



Understanding
Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No 339



Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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Governor of Victoria

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm

April 2023

From the President

There have already been numerous interesting meetings and excursions this year and more are scheduled so keep checking the Events Calendar. On May 7 we have the Annual General Meeting and it is important that you make every attempt to attend and have a say in the management of the Club. In particular, it is important that the SIGs confirm their coordinators and nominate their representatives on Council for the coming year. This must be done soon, at an upcoming meeting, well before the AGM.

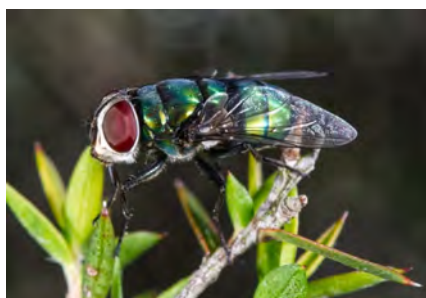
There is still a paucity of invertebrates in the places I have visited although a few interesting insects and spiders have appeared. There are a few *Rutilia* sp (Photo 1) and other bristle flies about but the predominate flies are calliphorids and sarcophagids. *Lucilia* spp (Photo 2) are present in large numbers. A few small flower spiders or crab spiders including *Boomerangia dimidiata*, blew into my garden, carried on silken threads by the wind.

Most gardens and parks currently have large numbers of the Passionvine Hopper, *Scolypopa australis* (Photo 3), a native homopteran feeding on a range of plants. There were large numbers of all life stages throughout Birdsland at a recent TIG excursion.

(continued on p. 9)



1. *Rutilia* sp, Tachinidae, Mali Dunes



2. *Lucilia* sp, Calliphoridae



3. Passionvine Hopper,
Scolypopa australis.

The due date for FNN 340 will be, as always, the first Tuesday in the month, April 4th 2023. Please use joan.broadberry@gmail.com

Index	Page
From the President	1
Calendar of events—April	2
Members' news, photos & observations	3
Fauna Survey Group — Mali Dunes: the big wet	4–5
Fauna Survey Group — Yarrara	6–7
City Nature Challenge	7
Some interesting East Gippsland finds	8–9
Microscopical Group	10
Extracts from SIG reports given at March Council meeting	10
Terrestrial Invertebrates Group —Birdsland excursion	11–12
Notice of AGM	13
AGM Nomination form	13
Proxy voting form	14

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 2023

Monday 3rd – Fungi Group Meeting: *To be advised.* Contact: Melvin Xu fungifncv@gmail.com

Tuesday 4th – Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Smiling at crocodiles.* Speaker: Andrew O'Brien, Zoo Keeper Melbourne Zoo. Contact: Sally Bewsher 9752 1418

Friday 7th to Monday 10th – Juniors Group Excursion: *Easter Camp at Mali Dunes in The Mallee.* Early bookings in advance essential. Details advised to Juniors by email. Contact: Adam Hosken adamhosken@gmail.com

Friday 7th to Monday 10th - Fauna Survey Group: Survey – Mali Dunes. Register with Andrej Hohmann. Andrej_hohmann@yahoo.com.au 0410 934 779. This is a separate event from the Juniors but they will be joining the Fauna Survey Group for some of the trapping sessions.

Monday 10th – Marine Research Group No Meeting: *Easter Monday*

Wednesday 12th – Marine Research Group Field Work: *Mushroom Reef Flinders.* Meet at 7.30 am. Register for more details with Leon Altoff 0428 669 773; 9530 4180 AH

Wednesday 19th – Microscopy Group Practical Meeting: *Compound, dissecting and digital microscopes set up for your use.* BYO specimens or view our slide collection with guidance & help with ID. Videos of live microscopic organisms. Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389.

Thursday 20th, Hall, 8pm – Botany & Geology Groups joint Meeting: *Early land plants of Victoria.* Speaker: Fearghus McSweeney, palaeobotanist. Contact: Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Saturday 22nd – Juniors Group Excursion: *Mount Rothwell.* Late afternoon “Tracks and Scats” education session, followed by BYO dinner, then night tour after dark. (Note: Sunset is 5.45pm). Registrations essential. Details advised to Juniors by email. Contact: Adam Hosken adamhosken@gmail.com

Saturday 22nd – Marine Research Group Field Work: *Rosebud Jetty.* Meet at 8.20 am. Register for more details with Leon Altoff 0428 669 773; 9530 4180 AH

Sunday 23rd – Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: *Starlings Gap.* Registration essential. Contact: Wendy Clark wendy.empathy@optusnet.com.au

Monday 24th – FNCV Council Meeting 7.30 pm via Zoom. Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare, admin@fncv.org.au Max will email the link.

Sunday 23rd – Fungi Group Foray: *Masons Falls, Kinglake West.* Register with Melvin Xu fungifncv@gmail.com

Tuesday 25th – Day Group No Meeting: *Anzac Day*

Wednesday 26th – Geology Group Meeting: *The roles of exploration and documentation of caves and karst in their management and conservation.* Speaker: Dr Susan White, Environmental Geoscience, La Trobe University
Contact: Ken Griffiths geology@fncv.org.au

Friday 28th – Juniors Group No Meeting



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:

Shirley Hope, Tianah Rakotowynen, Harinirina Rakotowynen, Gary Wynen, Philip Dubbin, Lynton Stephens and Geoff Hogg.

AIR PURIFIER

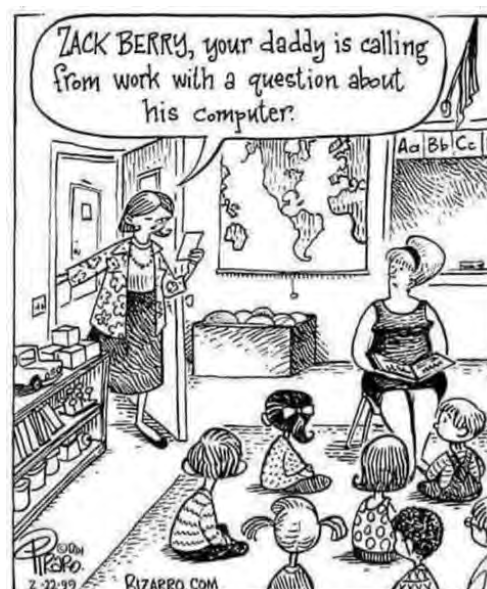
The FNCV has purchased an Inovair AirClean DV20, hospital grade air purifier to increase the flow of air in the hall.

It is still highly recommended that attendees continue wearing good quality masks and practice physical distancing and hand sanitising.

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

Thank you to all those who helped produce FNN 339

Gary Presland, Wendy Gare, Joan Broadberry, Sally Bewsher and Sheina Nicholls.



Correction with apologies from the editor:

The caption on photo 5 p4, FNN 338 should have read:

An Enamel Spider Plebs bradleyi, in broad daylight awaiting prey or possibly, a predatory bird.

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:

31,220 followers.

The capture and handling of all animals on FNCV field trips is done strictly in accordance with the Club's research permits.

Advertising in the Field Nats News

VERY REASONABLE RATES

Contact Wendy in the Field Nats
Office

admin@fncv.org.au

9877 9860

(Mon – Tues 10 am – 4 pm)



Fauna Survey Group

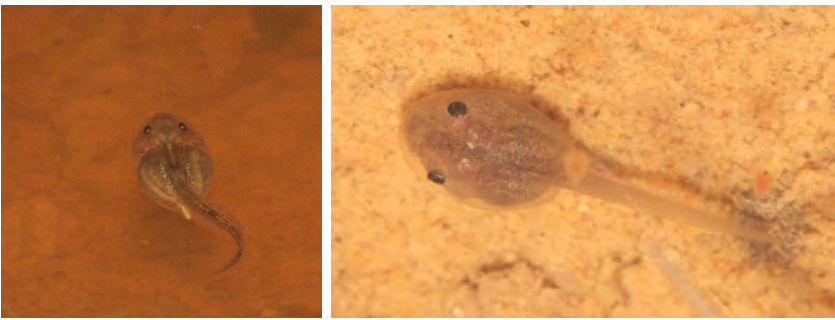
Mali Dunes: the big wet

At the end of October 2022, straight after the Fauna Survey Group's Yarrara Flora and Fauna Reserve survey, a very small group of us (Andrej Hohmann, Ray Gibson, and Ray White) swung past Mali Dunes on the way back home to Melbourne. We endeavoured to poke around the property and set up the club's wildlife cameras while we were at it. The weather was cold, wet, and raining, as it had been all week at Yarrara, and was only looking to get colder and wetter. So, we set about getting the cameras out as quickly as we could, which unfortunately did not leave a lot of time or opportunity for wildlife spotting. However, we did manage to see one Mallee Fowl strutting around, which was very pleasing to see.

Every cloud has a silver lining and, of course, that is: when it rains, the frogs come out to party. And party they did, so much so in fact that in the cold, still, humid night air we could hear them from over a kilometre away.

Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii* (unknown if *subspecies dumerilii dumerilii* or *dumerilii variegatus*) were heard calling from the farm dams along Millers Rd. Spotted Grass Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) and Eastern Banjo Frogs sp. were heard calling also, from a roadside puddle along Millers Rd. While not heard calling, some of the tadpoles seen in the roadside puddle belonged to either of the two Burrowing Frog species, either the Painted Burrowing Frog (*neobatrachus pictus*) or Sudell's Frog (*neobatrachus sudelli*).

We also found what appeared to be *neobatrachus* tadpoles on the property itself, in a small clay pan not far from the Dome.



We thought we already had a lot of rain at the property, but Mali Dunes was in for a drenching after we left. From 11 to 14 of November it rained 77 mm. It turned the clay pan puddle into a pond! The wildlife camera overseeing the clay pan captured these rather dramatic 'before and after' shots.



Ray White, Robin Drury, and Ray Gibson collected the cameras from Mali Dunes three weeks after we set them out. The 23 cameras captured a range of animals.

Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of cameras recording
Birds		
Grey Currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor</i>	7
White-browed Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>	4
White-winged Chough	<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>	3
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	3
Mallee Fowl	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	2
Shy Heathwren	<i>Hylacola cauta</i>	2
Southern Scrub Robin	<i>Drymodes brunneopygia</i>	1
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	1
Superb Fairywren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	1
Willy Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	1
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	1
Grey Shrike Thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	1
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>	1
Mammals		
Western Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	10
Mitchell's Hopping Mouse	<i>Notomys mitchellii</i>	4
Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	3
Pygmy Possum	<i>Burramyidae</i> sp.	1
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	4
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	3
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	2
Reptiles		
Stumpy-tailed Lizard	<i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>	7
Eastern Large Striped Skink	<i>Ctenotus spaldingi</i>	2



Not a lot of sunshine but still plenty of Rays.



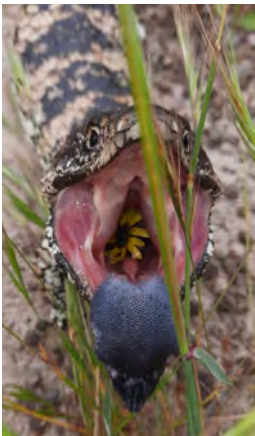
An Eastern Large Striped Skink exploring the camera box.

Super exciting are the records for Mitchell's Hopping Mouse *Notomys mitchellii* and Pygmy Possum. Unfortunately, one needs to get the pygmy possum in hand to know if it is Western Pygmy Possum or Little Pygmy Possum; cute either way. There were, of course, the usual host of scaly, furry, and feathered unidentifiable blurs on the camera images that will have to be identified to species through further surveys.

Mitchell's Hopping Mouse



Grey Currawongs doing their best to disrupt the cameras.



Two of Mali Dunes hardest working weed control staff displaying their annoyance at being interrupted in their treatment of Capeweed *Arctotheca calendula*. Quite the work ethic and if the water tank side talk is to be believed they are in a fact a long term couple.





Fauna Survey Group

Yarrara, 24–28 October 2022

This was the third in a series of surveys at Yarrara FFR by the Fauna Survey Group in partnership with Parks Victoria Biodiversity Science team. Two smaller reserves, Meringur and Mallanbool were also surveyed. These reserves protect rare mature stands of semi-arid woodland, including significant areas of woodland dominated by Belah. The primary aim is to survey for White-browed Treecreepers, and also reptiles, birds and small mammals. This time we stayed at the Parks Victoria depot at Werrimull, ‘Victoria’s most outback town’.

The White-browed Treecreeper survey comprises transects 500m x 60 m. The 12 transects in Yarrara are long established and were surveyed previously in 2014 and 2018 by FSG. This year squally rain showers interfered during the survey period and the full number of replicates were not completed but all transects were surveyed, and a number of White-browed Treecreepers found. Many other birds were seen during the transect surveys and from general observations. Some of the birds seen were White-browed Treecreeper, Hooded Robin, Red-capped Robin, Little Button Quail, Budgerigar, Cockatiel, Blue Bonnet, Mallee Ringneck, Mulga Parrot, Galah, Striped Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, White-winged Triller, Splendid Fairy Wren, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Rainbow Bee-eater and Wedge-tailed Eagle..

Western Grey and Red Kangaroos were seen, and we recorded Lesser Long-eared Bat and Inland Forest Bat in the bat traps.

Pit lines were set up for reptiles and small mammals and spotlighting was conducted for reptiles, frogs and other nocturnal species. Not a great amount was found in the pits, a few skinks, a Marbled Gecko and a House Mouse. Most of the other geckos were found while spotlighting. These were: Beaded Gecko, Bynoe’s Gecko, Spiny-tailed Gecko, Marbled Gecko and Tree Dtella. After recent good rains, numbers of Mallee Spadefoot Toads were found breeding in small ponds. Reptiles recorded during daytime searches were: Yellow-faced Whip Snake, Regal Skink, Bougainville Skink, Boulenger’s Skink and Stumpy-tailed Lizard.

Ray Gibson



Yellow-faced Whip Snake. Photo: Andrej Hohmann



Tree Dtella. Photo: Andrej Hohmann



Bynoe’s Gecko. Photo: Andrej Hohmann



Spiny-tailed Gecko. Photo: Andrej Hohmann



Beaded Gecko. Photo: Andrej Hohmann



Budgerigar at hollow in Belah. Photo: Raymond Gibson



Mallee Spadefoot Toad. Photo: Raymond Gibson



Setting pit lines. Photo: Raymond Gibson



The City Nature Challenge is a global event organised by the California Academy of Sciences and the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.

It's a bioblitz-style competition where cities are in a contest against each other to see who can make the most observations of nature, who can find the most species, and who can engage the most people.

Started in 2016 as a challenge between Los Angeles and San Francisco, it has grown rapidly.

The FNCV organised the CNC in 2020 taking in a few local government areas in the east of Melbourne. We were then joined in 2021 by eight eastern councils plus the Entomological Society of Victoria to form the **"Melbourne – Eastern Metropolitan area"**

observations: 7,629 (41st overall out of 419)
 # species: 1,106 (55th overall)
 # observers: 323 (41st overall)

The dates for the 2023 City Nature challenge are
 Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May

Further uploads & identifications:

Tuesday 2 May to Sunday 7 May

Results announced:

Monday May 8 May

Please watch out for events to join, or simply observe indigenous species in your own area and enter them on iNaturalist

If you would like to lead an activity for the 2023 CNC please contact

Sue Bendel possum56@gmail.com (representative for FNCV)

Some interesting East Gippsland finds

In November 2021, when COVID related restrictions on travel between Melbourne and regional Victoria were lifted, Christine and I decided to head off to far East Gippsland. I was hoping to locate three fire-promoted plants (all new to me) following the intense summer bushfires of 2019 -2020.

I had specific directions to one of the plants and knew the habitat and general location of the other two, having searched for them on previous visits without success. This time I was fortunate and managed to locate all three, as well as seeing several other uncommon, fire promoted plants.

Thelymitra incurva (Image 1) is a rare Sun Orchid recorded from a few grasstree plains east of Bemm River. It flowers well after fires but tends to be suppressed as the vegetation becomes dense a few years after fires.

Commersonia brevisetia (Image 2) is a woody shrub to about 2 metres high. In Victoria it is only known from one rocky ridge near Genoa. It germinates after fires but gradually dies out after several years. While the site is close to a track, the track had been closed after the fire and was heavily overgrown in places, making access more challenging than I had anticipated.



Calochilus pulchellus (Image 3, below right) is a rare, visually striking Beard Orchid described from NSW in 2006. It was first recorded for Victoria in late 2020, when it was found on a few grass tree plains in far East Gippsland.

At night I set up a UV light at our accommodation to attract invertebrates. We were staying at an apartment in the centre of Mallacoota, so I wasn't optimistic about anything noteworthy appearing. I was pleasantly surprised by the results, which included a Ground Beetle, tentatively identified as *Carenum bonellii* (Image 4 below left).



(continued on page 9)

A Weta, tentatively identified as a *Pterapotrechus* species, was another find. (Image 5). There are only three other Victorian records of both the Beetle and the Weta on the Atlas of Living Australia.

Some interesting invertebrate finds were also made during daytime beach and bush walks. These included a Leaf Beetle, *Paropsisterna octolineata* (Image 6 below left) and a Soldier Beetle, *Chauliognathus variegatus* (Image 7 below right).

This Leaf Beetle is rare in Victoria with most records coming from the Mallacoota area. The Soldier Beetle sighting is only the second for Australia, based on records in the Atlas of living Australia.

John Eichler



From the President (continued from p. 1)

My garden is also full of them. Green lacewing larvae actively feed on the smaller nymphs but, unfortunately, I have not seen any lacewing larvae at this stage. Normally they are present in significant numbers, running over the foliage searching for prey. On their backs they carry the desiccated exoskeletons of their victims and other materials (Photo 4). After hatching they may camouflage themselves with small pieces of plant material. The extra weight tends to make them wobble as they move. The bright green adults (Photo 5), are usually attracted in large numbers to the porch lights at this time of year. Although I found numerous rows of stalked eggs (Photo 6), I haven't found any larvae to date. The large numbers of Passionvine Hoppers may be related to the low numbers of predators about.

Max Campbell



5. Adult Green Lacewing

6. Green lacewing eggs with their characteristic stalks.

4. A tiny larva with an assortment of materials added to its dorsum.



Microscopical Group

Meeting 15th February 2023

This month's meeting focused on freshwater organisms. Members experienced an evening using our dissecting microscopes for low-power viewing of the many intact specimens available. Eight compound microscopes for high-power viewing were set up for the freshwater samples.

We watched videos of microscopic freshwater life prior to our sample viewing, seeing examples of the organisms we should expect to discover. We then demonstrated and prepared basic non-permanent slides for viewing of our samples.

Water samples were collected from: Hays Paddock in Kew, Tally Ho Lake in Burwood East and Nicholls Road Drain in Surrey Hills. All contained a fabulously diverse range of abundant freshwater organisms. Hays Paddock Dam which is densely fringed at the northern end with reeds was particularly rich in numerous ciliates. Tally Ho Lake is an example of storm water filtration, several densely planted settling and filtering ponds lead to a large shallow man made, rock lined lake. Samples from this area were particularly rich in diatoms, both in number and variety. While Nicholls Road Drain does not sound at all picturesque, it is a nice continuous 'trickle stream' with areas of small water plants containing a great variety of organisms within the minute plant structures.

Some of the many organisms we found were: diatoms, paramecium, daphnia, ciliates, a wide variety of rotifers, nematodes, eurycerus lamellatus, euglena, litonotus, stentors, lacrymaria, canthocampus, desmids, scendesmus and closterium.

Other samples were collected from Ashwood Wetlands and Gardeners Creek in Glen Iris, but they contained particularly poor diversity or number of organisms. To the eye, these areas looked in fairly good health with good surrounding vegetation but water samples proved otherwise.

Several attendees were new to both FNCV and Microscopy and expressed a keen interest in what was a great introduction for them to the wonderful world of microscopy. It was certainly riveting viewing and difficult to finish and pack up with such a wonderful range of samples to view.

We will continue to bring samples from these areas and from newly discovered locations at each Microscope Group meeting in the future.

Philippa Burgess

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group: Thursday 16 February

Geoff Lay spoke to the title: *A layman's guide to the flora of Victoria, with a focus on regions and their plants.*

More than twenty bio-regions were illustrated with Geoff's own flora images, species identifications and comments. From the Gippsland Lakes to Kow Swamp (near the Murray R), from Far East Gippsland, with the Errinundra plateau, to Wilsons Promontory, to Portland/Cape Nelson, or to the alps in winter: Geoff engagingly displayed and explained local adaptations of flora in Victoria. Sixteen club members attended.

Ken Griffiths

Geology Group: Wednesday 22 February *Unquiet Victoria. Tectonic activity over the last five million years.*

Speaker: Professor John Webb. Meeting cancelled due to speaker being unable to attend. It is hoped this meeting can be rescheduled.

Ken Griffiths

Microscopy Group: Meeting 15 February 2023.

This month's meeting was focused on freshwater organisms. Members experienced an evening using the dissecting microscopes for low-power viewing of the many intact specimens available. A detailed report appears above. A total of nine people attended, including newly joined members, a father and son from the Juniors Group.

Philippa Burgess

Terrestrial Invertebrates Group: Excursion Sunday 12 February 2023 to Birdsland, Belgrave.

There were twenty attendees who were divided into two groups, one led by Paul George and the other by John Eichler. The groups travelled in opposite directions around the lake. The photographers encountered numerous invertebrates as the weather warmed up after an initial downpour at 10.00 am.. Katydid, hemipterans, moths, butterflies, caterpillars, dragonflies and spiders were observed and photographed. After lunch the excursion continued into the late afternoon. Cup-moth caterpillar (Right). For a full report see pp. 11, 12 below.

Max Campbell



Photo: J. Broadberry



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

TIG Excursion Sunday 12-02-2023 to Birdland, Belgrave.

There were 20 participants who were divided into two groups, one led by Paul George and the other by John Eichler. The groups travelled in opposite directions around the lake. The photographers encountered numerous invertebrates as the weather warmed up after an initial downpour at 10.00 am.

Some of the invertebrates we saw were: various species of katydids, grasshoppers, flies, hemipterans, moths, butterflies, caterpillars, wasps, dragonflies and spiders and of course, many were photographed.

After lunch the excursion continued into the late afternoon. A selection of images can be seen below. To see more photos or to add records to iNaturalist use the following link.

The iNats project is set up at: <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/fncv-2023-birdsland-reserve>

Max Campbell



Searching for subjects Photo: Faye Campbell



A green variant of the enamel spider, *Plebs bradleyi*
Photo: Max Campbell



Monophlebulus sp. Giant Snowball Mealy Bug Photo: Max Campbell



Stream Lacewing *Oedosmylus tasmaniensis*
Photo: Torbjorn von Strokirch



A Swift or Ghost Moth, *Abantiades labyrinthus* Photo: John Eichler



Red & Black Spider *Nicodamus peregrinus*
Photo: Torbjorn von Strokirch



A large, infrequently observed
Longicorn Beetle *Cnemoplites* sp.
Photo: John Eichler



White-marked Ground Spider
Family Lamponidae Photo: Carol Page



Orange Threadtail *Nososticta solida* Photo: Carol Page



Elise's Fishing Spider *Dolomedes vicque*
Photo: Paul George



Mottled Cup Moth *Doratifera vulnerans* Photo: Carol Page



A Garden Katydid, *Caedicia simplex* Tettigoniidae.
Photo: Max Campbell



FNCV AGM

Sunday 7th May 2023 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: To be announced
Afternoon tea will be served. All welcome

Nominations for Council must reach the registered office of the Club no later than 48 hours before the AGM, i.e. Friday 5th May 2023, by 2 pm



NOMINATION FOR FNCV COUNCIL 2022/23

**The FNCV AGM will be held on Sunday 7th 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 5th May at 2 pm.***

1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn, VIC 3130 Phone 9877 9860

E-mail: admin@fncv.org.au



**The Field
Naturalists
Club of
Victoria Inc**

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Reg.
ABN

No A0033611X
55 791 612829

*Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC
Governor of Victoria*

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 2023 Annual General Meeting to be convened on Sunday 7th May 2023 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: _____ 2023

Understanding Our Natural World

Male Net-casting Spider *Joan Broadberry*



For only the second time I was visited by a male Net-casting Spider. It rested on the mesh of my cat enclosure for a day, which enabled me to photograph both sides of its body.

Once the male changes its shape and elongates its legs his only goal is to mate with a female. Although I searched diligently, I did not find a female, and overnight the male disappeared.

An article titled 'The Secret world of Net-casting Spiders' appears in *The Victorian Naturalist* volume 136 (4) August 2019, p. 153.

