



Understanding
Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No 328



Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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Governor of Victoria

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April 2022

From the President

You will have noticed that we are truly back in the hall and will continue to run real meetings from now on. I look forward to seeing you there.

Over the past couple of months I have been witnessing an insect Armageddon of a seemingly more natural kind. Our sole, remaining *Pseudomantis* was residing in the mint (Photo 1) but unfortunately moved slightly when our resident magpie was in the garden. As we watched the bird hopped over to the mint, pecked at the unfortunate insect which tumbled onto the ground to be immediately swallowed. The Australian Magpies, Noisy Miners, Common Blackbirds, Grey Butcherbirds and Pied Currawongs have, between them, utterly depleted the larger invertebrates in our garden. One of our friendly butcherbirds sat on a branch above me with a very large female huntsmen spider in its beak. For an instant the long legs could be seen hanging out on either side until it was swallowed in a single gulp. Small rats, mice and lizards also don't stand a chance.

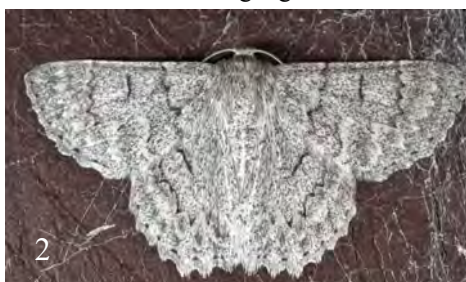
Often, when I am digging in the garden, one of the butcherbirds dashes in and out to get any grubs or worms that I disturb. If I start the whipper snipper it will usually perch above me in the trees until I finish, whereupon it descends to the ground to clean up any invertebrates that have been disturbed.

A few moths appear here and there on fences during the day, if not in my moth traps at night. Many of them are very light coloured and very conspicuous so I am wondering why the birds are not immediately taking them (Photo 2).

Small Thomisid spiders lurk under some of the smaller flowers and dandelions. Sometimes, when disturbed, they eject silk to be picked up by the breeze to transport them away (Photos 3 and 4). The smaller Asilid flies are back in small numbers and patrolling the garden for their prey. They sit on their normal lookout perch on a lemon tree.

This has been a favourite spot for several years for generations of small robber flies (Photo 5). A larger *Colepia rufigiventris* took up a position on the guttering again this year (Photo 6) and required a telephoto lens to record it. I have recorded numerous images of this species around the roof

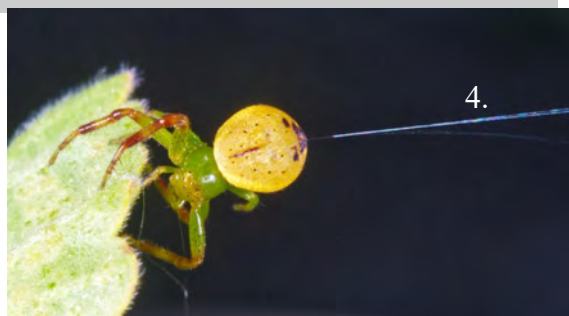
(Continued on page 5)



Crypsiphona ocularia Resting conspicuously on the front fence during the day.



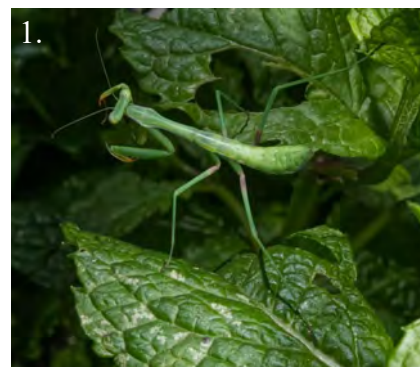
Australomisidia pilula 6 mm awaiting lift-off.
Below: About to release its grip and float away.



The deadline for FNN 329 will be, as always, the first Tuesday in the month, **5th April.**

Please use

joan.broadberry@gmail.com



The only mantid remaining in the garden, hiding in the mint, just hours before it was eaten.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

April

Sunday 3rd – Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: Orchard Grove Reserve and adjacent WURUNDJERI Wetlands. Meet at 10 am in car park at the southern end of Orchard Grove which runs south from Canterbury Rd. Blackburn, (opposite Safeway). Register with Max Campbell mcam7307@bigpond.net.au 0409143 538; 9544 0181

Monday 4th – Fungi Group Meeting - *Ascomycetes – cup, disc and other sac fungi*. Speaker: Pam Catchside, Honorary Research Associate, State Herbarium of South Australia and Adjunct Lecturer, Flinders University. Register with Melvin Xu Fungifncv@gmail.com 0410 522 533

Tuesday 5th - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *To be advised*. Register with Raymond Gibson 0417861 651; rgibson@melbpc.org.au

Monday 11th - Marine Research Group No Meeting

Friday 15th to Monday 18th – Juniors Group Excursion: *Easter Camp*. **Early bookings in advance essential.** Register with Dr Patricia Amaya, juniors@fncv.org.au

Wednesday 20th - 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 with Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

Thursday 21st – Botany Group Meeting: *Re-finding Beckler's 1861 Menindee plants* Speaker: Pam McDiarmid, botanical artist. Register with Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Saturday 23rd - Marine Research Group Field Work: *Stony Point*. Register with Leon Altoff for more details. 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Sunday 24th – Fungi Group Foray: *The Ada Tree, Yarra State Forest*. Meet 10.30 am at the Ada Tree car park. Alongside foraging, we will be completing herbarium specimen training with Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher to help contribute to science as citizen scientists. Register with Anna Brady anna21brady@gmail.com; 0448 711 116 (Mel Ed 45, [Map](http://www.visitarravalley.com.au/products/ada-tree-walk) X912 U3). <https://www.visitarravalley.com.au/products/ada-tree-walk>

Monday 25th—FNCV Council Meeting (via zoom) 8 pm. Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare: admin@fncv.org.au Max will email the link.

Tuesday 26th – Day Group (10.30 am) Meeting: *Grey-headed Flying Foxes*. Speaker: Dr. Megan Davidson, Secretary of Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc. Register with Joan Broadberry joan.broadberry@gmail.com

Wednesday 27th – Geology Group Meeting: *How Astronomers Discovered the Secret Life of the Universe*. Speaker: Perry Vlahos, Astronomy educator, author and broadcaster. Register with Ken Griffiths geology@fncv.org.au

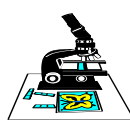
Friday 29th – Juniors Group No Meeting . Contact Dr Patricia Amaya—juniors@fncv.org.au

COVIDSafe rules:

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

The FNCV recommends that well fitted masks be worn at meetings and on excursions when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Please register for all meetings and excursions with the designated contact person. You can then be notified of meeting places, cancellations, any changes in arrangements eg. zoom or alterations to the COVID-Safe rules.



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.

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 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:

Julia Askeland, Ben Fisher, Blayston Hamilton, Trojan Panayi, Mark Feeney, Sarah Panayi, Kate Kearney, Tobi May, Lindsay Hamilton, Meaghan Barbuto, David Carlton, Ella Plumanns Pouton, Virginia Mannering, Nolan Bear, Jill Bear and Yarra Valley Grammar.



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INVITATION to the FNCV AGM Sunday 1st May 2022 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: Richard Loyn

All are very welcome, but please register with the office: admin@fncv.org.au 9877 9860

Afternoon tea will be served.

Nominations for Council must reach the registered office of the Club no later than 48 hours before the AGM, i.e. Friday 29th April 2022, by 2 pm (see FNN p4)



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*



FNCV FACEBOOK REPORT

22,346 followers

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



Thanks to the editorial
and layout team who put
together FNN 328

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher



The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc

NOMINATION FOR FNCV COUNCIL 2022/23

**The FNCV AGM will be held on Sunday 1st 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 29th April at 2 pm.***

PO Box 13, Blackburn, VIC 3130

Phone 9877 9860

E-mail: admin@fncv.org.au



The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc 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 2022 Annual General Meeting to be convened on Sunday 1st May 2022 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: 2022

(Continued from page 1) [From the President](#)

guttering for many years. I seem to have a resident population of them and I often find their enormous larvae in the soil. Cicadas made a brief but noisy appearance this year (Photo 7) but seemed to disappear very quickly due to heavy predation by birds

Max Campbell



A small Asilid fly on its normal lookout perch on a lemon tree.



Large *Colepia rufiventris* waiting on the guttering for its next meal to fly past.



Freshly emerged *Cyclochila australasiae*, supposedly one of the world's loudest insects

All photos: Max Campbell



Fauna Survey Group

***Effects of Artificial light at night on a Woodland food chain.* Speaker: Marty Lockett**

The FSG meeting on 1st February 2022 learned about the effects of artificial light at night on a woodland food chain. The speaker, Marty Lockett, is a PhD Candidate from the School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne.

Three aspects of a food web were investigated for the effect of artificial light at night (ALAN), on Red Gum saplings, lerp-producing Psyllids, and Bell Miners. River Red Gums were grown in plots for 40 weeks and physiological and morphological parameters were measured. The harvested weight of the Red Gum seedlings were the same for ALAN group and control group. The leaf area of the ALAN group was greater, and overall biomass investment shifted slightly from roots to leaves compared to the control Red Gums.

Artificial light resulted in increased production of lerp, the carbohydrate rich dome covering the psyllid insect, but other life history traits of psyllids (oviposition, hatching, survival) were unaffected.

Bell Miners were the third subject of artificial light investigation. They frequently feed on lerp, and almost uniquely amongst birds, 'farm' the lerp by consuming the sweet covering and leaving the psyllid that produced it behind to form another lerp. This careful feeding behaviour creates a reliable food resource, but also means these birds are highly territorial, and protect their food by excluding competitors. Five colonies near Melbourne with varying degrees of ALAN were studied. When feeding in the canopy, Bell Miners make their familiar tink call, which can be used as an indicator of feeding activity. These calls were monitored using Audiomoth recorders, and analysed to identify the onset and end of daily activity, and total amount of time spent foraging. At the brightest artificially lit site, total foraging time was substantially lengthened, which may indicate that ALAN increases the energy budget of bell miners.

Bright moonlight delayed the morning onset of foraging activity, however this natural response was absent at the brightest artificially lit sites, possibly because birds could no longer perceive changes in lunar brightness.

Raymond Gibson



Bell Miner Photo: M. Lockett



Lerp Photo: M. Lockett

TALES FROM MY SUBURB AND GARDEN

When my husband and I moved into Mitcham (now Donvale) the nearby bushland was extensive. I was from an inner-city suburb and Reg was from Mt Evelyn in the Dandenongs. His home was surrounded by lovely bushland and it was our mutual love of bushwalking which drew us together. We chose our home because the block had remnant indigenous bushland on it including an ancient *Eucalyptus meliodora* (Yellow Box) approx 200 years old. Most properties nearby had at least one *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* (Red Box) or a Yellow Box.

Now almost everyone has removed all their Eucalypts. I still continue to plant indigenous plants should any of my existing plants die. We had a wonderful variety of birds as we live close to the Mullum Mullum Valley. THEN the Eastern Freeway was built and years later the Noisy Miner became common. The small honeyeaters such as the Eastern Spinebill, White-plumed Honeyeater and the White-naped Honeyeater soon disappeared.

For some weeks I have been hearing the soft sound of an animal on the roof. Then I found the decapitated head of a baby Common Ringtail Possum in my garden. Powerful Owls are known predators of Ringtail Possums. My first thought was 'cat', but none of my neighbours own cats and I have not seen a cat in the vicinity for years.

Several evenings of spotlighting in my garden (even at 2 am) turned up no sightings of owls and enquiries of the neighbours if they had heard an owl proved negative. I would be interested to know if anyone has sighted or heard a Powerful Owl in the eastern suburbs recently. And would also be interested to hear if people still have Ringtail Possums in their gardens. Fortunately I still have Ringtail Possums in my garden and until recently had a drey in one of the trees.

Cecily Falkingham



From the Office



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.

Second hand book sale 14th May

We really appreciate that you love to help the FNCV by donating books, but we don't have space to store boxes at the club for an extended period as it means an entire room is unavailable. PLEASE WAIT until after Anzac Day, (25th April) to bring them in.

The paper, posted copy of FNN will, in future, be sent to the printer on the same day that the email copy is sent out. This will mean it will be received about a week later in the month than has previously been the case.

Best wishes, Wendy Gare

Cosstick Reserve:

A committee comprising Viv Smith, Jan Gray and Jenny Blackman from the Maryborough Field Naturalists Club plus John Harris, Andrej Hohmann and Max Campbell from FNCV will oversee the management of Cosstick Reserve. Joint visits to the reserve will be organised a little later in the year. It may be possible to camp in "Paddy's Ranges".

Max Campbell

City Nature Challenge:

Sue Bendel advises that the City Nature Challenge will take place this year from Friday 29th April to Sunday 1st May. Twenty one local councils are involved. For more information go to the website <https://citynaturechallenge.org/>

If FNCV members would like to run an event, for example a nature walk or an individual study, they should talk to Sue 0427 055 071; possum56@gmail.com



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

TIG Excursion to Yellingbo, Sunday February 6th 2022

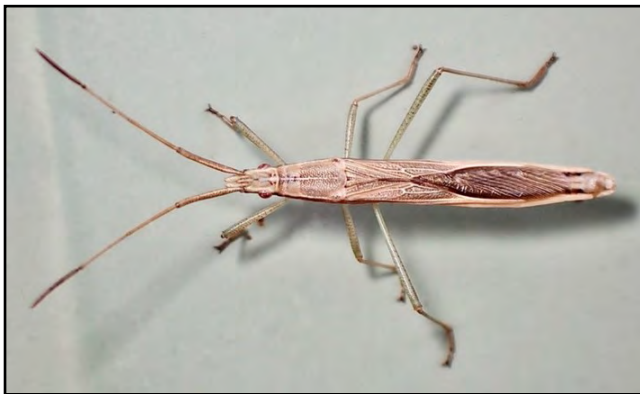
Thirteen TIG members participated in a survey of a private property in Yellingbo. The following macro images are of a few of the 30-40 invertebrates photographed. It was a successful and enjoyable foray. Unfortunately, all of my own images were lost due to a card reader error and I thank John Eichler, Andrew McCutcheon and Carol Page for providing the excellent images that follow.



Howitts Planarian, *Artioposthia howittii* John Eichler



Planarian, *Fletchamia mediolineata* John Eichler



Long Broad-headed Bug, *Mutusca brevicornis* John Eichler



Left: Braconid wasp mimicking bug, *Rayieria basifer*

John Eichler



Left: Spotted Swift Spider, *Nyssus coloripes*

John Eichler

Right: Jumping spider, *Opisthoncus sp*

Carol Page

Continued page 8



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Chauliognathus imperialis Andrew McCutcheon



Diplacodes melanopsis

Andrew McCutcheon



Austoragrion watsoni

Andrew McCutcheon



Geitoneura klugii.

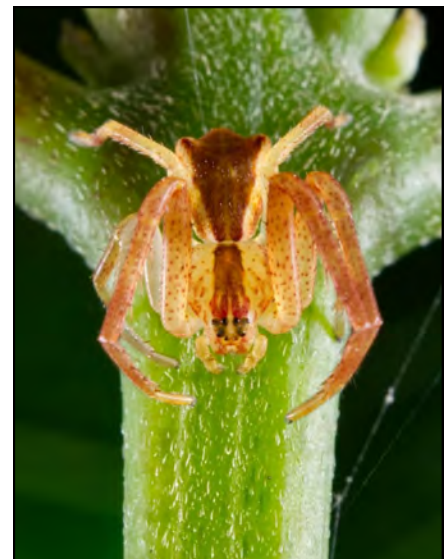
Andrew McCutcheon



TIG excursion to Starlings Gap, Sunday 20th February 2022

Six members attended the excursion and enjoyed the forested paths along the old Ada timber tramways. There were plenty of invertebrates to photograph including an *Onycophoran* located by Faye Campbell. Some of us inadvertently collected leeches as well.

The pleasant tramway path at Starlings Gap Photo: Faye Campbell



Crab spider (Thomisidae) *Sidymella trapezia*

Max Campbell

(Continued on page 9)



Upper left: Is that bird dung on a leaf? Faye Campbell
 Upper right: Close up – less dung like. Max Campbell
 Left: Definitely a spider. *Arkys alticephala*. Max Campbell



Above: A two cm velvet worm or *Onychophoran*.
 Max Campbell

Left: *Chrysolopus spectabilis* Diamond Weevil.
 Max Campbell

Right: Bull Dog Ant, *Myrmecia* sp.
 Max Campbell



I have regularly visited Starlings Gap since 1963 and always found many interesting invertebrates there as well as numerous reptiles including Tiger Snakes, so safe footwear is always highly recommended. On January 17th, 2015 I inadvertently photographed a snake as I was photographing a flatworm. I had close contact with eight snakes that I know of on that day; they were all sunning themselves on the paths and logs.

Right: A relaxed Tiger Snake, *Notechis scutatus*, coiled peacefully in front of the flatworm I was photographing at Starlings Gap Campground in 2015. It didn't even react to the macro flash. I almost touched it with the camera and then slowly backed away to get a complete photo.

Max Campbell





Day Group

Travels to the Sub-Antarctic Islands of New Zealand and Macquarie Island Speaker: *Heather Ducat*—22nd February



In December 2019 Heather Ducat went on a twelve day trip with Heritage Expeditions aboard the 'Spirit of Enderby', visiting some of the uninhabited Sub-Antarctic Islands of New Zealand - Campbell, Auckland, Enderby (part of the Auckland group) and Snares Islands. The ship carrying the tour group (about 60 people) then travelled on to Macquarie Island. All the islands are UNESCO World Heritage listed and are rich with wildlife, much of it endemic, including albatross, penguins, petrels, fur seals, Elephant Seals and much more. The islands protrude from an underwater plateau; part of the continental shelf that extends to the south and east of New Zealand. Macquarie Island lies the near the triple junction of the Pacific, Indo-Australian and Antarctic Plates.

Heather gave a very comprehensive talk illustrated with superb images. Limited space allows this report to only touch on some of her main themes. Fortunately the wonderful photos she has generously shared with FNN reveal the essence of what was a fabulous expedition.

Snares Islands, 200 km from the South Island of New Zealand is a small group of uninhabited islands. Landing is not permitted, but the coastline was viewed from zodiacs. The many different sea-bird species seen were a highlight, as was the endemic Snares Crested Penguin.

Auckland Islands (88 km x 39 km) is an archipelago 465 km from the South Island of New Zealand. The tour group went ashore on the small, northern Enderby Island after completing strict environmental protocols. They undertook a five hour walk across the island, part of which was through Rata forests. The endangered Yellow-eyed Penguin was widespread as was Hookers Sea-lion. There were frequent sightings of land and sea birds, many endemic.

The trip was timed to coincide with the flowering of the mega-herbs. These included, *Bulbinella rossii*, *Anisotome latifolia* and the lovely *Corybas sulcatus* known as a spider orchid. The main island of the Auckland Group is volcanic with basalt cliffs and an eroded volcanic pipe.



Bulbinella rossii



Above: Northern Giant Petrel Chick, Auckland Island.

Above right: Yellow-eyed Penguin Auckland Island

Right: *Corybas sulcatus* Auckland Island

Left: mega-herbs



Anisotome latifolia



(Continued page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

The Campbell Islands group, too cold for trees, was the most southerly New Zealand island visited. On a foggy day the group landed and explored a sphagnum-moss bog and tussock grassland from a boardwalk. Nesting Southern Royal Albatross (*photo right*) was one of many beautiful sightings.

After 31 hours and another 800 km sailing, the ship reached Macquarie Island which is managed by Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife and was awarded World Heritage in 1992.

A visit was made to the Anare Station in the north. Small groups escorted by a ranger were able to observe a wealth of wildlife, including large colonies of Elephant Seals, Royal, King and Gentoo Penguins and endemic birds such as the Macquarie Island Shag.



Sub-Antarctic vegetation, Campbell Is. *The Spirit of Enderby* is anchored in the background.



There was much more of great interest in Heather's presentation. In particular, historical and geological perspectives and details of the life cycles and habitats of many of the animals and birds seen. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank her for making the long drive to Melbourne and transporting the travel-starved Day Group to these magical islands.

Joan Broadberry



Left: Elephant Seal Colony Macquarie Island

Below left: mega-herbs—Macquarie Island Cabbage.

Right: King Penguin
Below right: Royal Penguin (Both Macquarie Island)



Stilbocarpa polaris

**Images:
Heather
Ducat**





Marine Research Group News

About the Marine Research Group

The MRG was formed in 1957 (Marine Studies Group) and amalgamated with the FNCV in 1997. Its aim is to increase knowledge of the diversity, distribution and ecology of Victorian intertidal marine invertebrates. Intertidal invertebrates include a diverse range of animals that lack an internal skeleton. A few examples are: gastropods, bryozoans, crustaceans, echinoderms, sponges, ascidians and cephalopods. Surveys are held on very low tides during the summer months, typically from December to April. They are a mixture of day trips and extended trips of four or five days. Between 10 and 15 people usually participate. The group compiles lists of species seen on each day of the survey and maintains a data base of all records. This field work has contributed many new species for Victoria and extended the range of known species. On occasion specimens are collected and submitted to Museum Victoria. Work-days to assist the museum in curating its marine invertebrate collection are held regularly. Occasional meetings are held on the second Monday of the month including presentations by guest speakers and discussions of field work. A very active Facebook page has been set up for those interested specifically in the marine life of south-eastern Australia. As well as the knowledge contained within its membership, the MRG is able to draw on the expertise of scientists within Australia and overseas who specialise in the many groups of marine invertebrates.

Over time an extensive range of publications have been compiled and made available online or as hard copy. The 335 page *MRG Report of Species Observed* is an aid to identification and includes descriptions, images and maps. It is constantly being edited. To date there are 12 others: *Pictorial Guide to Victorian Marine Invertebrates* (to be used in the field), *Chiton Identification*, *Victorian Shallow Water Crabs*, *Intertidal Flatworms of Victoria*, *Victorian Bivalves*; *Some Intertidal Shrimps of Victoria*, *Some Intertidal Isopods of Victoria*, *Stauromedusae of Victoria*, *Nemerteans of SE Australia*; *Nemerteans Rogues Gallery*, *Common Annelids we don't need to Collect and how to Identify them* and *Oddments*. More are in preparation.

Fieldwork in the Bunurong Marine National Park Wednesday 23rd - Saturday 26th February 2022

- The Bunurong Marine National Park stretches along the Gippsland Coast east of Phillip Island. Nearby towns are Inverloch and Cape Patterson. It abuts the recently renamed Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park.
- From Wednesday to Friday the weather was almost ideal, being calm with temperatures in the mid-20°C. On Saturday it became cooler with a SE wind.
- Surveying took place as follows: Wednesday: **Eagle Rocks**, Thursday: **Twin Reefs**, Friday: **Flat Rocks** and Saturday: **Cape Paterson**.
- On Wednesday 23rd, the low tide of 0.25 was scheduled at 11.15 am. Participants met two hours beforehand at 9.15 am. Low tide and therefore meeting times were 3/4 hr later each day.
- The length of time surveying each rock platform varied, but was usually three hours
- The number of participants also varied each day, averaging about 15.
- Some MRG members work in specialist areas, some are generalists.
- Each of the four rock platforms was rich in intertidal life. Although in close proximity, there were substantial variations in the species recorded at each site.
- Led by Audrey Falconer, a list of observations was compiled each afternoon. *Two photos, previous page.*
- Because of the large number of species observed and photographed, these very enjoyable discussions could take up to three hours.



(continued page 13)



(Continued from page 12)



- Various samples of sea grass or seaweed were collected in a bucket and taken back for further investigation.

Photo: right

- Leon and Audrey set up a laboratory including microscopes and cameras in their rented accommodation

- After the preliminary list for the day was completed various MRG members continued work on species in their specialist areas. **Photo above left**

- Each evening Leon Altoff emailed all participants a preliminary copy of the day's list. Survey data is always available to those interested.

Email: leon.altoff@gmail.com

- I would like to conclude by thanking all those participating in the field work for their generous sharing of knowledge and images and in particular to thank Leon and Audrey for their wonderful hospitality, patience and those marvellous nutmeg custard tartlets hot from the oven.

Joan Broadberry



A few images from the four days' field work.



Phlyctenanthus australis—anemone



Alpheus novaezealandiae— Snapping Shrimp
Photo: Barbara Burns



Above: Twin Reefs—Naomi rescues Audrey's bucket
Right: Hard at work
Photo: Carol Bathie



(continued page 14)

(continued from page 12)



Cyclograpsus granulatus

Images: Joan Broadberry unless otherwise designated



Notoplana australis— flat worm



Ischnochiton smaragdinus



Paradoris dubai—nudibranch



Isanemonia australis—anemone



Chelipeds

Tiny, as yet unidentified, decorator crab



Didemnum incanum—ascidian



At work on Eagle Rocks platform



Acanthochitona kimberi



Notospermus geniculatus
Nemertean Worm

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group:

Meeting Thursday 17th February. Geoff Lay presented a report on the flora of the Gun Barrel Highway. The trip was 14 days and 1500 km of red dirt track. He found 215 species, including 140 new to him. All were photographed and named. Flowering occurs when it rains, Geoff reported. 2017, 2019 and 2021 were rainy years. They travelled in May. Twenty attended, at the FNCV hall.

Ken Griffiths

Day Group:

February 22nd, our first meeting for 2022, (in the hall, hooray!) was a fascinating presentation by Heather Ducat of her 12 day trip with Heritage Expeditions on board the *Spirit of Enderby* exploring the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic islands: Campbell, Auckland, Snares Islands and then on to Macquarie Island. Heather gave a very comprehensive talk illustrated with superb images. Twenty-two people attended. A report on the meeting appears in this newsletter.

Joan Broadberry

Fauna Survey Group:

Meeting 1st February, the topic was, *Artificial light at night masks the natural lunar cycle and disrupts foraging activity of the Bell Miner*. The speaker was Marty Lockett, PhD Candidate, School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne. A report of this meeting can be read in this newsletter.

Ray Gibson

Fungi Group:

No meeting.

Geology Group:

Meeting Wednesday 23rd February. Attendance was 25. The Woods Point earthquake of 9:15 am 22nd September 2021 was the topic of James La Greca, MSc researcher at Melbourne University. Pressure waves were felt in Melbourne, and as far as central Tasmania. The magnitude 5.9 was at 12.7 km depth, with a magnitude 4.2 aftershock 15 min after.

James described and illustrated the extensive local investigations made to study the quake's effects. A region of 8 x 9km of existing faulted rocks was found. The prime cause was attributed to the tectonic plate boundary in New Zealand. For publications, search: La Greca, J. and Quigley, M (2021).

Ken Griffiths

Juniors Group:

The Juniors had a magnificent excursion to Queenscliff on the 27th February. This activity was subsidized by Landcare and the children's attendance was free of charge. Adults also paid a reduced price. It was well attended by twenty-six club members. What we saw. Many of us saw a seahorse for the first time, and it will remain with us for the years to come. We also saw a sea spider and learnt how they manage to survive under water. We found out about seaweeds and how important they are to our seas and planet. The excursion was amazing and everyone learnt a lot about the environment and its fragile ecosystems.

Dr Patricia Amaya

Terrestrial Invertebrates Group:

Excursion, Sunday 6th February.

Thirteen TIG members participated in a survey of a private property in Yellingbo. Thirty to forty invertebrates were photographed. It was a successful and enjoyable foray.

Excursion to Starlings Gap, Sunday 20th February.

Six members attended the excursion and enjoyed the forested paths along the old Ada timber tramways. There were plenty of invertebrates to photograph including an *Onycophoran sp.* (Bird-dropping Spider) located by Faye Campbell. Some of us inadvertently collected leeches as well. Reports of both of these TIG outings with many images appear in this newsletter

Max Campbell

Marine Research Group:

Field work based at Inverloch, Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th February.

The weather was settled and mild with a strong SE wind only on the final day. Sites visited were all in the Bunurong Marine Park. Rock platforms surveyed were: Eagles Nests, Twin Reefs, Flat Rocks and Cape Patterson. Each site was rich in invertebrate marine fauna. So much so, that completing the list of observations each afternoon took several hours. The field work was well attended. A detailed report with many images appears in this newsletter.

Joan

Broadberry

Microscopy Group:

On 16th February a practical meeting was held in the hall.



TIG Geitoneura acantha Ringed Xenica.
Photo: Andrew McCutcheon



MRG Palaemon serenae J. Broadberry