Field Nats News No 333

Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
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Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC
Governor of Victoria

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm

September 2022

From the President

Sadly, on 3 August we learned of the passing of Andrew 'Andy' Brentnall, a dear friend and fellow naturalist. He was a very active and dedicated member, cheerfully contributing considerable time and resources to the great benefit of the Club over many years. He will be sadly missed by us all. On a personal level, I will miss his friendship and our frequent conversations. (See Gary Presland's tribute, page 3.)

June and July have been very cold and not much is crawling about the garden at the moment. Last Autumn, when it was a bit warmer, I recorded a salticid (jumping) spider successfully attacking and killing a moth.

It all happened with blistering speed. I was photographing a small Geometrid moth, *Epidesmia chilonaria*, resting on a wall (Photo 1) when it captured the attention of a tiny jumping spider which slowly crept ever closer until it was within striking distance. As the spider moved sideways to better advantage, the moth was clearly aware of something and drew in its right legs in preparation for flight (2nd frame, Group 1) but was too slow.

The strike was incredibly fast and occurred just as I took the last photo in the series (5th frame, Group 1). The next shot was of the moth and spider in the leaf litter (Photos 2 and 3) The moth was already dead.

(Continued on page 4)

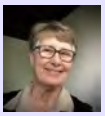
Photo 1. *Epidesmia chilonaria*

FROM THE EDITOR

The due date for Field Nats News is always the first Tuesday of the month. For FNN 334 this will be: Tuesday 6th September

Use joan.broadberry@gmail.com

Special thanks to those whose contributions to FNN 333 came in early, some before the due date.



Index	Page

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.

September 2022

Monday 5th—Fungi Group Meeting: ***Members Planning Night for 2023***
Held via *Zoom*. Register with Melvin Xu, who will send you the link.
fungifncv@gmail.com Melvin has advised that future fungi meetings **will be held via Zoom**

Tuesday 6th—Fauna Survey Group Meeting: ***The ecological theory, data, models and decisions behind Victoria's bushfire management for ecosystem resilience and biodiversity:***
Speaker: Dr Simon Watson, Forest and Fire Risk Assessment Unit, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**. Likely to be held via Zoom**.
Register with David De Angelis: d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au 0409 519 829

Monday 12th—Marine Research Group Meeting: ***To be advised.***
Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669 773

Thursday 15th—Botany Group Meeting: ***To be advised.*** **Will be held via Zoom**
Register with Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Wednesday 21st—Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Meeting: ***To be advised.*** Register with Max Campbell 0409 143 538; 9544 0181 AH; mcam7307@bigpond.net.au

Friday 24th—Juniors Group—No Meeting: ***Grand Final holiday.***
Patricia has advised that due to Covid, there will not be any Juniors meetings in the hall over the next few months, but there will be some interesting excursions. Meeting times and locations will be emailed out closer to the dates. Contact: juniors@fncv.org.au

Sunday 25th—Botany Group Excursion: ***Wild flower survey at the Brisbane Ranges.***
This diversity hotspot is coming into flower for the Spring! We will have lists from previous visits. Meet at 10:30 am at Burt Boardman Reserve, Steiglitz. Bring lunch, and a camera. We will visit several sites. Finish 3 pm. Google maps https://goo.gl/maps/f8QiADho6ky
Register with Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org 0457 143 831

Monday 26th—FNCV Council Meeting: 8 pm via Zoom. Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare admin@fncv.org.au Max will send you the link.

Tuesday 27th—Day Group Excursion: ***Spring wildflower and nature walk, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Central Rd. Blackburn—Entrance opposite Gwenda Avenue.*** There will be an opportunity to view the museum-quality display inside the visitors' centre.
Leader: Ian Moodie, Team leader, Environment and Education, Whitehorse Council. Meet at 11 am at the visitors' centre. Ample parking. Bring lunch and a camera. (Melway 48 C11)
https://goo.gl/maps/g1phZc8WRxMvQzAx8
Register with Joan Broadberry joan.broadberry@gmail.com or 9846 1218 (apologies the answering machine is not working).

Wednesday 28th—Geology Group Meeting: ***Groundwater For A Thirsty Planet***
Speaker: Jurgen Schaeffer who will cover the application of hydrogeology to the management of our ground water resources.
Register with Ken Griffiths geology@fncv.org.au

COVIDSafe

Members are advised that they should NOT attend FNCV activities if they are at all unwell.

Wearing a well-fitted mask and maintaining physical distancing are strongly recommended.

With the current wave of Covid19 variants some activities advertised in the four monthly COE have been cancelled and most of the others will be held using Zoom.

Members will need to register with the contact person so that they can be sent the Zoom link and be kept informed if arrangements change.

The FNCV office will send out updates to the program when they become available, so keep an eye on your emails.

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:

Jelena Ljubinovic, Helena Rayner, Jonathon Bryan, Bryce Ponsford, Rachel Potter, Janine Groves, Melissa Hermans, Aloysius Lau, Siobhan Elsworth, Carol Noblet, Kaitlin Wright, Nakita Stokes, and Greg Jenkins

Thank you to all those who helped produce FNN 333

Joan Broadberry, Wendy Gare, Sally Bewsher, Pat Grey and Sheina Nicholls.

Special thanks to Gary Presland for agreeing to stand in as acting editor while Joan was on holidays.

The first meeting of the Mali Dunes Management Committee took place on Monday 13th June 2022 via Zoom.

Members: Sue Hayman, Ian Temby, Fiona Copley, Peter Homan, Barbara Burns, Judith Sise, David De Angelis, Dr David Cheale, Lestyn Hosking, Miranda Thorpe, Andrew McCutcheon, and Max Campbell (Chair)

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:
25,200 followers.

Vale Andrew David Brentnall

Club members were saddened to learn of the passing of Andy Brentnall, on 3 August 2022, aged 90. Andy joined FNCV in January 2011 and, soon after, began volunteering in the office, assisting the Administrative Officer Hali Ferguson. He continued in this role—collecting the mail, assisting with collation and distribution of the Newsletter, and a myriad of other tasks—until only a few weeks ago. His willingness to undertake these often tedious but always essential tasks was of enormous assistance to Hali and also to her successor, Wendy.

Andy was always keen to promote and assist both the activities of the FNCV, and the cause of environmental sustainability. In 2012, when it appeared that the Club's intention of installing solar panels on the roof would have to be postponed through lack of funds, Andy happily donated $3000 for the project. He also served on FNCV Council, as a councillor (2011–12), secretary (2012–13) and correspondence officer (2014–22). He also donated to the Library a complete set of DVDs of David Attenborough's natural history programs.

Andy's cheerful presence will be greatly missed. The Club extends its condolences to Andy's family, including his brother Edward and sister-in-law Hazel, both long-standing FNCV members.

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group:

Meeting Thursday 21st July — FNCV is a Community Partner for Julia Askeland during her Deakin 4th year research. She reported with pictures on her recent rainforest field work on mosses, showing systematic data collection. Three (3) attended. The main talk was cancelled. See FNN p. 5 *Bryophyte Fieldwork Update*

Terrestrial Invertebrates Group:

The meeting on 17th July was a Zoom meeting. Max Campbell presented "*Biodiversity, Holobionts and Symbiosis*". The complex reality of biodiversity and the interrelationships of organisms were discussed in light of the increasing evidence supporting the ubiquitous presence of symbiosis and intricate biological integration. There were 22 participants.

(Continued from page 1)

In salticids, the remarkable, large, frontal pair of eyes (Photo 4) have movable retinas and can track and precisely fix the position of its prey with unerring accuracy. Muscles attached to rods behind the eyes facilitate retinal movement (Photo 5). The rods never seem to stop moving; the retinas constantly feeding information to the spider's 'brain'.

Max Campbell
All photos: M. Campbell

Group one. The attack.

Photos 2 & 3: Success

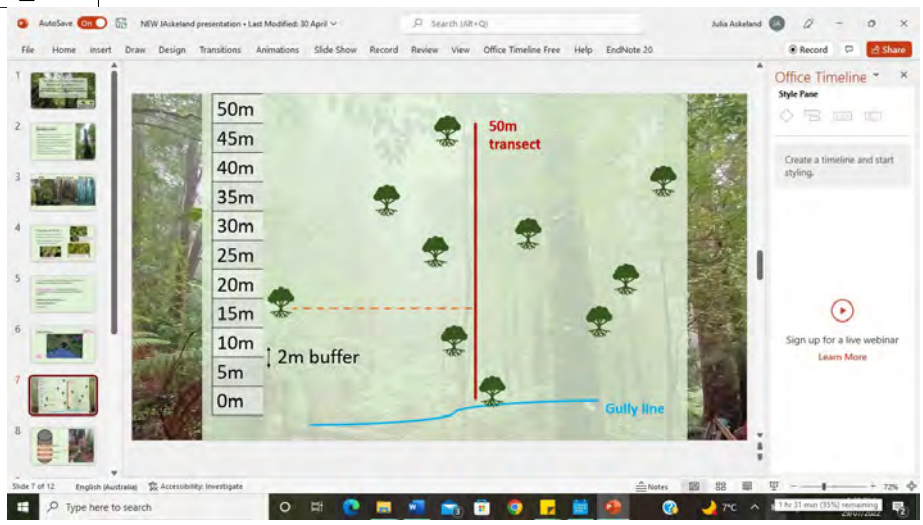
Photo 4. Salicids have excellent binocular vision for hunting.

Photo 5. A newly hatched 2 mm salticid, ***Helpis minitabunda,*** with dark rods clearly visible behind each of the frontal eyes.

Botany Group

Bryophyte Fieldwork Update

A few months ago, I presented my planned honours project to the Botany Group of the FNCV. I am incredibly grateful to have the FNCV as my community partner for my project. Through this partnership, my research received funding from the Wettenhall Environmental Trust which allowed me to finance my fieldwork.



My project is investigating the effects of a climatic gradient on epiphytic bryophytes in Cool Temperate Rainforest (CTRF). To investigate, I have been sampling bryophytes on *Nothofogus cunninghamii* (Myrtle Beech). At each site, I use a 50m transect and sample a tree about every 5m. This method will allow us to pick up changes in bryophyte composition that may be due to decreasing humidity and greater exposure to solar radiation at the edge of the rainforest patch. Such information is important for bryophyte conservation and informing buffer requirements for protecting the major component of plant diversity in CTRF.

My project has undergone several changes since my initial presentation. Originally, I was going to sample bryophytes on *Dicksonia antarctica*, but switched to *N.cunninghamii* as they were observed to have a greater functional diversity along the gradient of interest. My transects were going to be 100m long, with the intent to sample across the CTRF/Wet Forest ecotone. It was determined that a shorter transect would achieve the same objective, sampling *N.cunninghamii*, to detect diversity and composition changes along lateral gradients in CTRF gullies. Finding sites with a wide enough patch of rainforest has been the most challenging part of my fieldwork, as CTRF exists in small, fragmented patches. These challenges have caused fieldwork to take a little longer than expected, but I am on track to finish my last few sites before the end of August. More updates on my project to come when I enter the next phase of my research, which is identifying all the bryophyte samples I have collected.

Canopy photographs are used to detect how much solar radiation each tree receives.

Julia Askeland (*Images: J. Askeland)*

FNCV Trivia

FNN would like to acknowledge the amount of time and effort put in by Barbara Burns, Max Campbell and Philippa Burgess who made up six sets of 15 trivia questions in the categories of: *General Knowledge x 2; General Natural History; Science & Geography; Geology, Fauna & Invertebrates; Botany, Fungi & Marine.* In all, 90 questions. The next few issues of FNN will include some of the questions used, for you to challenge yourself. **(Answers: see p 9)**

Set one = score one point for each correct answer.

1. What boy's name is also the name of the object ball in lawn bowls.? 2.What is the largest planet?
3. Name the three primary colours. 4. In Australia, what geometric shape is used for stop signs?
5. What sport do the Harlem Globetrotters play? 6. What is James Bond's preferred drink of choice?
7. In which city was John F. Kennedy assassinated? 8. What is the origin of igneous rock?
9. The Statue of Liberty was given to the USA by which country? 10. How many dots on a dice?

Set two = score two points for each correct answer.

11. What is the largest organ in the human body? 12. In relation to the USA, what do the following initials, FLOTUS, stand for? 13. Who is the author of *Jurassic Park*? 14. What is the town in the TV series *The Flintstones* in which the Flintstones live? 15. What is the biggest artery in the human body? 16. What is the official state fruit of New York? 17. What is the marine emblem of Victoria? 18. What are the three main body parts of an insect?
19. Which king was overthrown as a result of the French revolution? 20. How many planets are there in 2022?

A naturalist with a camera in Cairns, July 2022

BIRDS: FNN 332 p. 11–12 described the Bush Stone-curlew's (*far left)* plumage as 'grey-brown with dark streaks'. This is true for the bird's underside, but, more accurately, the Stone-curlew's wings show white feathers against a darker background. The closely related Beach Stone-curlew was photographed on the Cairns esplanade, as were two Black-necked Storks, also known as Jabirus.

FLYING FOXES: In 2019, I photographed a colony containing approximately 5 000 Spectacled Flying Foxes roosting in the central business district of Cairns. Unfortunately, since then, the colony is in the process of being dispersed using measures such as tree lopping, sonic cannon noise, bright lights and water jets.

Listed as "vulnerable" flying foxes are considered a keystone species, vital to the tropical north's ecosystem. The extreme heat of December 2018 wiped out almost a third of Australia's Spectacled Flying Fox population and their numbers are in steep decline.

SPIDERS: The two spiders (*left)* found in the Cairns Botanical Gardens are species of Spiny Orb-weaver *Gasteracanthinae* meaning having a thorny abdomen. They are females (males are tiny). *Gasteracantha fornicata*, (*2nd image)*, was collected by Banks and Solander on Cook's voyage in 1770 making it the first Australian spider to be described.

See *Field guide to Spiders of Australia,* Whyte & Anderson p. 95.

Continued p7

Continued from p. 6

FUNGI: A large cluster of a tropical Stinkhorn Fungi, *Phallus rubicundus (below)* was found on mulch in the Botanical Gardens. The unexpanded eggs are shown at the base of the fruiting body with the one at the foreground beginning to open. The spores are spread by flies, attracted by a smell of something rotting.

A species of Bird's-nest Fungi *(above)* was also found in the gardens on mulch. The cups are just a few millimetres in size.

"Most members of this group produce their spores in peridioles contained in open next-like structures. The peridioles are usually scattered by the action of water drops falling into the 'nest'.
From ***A field guide to Australian fungi,*** Bruce Fuhrer, p. 221.

ANT PLANT: A lovely find was the endemic Ant Plant *Myrmecodia beccarii, (below).* I believe it has been relocated from Cape York to the gardens. Ant plants are a novel group of epiphytes that live in harmony with ants. As the plant grows, tissue within the tuber dies back and hollow chambers form. The chambers allow ants, (*mostly Iridomyrmex cordatus)* to enter the plant. A symbiotic relationship exists between plant and the ants. The plant provides a protective shelter for the ants, and in turn the ants provide additional nutrients to the plant with their food leftovers and droppings. Not all plants are inhabited.

M. beccarii is distinguished by its succulent leaves and its tendency to develop multiple stems. Typical of most ant plants are the hypocotyls, which are stems that enlarge to form a tuber-like structure covered in ridges and spines. This one caught my attention because it was flowering, (*2nd photo).* The white flowers are not very conspicuous as they emerge in hollows along the alveoli (stem). A fruit will form later.

Joan Broadberry
All photos: J. Broadberry

Fungi Group

Fungi Foray—Wanderslore Sanctuary, Launching Place

Sunday 19th June, 2022

The FNCV Fungi Group was fortunate to visit the Wanderslore Sanctuary once again. It is a dynamic and diverse pocket of land that has been dutifully cared for by people past and present. Of significance is Constance Coleman who was an artist, teacher and conservationist. She chose to retain the indigenous landscape of the property during the 1900s meaning significant biodiversity still remains. Her presence exists in the paintings and easels that are displayed in the studio on entry. Constance gifted the land to the Trust for Nature and the sanctuary is now rehabilitated and cared for by the Friends of Wanderslore, some of whom we were able to meet. With sunny, mild weather and the promise of interesting species, around 30 people turned up to explore the area.

The Sanctuary includes a range of ecosystems with areas of drier vegetation alongside dense, wet rainforest towards the creeks. Fungi could be seen in all areas and some of the first species noted were the golden gilled *Phylloporus rhodoxanthus,* fiery red *Clavulinopsis corallinorosacea* and elegant *Mycena subvulgaris*. Also growing en masse was *Drosera sp.*, commonly known as Sundews (carnivorous plants) which were slowly feasting on its prey.

As we ventured deeper into the forest, we started seeing vibrant *Russula persanguinea*, *Gliophorus graminicolor, Geastrum triplex* and a more observations which *can be seen via this link:* https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fncv-2022-wanderslore-foray?tab=observations&subtab=grid.

During lunch, a curious black fungus was observed growing on a dead stick. It had the appearance of pockets of charcoal forming a spotted pattern along the wood. It has since been listed on iNaturalist as \ *Hypoxylon diatrypeoides*.

Whilst many of us had our eyes on the ground, one person thought to look up (!) and spotted a koala. This was much to the delight of many of the attendees—perhaps less so to the koala. Wallabies were also seen, likely on the hunt for fungi as well.

Left: Geastrum triplex. Photo: Torbjorn von Strokirch

After lunch, a group of people started describing the samples collected out in the field. They were originally believed to be *Cortinarius archeri, Cortinarius austrovenetus* and *Clavaria amoena.* By the end of the session, it was decided that there were two species which looked like *Cortinarius archeri*.

A handful of the specimens had the typical saturated purple cap whilst others had a muted purple colour that was infused with a distinctive rust colour on the top of the cap and spreading with age. It could be the *Cortinarius pur-*

(Continued on page 9)

Above—Cortinarius sp.

Photo: Torbjorn von Strokirch.

(Continued from p. 8)
parascens or similar as this name is based on the northern hemisphere species. The mystery adds to the fun.
We were grateful to Philippa, who brought along and set up two field microscopes. A fun experience was observing the slimy texture of the *Cortinarius archeri* cap.

Before we knew it, it was time to head home after a thoroughly enjoyable day. We would like to thank the Friends of Wanderslore and Trust for Nature teams for having us at the sanctuary and also thank the Yarra Yarra chapter of the Australian Plant Society for their company.

Anna Brady

Right—Melvin welcomed the group and discussed the importance of hygiene to avoid the dispersal of pest species such as *Favolaschia calocera.*

Photo: Anna Brady.

Below—Herbarium sampling and microscopy inside the studio at the sanctuary.

Photo: Anna Brady

All 2022 fungi reports
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1v2ZABmYnjWr54Sz_YKrs2xzi-1dj5cS-?usp=sharing

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Jack 2. Jupiter 3. red, yellow and blue
4. octagon 5. basketball 6. Martini
7. Dallas 8. volcanic 9. France
10. twenty-one (*score one point)*

11. the skin 12. First Lady of the United States 13. Michael Crichton
14. bedrock 15. aorta 16. apple
17. Weedy Sea Dragon 18. head, thorax and abdomen 19. Louis XVI 20. eight
(*score two points)*

/30

Slime mould

I noticed a speck of bright yellow amongst the wet leaf litter in the garden and, on closer inspection, discovered a slime mould (*photos 1, 2 & 3*). Over a couple of days, it spread across a larger number of leaves, the older sections turning black as the spores matured (*photos 4 & 5).* The mature spores (*photos 7 & 8)* are very active and show amoeboid movement within the perispore, although once emerged the myxamoebae moved freely on the slide. The immature spores *(photo 6)* from the yellow fruiting bodies are relatively opaque and appear, as yet, to be inactive.

Max Campbell
All images M. Campbell

Photo 1. Slime mould on garden leaf litter.

Photo 2. (left) Close up of immature fruiting bodies.

Photo 3. (right) More detailed close up of immature fruiting bodies.

Photo 4. (left) Mature fruiting bodies beginning to rupture.

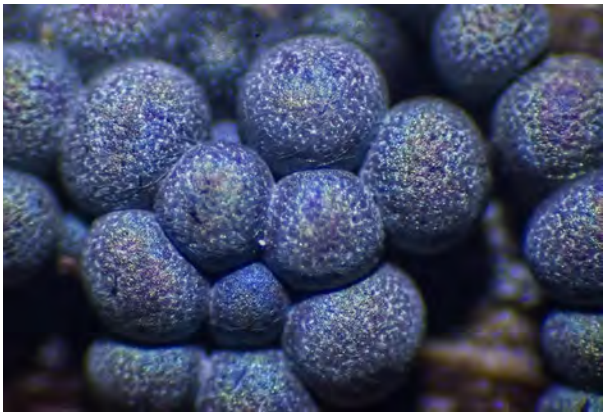


Photo 5. (right) Detailed close up of mature fruiting bodies.

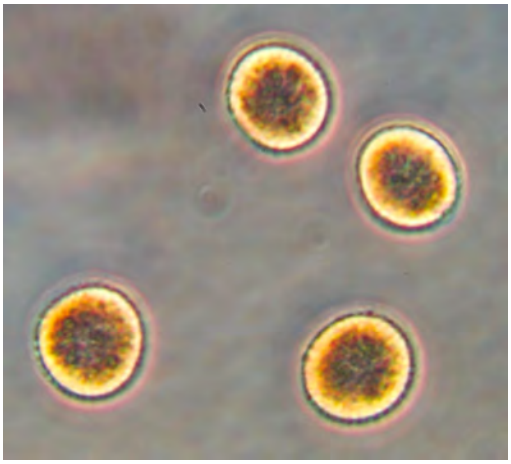


Photo 6. Inactive immature spores. (Phase contrast)

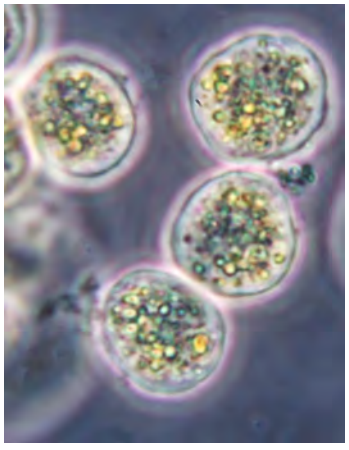


Photo 7. Active mature spores – still contained. (Phase contrast)

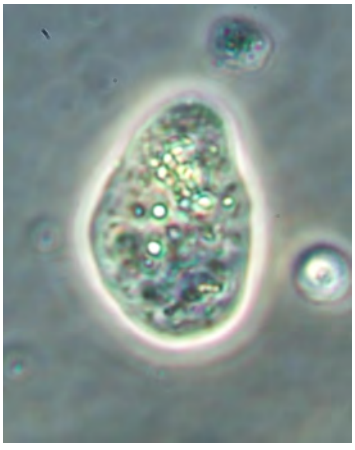
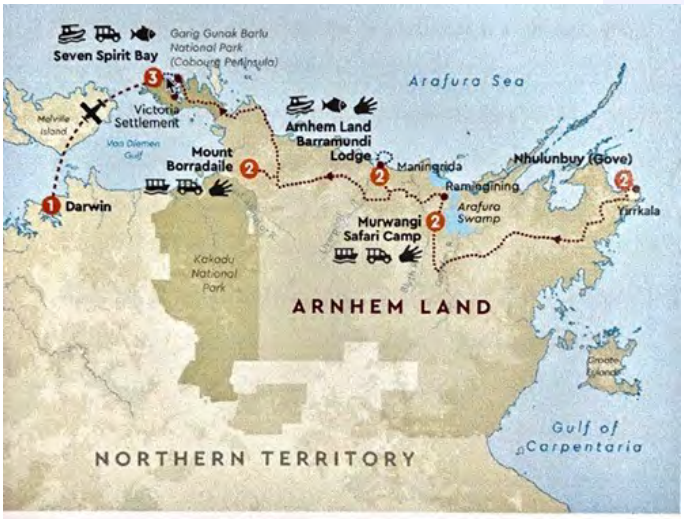


Photo 8. Active myxamoeba (Phase contrast)

Day Group

Travels in Arnhem Land
Speaker: Eve Kolar 26/7/22



In July 2021, Eve Kolar travelled to Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory on a small group, 13 day tour, run by Outback Spirit. Participants flew into Nhulunbuy, a purpose-built mining town where they spent two nights at Walkabout Lodge. The Gove Peninsula has a deep water port and a large bauxite mine, (due to be closed by 2030). An alumina refinery was closed in 2014. The land belongs to the Yolngu people. The small town of Yirrkala lies18k south-east of Nhulunbuy, with Gunyangara on the coast to the west. The Arnhem Space Centre has recently brought NASA to Nhulunbuy.

The Yolngu people have strong ties to their land and traditions. The didgeridoo is an important part of their culture. The Outback Spirit group were given a welcome to country and visited local art galleries and museums. East Arnhem Land has no escarpments or rocks so indigenous art is found on bark or hollowed out trees. The stunning works on display in Yirrkala included replicas of the Yirrkala bark petitions, created in 1963 and sent to the Australian Parliament. They are regarded as the first step in a process that eventually led to land rights being recognised decades later. It was of great interest to learn something from Eve of the history of the Macassans.

Every year around December from about the 1700s to 1907 a fleet of 50 to 60 praus (Indonesian boats), each carrying between 20 and 40 men, sailed from Makassar with the northwest monsoon winds to northern Australia where they set up coastal camps to catch, prepare and dry trepang (Sea Cucumber). The 1,600 km journey from Sulawesi to the Top End took about 2 weeks. The Macassans would collect trepang in the wet season and return to Makassar with the south-east (Dhimurru) trade winds around April. Some Yolngu visited Makassar with the fleets and later returned on the monsoon winds.

Leaving Nhulunbuy, the tour travelled south-west on the Central Arnhem Road through tropical savannah and melaleuca swamps with very many creek and river crossings.

Macassan Beach -Garanhan : restoration of late 1800's Yolgnu stone pictures. These were made by the Yolgnu elders to commemorate the visits of the Macassans from Sulawesi in Indonesia from about the 1700s . Visits ceased in 1907 when govt restrictions made things difficult.

The intricate stone arrangements depict details of the Macassan's boats, huts and preparation of the trepang

The next two nights were spent at the Murwangi Safari Camp beside the Arafura Swamp. Photographs taken along the way and around the accommodation included: king-sized trucks, water birds, Forest Kingfisher, Channel-billed Cuckoo, smoke from patchy burning off, raptors hunting prey disturbed by fire, grinding holes for ceremonial use found near a burial site, feral animals including brumbies, water buffalo and donkeys and crocodiles and lotus flowers in the extensive paperbark swamps.

The group visited the Bula'bula art gallery at Ramingining where indigenous artists used dyed natural materials to weave colourful matting.

After crossing the Cadell River, the trip continued onto the luxury Barramundi Lodge near Maningrida. From the lodge smoke could be seen from the fires burning in the valley to the west. Fern-leaf Grevillia was in flower. The art gallery was closed due to 'sorry business.' Maningrida is situated on a large estuary. As the roads are very poor, towns like Maningriba are supplied by sea with the barge, the Arnhem Trader, being in port. Outback Spirit's boat took the group fishing for barramundi along the mangroves of the Tomlinson and Liverpool Rivers where Eve took some spectacular shots of barramundi. (see p12)

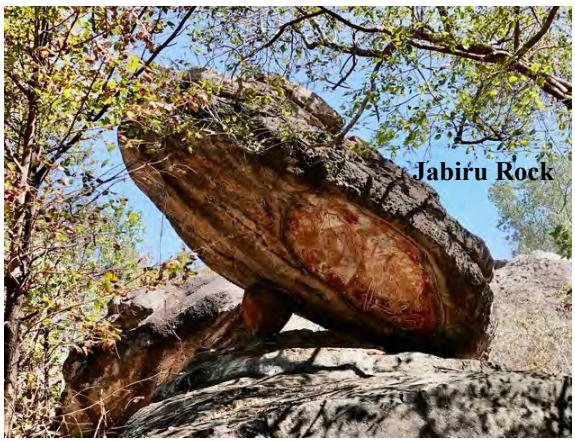
After two days at Barramundi Lodge the group headed for the stone country of West Arnhem Land, east of the Alligator River and just north of the western boundary of Kakadu National Park. The next two nights were spent at Davidson's Safari Camp, Mount Borradaile ,where, because of termites everything was built from metal. Delicate Agile Wallabies were grazing around

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

the camp. The area contains some of the most stunning rock art galleries in the world. The walls of many rock shelters are decorated with subjects that included the Short-eared Rock Wallaby, which could be identified by its tufted tail, the Rainbow Serpent and Lightning Men with axes on their elbows and knees. Habitation sites like Brolga Camp are notable for having many grinding holes. The paintings on the precariously balanced Jabiru Rock were of male figures with animal-like heads.


Mt. Borradaile


Jabiru Rock

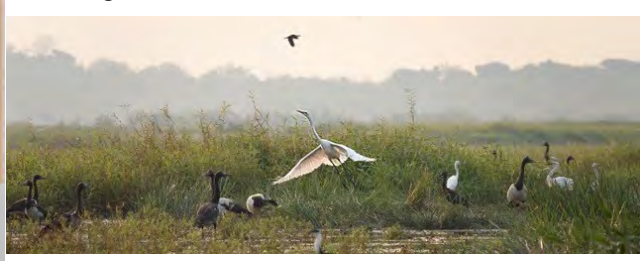
Travelling north onto the Cobourg Peninsula, the final three nights were spent at Seven Spirit Bay Wilderness Lodge. Some highlights of the program were: the ranger station, museum, Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, flowers such as *Jacksonia Dilatata*, whose stem acts like a leaf, Cocky Apples and Yellow Bladderworts and a visit to the ruins of the historic Victoria settlement. This site was the third attempt by the British to settle the north. Malaria, a cyclone in 1839 and insect pests such as termites took their toll. Supply ships never arrived. After 11 years it was abandoned. Banteng cattle are seen in the area. They were introduced from Bali between 1829-1849 and now number about 5000. Interestingly they are a feral species but are said to do no damage.


Barra off!


Agile Wallaby


Cooper Creek Lightning man

Detail of Lightning man




Victoria Settlement

The Magazine , Quartermaster's store (with huge brush turkey mound) and a stone foundation, left.

The short summary I have attempted can in no way do justice to Eve's talk which was very much a visual presentation, with a wonderful commentary. Her photography is absolutely outstanding and her expert use of Power Point has a lot to teach me. Arnhem Land is a part of Australia closed to most of us. It was a highlight of the Day Group's year to travel along with Eve and Outback Spirit and learn something of this magnificent country and the first Australians to whom it belongs. Zoom meant that a large number were able to enjoy the presentation. Special thanks to Eve for using this medium and to Max Campbell for his tireless work in training boomers to be zoomers and for overseeing numerous FNCV Zoom sessions.

My geography of Arnhem land was practically non-existent until Eve spoke to us. As has transpired, with the Garma Cultural Festival taking place a few days later near Nhulunbuy, I found myself much better able to relate to the place and the important issues raised.

Joan Broadberry
All images: Eve Kolar