



Understanding
Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No 319



Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Editor: Joan Broadberry 03 9846 1218

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Governor of Victoria

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June 2021

From the President

The year is progressing rapidly. Welcome already to the June Newsletter. The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday May 2nd. Extracts from the minutes are reported on pages 8 and 9. I thank the previous Council for its hard work during the difficult times of 2020 and welcome the new Council for 2021. In particular, on behalf of FNCV, I thank Ruth Hoskin for her enormous contribution to Council and the Geology Group over the past seven years. Ken Griffiths will now chair the geology meetings and Troy Williams will represent the Geology Group on Council. Of course, we will still see Ruth at our meetings.

We are now having more meetings in the FNCV hall and it has been most encouraging to be able to catch up with people and see faces in person, albeit some of them in masks. We still need to comply with current COVID safe operational requirements but there is little complaint since everyone is pleased to be attending actual, rather than Zoom, meetings. Zoom meetings will continue to be part of our normal operation.

There have been more field excursions for the SIGs and Fungal Forays have commenced for 2021. I urge everyone to participate in the various field activities that we are running and I hope to see more of our experienced naturalists join the Junior Naturalists at their activities and to share their invaluable knowledge and understanding of the natural world with our young enthusiasts.

FNCV participated in the City Nature Challenge at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary with a moth trap (and evening invertebrate hunt) on Friday April 30th and a macro photography event on Saturday May 1st. Numerous FNCV members attended to support the activities. In addition to the insects, spiders (Photos 1-4) and small vertebrates, fungi were making their presence known. A substantial group of Bird's Nest Fungi was a welcome subject for photography

The due date for FNN 320 will be the 1st Tuesday in June, **June 1st**.

Please use my home email
joan.broadberry@gmail.com

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Photo 1. Striped Leaf Beetle, *Paropsisterna intacta* at Blackburn Lake

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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, or in order to comply with lawful restrictions excursions may be cancelled at short notice.

June 2021

Tuesday 1st - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Complexity of visual and vocal communication in the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog (Litoria fallax) among genetic, ecological and social constraints.* Speaker: Bhagya Herath, PhD Candidate, La Trobe University. **Prior booking essential.** Contact: David De Angelis: d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au

Monday 7th - Fungi Group Meeting: *It is not difficult to make a Phylogenetic Tree* Speaker: Jurrie Hubregtse is a retired engineer who has spent most of his working career conducting research into semiconductor and photonic devices. He has created the excellent *Fungi in Australia*, an FNCV e-book, which is freely downloadable from our website. It contains 380 species and over 2000 photographs of fungi, plus references for further study. There are some Bioinformatics Notes relevant to the talk which can be downloaded from the bottom of the Fungi In Australia web page. <http://www.fncv.org.au/fungi-in-australia/> **Prior bookings essential.** Contact: Carol Page: cpage356@gmail.com 0438 446 973

Sunday 13th – Juniors Group Excursion: Toolangi - A special place of tall trees. Visit the beautiful, cool ancient rainforest at Wirra Willa. **Advance registration required.** Contact: Dr Patricia Amaya: juniors@fncv.org.au

Monday 14th - Marine Research Group. No Meeting: *Queen's Birthday Holiday.*

Wednesday 16th - 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. **Prior bookings essential.** Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

Thursday 17th – Botany Group Meeting: *The urban forest, COVID and the value of trees.* Speaker: Greg Moore, University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus. **Prior bookings essential.** Contact: Ken Griffiths: botany@fncv.org.au

Sunday 20th – Fungi Group Foray: *Mount Worth State Park, Seaview.* Meet at 10.30 am at Moonlight Creek picnic area.

[Mount Worth State Park](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/moonlight-creek-picnic-area)

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/moonlight-creek-picnic-area>

GPS reading at carpark: 38° 16' 58" S 146° 00' 28" E Melway Map X912 U8. Vic Roads Map 97 B6 **Prior bookings essential.** Contact Carol Page cpage356@gmail.com 0438 446 973

Tuesday 22nd – Day Group Meeting, 10.30 am for a chat, speaker at 11 am: *Grey-headed Flying Foxes* Speaker: Dr. Megan Davidson, CEO of Wildlife Victoria and secretary of Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc. A major priority is the care and conservation of the Flying Fox camp at Yarra Bend Park Melbourne. **Prior bookings essential.** Contact: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218; joan.broadberry@gmail.com

Wednesday 23rd – Geology Group Meeting: *Northern Australian Geological Travels* Speaker: Eve Kolar, FNCV member and avid photographer. **Prior booking essential.** Contact: Ken Griffiths: geology@fncv.org.au

Friday 25th – Juniors Group Evening Excursion: *Epping Melbourne Polytechnic.* Leader: Andrew Christie. **Advance registration required No evening meeting in the hall.** Contact: Dr Patricia Amaya juniors@fncv.org.au

Monday 28th—FNCV Council Meeting (via Zoom) Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare: admin@fncv.org.au Max Campbell will email the link.

The calendar has been prepared on the assumption that, in May, meetings will be held at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn at 8 pm unless otherwise advised.



As the Covid 19 situation is fluid, this may change at any time. Activities may be cancelled or meetings switched to Zoom. Despite some relaxation of restrictions, there is still a numbers cap 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. Please let the SIG contact know if your plans alter.

Members are reminded that they are required by regulations to wear a mask and wear it when social distancing is not possible. Also, as many of our members feel vulnerable, we strongly urge, as a courtesy to others, that attendees continue to wear a mask at FNCV meetings.

You will be required to sign in with the Victorian Government QR app (logo above). It is simple. Just bring your phone. Assistance is available to everyone. Try to arrive 10-15 minutes early.

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.



(Continued from page 1)

(Photo 5). Of course, fungi have the added advantage of not running away or moving when a lens is pointed at them, which is an excellent reason to attend fungal surveys to improve your macro photography skills. It was relatively cool so only a few small moths were attracted to the light trap but there were many small flies.

The Microscopy Group met in the hall last month and some very interesting micro invertebrates were examined under the club's dissectors. These included Pigface Cottony Scale (Photo 6), the Weeping Fig Thrip (Photo 7), and mummified aphids (Photo 8). We are planning more practical sessions for the coming months.

The cold weather is reducing the few native arthropods that

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Photo 2. "Wrap Around Spider", *Dolophones conifera* consuming a Portuguese Millipede at Blackburn Lake



Photo 3. A male nicodamid spider, *Nicodamus peregrinus* at Blackburn Lake



Photo 4. A Small Garden Cockroach, *Ellipsidion* sp. at Blackburn Lake



Photo 5. Bird's Nest Fungus, *Cyathus olla*, Blackburn Lake



Photo 6. Pigface Cottony Scale. *Pulvinariella mesembryanthemi*

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were active in my garden this year to nearly none. However, my Colourbond fence has become the home for a notable population of Elegant Lynx Spiders that are preying on aphids (Photo 9) despite the cool weather. They are accompanied by a few species of persistent jumping spiders.

Max Campbell, (All Photos Max Campbell)



Photo 7. (above) Weeping Fig Thrip
Gynaikothrips uzeli

Photo 9. (right) 5mm male Elegant Lynx Spider
Oxyopes elegans, consuming a small aphid.
Clayton



Photo 8. (above) Remains of a mummified Aphid with wasp exit hole.



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 by the first Monday in the month.

Welcome
Welcome

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

Sarah Rodgers, Prate Passell, Stacy Gildenston-Passell, Richard Cassar, Anna Brady, Michael Loo, Kieran O'Mullane, Kellie Grattidge, Elaine Bayes, Damien Cook, Kallista Sears, Cheryl Krone, Maddy Lock, David Herbert, June Herbert-King, Anna King and Lorna Dent.

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.

**FNCV Facebook report:
18,614 followers.**

Correction:

Two photographs, p7 FNN 318
Should have been captioned:
Stick Insect or phasmid.

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



**Thanks to the
editorial and layout
team who put
together FNN 319**

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher

Grants awarded in April 2021 by the FNCV Environment Fund

Organisation	Expenditure and Purpose	Result
Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP).	1000 brochures on how to attract native bees to gardens in Warrandyte.	\$600
Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve.	Taxidermy of a sacred kingfisher for display in the visitors centre at Yarran Dheran	\$330
Snape Reserve, Dimboola.	22 black, steel star posts to mark the corners of quadrants set up on 846 hectares of old growth vegetation, Trust for Nature Property, to assist in regular surveys of vegetation changes.	\$242.48
Friends of Leadbeater's Possum.	Purchase of a GPS with a built in Satellite SOS text function to monitor the exclusion fence and report breaches to Zoo and Parks Vic staff. Necessary as there are many mobile phone black spots within YNCR.	\$790
Friends of Wanderslore Sanctuary. Launching Place.	Purchase of a laptop and accessories to enable effective documentation, updating, data access and entry regarding species identification and biodiversity at Wanderslore Sanctuary.	\$937
Joseph Hall, PhD student Melbourne University.	PhD. " <i>Microgeographic adaptation in Eucalyptus oblique</i> ". The PhD aims to examine the adaptation in forest trees by studying the interactions between traits, genes, and the environment at scales smaller than typically studied. The grant is to purchase, callipers, gauge, high limb chainsaw and a Garmin GPS.	\$819
FNCV Juniors.	Funds were provided for Targeted, Fun Education Activities for the Juniors Group. Reptile Encounter Excursion. Burwood. <u>\$495</u> Wade with a Platypus Healesville Sanctuary <u>\$196</u> (as a prize to an older child who demonstrates active leadership over the year). Funds were also given to purchase a GME MT410G Personal Locator Beacon for greater safety on remote camps/excursions. <u>\$316</u>	\$1,000
Julian Arriagada, Student at La Trobe University and Melbourne Polytechnic.	The grant is for research into when the optimum gonad (roe) size occurs in the purple sea urchin (<i>Heliocidaris erythrogramma</i>), with a view to encouraging harvesting of this potentially valuable seafood item as an alternative means of control of a species that is overpopulating and overgrazing marine environments in Southern Australia. Payment is for supplies including glass dishes, trays, an electronic balance, callipers, dissecting scissors, waterproof paper and a dive knife.	\$895.32
Greta Valley Landcare Group, Wangaratta.	The grant is to run a workshop for landholders to present an explanation of geomorphic and geological landform development across the King and Fifteen Mile Creek catchments, with specific reference to the evidence of glacial pavements at three sites. Part of the workshop will be recorded as a short YouTube video showing examples of the pavements and fossils.	\$550
Friends of Bats and Bushcare. Dr. Megan Davidson.	The grant is to purchase four 5-kilogram boxes of Wombaroo High Protein Supplement to assist with the feeding costs of raising and releasing orphaned Flying-fox pups.	\$294
Buloke and Grampians Landcare Network - (umbrella group for 20 Landcare and Friends groups)	In Sept 2021, as a Citizen Science project, a series of walks on country will be led by experienced individuals and organizations in 12 NCR local regions. The aim is to set a spring baseline for birds, plants, mammals etc. of the region. The grant is to publish 100 copies of a small book (40 pages x A4) to record the photos and information gathered to establish the baseline.	\$789.80
Stawell Urban Landcare Group.	Each spring experienced guides from the Stawell Urban Landcare Group take Grade 3 students from 3 Stawell primary schools on the purpose built, ironbark walk in the Deep Lead Nature Reserve. The objective is for students to experience and learn about their local box-ironbark forest and its sustainable management. The Landcare Group's funding is for the bus transport for the students to the reserve.	\$330
12 projects		\$7,577.60

Barbara Burns, Secretary, FNCV Environment Fund.



Day Group

Bandicoot Brigade. Getting to know our nosey neighbours 27th April 2021

Speaker: Charlotte Fletcher

Our guest speaker was Charlotte Fletcher the Southern Brown Bandicoot Outreach Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne (RBGC).

Charlotte began by describing the Southern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon obesulus* as a 1.5 kg, fast living opportunist, living in heathland or heathy woodland. Southern Brown Bandicoots reproduce very rapidly. Litters are from two to five in size. At only 11 days, they have one of the shortest gestation periods of any marsupial. Southern Brown Bandicoots dig characteristic conical holes to find worms, lizards, truffle-like fungi fruiting bodies, invertebrates etc. They are both habitat and food source adaptable and are known to eat pet food, picnic scraps and to nest in agapanthus, blackberries and poultry pens.

Before European settlement, Australia had eleven species of bandicoots. Three of the original eleven species have become extinct with two surviving only on offshore islands. Southern Brown Bandicoots are threatened in Victoria and are listed as endangered federally. They are prey items for native species such as Powerful Owls and for introduced cats and foxes. In the 1800s Southern Brown Bandicoots were common throughout Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula. They now occur in a number of disjunct populations clusters. A significant population exists in the bushland annex of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne. Another population persists in linear drainage channels; remnants of an area once known as the Koo Wee Rup Swamp.

Cranbourne Botanic Gardens can only support a certain number of Southern Brown Bandicoots so it is important that there are areas into which they can disperse. Suitable bandicoot habitat has become extremely fragmented. The long term viability of the Cranbourne Gardens population is of great concern due to the extension of Melbourne's urban growth Boundary in 2010. The Cranbourne Botanic Gardens is flanked by industrial development, sporting fields, residential estates, golf courses and roads. Connectivity of habitat remnants is difficult. Railway reserves, power line easements, drainage channels, and creeks offer possibilities for linking suitable bandicoot habitat.

Cats are another critical issue. Cat ownership is not permitted in two estates close to the RBGC and in the City of Casey cats are to be kept within the owners property at all times.

Bandicoots may disperse into private gardens making it important to educate residents and entice them into become involved in their conservation. This would include:

- Learning to distinguish bandicoots from other species such as brown and black rats. (Bandicoot feet are a very distinctive feature, as can be seen in the photo of the taxidermied specimen Charlotte brought with her—right)
 - Learning to recognise their diggings and scats.
 - Reporting bandicoot sightings
 - Innovative, light-touch events for families such as the bandicoot knowledge trail, bandicoot nature journaling and bandi poetry slam.
- Other conservation programs :
- Gardens for Wildlife program, training sessions and individually tailored advice on planting.
 - Partnerships such as with the Gardening Australia's 'bandicoot bungalows' project

Charlotte was a delightful speaker, knowledgeable and with infectious enthusiasm for the conservation of Southern Brown Bandicoots. The brief summary I have produced in no way does justice to her lively presentation. On behalf of the Day Group I would like offer her our warmest thanks for being part of our program.

Joan Broadberry



Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Geology Group:

Tim Zeigler, the vertebrate Palaeontology Collections Manager, Melbourne Museum, spoke via Zoom to the Geology SIG on March 24th. He explained how he traced the descriptions in diaries and field notes of megafauna fossils at the Buchan area caves. His own field trips have followed in the pioneering palaeontologist's footsteps, although he is still unsure of where some of the sites mentioned actually are located, so is approaching local farmers and the Buchan community to see if they know less explored caves which may yield fossil finds. A most interesting talk particularly as the field work is still ongoing.

Ruth Hoskin

Botany Group:

Meeting 15 April 2021 - Tim Entwisle, director of RBG Vic, presented an illustrated talk he called 'Nature, culture, science'. Thirty people attended.

Ken Griffiths

Juniors Group:

On 26th March Max Campbell held a ZOOM meeting for the Juniors under the Theme *Camping gear*. Not many families attended but those who were present got a lot out of it. It was quite relevant for families wanting to attend the camp. Four families participated in the meeting.

From 2nd to 5th April we had a great Easter camp. The Juniors went to Stawell and, despite the hot weather, we managed to do some short walks. The property we stayed at was fantastic for the children. Eight families took part, 15 children and 15 adults in total. A big thank you to Sue Bendel who helped us to organise a walk to the Halls Gap Botanic Gardens. Also thanks to John Harris, a Parks Ranger. Hannah Auld ran a navigational activity for the children that was really great.

We are also grateful to Max Campbell for his camp presentation to the juniors. It made me realize the importance of the participation of councillors and/or members of the club with such a vast expertise for the children. I definitely encourage all members able to contribute their knowledge to inspire children to be curious about the environment and how to protect it.

After all these months of uncertainty, this Easter Camp helped all of us to rescue our psychological and emotional wellbeing.

On 11th April, the Juniors visited the Dolphin Research Institute (DRI) as part of a Land Care Grant activity. We held the excursion together with the Labrats kids. We had great participation with eighteen children and fourteen adults from Juniors and seventeen children from Labrats with fifteen parents. We learned a lot about marine life in a very child-friendly manner. Most children expressed their interest to come back to DRI and learn more.

The enthusiasm of the Juniors has been amazing during these activities and I am really grateful to Landcare for providing the financial means for this and previous activities.



Sperm whale tooth, Weedy Sea Dragon at the Dolphin Research Institute.

Dr Patricia Amaya

Fungi Group: No meeting.

Microscopy Group:

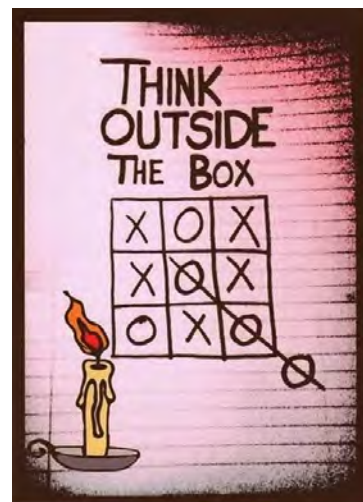
Meeting Wednesday 21st April. This was a practical session attended by six people who all stayed late and enjoyed themselves.

Philippa Burgess

Terrestrial Invertebrates Group: No meeting.

Fauna Survey Group:

Surveys: Easter 2021. Bael Bael NCR. It is thirteen months since our last field survey, which was also to Bael Bael grasslands nature conservation reserve. We stayed in sunny and hospitable Quambatook on the Avoca River. This year we again recorded Plains Wanderer, seven in total, including a few juveniles during the spotlighting transects, and also Fat-tailed Dunnarts and Curl Snakes. South Eastern Freetail Bats were recorded in the Black box woodland adjacent to the grassland. Daytime trips were made to Yassom Swamp, Leaghur Forest,



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and Lake Meering for birdwatching, and samphire shrubland looking for reptiles and birds.

Meeting: The speaker for the evening was Graham Jury, Masters student at Latrobe University School of Life Sciences; 'Exploring the Faunal Community responsible for pollinating the tree form of Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata*.'

Banksia marginata occurs in two forms, one as a shrub to 1m and also as a tree to 12m. The tree form was mostly found in the western plains and has largely been lost, as have some of the associated mammals and birds. Study sites were at the Grampians, Durdiwarrah, and a few other localities. Methods used to see which species visited flowers were cameras, traps and direct observation. Brush-tailed Phascogale, Krefts (Sugar) Glider, Brushtail Possum, New Holland Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, Spinebill and Silvereye were the main vertebrate visitors. Native and introduced honey bees, wasps and moths at night were among the many insect visitors to flowers. Exclusion cages showed the need for insect or vertebrate pollination of Banksia flowers.

Raymond Gibson

Marine Research Group:

The final field work day for the year was held in beautiful autumn weather at Martha Point, Mt Martha, meeting at 10 am. Fourteen people attended. For images from this survey, see FNN p10.



Extracts from the minutes of the FNCV Annual General Meeting 2021



Meeting commenced at 2.10 pm.

1. Welcome: "We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present."

Maxwell Campbell welcomed 20 members and 1 non-member (Administration Officer for Minute taking.) 4 proxy votes were registered.

2. Apologies There were 21 apologies: Sally Bewsher, Carol Page, Greta Smith, Ruth Akie, Nicky Zanen, Su Dempsey, Troy Williams, Michael Lyons, Audrey Falconer, Karen Garth, Peter Dempsey, Geoff Lay, Linden Gillbank, Mark Anderson, Pat Grey, Anne Payne, Annabel and Geoff Carle, Geoffrey Paterson, Edward and Hazel Brentnall.

7. Special Resolution Membership fees to remain unchanged for the year commencing 1st July 2020 as recommended by Council.

9. Presentation of Long Term Members' Certificates

Four members have been awarded certificates of Long-term Membership in recognition of being a member of the FNCV for a continuous period of over 40 years. They all joined in 1981. Congratulations and thank you to you all for making such valuable contributions to the club:

Phillip Daniell and Dr Adrian Daniell (Photo right)

Father and son both joined on 13 April 1981. Adrian published an article in The Victorian Naturalist in December 1994, which focuses on the impact of terrestrial molluscs.

Audrey Falconer

Audrey joined the Marine Research Group of Victoria in February 1981. This group was formed in 1957 to support the marine biology section of the National Museum of Victoria. In February 1997 it became a part of the FNCV. Since then Audrey

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Photo: J. Broadberry

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has taken an active part in the operation of FNCV, particularly as an elected Council member, (2007–2011 and 2016–2017); and as a representative of MRG—either singly (2003–2007 and 2012) or jointly with Leon Altoff 2014–2018.

In addition, Audrey has provided reports of MRG activities to Field Nats News, and published two articles (in December 2010 and October 2013) in The Victorian Naturalist.

Glenn Jameson

Glenn joined FNCV on 13 July 1981. Between August 1994 and June 1997 he published nine articles in The Victorian Naturalist. In 1996/97 he was FNCV Naturalist in Residence, in which capacity he contributed six Naturalist Notes in a series titled 'Middle Yarra timelines'. Glenn now teaches at Nature Stewards.

We also had **Valerie and Donald Cram** (photo right) who both joined the Marine Research Group in 1974. Their long term membership was awarded last year, but due to Covid restrictions they were unable to be present to accept their certificates.

Philip Daniell was present to accept his son Adrian's certificate as well as his own. He told the meeting that he had been a curious child whose natural history interests were triggered by observing dung beetles when he and his friends were using cow pats as frisbees. He originally joined the FNCV but when he moved to Croydon he also joined the Ringwood FNC and has contributed there over many years.

Don Cram accepted his award and said that his relationship with the Marine Group goes back over 50 years. Dr Brian Smith at Museum Victoria encouraged a group of amateurs and helped Don with his study of cowries. Although Brian died in 2006, Don thanked him for starting him in his naturalist studies. Val Cram thanked the FNCV for the opportunity to belong to the Special Interest Groups and for the friendship of the members over the years.

10. Election of 2020 Council:

Maxwell Campbell declared all positions vacant. Dr Gary Presland took over as Acting Chair for elections. As there was only one candidate for each position, all were declared elected to their positions as shown in the accompanying table.

11. Guest Speaker:

After a short break, Greg Martin, President of Australia New Guinea Fishes Association Victoria, spoke on "Field Trips, Conservation and Fish Keeping - an overview of ANGFA." His presentation which included many beautiful and interesting photographs, (see below) was enjoyed by all present.



Photo: J. Broadberry

Position on Council	Name
President	Maxwell Campbell
Vice President	Philippa Burgess
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Barbara Burns
Councillor representing Botany Group	Ken Griffiths
Councillor representing Day Group	Joan Broadberry
Councillor representing Fauna Survey Group	Susan Dempsey
Councillor representing Fungi Group	Vacant
Councillor representing Geology Group	Troy Williams
Councillor representing Juniors Group	Patricia Amaya
Councillor representing Marine Research Group	Michael Lyons
Councillor representing Microscopy Group	Philippa Burgess
Councillor representing Terrestrial invertebrates Group	Vacant
Councillor (Correspondence Officer)	Andrew Brentnall
Councillor	Sue Bendel
Councillor	John Harris
Councillor	Judith Sise



Euastacus woiwuru from the Dandenongs

Meeting
closed 4.10
pm.

A complete copy of the minutes is available from the office. The president's report and treasurer's annual accounts are included in the FNCV Annual report for year ending 31st December 2020 which has been emailed to all members. Printed copies are available from the office.

Marine Research Group Images from survey 1st May 2021, Martha Point



J. Broadberry

Above and right: Surveying at Martha Point, Mt Martha



J. Broadberry



J. Broadberry

Left: *Hoplodoris nodulosa*, (Nudibranch)
Above: egg ring.



J. Broadberry

Unidentified Sea Spider
(right) *Mucropetraliella ellerii* (Bryozoan)



Barbara Burns

Austrominius modestus (Blue-ringed Octopus)



J. Broadberry

Anteaeolidiella cacaotica (Nudibranch)

Cont. p11

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J. Broadberry

Creating a preliminary list of species. A copy of the list can be obtained from Leon Altoff: leon@bluering.org.au

An Asian Shore Crab was found during the MRG survey at Martha Point.



Marine Pest Alert

"In late October a member of the public photographed an Asian Shore Crab, *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* at Mount Martha in Port Phillip Bay. In early November another member of the community also reported an Asian Shore Crab from Ricketts Point. The species can spread rapidly and may consume and out-compete our native species....." see website below.

Identification: A square-shaped crab with a green-purple to orange-brown shell up to 4 cm wide. It has a banding pattern on legs, spots on its claws (a diagnostic feature) and three notches behind the eye. The Asian Short Crab is found on exposed rocky coasts, estuaries, tidal flats and shallow waters, under rocks, shells or debris or on pylons or concrete structures.

Action: If you find an Asian short Crab report it to marine.pest@agriculture.vic.gov.au phone 136 186 or via the Snap, Send, Solve app.

Report should include:

- Photo of suspected Asian Shore Crab with a scale such as a pencil
- The location, date and time of the sighting, including GPS readings (if possible).



Asian Shore Crab *Hemigrapsus sanguineus*

www.vrfish.com.au/2020/11/11/marine-pest-alert-asian-shore-crab-spotted-in-victoria/

Thanks to Margaret Rowe



Fungus Season Starts

As the insect infestations of summer die down, the autumn rains entice the proliferation and emergence of the hugely diverse and critical fungi. I am particularly attracted to those with more unusual shapes or colours and one I look out for each season is *Entoloma viridomarginatum*. These stand a few centimetres tall with a cap to around 2cm across but, like other dark fungi, are easily missed among moss beds and dark, sheltered alcoves. When young and healthy the cap and stem are a dark bluish-green and they have pale pinkish gills with a diagnostic dark edge. Green is generally an uncommon colour for fungi as, unlike plants, they don't contain chlorophyll because they don't photosynthesize to acquire energy.

The FNCV holds forays every two weeks during the season with the first one having been on May 2 and the last one scheduled for August 1 this year. But I also go on regular expeditions by myself, which is when this colony was photographed at the popular Redwood Forest, East Warburton.



Entoloma viridomarginatum

Image: R. Richter

Reiner Richter

SEANA Get-together, Hamilton, 17-18th April 2021

"On the weekend of the 17th and 18th of April, the Hamilton Field Naturalists' Club hosted the South Eastern Australian Naturalists Association (SEANA) autumn 2021 campout. The event had been cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, so it was great to see it go ahead this year!"

The South East Australian Naturalists' Association links Field Naturalists Clubs across Victoria and adjoining areas of South Australia and New South Wales. Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) were pleased to be involved in a range of ways over the weekend, hosting tours of our southern Grampians wetland restoration sites (Green, Walker, Brady and Gooseneck Swamps) on both Saturday and Sunday and giving an address to the whole group of assembled SEANA members (over 130 people in attendance) on Saturday evening in Hamilton. There were seven different tour options each day so that attendees could get out into nature and learn more about the local area.

A highlight for the Saturday tour group was that they had the incredible privilege of seeing the largest number of flocking Brolga that we have ever encountered at NGT's Green Swamp Restoration Reserve – 168 birds. What a great testament to the recovery potential of wetlands!"

**Nature Glenelg Trust reporting on their involvement with the SEANA weekend.
Their work in restoring wetlands is outstanding. It is well worthwhile to check their website.**

<https://natureglenelg.org.au>

Thanks to Edward and Hazel Brentnall

For your information:

The next SEANA get-together will be hosted by Ballarat Field Naturalist Club on the 22nd—24th October 2021

Right: A small number of the 168 Brolgas counted at Green Swamp on Saturday 7th April (seen from a distance)
Photo: Edward Brentnall

