



Understanding  
Our Natural World  
Est. 1880

# Field Nats News No 327



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

March 2022

## From the President

Welcome to the second edition of FNN for this year. It is already February and we are off and running for 2022, albeit with continuing COVIDSafe rules and procedures to observe. The first FSG meeting was held successfully in the hall on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and was an interesting presentation on the impacts of artificial light at night on fauna and flora. I thank all who attended for their strict observance of our COVIDSafe rules.

The purchase of Mali Dunes is proceeding as planned and any additional pledges of support are still welcome and the settlement of existing pledges would be appreciated. A committee for the management of Cosstick Reserve at Maryborough is about to be organised and will include representatives of Maryborough Field Naturalists Club. An excursion to Maryborough will be organised a little later in the year when the weather is cooler and the reserve is at its best.

It seems to me that the biodiversity of invertebrates both in my garden and out in the bush has not been as high this year. My numerous huntsman spiders are very lean and don't seem to be finding enough prey. The moth traps I have set up in suburbia have not been overwhelmed by either diversity or numbers.

On a more positive note, at a recent visit to Sue Bendel's property near Emerald I collected a few samples of the mud and algae growing in her almost empty dam.

Once under the microscope the samples displayed an impressive biodiversity of microscopic pond life, notably Protozoa. There were diverse and abundant algae and "protozoans" comprising desmids, diatoms, testate amoeboids, amoeboids and ciliates such as *Vorticella*. Bacteria, small crustaceans, rotifers, tardigrads, gastrotrichs and other "infusoria" were also represented. There were several interesting species of testate amoebae including *Arcella*, *Diffugia*, *Trinema* and *Euglypha*.

(Continued on page 3)



Collecting samples from Sue's dam.

Photo: Faye Campbell

The due date for contributions to  
FNN 328 will be Tuesday 1st  
March 2022.

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



An actively moving cyclopoid copepod with its egg sacs. Photographed using Phase Contrast.

Index	Page
From the President	1, 3-4
Calendar of events	2
<b>Members' news and observations:</b> Vale Rustem Upton	5
Defibrillator Training; Of Blue-tongue Lizards and Bird Baths	6
Science Talent Search	7
<b>Environment Fund:</b> call for applications	8
<b>Marine Research Group Report:</b> Pt. Roadknight	9-11
Some interesting Otway finds.	12

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All meetings are held at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn at 8 pm., unless otherwise indicated. On days of extreme weather conditions, excursions may be cancelled. Please check with leader.*

### March

**Calendar events are subject to change e.g. being held via Zoom.**  
**Please keep an eye out for updates from the office**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Meeting:** *Protecting our public land, our wildlife and vegetation, how to identify suspicious behaviour and what to do.* Speaker, Katrina Harrison—Manager, Regulatory Intelligence Unit, Conservation Regulator, DELWP. Register with Ray Gibson 0417 861651; [rgibson@melbpc.org.au](mailto:rgibson@melbpc.org.au)

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Survey:** *Lerderberg State Park.* For more details register with Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181 AH; [mcam7307@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mcam7307@bigpond.net.au)

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Fungi Group Meeting:** *Where do fungi grow?* Speaker: Dr Tom May, Principal Research Scientist (Mycology) at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Register with Priscila Ferraz [priscilaferraz.mv@gmail.com](mailto:priscilaferraz.mv@gmail.com)

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Fauna Survey Group Survey:** *Labour Day weekend camp: Bael Bael Grasslands NCR Vertebrate Survey. Prior bookings essential.* Register with Andrej Hohmann 0410 934 779; [andrej\\_hohmann@yahoo.com.au](mailto:andrej_hohmann@yahoo.com.au)

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Marine Research Group:** *No Meeting Labour Day*

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Meeting:** *A presentation on microscopes* including biological microscopes—compound and dissecting. Also advice on suitability and purchase of microscopes. Register with Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544018; [mcam7307@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mcam7307@bigpond.net.au)

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - Botany Group Meeting:** *Epiphytic bryophytes in Victorian wet forests, and ecological change.* Speaker: Julia Askeland, Deakin University student researcher. Register with Ken Griffiths [botany@fncv.org.au](mailto:botany@fncv.org.au)

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Survey:** *Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.* For more details register with Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181 AH; [mcam7307@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mcam7307@bigpond.net.au)

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Day Group 10.30 am Meeting:** *Whirl into 2022 with the friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens art group, The Whirlies.* Speaker: Jan Rosenbery. All welcome. Register with Joan Broadberry 9846 1218; [joan.broadberry@gmail.com](mailto:joan.broadberry@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> - Marine Research Group:** *Field Work Port Fairy area.* For more details please register with Leon Altoff 0428 669 773; 9530 4180 AH

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Geology Group Meeting:** *Granites of central Victoria: what are the new ideas?* Speaker: Neil Phillips, University of Melbourne and Stellenbosch University RSA. Register with Ken Griffiths [geology@fncv.org.au](mailto:geology@fncv.org.au)

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Juniors Group Meeting:** *7.30 pm To be advised.* Contact: Dr Patricia Amaya [juniors@fncv.org.au](mailto:juniors@fncv.org.au)

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - FNCV Council Meeting:** *8.00 pm (Held via Zoom.)* Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au) Max will provide the link.

#### COVIDSafe rules:

FNCV meetings in the hall are open only to those who can provide proof of **full** vaccination (as officially designated).

Well fitted masks are to be worn and physical distancing of 1.5 m should be maintained.

Food and drinks will not be available from the kitchen and there should be no sharing of food. However, members are welcome bring their own which should be consumed while seated.

For excursions, masks should be carried and used when physical distancing is not possible and food should not be shared.

Please register for all meetings and excursions with the designated contact person. There is a numbers cap (of 34) in place for the FNCV hall.

Two documents covering the details of COVIDSafe procedures, one for meetings and one for excursions can be obtained from the FNCV website, the office or in the hall.

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



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



(Continued from page 1)



*Pediatrum sp., a green algal genus.  
Photographed using Phase Contrast.*

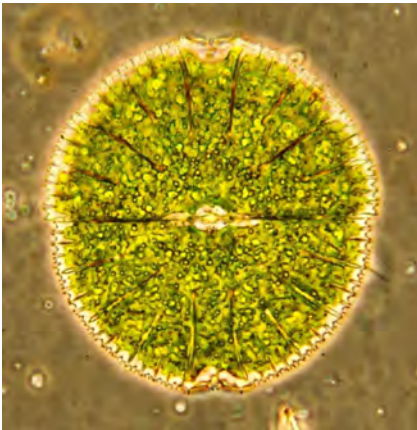
It will be interesting to see how the recent heavy rain has affected the biodiversity of the dam.

As I have indicated previously; microscopy is an excellent way to spend time during the continuing COVID pandemic. A few drops of sediment from a healthy pond or stream will provide many hours of pleasant, informative observation and follow-up investigation. The following images from the pond sample collected from Sue Bendel's property represent a small selection of those organisms.

**Max Campbell**

*Images of microscopic pond life: M. Campbell*

(Continued on page 4)

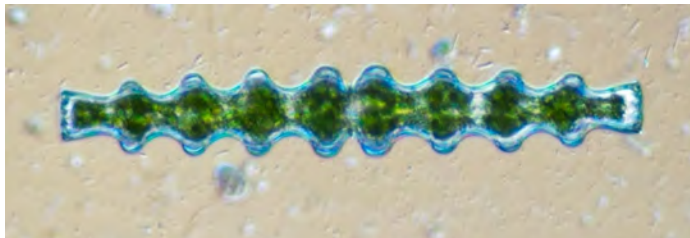


**Left:** *Micrasterias sp. a desmid.*

*Photographed using Phase Contrast.*



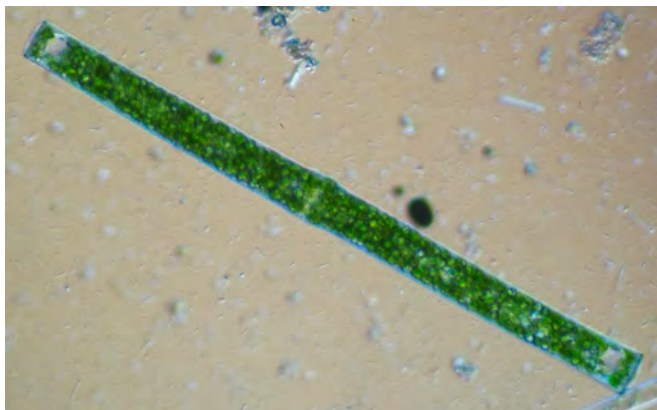
*Closterium sp. a desmid. Photographed using DIC.*



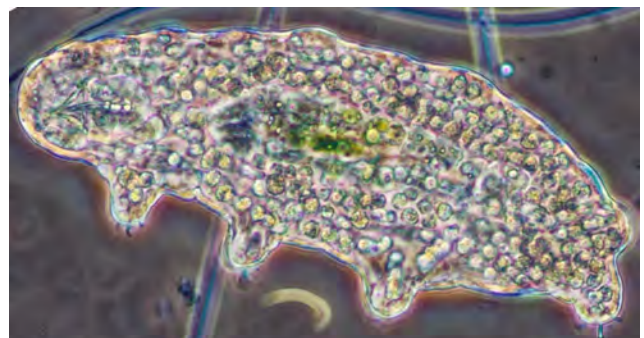
*Pleurotaenium sp. a desmid.  
Photographed using DIC (Differential interference Contrast)*



*Unidentified Diatom. Phase Contrast.*

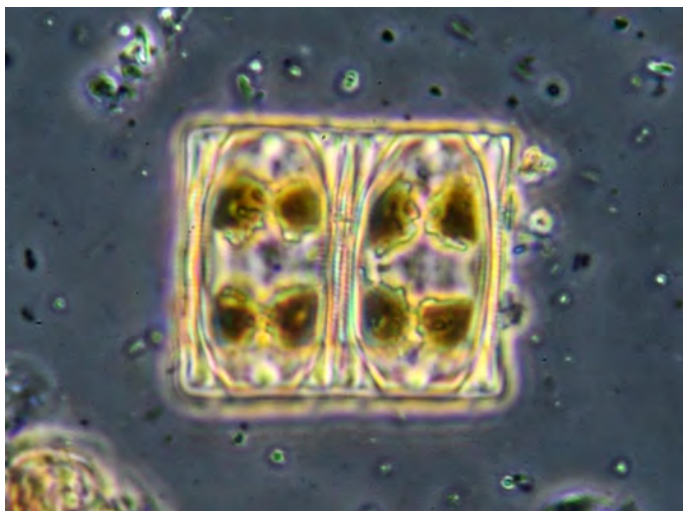


*Docidium sp. a desmid. Photographed using DIC.*

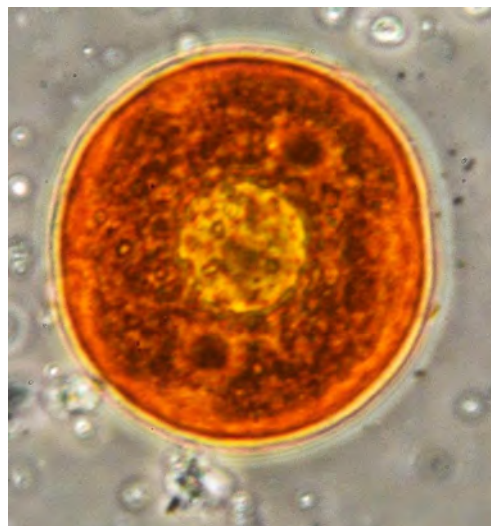


*A tardigrade, photographed using Phase Contrast.*

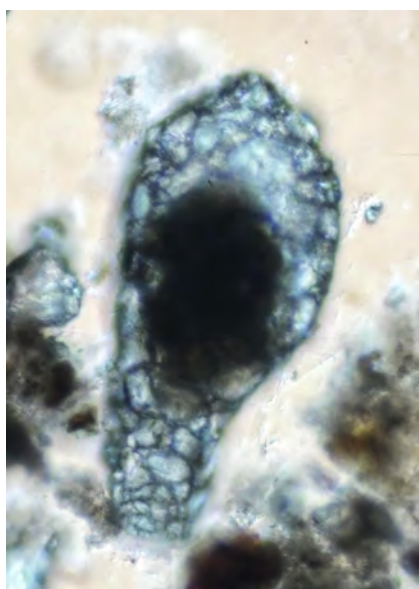




*Unidentified Diatom. Phase Contrast.*



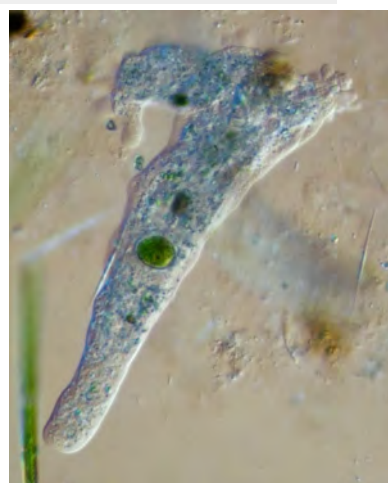
*Arcella sp* , an active testate amoeboid.  
Photographed using Phase Contrast.



*Diffugia sp*, a testate amoeboid.  
Photographed using  
Phase Contrast.



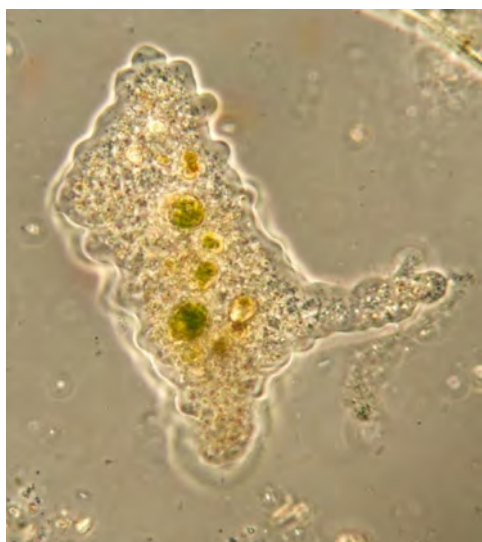
*Nebela sp*, a testate amoeboid. Photographed using DIC



**Left:**  
An active amoeboid pho-  
tographed using Phase  
Contrast.

**Above right:**  
An active amoeboid, pho-  
tographed using DIC.

**Below right:**  
A tardigrade, pho-  
tographed using Phase  
Contrast



## 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.

Welcome  
Welcome

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

*Graeme Hamilton, Dianne Aitken, William Gillespie-Smith, Petrina Young, Rebecca Carr, Audrey Chandrapala, Jodi Jackson, Rowan Wilken, Roger Steer, Denise Feehan, Pat Feehan and Jasmine Andrews.*

### Vale Rustem (Rusty) Upton

5th November 1973 – 8th January 2022

Rusty passed away from cancer, on Saturday 8 January 2022. He was at home, with his partner, Penny.

Rusty joined FNCV in 2009; he was employed as a Facilitator with the Nature Stewards Course.

If you knew Rusty, through having been taught by him, or worked with him, you will understand the enormous loss to environmental education and the broader community of naturalists that his passing represents. His incredible care, enthusiasm, expertise as a teacher, as well as his warmth, easy-going nature, and kindness as a person, will be greatly missed. He encouraged and inspired many in the study and understanding of nature and the environment. It is clear that he had an enormous positive impact on his students in many ways, which has forever changed them and their actions.

I had the privilege of knowing Rusty and working with him for Nature Stewards. His untimely passing is a terrible loss to us all. On behalf of FNCV I offer the Club's heartfelt condolences to Penny and family.

A memorial service was held at Point Lonsdale on 21st January 2022



*Maxwell Campbell, FNCV President*

4000 years later and we're back to the same language... 🤔 😂



**FNCV Facebook 21,766 followers.**

### AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION

Calls for nominations for the Australian Natural History Medallion for 2022 are now open.

Contact Max Campbell on 0409 143 538 if you require further information.

*For furthering interest and knowledge in Australian Natural History*



Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 327

Joan Broadberry  
Wendy Gare  
Sally Bewsher

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



## Defibrillator Training 12/2/2022



Photos: J. Broadberry

At long last a group of 15 people were able to undertake the training to enable them to operate with confidence the defibrillator purchased by the FNCV. This session has been on hold for nearly two years. Our presenter Helen, was from *Total First Aid Training*.

The Club Defibrillator is currently located on the kitchen bench with the first-aid kit. *Photo right.*

The session was intensive, imparting a great deal of information. It built on the first-aid training course run by the FNCV a couple of years ago as a defibrillator is used alongside CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

However, in reality defibrillators have been set up so that most of the instructions are contained within the unit. This includes print, voice prompts and reminders which, when combined with instructions given by the triple zero operators, makes it possible to use it quite easily. For example the photo lower right, of the face of the defibrillator shows a diagram indicating exactly where to place the two pads.

Amongst many other things we were encouraged by the instructor to overcome the hesitation that many people feel in a resuscitation situation. She pointed out that good CPR and use of the defibrillator can result in a 70% success rate in restoring a heart beat. She also reminded us that we must act very quickly—every minute is precious as brain death occurs within ten minutes.

**Joan Broadberry**

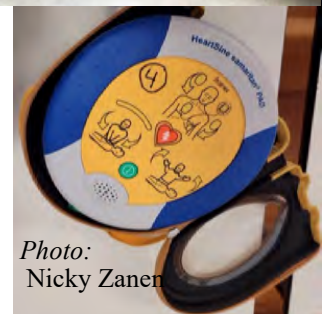
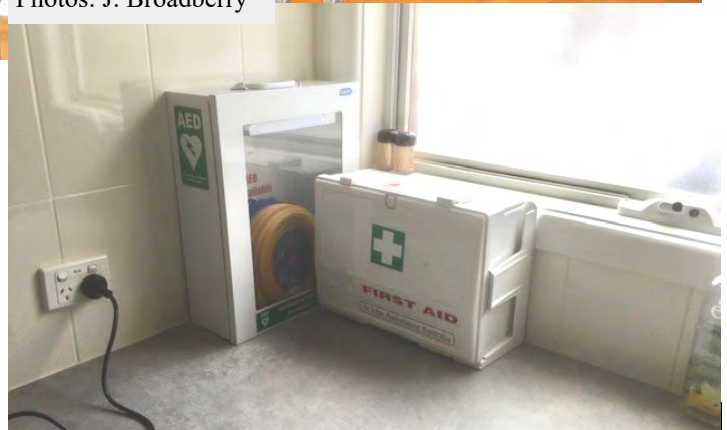


Photo:  
Nicky Zaner

### **Cranbourne Friends**

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria



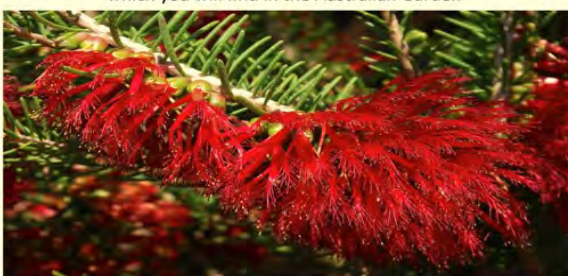
### **Growing Friends - Autumn Plant Sale**

**Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 March 2022**

**10am to 4pm**

**Australian Garden - Cranbourne near the kiosk**

Come along and select from a range of small and large plants many of which you will find in the Australian Garden



### **Of Blue-tongue Lizards & Bird Baths**

*From an email sent by Janet Pett:*

"Thanks so much for answering my questions about Blue Tongues! (See FNN 327 page 11-12)

There are three, including one very wide, fat one, that share my caravan site at San Remo. When I moved in on a very hot day this year, all the bird baths in our little garden were dry.

It took only a few minutes for the first White-browed Scrubwren arrive, to jump in and out 33 times! Yes, I counted.

It was closely followed by the big Eastern Blue-tongue, who spent the next hour with its head in a saucer, tongue fully extended.

I've seen them flicking their tongues, but this was my first sighting of the whole tongue, and for so long!"

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

## Science Talent Search

The **Science Talent Search** (STS) is an annual, science based competition open to the state's primary and secondary students and organised by the Science Teachers Association of Victoria. Thousands of students enter the quest every year with contributions taking many forms including Experimental Research, Games, Working Models, Inventions, Computer Programs – Games and Simulations, Science Photography and Video Productions, Creative Writing Posters and Scientific Wall Charts.

You may not be aware but the FNCV has been a long-time supporter of the STS dating back to the work of Noel Schleiger. For the last 10 years, through the generosity of one of our members Mr Brendan Murphy, we were able to make a donation of \$1,000 per annum. Since the passing of Brendon Murphy, the Club has continued to support the STS with a donation of \$500 per annum.

After judging, an exhibition of the entries together with presentation of cheques and medallions to the bursary winners takes place at Latrobe University in late October. For the last two years, because of COVID, this has been a virtual ceremony, but when it is back to face to face, I would recommend visiting the expo. I was absolutely blown away when I dropped in several years ago, by the enthusiasm of the students, the quality of their projects and the sheer number of entries. Many of the young people sit by their project and will explain it to you and the way they envisage it will help the planet.

Each year, after the prizes have been awarded, some of the winners send thank you letters to the Club. A selection of these is produced below.

Keep in mind that the Science Talent Search is always in need of sponsorship to continue their mission to support and encourage the study of science by Victoria primary and secondary students.

The STS website is [www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/index.html](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/index.html)

**Barbara Burns**  
Treasurer FNCV

Dear Ms Barbara Burns,

We are extremely grateful for the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria's sponsorship with the Science Talent Search. We have had lots of memorable experiences and it was an amazing learning opportunity. In the Science Talent Search we did a project under the name of the Key to the Bees. We've learnt that bees are worryingly endangered and we realised that a majority of people have been taking these wonderful creatures for granted. We are so proud of winning a minor bursary in our division and we want to thank you again for your lovely contribution in this year's competition.

Kind regards,

Melody and Eleanor

Dear The Field Naturalists Club Of Victoria Inc.

We hope you are well.

We're from Blackburn High School, and we participated in the Science Talent Search For 2021.

Thank you for your sponsorship as we greatly appreciate it.

We are very grateful for your contribution, and we hope to see you in the future.

Thanks again,

Kind Regards,

Tanya and Jessica (Major Bursary Winners)

Dear Ms Burns,

Our names are Jessica and Isabella and we are the recipients of your bursary for the Science Talent Search (STS) - Video section. Thank you for your generosity support of the STS program. The STS project was a great learning experience and we have a new and ongoing love for native bees and science. We look forward to participating again next year.

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your sponsorship of the Science Talent Search. I would like to thank you and The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria for this bursary on my entry "Spoiled Fruit". I was thrilled to learn that I was among the recipients of this bursary, and it has been an honour to receive it. I know that this support would encourage many students in their passions for science and engineering. Once again, I greatly appreciate your support and thank you for your sponsorship.

King regards,

ng  
Presbyterian Ladies' College - Senior School

Thank you for the donation to the major bursary for the Science Talent Search.

Our project was mainly about how we can help save native bees and also finding out what they do for the environment. It was also about what would happen if they went extinct. We found out this information by interviewing people who knew about native bees or bees or had had experience with them.

Thank you again for your sponsorship to the Science Talent Search major bursary and I am very grateful for it.

I wish you happy holidays and a happy new year!

From Isabella

Dear Ms Burns

thank you much for the science talent search.

I really liked working on my Scratch Program 'The lifecycle of a lemon tree'.

Yours sincerely, Sophie Lin

Dear Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, thank you so much for sponsoring my prize in the Science Talent Search. I was very excited to win a minor Bursary in the Science photography category and will spend the money wisely. I have really enjoyed competing in the STS over the years, and I'm happy that I learn more every time I enter. I admire your work and wish that more people cared about nature the way you do. Yours sincerely, Darcy, Fitzroy North Primary School





## **FNCV Environment Fund: Call for Grant Applications, *Due Date: Monday 28th March 2022***

**The FNCV Environment Fund has the following purposes:**

- To support and finance environmental research, in particular research into the biodiversity of Victoria.
- To support and finance dissemination of information on the natural environment by any legitimate means, including public lectures, seminars, field trips, courses and publications.
- To support and finance practical projects aimed at preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Victoria.

The FNCV Environment Fund is administered by a committee consisting of Malcolm Calder (Chair), Barbara Burns, (Secretary and Treasurer), Bob Rogers, John Harris, Ian Moodie and Cathy Willis.

**The committee calls for applications for the next round of funding from the FNCV Environment Fund. Requests for projects between \$200 and \$1,000 will be considered.**

Applications can be from organisations or individuals, but in the latter case must be supported by an organisation. Suitable organisations are established natural history or environmental organisations (Field Naturalist Clubs, Landcare Groups etc.), educational institutions or government departments. Multiple applications from one research group are not encouraged.

**Applications for this round of funding close Monday 28th March 2022 at 4 pm.**

Late applications will not be accepted. All applications will be acknowledged and results of applications communicated by **Friday 8th April 2022.**

Grant money is required to be spent within 12 months of notification of receiving a grant with a short report on the project supplied to the FNCV within 12 months of the same date. The report can be published by FNCV and successful applicants are encouraged to also communicate the results of their project to the Club via articles, talks or field trips.

Additional information about the Environment Fund is available at [www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/](http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/)

**Please include the following information in the application:**

- Project title.
- Project description (max 250 words).
- How the project meets the aims of the Fund.
- Budget (include GST on all relevant items). Also indicate other sources of funding.
- Indicate if the application is from an individual or organisation and give the name of the individual or organisation.
- Applicant name and contact details, including mailing address/phone/email.
- Signature of applicant.
- Endorsement of organisation (signature of responsible person such as President, Secretary, Manager, Head of Department, include name and position held).

Applications should be sent to:  
**Secretary FNCV Environment Fund  
Field Naturalists Club of Victoria  
PO Box 13,  
Blackburn Vic 3130**  
or emailed to [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)

*Your support is much appreciated.*

Donations to the FNCV Environment Fund are **tax deductible**.

Donation forms can be down-loaded from the website [www.fncv.org.au/donate-to-the-club/](http://www.fncv.org.au/donate-to-the-club/) or are available on request from the FNCV Office. Phone 9877 9860 or email [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)





## Marine Research Group Field work Point Roadknight Anglesea, 29/1/ 22

Eleven participants led by Audrey Falconer and Leon Altoff, met at 12.30 pm at Point Roadknight Anglesea for the first MRG survey of intertidal invertebrates for 2022. The low tide of 0.25 m was at 2.27 pm. This was the MRG's fourth visit to this site, the last survey being in February 2014.

Point Roadknight is a narrow ridge of eroded dune calcarenite, a type of limestone. The rock platform was covered in *Hormosira banksii* (Neptune's Necklace).

The weather was favourable, temperatures being in the mid-twenties with very little wind. However, in the previous week there had been several days of extreme heat followed by heavy rain. As the tide was low in the middle of the day, the rock platform was exposed to very hot sun and then rain, causing a major detrimental effect on intertidal life. A number of species that had been recorded on previous visits were found in only low numbers or not at all. This included: Asteroidea (Seastars); Polyplacophora (Chitons), except for large specimens of *Plaxiflora albida*; Gastropods such as: *Scutus antipodius* (Elephant Snail), *Austrocochlea constricta* and *Nerita atramentosa* and the usually common crab *Paragrapsus quadridentatus*.

### A few highlights:

- Abundant juveniles of the isopod *Zuzara venosa*,
- A small specimen of the attractively marked Southern Hinge-beak Shrimp, *Rhynchocinetes australis*. The shrimp was found by Val Stajsic. Below is a link to his iNat posting <https://inaturalist.org.au/observations/106121218>
- A small blue-green bryozoan, *Virididentula dentata*, found under rocks <https://inaturalist.org.au/observations/106012557>. It grows to a much larger size in the open, sub-tidally and provides food for the large, striking seaslug, *Tambja verconis*. Images at <https://inaturalist.org.au/observations/26196090>

(Continued on page 10)

### Joan Broadberry with thanks to John Eichler



Heading towards the Point Roadknight reef.

Photo: J. Broadberry



*Rhynchocinetes australis*

Photo: Val Stajsic



*Virididentula dentata*

Photo: J. Eichler



Working on the Point Roadknight rock platform

Photo: J. Broadberry



*(Continued from page 9)* **A few Highlights**

- A variety of attractively coloured and patterned colonial ascidians, most of which have not yet been identified.  
*Images below.*



*A few as yet undescribed ascidians* J. Eichler—see  
<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations/26196090>

**Of interest:**

*Magellania flavescens* (a brachiopod) *Photo: J. Eichler*



As yet unidentified Sea Hare *Photo: J. Broadberry*



*Catomerus polymerus* (Barnacle)  
*Photo: J. Broadberry*



Cone-shaped hoof shell, *Sabia Australis*, Male (smaller)  
 and female on a Turbo, *Lunella undulata* *Photo: J. Eichler*

*Continued on page 11*





Compiling the list of sightings.

Photo: J. Broadberry

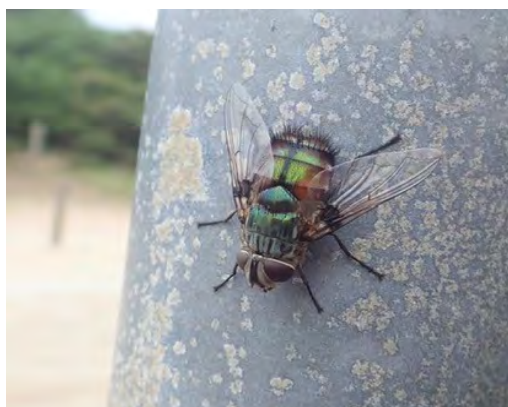
### Other observations:

- A rather grumpy, possibly injured, Australian Fur Seal sheltering between the rock stacks.
- The Intertidal Spider, *Desis kenyonae*. "This is only the fourth time I have seen this infrequently recorded spider, with three specimens sighted on the day. According to Whyte and Anderson, 2017, *A Field Guide to Spiders of Australia*, they commonly live in barnacle shells, which they seal up with silk, allowing them to maintain an air bubble during high tide. The Anglesea specimens were found close to a group of the large barnacle *Austromegabalanus nigrescens*, many of which were dead. This spider is reported to feed on small arthropods in the intertidal zone." - John Eichler
- A fly photographed just before commencing the list—*Rutillia* sp. A medium to large fly in the family Tachinidae

For the list of observations email Leon Altoff [leon.alfoff@gmail.com](mailto:leon.alfoff@gmail.com)  
 The link below is used for uploading images from the field work.  
[https://1drv.ms/u/s!AvxxHe3i4gljdNmG1xvPO6\\_keG67w?e=5Lui2p](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AvxxHe3i4gljdNmG1xvPO6_keG67w?e=5Lui2p)



The next MRG survey will take place on Wed. Feb 23rd—Sat. Feb.26th in the Inverloch area. For more details and to register contact Leon Altoff: [leon.alfoff@gmail.com](mailto:leon.alfoff@gmail.com)



Left: *Rutillia* sp.  
 Photo: J. Broadberry

Upper right: Fur Seal  
 Photo: J. Eichler

Right: *Desis Kenyonae*  
 Photo: J. Eichler





## Some Interesting Otway Finds

In March 2021, while based at Apollo Bay for a Marine Research Group field trip, Christine and I decided to do a night walk at Maits Rest. This is a popular, shortish rainforest walk located beside the Great Ocean Road between Apollo Bay and the Cape Otway turnoff. The vegetation here consists of cool temperate rainforest dominated by Myrtle Beech with some Mountain Ash and a dense middle layer consisting of tree ferns and small broadleaved trees.

The evening was relatively cool and the temperature dropped several degrees as we approached Maits Rest, so I didn't anticipate seeing much in the way of invertebrates. Although invertebrates weren't prolific, we ended up seeing four of five species that were new to me. Noteworthy finds included a striking green orb-weaving spider, an apparently rare planarian and a spider endemic in the Otways.

*Novaranea courti* is a strikingly coloured, nocturnally active orb-weaving spider. The colour and markings, which resemble lichens may help to conceal it while inactive during the day. It occurs in Victoria and Tasmania where it seems to favour wet forests. In Victoria most records come from the Otway region.

*Artioposthia warragulenensis* is an apparently rare planarian with only two Victoria records on iNaturalist (listed as *Australopacifica warragulenensis*). Both records are from the Otways. The specimen shown here was identified by Leigh Winsor, an authority on terrestrial planarians.

The **Otway Cave Spider**, *Progradungula otwayensis*, is a member of the family Gradunguidae or Long Claw Spiders. It is nocturnally active, building a snare made of blue-coloured woolly silk and uses its very long front legs to flick prey into this snare. I initially thought this might be a net-casting spider because of the blue coloured silk snare but net-casting spiders hold the snare in their forelegs and toss it over their prey. The Otway Cave spider is endemic in the Otways and is apparently uncommon, with only six records in both the Atlas of Living Australia and iNaturalist.



*Novaranea courti* - two views



*Artioposthia warragulenensis*

**John Eichler**  
(All photos J. Eichler)



*Progradungula otwayensis*