



Understanding  
Our Natural World  
Est. 1880

# Field Nats News No 317



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](http://www.fncv.org.au)

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

(Office email: [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto: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 10 am - 4 pm.

April 2021

## From the President

Welcome to the third FNN for 2021. We will now be opening up for more meetings in the hall under Covid Safe conditions. Advanced registration, physical distancing, wearing of masks and limits to numbers will apply. Login via QR code will be required at arrival. Don't worry if you do not have a Smart Phone, there will be people available to help you. I look forward to catching up with you in person.

The male huntsman spider that was paralysed by a pompilid wasp (see FNN 316 p1) continued to improve up to the end of the fourth week. It was accepting dilute honey and fish protein (Photos 1 and 2). My logic here was that I often see huntsman eating bugs and bees full of plant fluids and nectar, so honey would be accepted. I find that honey is also readily accepted by the larvae of aphid-eating insects. I have observed large *Dolomedes* spiders eat tadpoles, small frogs and small fish, so I expected that unsalted sardine might also be accepted.

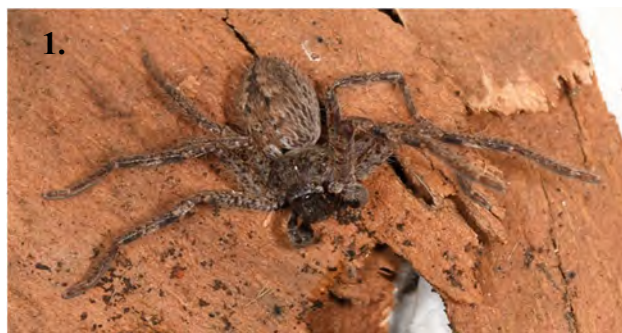
The spider increased slightly in size and, just past four weeks, it became reclusive and sluggish. It started moulting during the night and was still attempting to extricate itself from the old exoskeleton and after four days had virtually pulled off one complete palp and half of the other (Photo 3). Nevertheless, it became very active and was able to easily walk up and down the sides of the plastic honey container that served as its temporary home (Photo 4). Its legs were relatively longer after the moult. It still had a slight jerkiness in one leg but was very active and accepted water until it died quite suddenly three days later.

Without palps it didn't show interest in food and ran away from blowflies and anything else that was offered. There are a lot of sensilla and reproductive structures in the palps of a male spider and they also assist in food capture and manipulation. The inability to catch and taste food, and engage in sexual

(continued p 3)

The due date for contributions to FNN 318, the May edition will be, as always, the first Tuesday of the month **6th April** with FNN going to the printers on 13th April.

**Editor:** *SIG groups are now holding monthly meetings and excursions. Reports from these activities have always been the backbone of this newsletter, but many SIGs have got out of the habit of submitting a report. FNN would love to return to publishing a record of calendar events. We would strongly encourage SIGs to write a report of what happened, what you learned and what you found, (with images). However, please keep sending us the wonderful members' observations which will continue to fill the pages of FNN.*



1. Almost back to normal with walking and good responses to stimuli.



2. Eating protein in the form of sardine meat. The palps actively "feeling" the food.



Index	Page
From the President	1, 3
Calendar of events	2
Members' news, photos & observations	3
Extracts of SIG reports to Council; Mass stranding of Sea Hares at Inverloch	4
60th Anniversary of re-discovery of Leadbeater's possum	5
<b>Day Group:</b> Dr FGA Barnard	6
Southern Fiddler Ray;	7
<b>Microscopical Group:</b> Macro Photography using natural light	
Photogenic Flies	8-9
Of Blue-tongue Lizards	10
FNCV AGM Invitation; Council Nomination Form	11
Proxy Voting Form	12

Moulting and having difficulty removing the palps from the shed exoskeleton



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Marine Research Group: Easter Field Work: Portarlington** Meet at 11:30 am. **Bookings at least one week in advance essential.**  
Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Juniors' Group excursion: Easter Camp at Stawell (private property near Grampians)** Places limited – FNCV members only.  
**Early bookings essential.** Contact: Dr Patricia Amaya [juniors@fncv.org.au](mailto:juniors@fncv.org.au)

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group excursion: Survey Bael Bael Grasslands Nature Conservation Reserve.** **Bookings at least one week in advance essential.** Contact: Andrej Hohmann 0410 934 779; [andrej\\_hohmann@yahoo.com.au](mailto:andrej_hohmann@yahoo.com.au)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Marine Research Group: Easter Field Work: Point Cook.** **Bookings at least one week in advance essential.** Meet at 11:50 am. Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0438 669 773

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Fungi Group. No Meeting, Easter**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Marine Research Group. No Meeting**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group meeting (Note 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month): Exploring the faunal community responsible for pollinating the tree form of Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata*.** Speaker: Graham Jury, Masters Student, La Trobe University  
Register at least three days prior with Ray Gibson 0417 861 651; [rgibson@melbpc.org.au](mailto:rgibson@melbpc.org.au)

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - Botany Group meeting: Nature Culture Science: the future of botanic gardens** Speaker: Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria. Register at least three days prior with Ken Griffiths [botany@fncv.org.au](mailto:botany@fncv.org.au)

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - Juniors' Group excursion: Yellingbo: Home of the Helmeted Honeyeater** Time to be confirmed. **Bookings at least one week in advance essential.**  
Leader: Sue Bendel. Contact: Dr Patricia Amaya [juniors@fncv.org.au](mailto:juniors@fncv.org.au)

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Microscopy Group practical meeting: Compound, dissecting and digital microscopes set up for your use.** BYO specimens or view our slide collection with guidance and help with ID. Videos of live microscopic organisms  
Register at least three days prior with Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - FNCV Council meeting 7.30 pm.** Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Day Group meeting 10.30 am, speaker at 11.00 am. Gardens for wildlife:** Habitat gardening using bandicoots as a case study. Speaker: Charlotte Fletcher, Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. Register at least three days prior with Joan Broadberry 9846 1218; [joan.broadberry@gmail.com](mailto:joan.broadberry@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - Geology Group meeting: Using Citizen Science to track the field trips and document the collections of some of Victoria's pioneering geologists in the 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries** Speaker: Dr Oskar Lindenmayer, Collection Manager, Mineralogy and Petrology, Melbourne Museum. Register at least three days prior with Ruth Hoskin 9878 5911; 0425 729 424; [rrhoskin@gmail.com](mailto:rrhoskin@gmail.com)

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> - Juniors' Group: No meeting**

The calendar has been prepared on the assumption that, in



April, meetings will return to being held at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn at 8 pm. As the Covid 19 situation is fluid, this may change at any time. Activities may be cancelled or meetings switched to Zoom. There is also the issue of a numbers cap of 30 in the hall. You are therefore asked to register for both meetings and excursions as soon as you can, preferably supplying a phone number and email, so that you can be reached at short notice. As a courtesy, please let the SIG contact know if your plans alter.

Members are reminded that at meetings, masks must be worn, hands sanitised, physical distancing adhered to and that you will be required to sign in with the Victorian Government QR app (logo above). It is actually simple. Just bring your phone; download the app beforehand if you can; assistance will be available and you can be registered, if need be, on another phone. It will help if everyone can arrive 10-15 minutes early.

Keep in mind that, as always, on days of extreme weather conditions, excursions may be cancelled. at short notice



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 per excursion and \$2 per meeting.





Huntsman free of the shed exoskeleton and without functional palps, but easily climbing the walls of its plastic container with longer legs.

(continued from p1) **From the President**

activity might discourage many of us. I suspect that there may have been residual and lasting effects of the wasp venom that impacted the process of ecdysis. One leg did have a slight tick, suggesting a continuing neurological legacy. At any rate it seems to me that a spider might, if protected for several weeks, potentially recover from wasp envenomation and paralysis. The spider remained alive for exactly five weeks after envenomation and reached a high state of mobility, responsiveness and seemingly normal sentence. In nature of course it would be consumed by ants or other insects before too long (Photo 5).

**Max Campbell**

All photos: *M. Campbell*



Tiny ants were investigating the spider before it was rescued.

## 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: [joan.broadberry@gmail.com](mailto:joan.broadberry@gmail.com) by the first Monday in the month.

**Warmest greetings to these new members who were welcomed into our club at the last Council meeting:**

*Andrew Haughton, Harrie van Oirsouw, Tarek van Oirsouw, Tom van Oirsouw, Anouk van Oirsouw, Michelle Rawlings, Nancy Stephan, Tom Van Seville, Malo Van Seville, Avis Gardner, Matthew Quinn, Harley Thompson, Julia Frecheville, Ruby Johnston, Angus Johnston, Michael Johnston, David Lewis, Rosalind Lewis, Zoe Mander-Jones, Sue Hadden, Sheridan Lewis, Cameron Lewis, Michael Cook, Charlotte Clarke, Shaun Holland and Gemma Holland, Daryl Holland, Heather Greenwood, Laura Metcalfe and Jessica Coleman.*

### FNCV Facebook

It was reported to the last council meeting, 22nd February that the FNCV had 8,377 followers. A huge thank you to Claire Ferguson and Andrej Hohmann for their hard work in moderating the site.

An additional moderator, Asha Billing has been appointed. Welcome Asha.

**Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 317**

Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare  
Sally Bewsher

### City Nature Challenge—a world wide citizen science event!

**30th April to 3rd May**

<https://citynaturechallenge.org>

**Details of the City Nature Challenge were published in FNN 316 page 16.**

As a reminder, seven Councils in Eastern Melbourne (Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Stonnington and Whitehorse) will collaborate to participate in the City Nature Challenge for the first time! During this four day window the aim is to record the biodiversity of Melbourne's eastern suburbs through natural history images of species of plants, birds, animals, insects uploaded to iNaturalist.

**You will receive an email from the FNCV office giving details of two free sessions of iNaturalist training presented via webinar and open to participants from all seven councils.**

**From 30th April to 3rd May Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre will be running a number of Whitehorse Council City Nature Challenge events.**

**Friday April 30th 6.30-8.30 pm**—Finding and photographing moths and other nocturnal bugs

**Saturday May 1st 2-4 pm**—Photographic survey of our Bushland Invertebrates.

**Sunday May 2nd 11.30-1.30 pm**—Taking water-bugs mugshots.

**2-4 pm**—Bushland Photography Discovery Walk

**Monday May 3th 6.30-8.30 pm**—Spotlighting for Possums, Gliders and other Night Creatures

Registration/bookings Blackburn Lake Sanctuary [blsac@bigpond.com](mailto:blsac@bigpond.com) or 0437 172 333

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

**Botany Group:** Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> February. John Harris presented via Zoom on *Wildflowers of Western Australia*. The Kwongan region and the South West, both near Perth, are a world-recognised hotspot of diversity and endemism. John showed and discussed many examples, grouped by genus. He also referred to the plant families present and to the Western Australian environment. Thirty-three attended.

Ken Griffiths

**Day Group:** Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> February via Zoom. *Dr FGA Barnard, naturalist and historian.*  
Speaker Dr. Gary Presland. Thirteen people attended. *For a detailed report, see page 6.*

Joan Broadberry

**Fauna Survey Group:** Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February via Zoom. *'Cryo-drama' in the high country: untangling the complex evolutionary history of Australian alpine skinks.* Speaker Dr. Maggie Haines.

**Geology Group:** Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February via Zoom. *Acid-sulfate soil formation and the acidification risk at Tooradin, Victoria. An introduction to the formation of soils.* Speaker Brigitte Small.

**Juniors' Group:** The Juniors started the year with a great excursion to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. The theme was *Getting to know your Waterways*. The excursion was well attended and we had new members joining that day. This activity is the first of three subsidised by a Landcare grant. The tools provided to the children were obtained thanks to the grant.

In total thirty-six people took part including the leaders of the activities: Lidya Low, head of Labrats and Su Dempsey and family. The feedback was really positive, the juniors were "hands on" measuring water turbidity, electrical conductivity of the samples, nitrates, phosphates and pH of the water. Su Dempsey with her deep knowledge of the lake made the excursion one to remember for the children. Covid Rules were well and truly followed by all on our walk to the lake. It was a bit more difficult to maintain social distance when checking on waterbugs in the trays provided by Su. I am glad all this activity took place outdoors.

Our second activity for the month, scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> February, was a visit to Point Cook Marine Sanctuary. It had to be postponed due to the lockdown and will now take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, provided the weather is on our side.

Patricia Amaya

**Microscopy Group:** Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> February via Zoom. *Macro Photography using natural light.*  
Speaker Wendy Clark. *For a detailed report, see page 7.*

**Terrestrial Invertebrates Group:** Excursion on 7<sup>th</sup> February to Birdland, Belgrave Heights. Eighteen people attended. Excursion on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Badger Weir, Healesville. Thirteen attended. Both excursions were led by Reiner Richter and involved photographing invertebrates. Many participants post their images on iNaturalist.

## Mass Stranding of Sea Hares At Inverloch

Just recently whilst staying with family at Inverloch I noticed on my daily walk a mass stranding of hundreds of dead and dying Sea Hares, *Aplysia sp.*, possibly *Aplysia dactylomela*. Sea Hares feed mainly on sea weed and algae and are often found in coastal rock pools and intertidal environments. Mass strandings usually occur on days of strong north-easterly winds and rough surf. The Sea Hares were olive-green in colour and at first glance appeared as jelly-like blobs in the sand approximately four inches or ten centimetres in length. Sea Hares have an internal shell like a cuttlefish. Sea Hares emit purple dye as a defence mechanism. Their tentacles, (rhinophores), look like the ears of a hare, hence the name Sea Hare.

*Aplysia sp.* mature usually within a year or two and are hermaphrodites. They breed in chain formations with each individual acting as a male to the animal in front and female to the animal in the rear.



They produce spaghetti-like eggs, usually in late summer, after which they die. If you pick them up you should avoid rubbing your eyes or touching your mouth afterwards and should wash your hands, even if it is only with sea water. (I always carry antiseptic wipes in my rucksack.) It has been reported that they are toxic to dogs and, as I was walking my dog, I was careful to steer him clear when he showed too much interest. Instinctively coming to the conclusion it was not wise!

The next day all the Sea Hares had been washed away by the tide. This was a new sight for me and from now on I will be looking more carefully in rock pools to experience the pleasure of seeing living Sea Hares.

**References:** *Australian Seashores* (Dakin) & *Australian marine Life* (G J Edgar)

Photos: compliments Jeannie Deane on her phone.

Cecily Falkingham



## April 2021, the 60th Anniversary of the rediscovery of Leadbeater's Possum *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*

In April 1961, field naturalists observed two distinctive small possums while spotlighting near Cambarville and were able to establish their identity as Leadbeater's Possum. This finding was recorded in an article by Eric Wilkinson in the 1961 *The Victorian Naturalist* Vol 78, pages 97-102.

The first photograph shows a plaque at Cambarville, north-east of Marysville, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1961 discovery of the previously thought-to-be extinct Leadbeater's Possum. Prior to 1961 the last record was in 1909. This possum species, the only mammal endemic to Victoria, was later declared to be one of Victoria's two faunal emblems.\*

The second photo shows the Mountain Ash tree (*Eucalyptus regnans*) that was planted adjacent to the plaque. The photos were taken on 7th March 2018.

\*(The other is the Helmeted Honeyeater)

**Peter Fagg**  
Photos: P. Fagg



**Editor:** I have added an internet image of the possum Friends of Leadbeater's Possum website is:

[www.leadbeaters.org.au](http://www.leadbeaters.org.au)

I would also encourage readers who have not done so, to search out the details of the Leadbeater's Possum rediscovery by Eric Wilkinson. It is quite a story.







## Day Group

Tuesday 22nd February

### Dr FGA Barnard, Naturalist and Historian

Speaker: Dr Gary Presland

FGA Barnard 1857-1932



Francis George Allman Barnard (FGA or Frank) was born in Kew Victoria in 1857, the eldest of five children. FGA followed in the footsteps of his father, a pharmacist, (also called Frank), becoming a registered pharmacist in 1879 after graduating from the University of Melbourne. Through his mother he was a descendant of the famous botanist, Sir James Edwin Smith founder of the Linnaean Society of London. Both father and son shared a love of natural history and became foundation members of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) in 1880. FGA was elected a member of the committee in 1883. He went on to hold the positions of: Honorary Secretary 1884-1900, Vice-president 1903-1905 and President 1905-1907. In 1908 he again became Secretary for a period of two years.

Frank's wife, Mary Watts was the daughter of another foundation member of the FNCV. They married in 1889 and had two children. Their daughter Muriel served as a nurse in World War 1. Sadly their son Norman was killed in Belgium. Both their names appear on the War Memorial which stands at Kew Junction.

FGA was deeply involved in almost every facet of the FNCV for more than a half century. He edited *The Victorian Naturalist* from 1892 to 1925, an astonishing 33 years. He became Honorary Librarian in 1890 and took a major role in the Club's program of excursions, included writing 43 excursion reports for *The Victorian Naturalist*. Frank also produced three summaries of the Club's history. The first chronicled its first quarter of century, from 1880-1905. The next spanned the 15 years from 1905 to 1920 and a third continued the story up until 1930. In total FGA produced 77 papers for the journal.

From his election to the committee in 1883 to when he ceased as editor of *The Victorian Naturalist* in 1925 Frank Barnard continuously held office in the FNCV for 42 years.

Frank nominated entomology as his greatest interest. He exhibited a number of insects at the Club's first meeting and wrote three papers on insects for *The Victorian Naturalist*. However, he also contributed eleven papers on botany, four on birds and eight on general topics, indicating his involvement in a wide range of natural history fields.

In addition to his service to the FNCV which he regarded as his first love, Frank Barnard contributed to his community in an extraordinary number of ways. These included:

- Elected to the Kew Council in 1915, serving for 12 years
- Elected Major of Kew for 1920/21
- Chairman of the local board of advice for Kew State School
- Honorary Treasurer, Kew Literary and Scientific Institute 1908
- Honorary Treasurer, Kew Oddfellows 1991-1913
- Secretary, Kew Fire Brigade
- Secretary, Kew Cricket Club 1875-1885

As well as the above, FGA joined the Historical Society of Victoria in 1909 and was an active member, serving on its Council for a 20 year period from 1911 to 1931 and being elected as Vice-president in 1925.

Francis Barnard was a towering figure in the FNCV, the Kew Community and the Historical Society of Victoria. He died in Melbourne in June 1932. A few words written in the Victorian Historical Magazine v14, 1932 after his death pay tribute to his character. 'Kindly, courteous, and obliging in manner, reliable, painstaking and thorough in all he undertook, broad and tolerant in his views our deceased member will be much missed ... and the memory of his personality will be treasured by all those who knew his worth.'

After holding no meetings from March to November 2020 it was wonderful to recommence the Day Group with such an able speaker as Gary and be introduced to such a remarkable figure as FGA Barnard. This summary is based on screen shots of some of the slides Gary used in his Zoom presentation. Additional material was taken from Gary's book, *Understanding our Natural World, The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria 1880-2015*, biographical notes p 69.

Joan Broadberry

## Southern Fiddler Ray, *Trygonorrhina dumerilii*

Point Cook Marine Sanctuary in Melbourne's west has once again proven itself as an elasmobranch (cartilaginous fish) haven, with recent sightings of six species of ray, and the recent sighting of a Bronze Whaler Shark in shallow water bringing the number of shark species seen in the sanctuary to at least three.

The most commonly sighted elasmobranch species by far at Point Cook Marine Sanctuary during the most recent Great Victorian Fish Count on Sunday 13th December 2020, was once again the Southern Fiddler Ray, *Trygonorrhina dumerilii* (pictured). It has long been hypothesized that the rays, particularly large females, enter relatively very shallow water (sometimes less than 30cm deep) for breeding purposes.

The rays appear to use the sanctuary from April through to August, when they presumably migrate, and then start returning in September, with peak abundances encountered between November and January. These rays are completely harmless and very docile, making them a favourite photographic subject of the volunteers of Marine Care Point Cook and those enjoying the Point Cook Marine Sanctuary.



Andrew Christie, Lecturer, Melbourne Polytechnic.



## Microscopical Group

## Macro Photography Using Natural Light Speaker Wendy Clark

Wednesday the 17th February saw the inaugural microscopical Zoom meeting for 2021 with Wendy Clark, FNCV member, talented photographer and photography teacher. Wendy provided us with new and easy tips to improve our macro-photography in the field using natural light. She illustrated the equipment she uses with various lens sizes needed, depending on the subject and conditions. For long treks through the bush, Wendy prefers her lightweight 55-200mm Sony lens, always using the lens hood.

Wendy explained the light qualities at different times of the day and the importance of positioning yourself in relation to your subject, so as to present a darker background, therefore highlighting your subject matter. Through positioning you can experiment with different light effects and take advantage of subtle light changes throughout the day. Timing and patience are all important too. Shutter speeds can of course change the story of our photographs. Different settings will be needed for capturing movement, recording regular daily activities or getting the required level of detail for identification.

Early morning photography, on a morning without dew, can be enhanced if you carry a small water spray bottle to enliven your botany photos and spider-web pics.

There was much useful advice for we phone-camera toting naturalists to help us improve our close-up photography. This included discussion of the different macro lenses that are available to attach to a smart phone.

For many of us, Wendy's fabulous photos, used to illustrate the techniques she spoke of, were the jaw dropping highlight. Some of the perfectly captured specimens that particularly caught my attention were: Coccinellid larvae, Chinese Junk Caterpillar, Cup Moth larvae, Net Casting Spider, Scorpion Fly and Pardalote. Wendy has shared her photos and knowledge of natural history in many issues of FNN, the most recent being in FNN 316 from the TIG trip to Warburton.

The attendees had a range of expertise. Some had a detailed understanding of photographic equipment while others were equipped with a digital a compact camera or phone camera. We all gained great tips and knowledge to assist us in producing exquisite photos.

Philippa Burgess

## Photogenic Flies

Reiner Richter

Flies don't always get the best rap but that's because the most noticeable ones are those in our faces. I thought I'd share some of the flies I've photographed this summer which I think are quite attractive.

I occasionally encounter flies in the genus *Tapeigaster* sitting on mushrooms – presumably the males waiting for females who would lay their eggs there for the larva to feed on the fungi. They are in the family Heleomyzidae, which doesn't appear to have a common name and the genus doesn't even have a page in Wikipedia. In December I found *Tapeigaster argyrospila* for only the second time, coincidentally near Shepparton about 20km from where I first photographed one 5 years earlier. This is a nice orange species with distinctive white dots surrounding the eyes.



*Cylindromyia* is a genus in the family Tachinidae (sometimes commonly referred to as Bristle Flies due to the long hairs usually found on their abdomen). There are several species that look similar to the one pictured below left (from Kerrs Park, Belgrave South) with the red-brown abdomen, and are less than 1cm long. The one pictured below right from near Anglers Rest is *Cylindromyia nigricosta* and a little larger. Like the *Tapeigaster* it was only the second time I had photographed this species.



Continued page 9

*The views and opinions expressed in any material including websites and newsletters are not necessarily those of FNCV Inc.*



*Continued from page*

I find Drone Flies (Family Syrphidae: Eristalinae), like the *Austalis pulchella* ( below left) some of the most beautiful flies. They also tend to be very alert and flighty so it is great to get one sitting still. This was photographed in Rocklands, west of the Grampians.

Another Drone Fly is this black *Orthoprosopa grisea* photographed in the Otway region (below right). For some reason I have reorded more of these this summer than ever before.



This *Balaana abscondita* Bee Fly (Family Bombyliidae) was photographed near Anglers Rest (below left). Members of that genus are quite similar to those in the sibling genus *Wurda* (Tribe Exoprosopini).

At Moroka I saw an orange Robber Fly (Family Asilidae) briefly (below right) and managed to get a couple of average photos before losing it. Not having seen this attractive species (*Cabasa pulchella*) before I stayed a bit longer and searched the area. Luckily I found two individuals perched on nearby shrubs and had the time to get decent pictures.



[bookshop@fncv.org.au](mailto:bookshop@fncv.org.au)

for 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.



## Of Blue-tongue Lizards (or more correctly skinks)

**Eastern Blue-Tongue** The photo is of an Eastern Blue-tongue Lizard, *Tiliqua scincoides scincoides*. It was spotted on the walk down to Bushrangers Bay on Sunday January 3rd. The photo was taken by my partner Steve.

On the walk every second person or group of people we passed along the way kept either telling us to, 'Watch out for the snake' or asking us, 'Did you see the snake?' We figured that if a snake had been sighted somewhere along the track it was probably long gone as there was quite a lot of traffic that day, being warm and sunny.

We then passed a couple of people and they warned us, 'Be careful, there's a snake just down there.' So we were being extra careful and of course there was no snake! Instead we came across the Blue-tongue and the way he was lazing around and sunning himself in the little patch of grass, it looked like he might have been there a while. We wondered whether everyone was confusing this little fellow for a snake. How was that possible when skinks have legs and snakes don't?

**Kristina Cook**



*Photo: Steve Oxley*

**Blotched Blue-tongue** While on a recent trip to the high country around Omeo, I came upon a Blue-tongue lizard sunning itself on the leaf litter. (I should really say skink, as blue-tongues are the largest members of the skink family, Scincidae.) The reptile was relying on its camouflage and stayed very still. It was not as familiar to me as the Eastern Blue-tongue Lizards that I commonly see around Melbourne. There were no distinct bands across its body or black stripe behind its eye, but broken, mottled patches of yellow and black over its back, flanks, legs and head.

This is a species known as the Blotched Blue-tongue *Tiliqua nigrolutea*. Nigro means black and lutea means yellow. It is not as widely distributed as the Eastern Blue-tongue but is the only species present in Tasmania. The Blotched blue-tongue is generally found in colder areas and higher elevations.

The two species have much in common. They are similar in size and shape, diurnal, have a blue-tongue used for defence, produce live young and are omnivores. Their food species includes snails and slugs, insects, fruits, flowers and fungi.

**Joan Broadberry (Photo: J. Broadberry)**







# FNCV AGM

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 at 2 pm**

*You are invited to attend  
The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc  
Annual General Meeting*

to be held at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn.

**Agenda:** *Minutes of previous AGM; Annual Report; Financial Statements;  
Election of Council; Environment Fund; Other Business*

**Guest Speaker: Greg Martin, President of  
Australia New Guinea Fishes Association, Victoria  
“Field Trips, Conservation and Fish Keeping - an overview of ANGFA”**

**Afternoon tea may be served (Covid permitting). All welcome**

*Nominations for Council must reach the registered office of the Club no later than 48 hours  
before the AGM, i.e. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, by 2 pm*



## NOMINATION for FNCV COUNCIL 2021/2

The FNCV AGM will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2 pm  
at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn

Name of Member Nominated.....

Position Nominated \* .....

Signature of Member Nominated.....

### TWO MEMBERS SUPPORTING NOMINATION

Name..... Signature.....Date.....

Name..... Signature.....Date.....

\*Elected members of the FNCV Council are: President, Vice-President,  
Secretary, Treasurer, a Councillor representing each Special Interest Group (SIG) and up  
to six other Councillors. All must be FNCV members.

***All nominations, including SIG Councillors, must reach the FNCV Office  
no later than 48 hours before the AGM, i.e. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2 pm.***

PO Box 13, Blackburn, VIC 3130

Phone 9877 9860

E-mail: [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)



The Field  
Naturalists  
Club of  
Victoria Inc

Postal Address: PO Box 13, Blackburn, Vic. 3130

Club Address: 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn.

Email: [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)

Website: [www.fncv.org.au](http://www.fncv.org.au)

Phone: (03) 9877 9860

Reg. No A0033611X

ABN 55 791 612829

*Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC*

## Proxy Voting Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Current member of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

appoint (full name) \_\_\_\_\_

of (address) \_\_\_\_\_

or in their absence, the AGM Chair, to be my proxy at the 2021 Annual General Meeting to be convened on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 at 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn and authorise them to vote on my behalf.

***This form must be given to the FNCV Secretary before the start of the AGM.***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

*Understanding Our Natural World*

### THEN



### NOW

