



Understanding  
Our Natural World  
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# Field Nats News No.308



Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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June 2020

## From the President

It is very pleasing to see the number of interesting reports and nature observations being sent in for the FNN. A lot of interesting and useful information is never effectively recorded or reported so make certain that you tell your fellow naturalists about what you see. You may put the last piece in someone's frustrating jigsaw puzzle for them. Anecdotal is not necessarily evidential; detailed reports, observations and photographs are more helpful.

It is frustrating that we cannot get out into the field to observe the amazing number



Photo 1. *Cruentomycena viscidocruenta* Close up of gills.

of fungi that are sure to be emerging in our forests and Natural Parks. With the current wet weather there will, however, be numerous fungi to be seen in our gardens, parks and on nature strips. In particular, a small, red fungus, *Cruentomycena viscidocruenta* appeared in the native plant litter of my garden. (photos 1 & 2). I have noticed other, larger fungi starting to appear around the garden so there is plenty to photograph, observe and record. Fungi in Australia, J. Hubregtse, (rev. 2.2, 2019) is available on our Website <http://www.fncv.org.au/fungi-in-australia/> and is an excellent guide for the identification and study of fungi. This is a good time to download it onto your computers and tablets and identify the fungi that you encounter. There is a risk that you may become addicted to the identification, photography and study of fungi. You will also be prepared for our Fungal Forays when they commence.

It seems there are or were very small snails in the leaf litter in my garden. I was not aware that I have, or at least once had, a population of tiny pupillid snails living in the deep leaf litter in the garden. I have been examining samples of leaf litter under a dissecting micro-

(Continued on page 2)



Photo 2. A tiny 2.5mm dipluran, *Campodea* sp

For the July issue of FNN (309), please continue to share your observations as field naturalists.

Use [joan.broadberry@gmail.com](mailto:joan.broadberry@gmail.com)

Due date is always the first Tuesday of the month, **June 2nd by 10am**

See also p9—From the editor

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scope to search for small millipedes, symphylans, diplurans (**photo 3**), proturans and springtails. I found most of these groups in good numbers plus an enormous, but not unexpected, assemblage of **mites** (**Photo 4**). The biggest surprise was the presence of a number of empty gastropod shells about 3.5 mm in length. (**Photos 5 and 6**). The snails appear to be *Pupoides* sp. (Fam. Pupillidae.)

I have seen them in the north west of Victoria and in the Mallee but never at Clayton. Perhaps I may have simply overlooked them in the past. However, I am now scrutinising the leaf litter night and day, keeping it moist with water spray to encourage any living snails to start moving about. Hopefully our current rain will also encourage them to appear. The recent years of drought may have wiped them out but I remain hopeful that some have remained protected in the deeper litter; after all, they seem to survive in the Mallee. So, it will be head down, bottom up in the leaf litter each night with a torch and magnifier for the foreseeable future until I locate a living specimen. In the current lockdown I may run the risk of this becoming an obsessive behavioural problem; or perhaps yet another one to add to the rest. Such is the single-mindedness of many focussed/obsessed naturalists. The next question for me is where did they come from? Did they perhaps come back to suburbia in sand and mud on the 4WD after a visit to the Mallee? Other molluscs are known to have been transported via pot-plants, soil and horticultural practices. I would be interested to hear from anyone who finds them in their garden.



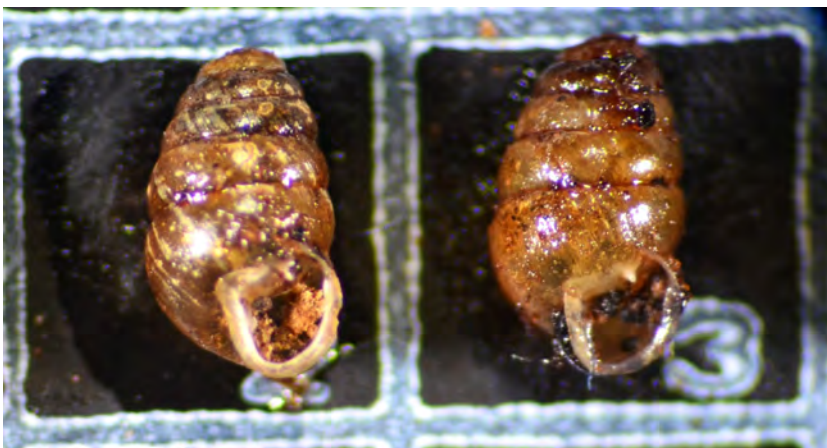
**Photo 3.** A tiny 2.5mm dipluran, *Campodea* sp.

**Max Campbell**



**Photo 4.** A 2 mm macrohelid mite from garden leaf litter

All images:  
Max Campbell



**Photo 5.** Shells of *Pupoides* sp. On 4 mm grid card.



**Photo 6.** Dextral aperture of *Pupoides* sp. with denticle.

FNCV facebook followers 16,351  
(512 new applications pending).

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



## Nature Quiz 2

Compiled by Barbara Burns

1. Give the common name of the insect pictured top right. (Photo: John Eichler)
2. What is the word for a chemical that an animal or insect produces which changes the behaviour of another creature?
3. When looking at fungi, what is a main difference between agaric and bolete fungi?
4. Under the current Covid 19 lockdown rules the minimum social distancing is equivalent to:
  - The wingspan of one and a half Boobook Owls
  - Five Brush-tailed Possums lined up nose to tail
  - Thirty Spotted Marsh Frogs sitting side by side.
  - Three Blue -tongue Lizards in a line
5. In what geological era did the dinosaurs live?
6. Name the marine creature pictured right, sighted recently at Port Welshpool by the Marine Research Group. (bonus point for scientific name) Photo: John Eichler.
7. Where are a centipede's fangs located?
8. Where do Stag Beetles get their common name from?
9. What black and white goose is found in huge flocks in northern Australia?
10. According to Reiner Richter's book *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania* what is the most photographed dragonfly in Australia? (bonus point for scientific name)
11. What is the floral emblem of the Australian Capital Territory?
12. What area is thought to be the origin of the apple?
  - England
  - North America.
  - Central Asia
  - Japan
13. Which Australian snake is considered the most venomous?
14. Which of these species of wattle is not regarded as a weed species in Manningham?
  - Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*)
  - Early Black Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*)
  - Cootamunda Wattle (*Acacia decurrens*)
  - Cinnamon Wattle (*Acacia leprosa*)
15. In which state in Australia are numbats, living and breeding in unfenced, natural habitat, found?
16. Where do melaleucas (paperbarks) typically grow?
  - In sandy areas
  - In the mountains
  - In swampy areas
  - In the tropics
17. What is the common and /or botanical name of the tallest flowering plant in Australia?
18. Name the person who was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion in 2014 and who was president of the Field Naturalists Club from 1998 to 2001.
19. Which greenhood orchid is pictured right? (bonus point for botanical name)
20. The only lorikeet with a plain green head and a red beak is the \_\_\_\_\_?



ANSWERS page 11

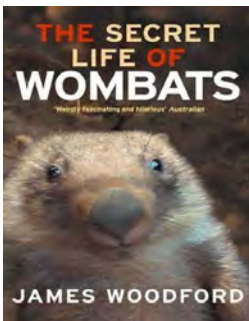


## NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (June 2020)

This month includes a selection of books that may not be new releases, but are new to the shelves of the bookshop. From fungi and orchids, to the geology along the Great Ocean Road and wombats. Also, two of the titles this month are usually only available as 'order only', so if they have been on your wish list, stock is now on hand, but supplies are limited. Last month showcased a revised edition of *Field Guide to the Frogs of Australia* (\$30) which is now available, leaving a copy of the previous edition on sale at a discounted price. There is only a single copy so you must be quick to pick up a bargain. Similarly, a superseded copy of *Orchids of East Gippsland* (\$21) is on sale as a new edition is now available. To order or inquire about a book, please send an email to, [bookshop@fncv.org.au](mailto:bookshop@fncv.org.au) and I will reply as soon as I can.

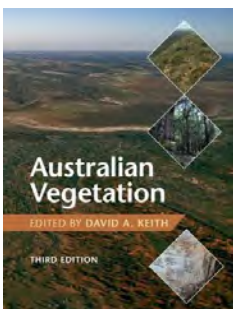
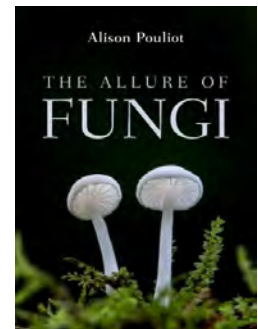
*Happy reading and stay healthy, Kathy*

**Written In Stone (P. Manifold):** reading the rocks of the Great Ocean Road is a rare combination of a scientific book, that is gorgeous to the eye and immensely readable. Travel the length of the Great Ocean Road, from the fossil-filled cliffs of Torquay, through the twisting and crackling bush of the Otways, to the expanse of the Port Campbell plains. The book contains maps, diagrams, sketches and photographs to help you see the story of the landscape. (HB, 139 pp., 2017) RRP \$49.95, Member \$40



**The Secret Life of Wombats (J. Woodford)** explores the mysteries of one of the world's most intriguing and enigmatic marsupials. In 1960, when he was a fifteen-year-old schoolboy at Timbertop, Peter Nicholson began to investigate the secret world of wombats by crawling down their burrows and making friends with them. In this enthralling book the extraordinary story of Nicholson's research is told and then the author sets off himself in pursuit of the elusive wombat. (PB, 240 pp., 2002) RRP \$34.99, Member \$28

**The Allure of Fungi (A. Pouliot)** presents fungi through multiple perspectives: mycologists and ecologists, foragers and forayers, naturalists and farmers, aesthetes and artists, philosophers and Traditional Owners. It explores how a history of entrenched fears and misconceptions about fungi has led to their near absence in Australian ecological consciousness and biodiversity conservation. The combination of engaging text and stunning photography helps us to understand how fungi, the forest and humans interact. (PB, 280 pp., 2018) RRP \$49.99, Member \$40

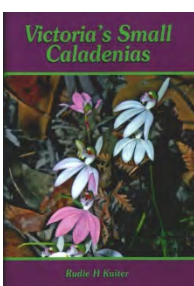


**Australian Vegetation (D. Keith)** is a fully updated, third edition. It presents the latest insights on the patterns and processes that shaped the vegetation of Australia. The first part provides a synthesis of ecological processes that influence vegetation traits throughout the continent, using a new classification of vegetation formations. New chapters examine the influences of climate, soils, fire regimes, herbivores and aboriginal people on vegetation, in addition to completely revised chapters on evolutionary biography, quaternary vegetation history and alien plants. The second half presents detailed ecological portraits for each major vegetation type.

(HB, 766 pp., 3<sup>rd</sup> ed 2017) . RRP \$110.95, Member \$89

**Wild Orchids of Victoria, Australia (Jeanes & Backhouse)** details all of the 363 species of orchid in Victoria. With 1490 photographs and a descriptive text for each species, it enables the user to identify orchids found growing in the wild in Victoria, one of the richest areas in the world for terrestrial orchids. The flowers occur in a fascinating array of forms from just a few millimetres across in the onion orchid to almost 200mm across in the spider orchids.

(HB, 320 pp., 2006) RRP \$85, Member \$70



**Victoria's Small Caladenias (R. Kuiter)** are the small-flowered members of the highly diverse terrestrial orchid genus *Caladenia*. Being the small species in the genus, some flowers are tiny (less than 10mm across), many do not get the attention they deserve. The book features 27 species found in Victoria with each lavishly illustrated by multiple photographs, along with information on where and when to find them. (PB, 44 pp., 3<sup>rd</sup> ed 2019) RRP \$20, Member \$17.50



# WHICH QUARANTINE BIRD ARE YOU?

@JessHarwoodArt



LORIEET

- Starts fights at Coles
- Every bird for themselves
- OK for toilet paper



COCKATOO

- Calling Talk-Back radio with conspiracies
- Loudly spruiking Whatsapp misinformation
- Anti-bird migration



SEAGULLS

- Still going to the beach
- Argues with police about social distancing
- On 3rd warning
- Chips = essential



KOOKABURRA

- Making inappropriate virus jokes
- Annoyingly positive
- Highly irritating to family



MAGPIE

- Gets in your 1.5m bubble
- Demanding Kids at home
- Still hates cyclists



BOWER BIRD

- Starts a home renovation project
- Prepper
- Thinking about building a bunker



FAIRY WREN

- Gets out of PJ's every day
- Still does make-up
- Day-drinker



POWERFUL OWL

- Excellent social isolator
- No one within 1.5km
- Life hasn't changed at all.

The artist who created this amazing artwork is **Jess Harwood**. A FNCV member, Judy Smart, emailed her to ask if we could all enjoy this cartoon, through the pages of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria newsletter, Field Nats News. Jess very generously agreed. She is an illustrator, textile designer and environmental campaigner living and working in Sydney. Quoting from her website. "I believe art needs a purpose. Much of my art is connected with climate change campaigning or raising awareness about the impacts of biodiversity loss. But I also do silly cartoons about life. The purpose of those is to make people snort-giggle." You can view and buy Jess's brilliant creations on line.

Do yourself a favour and check out her website <https://www.jessharwoodart.com/> Jess has picked up a swag of awards and undertakes a wide variety of commissions and projects, for example raising money for wildlife rescue after the 2019 bushfire crisis.

*Thank you on behalf of all FNN readers Jess*





## Terrestrial Invertebrates Group News

### Visit to Westerfolds Park, 1st March, 2020

Westerfolds Park, Templestowe, is on a fairly dry hillside with lots of lawn unsuitable for much invertebrate activity, but is bordered on the north by the Yarra River, providing alternative habitat. We began by walking slowly downstream, examining the vegetation along the track. Sharp eyes spotted one slender Longhorn Beetle (*Cerambycidae*) **photo 1** and a short while later *Phacodes obscurus*, **photo 2**, was found, where they often are, on the trunk of a tree.

There were not a lot of spiders around but we did record the recognizable Jewel Spider *Austracantha minax* and later a St Andrew's Cross Spider *Argiope keyserlingi*. An attractively patterned *Gea theridioides* **photo 3** sat in its ornamented web and could be mistaken for another *Argiope* species.

We also saw one newly emerged male Common Shutwing *Cordulephya pygmaea*. **Photo 4**. This species emerges relatively late in the season, generally starting around March, and can be found by pools or along slower sections of streams east of the Melbourne area. *Cordulephya* are the only genus of dragonfly in the world that normally perch with their wings closed and the four species are all endemic to Australia (found nowhere else).

Some of us must have started getting hungry for lunch as the numerous native Tree Violets *Melicytus dentatus* **photo 5** were in fruit and we used our smartphones to check if these were edible. At lunch we were also joined by a large, brightly coloured sawfly (in the Pergidae family) **photo 6**— although their larvae look unattractive, the adults are often spectacular like this one. After lunch we walked upstream into Candlebark Park and explored the old farm dam where we photographed four damselflies and one dragonfly, all common species. Waterbodies such



1. Paul George



2. John Eichler

(Continued on page 7)



4. R. Richter



3. Paul George



(Continued from page 6)

as this often have rushes (*Juncus* sp.) growing in them so it wasn't surprising we also found some *Tipanaea patulella* moths, **photo 7** whose larvae feed on the rushes. Although not particularly amazing to look at, I now do photograph them in my efforts to record everything I see.

Also seen during the day was a male *Myrmecia fulvipes*, bullant **photo 8**. Bullants are easily recognized by their large mandibles, however the males have no need for large jaws as they don't spend time foraging. They are usually similarly colored to the females – note this one has a golden gas-tor/abdomen and reddish legs.

For all recorded observations visit the following web page:  
<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/fncv-2020-westerfolds-park>



Reiner Richter



## 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)





## Marine Research Group News

### Field Work at Port Campbell Area 16h March—19th March 2020

A smaller than usual group of participants took part in the MRG's second extended field trip for 2020. Our base was at Port Campbell and during our four day stay we investigated rocky sections of the coast between Moonlight Head and Peterborough. The sites surveyed were Loch Ard Gorge, Wreck Beach, Peterborough and Gibsons Steps. We are grateful to Parks Victoria staff who provided access to the Gibsons Steps beach, which was temporarily closed to the general public due to erosion at the base of the steps. For each site visited a list of species seen, their abundance and where relevant, their stage of development was recorded.

The following observations were highlights of our trip.

At Loch Ard Gorge several specimens of the sap-sucking sea slug, *Polybranchia pallens*, were found under slabs of rock. These sea slugs are quite well camouflaged with their dull green leaf-like cerata. Also present were numbers of egg ribbons. Under magnification embryonic sea slugs could be seen in the segmented egg ribbons. Bob Burn, an authority on sea slugs, commented that he has seen egg ribbons on only a few occasions over the past 60 years and never in such numbers.

An unusual sighting at Wreck Beach was several large Black-lip Abalone, *Haliotis rubra*, in the open in the upper inter-tidal zone. Adult Abalone are typically found in crevices and under rocks at lower levels.

A pleasing find at Peterborough was a specimen of the uncommon, strikingly patterned Chiton, *Ischnochiton smaragdinus*. Also found at Peterborough was a lacy bryozoan, tentatively identified as *Reteporella fissa*. A Field Guide to the Marine Invertebrates of South Australia gives the depth range of this species as five metres and below. The specimen was found attached to the underside of a slab of rock in a shaded location next to a rock stack, which might explain its presence in shallow water.

At Gibsons Steps, an unusual-looking air-breathing limpet was spotted on rocks in the splash zone. This turned out to be *Siphonaria jeanae*, a species known from SA and WA and thought to



*Polybranchia pallens* egg ribbon

Photo: J. Eichler



*Ischnochiton smaragdinus* (Chiton) Photo: J. Eichler



*Polybranchia pallens* (Sea Slug)

Photo: J. Eichler

be a new record for Victoria. A subsequent check of records in the Atlas of Living Australia revealed that the late Clarrie Handreck collected a specimen from the Bass Strait coast of the Mornington Peninsula in 1982. Another find at Gibsons Steps was the attractive Aeolid sea slug, *Tularia bractea*. The less than 10mm long animal was sieved from algae in the lower inter-tidal zone. Gibsons Steps was a productive site for ascidi-

(Continued on page 9)





(Continued from page 8)

ans with a variety of solitary (stalked and sessile) and colonial forms observed. The five or six species of colonial ascidians recorded here exhibited a range of colours, patterns and textures. While visually distinctive they can be challenging to identify.

Many thanks to Leon Altoff and Audrey Falconer for their hard work in organising this year's field trips, obtaining the necessary research permits and documenting the results of our fieldwork.

Group photo see next page.

John Eichler



*Tularia bractea* (Sea Slug) Photo: Platon Vafiadis



*Reteporella fissa* - tentative ID (Lacy Bryozoan)

Photo: J. Eichler



*Siphonaria jeanae* (Air-breathing Limpet) Photo: J. Eichler



*Aplidium* sp – tentative ID (Colonial Ascidian) Photo: J. Eichler

### Corrections to the report on the Corner Inlet area field trip published in FNN No. 307

This report referred to three species of Callianassid Shrimps - *Biffarius arenosa*, *Biffarius ceramicus* and *Trypaea australiensis*. In a 2019, paper published in the Memoirs of Museum Victoria, Gary Poore and others provided a new classification of Callianassidae and related families. As a result of this revision the two species of *Biffarius* listed above have become *Arenallianassa arenosa* and *Filhollianassa ceramica*. The name *Trypaea australiensis* remains unchanged.

John Eichler

The capture and handling of all animals on FNCV field trips is done strictly in accordance with the Club's research permits.





## Members of the Marine Research Group surveying in the Port Campbell Area. Photo taken on the beach below the Gibson Steps



**Back row to front, left to right** Platon, Margaret, Audrey, Janet, Bob, John, Carol, Leon, (Barbara absent) Photo: Leon Altoff.

### From the Editor



Once again the editorial team have been able to produce a jumbo 15 page newsletter filled with great material backed by fabulous images. We have even had to hold over some of what has arrived in the inbox for subsequent issues. Thank you to everyone who has shared their knowledge. I have always known this, but I want to express it in print, field naturalists are exceptional people. Being a generalist myself, interested in all facets of nature, I have appreciated the opportunity to learn from others and have dipped into my nature library or used the internet many times in the last few weeks, as I read your emails.

FNN 308 contains two reports from the time when the FNCV's program was in full swing. One on the Marine Research Group's field work in the Port Campbell area and other from the Terrestrial Invertebrates Group's visit to my local park, Westerfolds. There is one more report from the Fauna Survey Group's visit to Bael Bael in March to come. However, after that, until we are again able to hold meetings and excursions, FNN will be relying *totally* on the material sent in by members.

Working from home, my tech learning curve is still rather steep, but I can say I am mostly winning. The only thing that has beaten me is connecting my desktop computer to (the NBN) wifi. It is erratic, and mysterious, sometimes it works and sometimes doesn't. After much experimentation, and carefully monitoring of all variables, eg. time of day, I have concluded it must be the way I hold my mouth. I have at last had time to sort through my email trails and found a few that have been overlooked, mainly from the day we hastily forwarded everything from the office. My apologies to whom my replies have been slow. Please let me know if there is something I have missed.

My final message is **please continue sending in your wonderful observations. Due date for FNN 309 is Tuesday 2nd June by 10 am.**

Use my home email: [joan.broadberry@gmail.com](mailto:joan.broadberry@gmail.com)



# Members' news, photos & observations

We always have space for member photos and natural history observations. Please share with us what you have noted in your daily life, travels or garden. Email: [fnnews@fncv.org.au](mailto:fnnews@fncv.org.au) by the first Monday in the month.



## Cancellation of the Australian Naturalists Network Get-Together

In the light of the current restrictions on group gatherings, interstate and regional travel and exclusions of public access to many national parks and state forests, the organising committee of the Australian Naturalists Network has very reluctantly decided to postpone the get-together planned for this September in Stanthorpe.

Although this get-together is some months away, it is difficult to predict when life may return to normal and we therefore decided it was only fair to make an early decision so that potential participants could cancel their travel and accommodation arrangements. We were very much looking forward to showcasing the diverse natural values and beautiful scenery of Queensland's Granite Belt as the region is starting to recover from drought and bushfires following recent rain. If it is agreeable to the Australian Naturalists' Network Steering Committee, we are hoping to be able to offer the get-together at about the same time in 2022. Meanwhile stay safe and we look forward to seeing some of you visit our special part of Australia in 2022.

**Liz Bourne on behalf of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club ANN 2020 Organising Committee**

## From the Office



**Dear Members,** it's very quiet here in the office all by myself, but I feel pleased that we can still keep in touch with all of you. We've been sending out information and naturalist newsletters which we think will help while away the hours until we're all out and about again. I've had quite a bit of positive feedback from you telling me that you're enjoying the extra reading matter and I'm always happy to have more feedback, positive or negative. I'd also love to receive any links or other newsletters which you think would be enjoyed by fellow club members.

SEANA is holding a virtual AGM, on line on Wednesday 3rd June, commencing at 4 pm. For all details, agenda, previous minutes etc. please contact me at the office.

**Keep safe! Best wishes, Wendy**

## Answers to Quiz 2. (questions page 3)

1. Blue-banded Bee (Photo John Eichler)
2. Pheromone
3. Agaric fungi have gills and Boletes have sponge-like pores.
4. c. Thirty Spotted Marsh Frogs sitting side by side (see May FNN Page 7)
5. Mesozoic era
6. Heart Urchin (*Echinocardium cordatum*)
7. A centipede's fangs are its modified pair of front legs
8. The name comes from the large and distinctive mandibles found on the males of most species, which resemble the antlers of stags. These enlarged jaws are used to fight other males for the right to mate with females.
9. Magpie Goose
10. Blue Skimmer (*Orthetrum caledonicum*)
11. Royal Blue Bell (*Wahlenbergia gloriosa*)
12. c. Central Asia
13. Inland Taipan
14. c. Cinnamon Wattle (*Acacia leprosa*)
15. Western Australia
16. c. swampy areas
17. Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*)
18. Tom May, Mycologist
19. Blunt Greenhood (*Pterostylis curta*)
20. Scaly-breasted Lorikeet



**How did you go?**

20 + bonuses =



### *Genduarua punctigera*, Crexa Moth

Cecily Falkingham photographed this beautiful female Crexa Moth on a local walk. Her first thought was that it might be a child's soft toy left in a tree. The following notes are from *Flying Colours* by Pat and Mike Coupar p 57.

"In the adult moth the sexes are very different. Females have a wingspan of about 40-50 mm. It is a stout hairy-bodied moth with an attractive brown and white pattern on its wings. The male wingspan is about 30-40 mm. Its body is similar to that of the female, but the wings of the male are semi-transparent. Flight period: spring and summer. Food plant Cherry Ballart."

*Genduarua punctigera* Crexa Moth  
Photo: Cecily Falkingham

JB

### *Caenoplana coerulea*, Blue Flatworm

At right is a photo of the Blue Flatworm, several of which appeared in my back courtyard after we had 17 mm of rain on 29th March. I noticed about four at the base of, or climbing up, my fence.

Presumably they live under the gravel and mulch and don't appear unless they get flooded out. *ID by a knowledgeable friend.*

Val La May

**Editor:** My daughter was walking in Preston during rain and sent me a photo of a Blue Flatworm. It was the first I had even identified. What a lovely co-incidence that this was sent in to FNN by Val. [More information from readers please.](#)



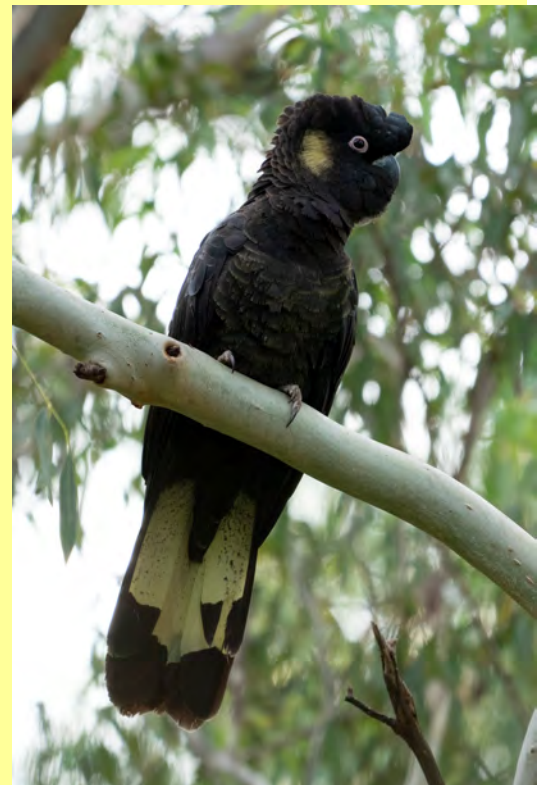
### Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos visit Blackburn

Photos: W. Clark

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have been coming into the Blackburn Creeklands over the past few weeks. They pull apart the bark of the Black Wattles and look for the grubs that live there. They also eat the seeds from pine-cones and other types of cone.

The two photos show the difference between the male and female cockatoos. Females (below) have a dark eye-ring, a pale coloured beak and a bright yellow ear-patch. Males (right) have a pink eye-ring, a dark upper beak and a paler yellow ear-patch.

Wendy Clark







## Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary project on iNaturalist

In November 2020 I became the Friends group Convenor for Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary (BRHS) in the Bay-side suburb of Sandringham. This is a small (2 ha) area of remnant Sand Heathland (Ecological Vegetation Class 6) with some tree canopy, now surrounded by building development, a major road and school playing fields. In April 2018, a controlled burn in approximately one-third of the Sanctuary produced excellent regeneration of heathland diversity.

I am trying to build up better, publicly accessible data about the flora, fauna and fungi that can be found at BRHS. Building on the success of FNCV projects on iNaturalist website, I decided to start an iNaturalist project for BRHS. I was fortunate to have assistance from FNCV members Reiner Richter and John Eichler. Reiner (who is an iNaturalist curator) helped me establish Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary as a searchable location on the map and advised me on setting up the project. John, who is a



regular visitor to BRHS, has contributed many wonderful images to the project. His beautiful green Orbweaver (*Araneus* genus, pictured here) gives you a sample of what you might see on it. The BRHS project is open to any iNaturalist members taking images at this location. At the end of its first month, in the first week of May, it contained 153 observations of 127 species from four observers.

I am delighted that other naturalists can now learn more about Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary through this project. Perhaps, more importantly, our records will also be shared with international and national scientific communities and databases such as the Atlas of Living Australia.

Sue Forster

See: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/bay-road-heathland-sanctuary>

Orbweaver spider (*Araneus* species) in Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary. Photo: John Eichler



## Hanging like a Christmas decoration

There are two clumps of *Lomandra longifolia* just opposite my back door. For two weeks I have been watching a Saunders Casemoth hanging from one leaf to another like a Christmas decoration. It has moved from clump to clump dragging its 'sleeping bag' along ... slowly.

One day it cut a long green strip, longer than its case, from a leaf and attached this close to its case entrance. There was also a smaller green strip attached near the entrance. Just now it is no longer hanging, but is almost upside down on the Lomandra. Perhaps it is about to pupate. I shall be watching carefully to see what happens next.

Julia Davis

*Ed. Keep us posted, Case moths are among my favourite creatures.*

Kinda feeling like the Earth just sent us all to our rooms to think about what we've done..



Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 308

Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare  
Sally Bewsher

## Recent sighting of a pair of Powerful Owls at Fyans Creek

Photos C. Carlyle

This is the time of year that Powerful Owls are breeding and the other night we heard them at our property in Fyans Creek.

A few days later we were walking under a big old *Pinus radiata* tree and we heard an angry sounding noise 'oorh' and after 10 minutes of scanning the branches we eventually saw not one, but two powerful owls perched high up in the branches! One was asleep and the other one was preening. Exotic trees have their benefits!



We don't think they are breeding on our place. They need very large hollows in a, preferably, living tree, and an adjacent tree with dense foliage for the male to roost during the day. Picky! We have been following the construction of nest boxes with interest. To date in Australia only one nest box has been successfully used by Powerful Owls, who successfully raised one chick. Experts aren't entirely certain why artificial nest sites have not been more successful. Some of it may relate to temperature (boxes tend to fluctuate over a wider range than natural hollows) and location. A group in Melbourne is experimenting with a range of materials, laser scanning of trees, and 3D printing to improve nest box design!



The photo top right shows an owl at the top of the tree with a glimpse of another owl, just below which is shown in the photo lower left.

Catherine Carlyle



**Readers: why does this Satin Bowerbird have mottled plumage?**



We regularly have Satin Bowerbirds in our garden at Olinda, including a nest and two bowers being worked on at different times.

We have never seen an individual with plumage like this though, photographed 25th February 2020. We're not sure what's happening here. Is it a moult, is it transitioning to male plumage, does this individual just have a few 'different' feathers or is it something else altogether?

We'd love to know.

Sue Tardif

### Do you need to print?

I ream of paper = 60% of a tree and 5.4kg of CO2 in the atmosphere. Three sheets of A4 paper = 1.1 litre of water.

Source: Jacobs consultancy



## Japanese Macaque—Snow Monkey (*Indigenous to Japan*)

In early January I visited the Snow Monkeys on a trip to Japan with my family. We learned that a young female once dropped her food into the hot springs and got into the water to get it. As she did so, she really liked the warmth of the hot springs and decided to stay in the water. Other younger ones followed her and, after a few days, the older ones started to get into the hot springs as well. It seems they discovered the hot water by chance and now they are the only colony in Japan that spends many hours in winter in the springs. They are fed with seeds daily by the park rangers. However, these are wild animals that will go wherever they want with their leader. I think there are about 60 of them in this unique colony.

*Some of the English signage is reproduced below.*

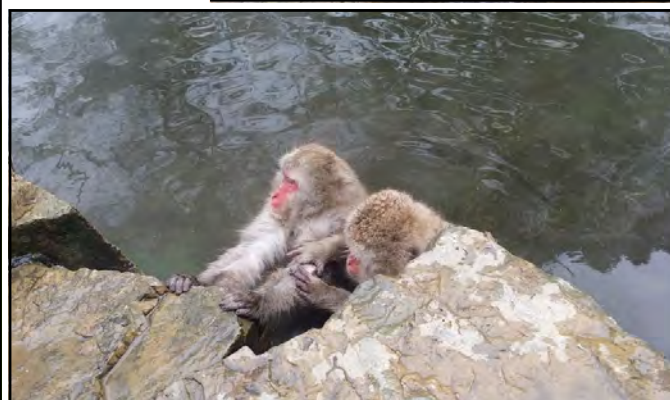
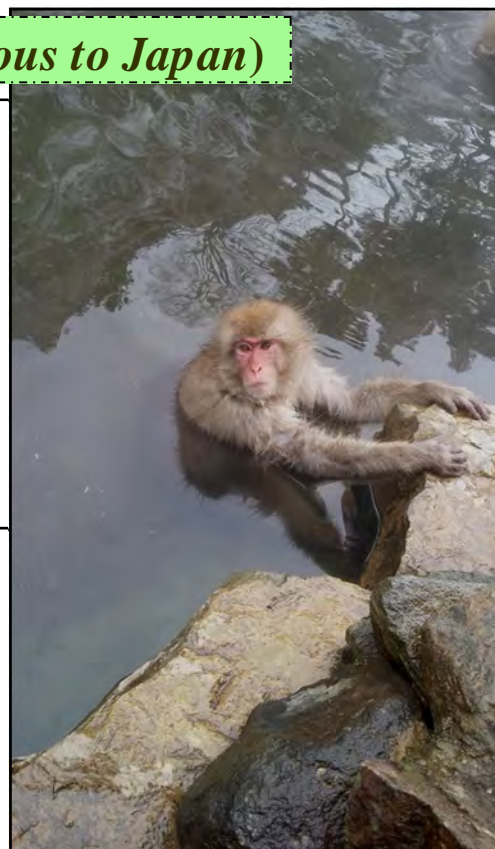
Patricia Amaya

### ■ A variety of monkey indigenous to Japan only

There exist about 180 species of monkeys around the world, including the gorilla, chimpanzee, orangutan, baboon, squirrel monkey, and more. Most of these inhabit Africa and South East Asia, from the tropics to the subtropics. Unlike those species, the Japanese macaque is known as the world's northernmost non-human wild primate. Their habitat stretches across Japan, covering mainly broad-leaved forest areas, except Hokkaido and the Ryukyu Archipelago (Okinawa). They are the only monkeys living under cold weather extremes including up to ten degrees below zero, such that they are known in countries other than Japan as "snow monkeys." The Japanese macaque is a species indigenous to Japan.

We also have the Yaku-zaru, a subspecies of the Japanese macaque that inhabits only Yakushima Island (Kagoshima Prefecture). The Taiwan monkey, which inhabits Taiwan and Southeast Asia, as well as the rhesus monkey and crab-eating monkey are closely related to the Japanese macaque.

FNN would like to thank Patricia, leader of the FNCV Juniors' Group, and a very busy person for this account.



### ■ Physique

The monkey's body is covered with a furry coat except for its face, posterior, palms and soles. The colors of the coat can vary among shades from light to dark bistre. The northern tribes have long, tightly-packed coats while the southern tribes have short, thinner coats. The average body length for males ranges from 54cm-61cm. They tend to be hefty with excellent musculature. The females, smaller than the males and roundish in shape, measure from 47cm-60cm. The average body weight for males is between 12kg-15kg, and 8kg-15 kgs for females. The northern tribe monkeys tend to have a larger body frame than the southern tribe varieties. They have short tails of 8cm-12cm for males and 7cm-10cm for females. They also have a pair of calluses below their tail to avoid contact with the ground when they sit down.

