

Photo: P. Burgess



Sightings in a Doncaster Garden

In my 56 years occupancy of a suburban block in Doncaster, it was my first sighting of a family of Australian Wood Ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*). I think there were seven ducklings. They were negotiating the hazards of my overgrown back garden and I spied them from a window. By the time I had the camera to hand they were in a back corner pondering (anthropomorphical licence) what to do next. I had to leave and on my return a few hours later they had gone. Apparently ducklings can fly at the age of two months and I certainly hope these were able to, as crossing my busy street would be hazardous. I do not have a swimming pool, but maybe a recently installed old bath attracted them, although it is crammed full of vegetation.



Photo C. Page

My other recent interesting sighting was at the end of August. I was lucky enough to have a male and female Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) arrive on numerous concurrent days. This was good and bad news, they gave my Silver Princess (*Eucalyptus caesia*) an extremely hard pruning, even chewing off branches with a diameter larger than my thumb, some disappointingly with buds. However, it was such a delight to watch them foraging, preening, loving and disputing with each other. They were so absorbed with their activities I was able to observe them quite closely.

The gang-gangs have visited most years for a long time now, but are always seen (or evidence of their visit) in an old hawthorn tree (*Mespilus monogyna*) that I have left standing for their use. This is the first time that they have discovered the Silver Princess (*Eucalyptus caesia*).

Carol Page



Photo: C. Page



Fungi Group

This red, club-like fungus, originally discovered in China in 1895 and found in Korea, Japan and the Java Islands, has recently been seen at Redlynch Valley in suburban Cairns, far North Queensland. It has been the subject of several media releases. According to Dr Matt Barrett from James Cook University (JCU) "This record extends the distribution of the fungus considerably, and it may even be more widespread in tropical Australia". Dr Barrett confirmed the identity of the deadly Poison Fire Coral fungus after local photographer Ray Palmer provided an image of a mystery fungus snapped in Cairns. He had first found it in 2016.

The bright red Poison Fire Coral fruit bodies were found on tree roots and soil. Dr Barrett warned people to resist the urge to pick up the eye-catching fungus as its toxins may be absorbed through the skin. Without a known cure or treatment, several fatalities have been recorded over the years in Japan and Korea, especially from people mistaking this fungus for an edible mushroom (e.g. *Ganoderma lucidum*) and consuming it directly or as an infusion. The poisons are trichothecene mycotoxins including satratoxin h, roridium e and verrucarins which attack vital organs in the body such as liver and kidneys.

The species resembles a coral fungus but belongs in the family Hypocreaceae. It was originally named *Hypocrea cornu-damae* Pat, then *Podocrea cornu-damae* (Pat.) Sacc. & D.Sacc., and is currently known as *Trichoderma cornu-damae* (Pat.) Z.X. Zhu & W.Y. Zhuang. The fruit-body is upright, simple or contorted, smooth and red (Fig. 1 and 2) and grows to 100 mm tall, but is usually smaller (40 mm). The club tip is tapered and there is no stem. The spore print is yellow to brown. Its habit is clustered, and the substrate is dead wood, especially tree roots.



Fig 3 *Clavulinopsis sulcata*

Image: Claire Ferguson

While Poison Fire Coral *Trichoderma cornu-damae* is a tropical fungus and not likely to grow in Victoria, we should be on the lookout for it. The Flame Fungus *Clavulinopsis sulcata* (a true coral) usually has simple clubs, but contorted forms as in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 could be mistaken for *T. cornu-damae*. However, *C. sulcata* does not grow on wood, but in the ground and has a white spore print. Note also this fungus is a basidiomycete whereas *T. cornu-damae* is an ascomycete.

Ed Grey

Poison Fire Coral *Trichoderma cornu-damae*



Fig. 1 *Trichoderma cornu-damae* Wikipedia



Fig 2 *Trichoderma cornu-damae* fruiting bodies.



Fig 4 *Clavulinopsis sulcata*

Image: John Eichler



Saturday December 7th 2019
Join us at 6.30 pm in the FNCV Hall
1 Gardenia St. Blackburn

- * The club will provide meat, vegeburgers, bread and nibbles. Please bring a salad or a sweet to share. BYO drinks. Email the office by **Friday 29th November** to let us know numbers coming and what food you are bringing.
- * We are planning a presentation looking back over the FNCV year. SIG coordinators are requested to email about 10 images from their 2019 activities to the FNCV office no later than **Friday 29th November**.
- * We will also be holding the traditional FNCV end-of-year fund raising raffle. **Donations of prizes would be much appreciated**, e.g. wine, knick-knacks, plants, books etc. Look deep into your 'present drawer'. Deliver to the labelled box in the office or (preferably) bring them with you on the night.

Recent additions

the shelves in the positions indicated below in brackets.

Gaunt, Abbot S; Oring, Lewis W (1997) Guidelines to the use of wild birds in research. (3rd Ed.) [598.2 GUI]

Also recently added to the collection is a DVD entitled *Life that glows*. This is yet another spectacular natural history production featuring Sir David Attenborough. Members are reminded that the Library holds 25 DVDs that feature Sir David enthusing over the widest spectrum of subjects in the natural world. The Library holds these DVDs thanks largely to the generosity of Andrew Brentnall.

Two numbers of the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* are devoted to studies of Australian bugs in the Miridae family. No.422 covers bugs that feed on *Callitris* plants and describes five new genera and 32 new species. No.424 is about bugs that feed on Myrtaceae species.

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.

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.

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Australian Natural History Medallion

The 2019 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Dr Simon Grove, Curator, Invertebrate Zoology, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Hobart, (TMAG) for his work on molluscs. The medallion was presented by Nicola (Nick) Williams, Vice-president of the Royal Society of Victoria. Simon and his wife Chris travelled from Tasmania for the presentation.

Simon Grove—Malacologist.

Simon's interest in molluscs of all kinds has culminated in his book, *The Sea Shells of Tasmania: the Comprehensive guide*, which has not only filled a serious gap in Tasmania's natural history literature but is useful to shell hunters in South-eastern Australia. He also oversees and updates maps and details of species distribution on his *Molluscs of Tasmania* website.

The medallion recipient, Simon has many other research interests in entomology and forest ecology. He has compiled another website for beetle records and photographs, and is currently preparing an expanded site to include all Tasmanian insects.

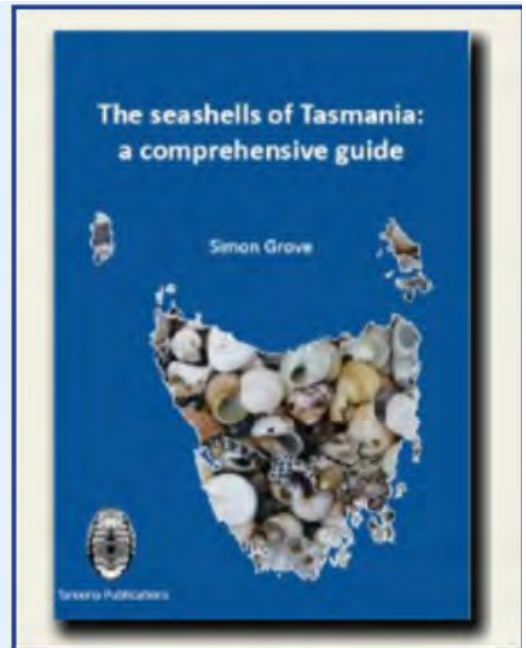


Photo: J. Broadberry

Simon is now Senior Curator of Invertebrates at TMAG, but much of his work has been done in his own time, including leading field trips, mentoring younger people, maintaining facebook sites and writing papers and articles. His work in conservation is particularly important in helping the development of strategic management plans for threatened species in State Forests, in particular the endangered Swift Parrot, the Giant Velvet Worm and the Mt. Manana Stag Beetle.

His address to the meeting was entitled, *Sinking to new depths in pursuit of rare Tasmanian Molluscs*.

Thanks to Nick Williams for the use of her notes.
Joan Broadberry

Training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) available

It is now two years since we held a First Aid Course for our members and we think we are ready 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 early next year.

If you are at all interested please let us know before **4 pm on Monday 25th November** admin@fncv.org.au so that we can discuss arrangements at the next Council meeting.



Thanks are extended to Judith Sise and Barbara Burns and others for the delicious meal that was enjoyed before the ANHM presentation.



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group: Meeting 17th October: *Alpine environments & their plants*, speaker Ken Griffiths.

We looked at some Victorian and NSW alpine plants, and the charts of habitats they have been found to be adapted to. But what is the extent of the alpine zone? Some outlier plant examples were looked at.



With examples from five alpine regions, we asked: What factors determine distribution and diversity? A look at a graphic model of distribution and speciation during New Zealand cycles of climatic and geomorphic disruption in the Pliocene and Pleistocene (5 mya to about 12 kya) led to a look at some molecular studies and their authors' conclusions or speculations on the timing and direction of dispersion of some Australian alpine species. Eighteen attended.

Ken Griffiths

Day Group: The October Day Group organised a guided tour of the Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex in Mitcham. Only 6 people attended this excursion in perfect weather. A detailed report is on page 9.



Fauna Survey Group: Meeting, 8th October 2019. The speaker for the evening was Dr Karen Rowe from Museums Victoria, on *Remote acoustic survey methods for documenting Victoria's vocal fauna*. Soundscapes can be used to classify species richness, activity patterns of animals, and document the impact of disturbance such as bush-fire. The Otway Bioscan compared burnt forest at Wye River and unburnt forest at Kennett River. Community groups are engaged in the 'Listening for Nature Project.'



Survey: Annuello Nature Conservation Reserve, 29th September to 5th October 2019. At this survey we used pit traps, bat traps, cameras, and spotlighting to look for reptiles and small mammals, and bird surveys were also done. A number of interesting reptiles were found, mostly in low numbers, and a few rare Mallee birds were also recorded. A count of Regent Parrots was conducted. The results from the cameras are yet to come.

R. Gibson

Geology Group: Our speaker on September 25th was Assoc. Prof. Anne Warren who lectured in Vertebrate Palaeontology at the school of Life Sciences, La Trobe University until her retirement in 2009. A group of 36 members and visitors were privileged to hear such a world expert talk on the vertebrate Palaeontology of Australian early Tetrapods from the Devonian to the Cretaceous.



The October 23rd Meeting was titled '*Bluestone in Cut Paw Paw: Effects of Basalt Extraction on Urban Organization in Melbourne's West*' and our speaker for the 23 attendees was Dr Laura Harper who is a practising architect and a lecturer in Architecture at Monash University. However, as well as demonstrating the large number of basalt and clay quarries in the Melbourne area, she showed how most have been redeveloped for public use such as parks, schools and shopping centres. She then talked about the urban planning in many of Victoria's larger mining towns where the civic areas, planned on a grid system of streets, were usually in areas where there was no mining or previous buildings whereas the first settled areas were usually not laid out with any planning and were left in their original state away from the civic area. A most interesting and thought provoking talk.

Ruth Hoskin

Juniors' Group: We had a great meeting on the 25th October. The children had the privilege of listening to our speaker Dr Gary Presland. In a child-friendly presentation he spoke about how Melbourne became the city it is now. It was fascinating to learn so much about this city from someone who knows it so well. I was delighted to hear all the questions the children had for him!!! I am sure he would be happy with the level of enthusiasm and participation. They were 15 people in total, including 2 non-members.



We also had a great excursion on the 27th October to Serendip Sanctuary. We had amazing weather despite the forecast. We were fortunate to see a significant number of Black Kites and a Whistling Kite just soaring above us. It was almost as if the kites were having a meeting at Serendip. The Whistling Kite was collecting branches for her nest. We had two visitor families attending and two member families taking part in this excursion. A total of 11 people attended.

The Juniors are going to our camp in Ballarat on the 2nd November. The expression of interest in this camp has been rather poor. It seems that we need to advertise these camps further in advance and keep reminding people of them. I am planning to go ahead with the camp despite low attendance.

I am also delighted to mention that the Labrats Group together with FNCV Juniors were given a grant by Landcare to study water bugs and how to measure water quality at a basic level. We are planning to do some excursions and activities together thanks to this grant. Labrats and FNCV Juniors are very grateful to Su Dempsey who shared her ideas and expertise with us during the application process.

Patricia Aymara



Fauna Survey Group

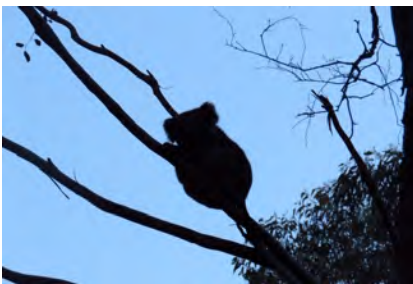
Survey Ralph Illidge Sanctuary

Over the Melbourne Cup weekend the Fauna Survey Group (FSG), led by Peter Homan, held a camp at the Ralph Illidge Sanctuary, 27 km past Cobden, on the Cobden-Warrnambool Road.

The Ralph Illidge Sanctuary is an 91 hectare island of native vegetation in an area of cleared agricultural land. Its value lies in the diversity and health of its bushland, which contains more than 100 species of native plants, mature trees with hollows and a population of native fauna including the Long-nosed Potoroo, Red-necked Wallaby, Koala and Powerful Owl. Corridors of vegetation, to a limited extent, link it to other patches of bush.

The Sanctuary has a visitors centre, a picnic area and signposted walks.

Ralph Illidge 1903-1975 acquired 40 hectares of land in 1958 intending to run cattle. He soon realised the bush and its wildlife were of more interest to him and a love of nature



became his guiding inspiration. He named the property Bimbimbi, an aboriginal term for 'place of many birds'. Concerned that the land might be cleared, he gifted the property to the Victorian Conservation Trust shortly before his death. Under the auspices

of Trust for Nature (Victoria) the property is now managed by a group of volunteers, Friends of the Ralph Illidge Sanctuary Inc. The Illidge home and outbuildings were destroyed on Ash Wednesday 1983 and the sanctuary was severely burnt. The trust acquired a further 51 hectares (north of the Warrnambool-Cobden Road) in 1987 which was added to the Sanctuary. A



replacement ranger's residence and visitors centre was officially opened by Joan Kirner MLC in 1987.

The FSG wildlife survey was carried out using Elliott, cage and bat traps. A bird list was compiled and spotlighting undertaken. Under Peter's supervision, training in setting up and maintaining trap lines and the correct handling of animals was given, (photo above). The results of the survey will be reported in a future edition of Field Nats News. The Sanctuary is well worth a visit for a walk or a picnic should you be in the area.

Photo left: *Agile Antechinus*.

Joan Broadberry
(All photos J. Broadberry)



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

FNCV Facebook report:
14,672 followers.

Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 302

Andy Brentnall
Sheina Nicholls
Edward Brentnall

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.



Day Group *A Visit to Schwerkolt Cottage, Mitcham*

Constructed in 1884 by August Schwerkolt, a Prussian, from local materials, Schwerkolt Cottage Mitcham is an original stone cottage surrounded by 2.25 hectares of garden and bushland. The cottage is of an unusual design with three rooms opening onto a veranda with individual external doors but no doors between rooms. Instead there are communication holes in the walls between the rooms. In the early 1960s the deteriorating historic cottage was threatened with a demolition order. In 1963 following considerable community interest, the property was purchased by the Council. With a working party of local residents it was restored to its original condition and furnished in the style of the period using items curated by the Whitehorse Historical Society. Work then began on reconstructing various outbuildings that once stood on the site: a barn, smithy, (photo right), wine cellar, smokehouse and orchard machinery shed. The list on the right of the map below shows what a busy mixed farm it was.



Photo: J. Broadberry

Built on the site in 1977 and extended in 2011, the museum holds the extensive collection of the Whitehorse Historical Society. This includes a range of fascinating domestic, agricultural and industrial artefacts, toys, costumes and photographs that record the differences in ordinary people's home and working lives that took place as Mitcham changed from a mixed-farming and fruit growing district to a residential suburb.

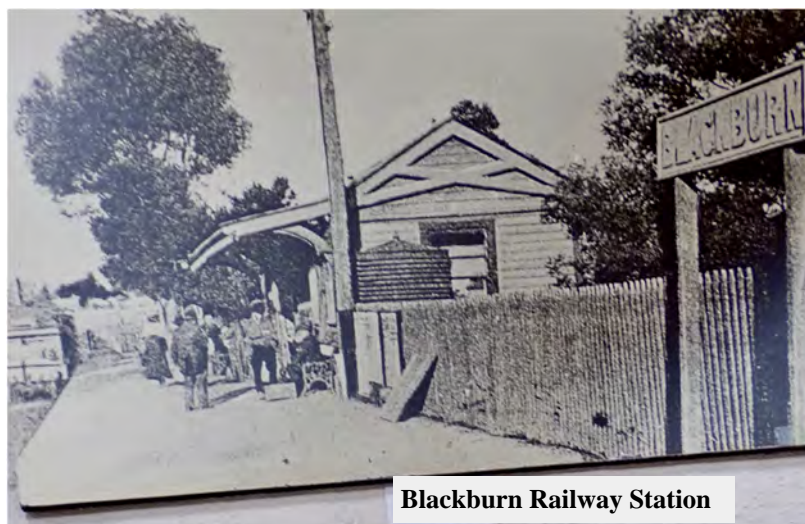


The October Day Group organised a tour of the cottage and museum complex. Our guide related in detail the history of the pioneering Schwerkolt family and the subsequent history of the cottage and its outbuildings. We then had the opportunity to view the nearby museum where there was much of interest to learn about local history. *See photos below.*

The weather was close to perfect and some of us enjoyed a picnic lunch together in the delightful cottage garden. Many of the plants were in flower included wisteria, jasmine and climbing roses.

It was disappointing that the numbers attending were so low.

Joan Broadberry



Blackburn Railway Station

NO MORE BUCKETS FROM THE CREEK

1857 - Melbourne's piped water supply began operating.

1891 - Yan Yean Reservoir & first stage of the Maroondah Scheme completed. Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works responsible for Melbourne's water supply system.

1914 - Water piped to Nunawading shire, but Mitcham too high to receive services.

1923 - Mitcham reservoir finished, pipes laid to Mitcham.

1925 - Mitcham water tower built.

1927: Maroondah Dam completed.

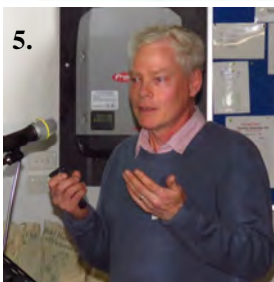
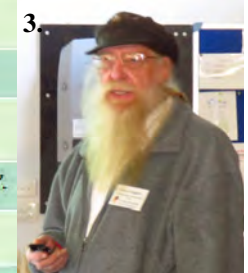
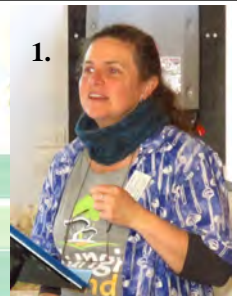


FNCV Biodiversity Symposium 2019

“Restored Ecosystems or Green Deserts and Ecological Traps”

Saturday 12th October, 2019

Time	Speaker	Item
08.30am		Registration and Morning Tea
08.55am	President FNCV	Welcome and Introduction
09.10am	Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher	‘Management to help fungi keep working in ecosystems.’
09.50am	Geoff Carr	‘Re-establishment of coastal saltmarsh at the Western Treatment Plant, Point V Victoria.’
10.30am		Break
10.40am	Darcy Duggan	What is Ecological Restoration? Reality or Myth?
11.20am	Dr Luke Barrett	‘What are ‘ecological traps’ and why should we test for them in restored ecosystems?’
12.00noon		Lunch
1.00pm	A/Prof Ian Rutherford	‘Can we restore Victoria’s rivers?’
1.40pm	Dr Graeme Lorimer	‘Ecological Principles for Well-targeted Management of Environmental Weeds’.
2.20pm		Afternoon Tea
2.40pm	Dr David Cheal	‘Habitat Restoration in the Mallee – major landscape improvements over the last 25 years or so.’
3.20pm	Anna O’Brien	‘A close-up look at biodiversity offsetting in Victoria.’
4.10pm	President FNCV	President’s summary & closing remarks.



Speakers:

1. Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher
2. Geoff Carr
3. Darcy Duggan
4. Dr. Luke Barrett
5. A/Prof Ian Rutherford
6. Dr. Graeme Lorimer
7. Dr. David Cheal
8. Anna O'Brien



Above: left to right
 Philippa Burgess, book sales
 Barbara Burns and Judith Sise, catering
 Almost 90 people attended the symposium

All photos: Joan Broadberry





FNCV Biodiversity Symposium 2019

“Restored Ecosystems or Green Deserts and Ecological Traps”

Sunday 13th October, 2019



Time	Speaker	Item
8.30am		Registration and Morning Tea
08.55am	President FNCV	Welcome and Introduction
09.10am	Damien Cook	'Reviving degraded wetlands on Victoria's northern plains'
09.50am	Geordie Scott-Walker	'Native grassland restoration in southern Victoria: project planning and delivery – a practitioner's perspective.'
10.30am		Break
10.40am	Dr Jeff Yugovic	'Imported geological material in natural areas: impacts and management.'
11.20pm	David Sparks	'Urban Oasis - How a community group has turned a wasteland to a thriving Urban Biodiversity.'
12 Noon	President FNCV	President's summary & closing remarks.
12.10pm	David Sparks	Leave FNCV for tour of Westgate Park – coach provided.



Speakers: left to right

David Sparks
Dr. Jeff Yugovic
Geordie Scott-Walker
Damien Cook

Photo: *Andrew McCutcheon*

THANKS to the hardworking team led by Max Campbell, (*right*) who organised this year's wonderful biodiversity symposium. This included: Faye Campbell, Wendy Gare, Barbara Burns, Judith Sise, Lauren Burns, Jerry Drew, Su Dempsey, Sue Bendel, Ray Gibson, Philippa Burgess and others.



Life on Earth in Summary

- It is a diverse and complex system of inter-connected organisms and their physical environment.
- There is no certainty about the total number of species on Earth.
- No species lives alone in isolation. Symbiosis impacts all life on Earth. (Microbiomes reflect the complexity of the broader ecosystem.)
- The complexity of living things and their mutual interactions is poorly known and impossible to replicate and therefore restore.

Westgate Park Photo: *Carol Page*

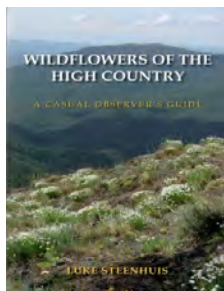


Darter - Photo:
A. McCutcheon

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (December 2019)

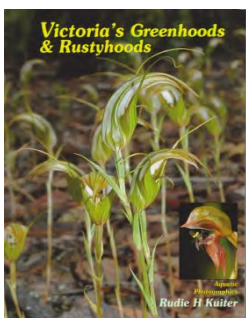
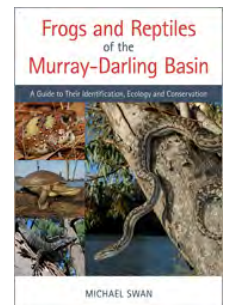
It is that time of year to think of others and maybe to give gifts. A book can be the perfect gift. The FNCV Bookshop is packed with so many options, it will be difficult to choose just one book. The catalogue for 2020 is out now. Have a browse through it, lodge your order by sending me an email and I will do my best to have it available before Christmas. A few of the new releases are highlighted here, but there are many more in the catalogue. A new book hot off the press, so hot I have limited information is, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania* by our own Reiner Richter and Ian Endersby. I am ordering stock in, but if you are interested, send me an email. Be sure to get in early so that you are not disappointed. To order or inquire about any book, please send an email to, bookshop@fncv.org.au and I will reply as soon as I can. To all that have supported the FNCV bookshop throughout the year, a huge thank you! Remember, it is not just members that can purchase from the bookshop, but it is only members that get the 20% discount. *Happy reading, Kathy*

Dragon Lizards of Australia (Meville & Wilson) provides the most recent understanding of the origins, life history, habitat and distribution of these amazing animals. Dragons exhibit remarkable variety in colour, shape and behaviour, adorned with a spectacular array of crests, spines and frills. Also included is an individual account of all of Australia's dragon species, featuring the most up-to-date taxonomic classification. Each is described, illustrated and mapped. This book is part of Museums Victoria Publishing field guide series. (PB, 400 pp., Sept 2019) RRP \$49.95, Member \$40



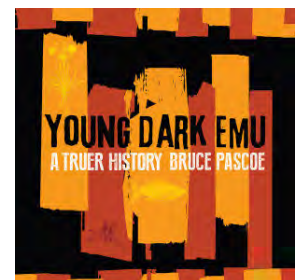
Wildflowers of the High Country (L. Steenhuis) a guide for the casual observer. It features over 240 wildflowers found in Australia's alpine area from Mount Baw Baw in the south, to Cabramurra in the NSW Snowy Mountains. Coverage includes: Kosciuszko National Park, Bogong High Plains, Mount Buffalo, Mount Buller, Mount Hotham, Dargo High Plains, Snowy Range and Lake Mountain. It provides easy-to-understand descriptions, wildflower hot spots, key identification features, location guide, a comprehensive index and more. (PB, 176 pp., 2018) RRP \$34.95, Member \$28

Frogs and Reptiles of the Murray-Darling Bason (M. Swan) is the first comprehensive guide to the 310 species of frogs and reptiles that live in that area. An overview of each of the 22 catchment areas introduces the unique and varied climates, topography, vegetation and fauna. Comprehensive species' accounts include diagnostic features, conservation ratings, photographs and distribution maps for all frogs, freshwater turtles, lizards and snakes recorded in this important region. (PB, 104 pp., Oct 2019) RRP \$49.99, Member \$40



Victoria's Greenhoods & Rustyhoods (R. Kuiter) features over 70 species of the large terrestrial orchid-genus *Pterostylis* found in Victoria. Each species is lavishly illustrated by multiple full colour photographs, along with information on where and when to find them. Each different clade has its own introduction and figures are provided to show selected terminology for some. The major clades have quick-guide pages with flower images in a group for easy comparison and page numbers to find taxon treatments. (PB, 220 pp., 3rd ed 2019) RRP \$70, Member \$56

Young Dark Emu (B. Pascoe) is the highly-anticipated junior version of Bruce Pascoe's multi award-winning book suitable for ages 10+ years old. Bruce has now brought together the research and compelling first person accounts in a book for younger readers. He allows the reader to see Australia as it was before Europeans arrived – cultivated farming areas, productive fisheries, permanent homes, and an understanding of the environment and its natural resources that supported thriving villages across the continent. This book asks young readers to consider a different version of Australia's history pre-European colonisation. (HB, 80 pp., June 2019) RRP \$24.99, Member \$20



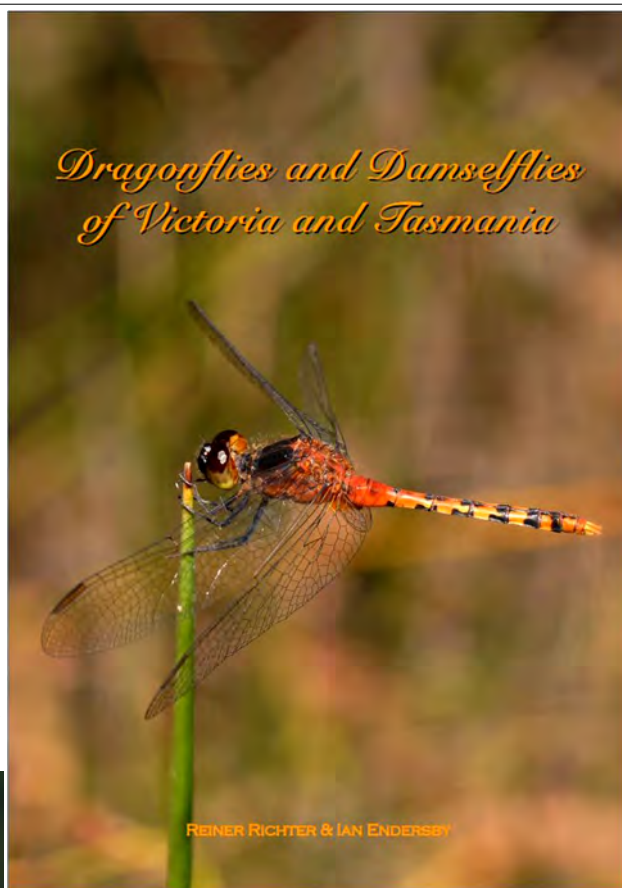
Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania

by Reiner Richter and Ian Endersby

At the November 20th Terrestrial Invertebrates Group meeting I will be discussing some of my dragonfly-chasing activities as well as the new book *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania*. The book will be available for purchase. (Image of the cover right.) It is a photographic guide that is aimed at novice enthusiasts trying to identify these insects in the field or from photographs. Every extant species is pictured in its natural habitat.

I have spent a lot of time around the state looking for Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) and recently, when returning from my Queensland winter migration, I was pleased to see an Inland Ringtail *Austrolestes aridus* as my first species back in Victoria. This species was poorly recorded in the state until recently, possibly because it appears to be an early-season species. This now links the numerous observations from around the Grampians with ones made in 2016 from near Shepparton and Bendigo and with those made near Canberra.

Reiner Richter



Damselfly *Austrolestes aridus*, Chiltern 27.9.2019
Image: R. Richter

Thanks to the editorial
and layout team who put
together FNN 303

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

Continued from p1.
From the President.

Photos: Max Campbell

Below: Copulating *Ommatoiulus moreleti*



Above: European Earwig, *Forficula auricularia* protecting her eggs.

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Contact Wendy in the Field Nats
Office

admin@fncv.org.au

9877 9860

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