



Understanding
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Field Nats News No 341



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

June 2023

From the President

The FNCV Easter excursion to Mali Dunes was a very successful event. Adam Hoskens and Andrej Hohmann did excellent jobs of organising the joint Juniors and Fauna Survey Group activities. The weather was an interesting mix of rain, wind, thunder, lightning and sunshine; sometimes alternating on a half-hourly basis. Nevertheless, teamwork prevailed and a very productive field trip was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank all of the participants who contributed so enthusiastically to the activities throughout the long weekend despite the sometimes trying conditions.

There is always something new to be discovered at Mali Dunes, and for me, this time was no exception. There are numerous *Lomandra juncea* tussocks (Photos 1 and 2 see p4) around the property which provide shelter and habitat for many organisms, notably spiders and insects. I counted up to 25 small to medium sized orb weavers, *Argiope*

(Continued on page 5)

The due date for FNN 342 will be as always, the first Tuesday of the Month, **Tuesday 6th June.**

joan.broadberry@gmail.com

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Max Campbell beside the new sign erected at the entrance to Mali Dunes
Photo: Barbara Burns





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.

June 2023

Sunday 4th – Fungi Group Foray: *Blackwood, Whipstick Loop Walk*. The foray will begin at 10.00 am and conclude at 3 pm. Meet at the Garden of St. Earth carpark (37°28'39.2"S 144°17'27.3"E). Please bring your lunch, a water bottle, and weather-appropriate clothing. Field guides and a camera optional.
(Melway p9 Q1) [Whipstick Loop Walk](#) Contact: Hamish Beshara, hamishbeshara96@gmail.com

Monday 5th - Fungi Group Meeting: *Ecotypic variation in the dual-mycorrhizas of tea tree (melaleuca alternifolia)*
Speaker: Luke Florence. Contact: Tobi May, tobi.fungi@gmail.com

Tuesday 6th - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Fauna of Christmas Island: from marine life to birds and threatened reptiles*. Speaker: Ken Hoppen (diver and photographer), Dr John Weiss (Agriculture Victoria) and Penny Richards (DEECA). Contact: Sally Bewsher 03 9752 1418

Saturday 10th to Tuesday 13th - Fauna Survey Group Survey: *King's Birthday weekend camp: Venue to be decided and details to be confirmed.* Please contact Ray Gibson: rgibson@melbpc.org.au 0417 861 651

Monday 12th - Marine Research Group. No Meeting: *King's Birthday Public Holiday*

Thursday 15th – Botany Group Meeting: *Victorian Rainforests: identification and boundary delineation using differential species keys*. Speaker: David Cameron, DEECA. Contact: Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Sunday 18th – Fungi Group Foray: *Firth Park - Anderson Mill Walk*. The foray will begin at 10:00 am and conclude at 3:00 pm. We will meet at the Firth Park Campground near the Anderson Mill trailhead (37°26'08.8"S 144°24'37.4"E). Please bring your lunch, a water bottle and weather-appropriate clothing. Field guides and a camera optional.
(Melway X297, E3) [Firth Park Campground](#) Contact: Hamish Beshara, hamishbeshara96@gmail.com

Wednesday 21st - 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. Freshwater pond samples will also be available. These are regularly abundant in multiple organisms including diatoms paramecium daphnia ciliates and rotifers, stentors, litonotus and abundant algae. Videos of live microscopic organisms.
Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

Sunday 24th – Juniors Group Excursion: *Yellingbo Tree Planting*. Registration in advance essential for all juniors activities. Time to be advised. Contact: Adam Hosken, adamhosken@gmail.com

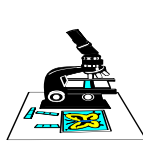
Sunday 25th – Botany Group Excursion: *Toolangi State Forest*. Meet at 11.00 am at the carpark at Wirra Willa Rainforest Walk. David Cameron will teach attendees how to use the rainforest field guide. You are invited to bring a picnic lunch. <https://goo.gl/maps/b1RCtb7E6dMjhSRL8> Contact: Ken Griffiths, botany@fncv.org.au

Monday 26th— FNCV Council Meeting: 7.30 pm. Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare, admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 27th – Day Group 10.30 am, coffee and a chat, speaker 11 am. *Amazing life cycles and other curiosities of insects*. Speaker: Wendy Clark. Contact: Joan Broadberry, joan.broadberry@gmail.com

Wednesday 28th – Geology Group Meeting: *To be advised*. Contact: Ken Griffiths, geology@fncv.org.au

Friday 30th – Juniors Group Meeting: 6.45 pm. *To be advised*. Contact: Adam Hosken, adamhosken@gmail.com



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.

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

Welcome
Welcome

Rebecca Rees, Jenny Huang, Professor Martin Harris, Whittlesea City Council, Archer Callaway, Aidan Powell, Hugh Adamson, Claude Adamson, Jasmine Salomon, Brad Prezant, Alice Drake, Caroline de Koning, Natalie Coote, Isabella Fong and Geoffrey Fong.

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.

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

FNCV Facebook
31,861 followers.

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 341

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher
Sheina Nicholls



Extracts from FNCV AGM minutes, 7th May 2023

Meeting commenced 2.10 pm.

1. **Welcome:** "We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present." Maxwell Campbell welcomed 28 members and two visitors: (Administration Officer for Minute taking and the speaker.) Two proxy votes were also registered.

2. **Apologies:** there was one apology

3. **Minutes of 2022 AGM:** were accepted

4. **President's Report:** *

5. **Treasurer's Annual Accounts for year ended 31/12/22:** *

6. **Appointment of auditor.**

7. **Special Resolution:** Annual revision of membership fees as recommended by Council. New fees will commence on 1st July 2023.

*The President and Treasurer's reports appear in full in the FNCV Annual Report which has been emailed to all members. Hard copies are available at the office.

Fee Type	Rate
Single	\$90
Family	\$116
Single Country/Concession	\$67
Family Country/ Concession	\$90
Student	\$41
Junior Family	\$54
Junior additional	\$18
Schools/ Clubs	\$103
Institutional	\$180
Institutional overseas	\$193



(Continued on page 4)

8. Environment Fund Recipients

<u>List of Successful Grants, April 2023, FNCV Environment Fund.</u>		
Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve Advisory Committee	Taxidermy of a Pacific Black Duck for display in the centre.	\$495
Andrew Christie, Lecturer Melbourne Polytechnic, President Marine Care Point Cooke.	Supplies to research the invasive species the Asian Shore Crab first detected in Port Phillip Bay in 2020 and spreading rapidly.	\$921
Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP)	Funding to buy a battery pack and charger for their line trimmer to remove weeds choking the endangered sedge <i>Carex Chlorantha</i> .	\$500
Marine Research Group FNCV	Funding for the cost of materials to self-print an update 100 copies of the MRG Pictorial Field ID guide. Cost each \$8.28.	\$828
Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater	Cost of equipment for a dedicated reptile survey for two endangered skink species at Yellingbo (The swamp skink – <i>lissolepis coventryi</i> and the glossy grass skink – <i>pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>).	\$685
		\$3,429

9. Presentation of Long Term Member's Certificate: One member has been awarded a certificate of Long-term Membership in recognition of being a member of the FNCV for a continuous period of 40 years. Alena Glaister was not present to receive her certificate. Congratulations and thank you for making such a valuable contribution to the club.

Bruce Fuhrer would have been due for his Long Term membership, but is recently deceased. His certificate will be forwarded to his family.

10. Election of 2023 council: Max declared all positions vacant and handed the meeting over to Gary Presland who ran the elections. A secret ballot was held to determine the six general councillors. However as council members representing SIG's have not yet been finalised the full council will be announced in the next FNN.

11. Launch: The Victorian Naturalist Digital Archive: Gary Presland and John Harris launched the Archive. Gary mentioned that he was also responsible for creating the previous archive which involved separating all of the first 70 bound volumes of the journal so that they could be scanned and transferred to a CD rom. It was therefore fitting that he should launch this new complete archive, and he read out a poem which he had written for the occasion. See also FNN 340 p6.

12. Guest Speaker: Sasha Herbert gave a presentation on her current research 'Reptiles, mites, microbes and people: Seeking insight into the bacterial biome of reptiles and their parasites'. An outline appears below, with a more detailed summary to come.

Wendy Clark gave a vote of thanks to Max for all of his work as President, in particular in matters of governance. He attends almost all meetings and excursions. This was met with enthusiastic applause.

A COMPLETE COPY OF THE AGM MINUTES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE.

Outline	
1 Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathogen, parasite or symbiont? • Vector-borne microbes • Mite-borne bacteria • Vector-borne bacteria in Australia 	3 Research design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotheses • Geographic range • Samples • Putting it all together
2 Reptile bacteria and ectoparasites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates for vector borne bacterial life cycles involving reptiles 	4 Funding and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgements • Funding • Call for participants

(Continued from page 1)



Photo 1. A typical *Lomandra juncea*, Desert Mat-rush tussock.



Photo 2. *Lomandra juncea*, Desert Mat-rush tussock flowers Aug 2022

trifasciata, Banded Orb Weaver, (Photos 3 and 4 below) in some of the tussocks, apparently living together in peaceful harmony and all appearing to leave their egg sacs together in the centre of the protective tussock (Photo 5, see p6). The ends of the leaves become hard and very sharp, making access difficult for would-be predators such as birds. I personally shed some blood whilst attempting to photograph the females in their webs. If disturbed they immediately drop to the centre of the tussock. Unfortunately, they all tend to sit in their webs, head down, with the dorsal side facing inwards making picture taking very frustrating. Even the slightest vibration may cause an immediate drop response and the only way to photograph their dorsal view is to risk a painful jab from the *Lomandra* spines while trying not to alarm the spiders. It was a little easier at night under colder conditions.

(Continued on page 6)



Photo 3. The dorsal view of *Argiope trifasciata* (Banded orbweaver) carefully taken from within the tussock.



Photo 4. The more accessible ventral view of *Argiope trifasciata*. (Banded orbweaver).

(Continued from page 5)



Photo 5 (left)

The view of the centre of the tussock showing some of the many egg sacs of these relatively social spiders which do not actually share webs but appear to tolerate each other's close proximity.

Photo 6 (below)

The Spotted Predatory Katydid, *Chlorobalius leucoviridis* dorsal view. A relatively large insect; this specimen measuring 72mm from the base of the antennae to the tip of the ovipositor.

A moribund, female specimen of the Spotted Predatory Katydid, *Chlorobalius leucoviridis* (Photos 6 and 7), was found by Claude and Hugh Adamson. It may have been stung by a wasp but was still moving to some degree. These insects are known to travel together in small groups. They are natives of Australia's inland, arid areas. Their spines assist in subduing prey; usually other insects including Katydidids. It is thought that they may mimic calls of other species of Katydidids to attract them as prey.



Please refer to the further reports covering the activities and discoveries of the Juniors Group and Fauna Survey Group.

Maxwell Campbell

All photos M. Campbell unless otherwise indicated.



Photo 7. The Spotted Predatory Katydid, *Chlorobalius leucoviridis*, ventral view.

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VERY REASONABLE RATES

Contact Wendy in the Field
Nats Office

admin@fncv.org.au

9877 9860

(Mon – Tues 10 am – 4 pm)

A note for all FNCV members:

Those who join the FNCV are entitled and welcome to attend ALL ACTIVITIES undertaken by the Club by any of its SIGs in accordance with FNCV requirements. Personally, I attend as many activities as I can and I encourage you all to come along and enjoy the many presentations and excursions on offer by FNCV. **Max**



Fungi Group

Masons Falls Fungi Foray

The FNCV Fungi Group visited Masons Falls in Kinglake West on Sunday 23rd of April. It was a mild, mostly clear autumn day, quite warm for this time of year. Perfect conditions for a gentle meander through the forest.

Riparian Forest and Damp Forest were the dominant vegetation types at the site, comprising a canopy of Messmate (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) and Mountain Grey-gum (*Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*) among others, a rich understory with Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*), Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) and tree ferns, and a diverse ground layer of herbs, ferns, grasses, mosses and of course, the fruiting bodies of our subterranean friends: the fungi.



Figure 1. Green Wood Cup (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*)
© Nicole Andrews 23/04/2023



Figure 2. Tall Mycena (*Mycena cystidiosa*)
© Torbjorn von Strokirch 23/04/2023

Being my first excursion with the FNCV Fungi Group I was glad to find myself surrounded by an experienced and generous group of fungi enthusiasts happy to share their knowledge.

After meeting up in the morning, we wandered as a cohesive group for a short distance in the open spaces around the car park and the picnic area, each of us being drawn here and there by a wonderful diversity of fungi, before diverging like so many hyphae, into smaller groups along different tracks and into the undergrowth in search of new specimens to photograph or add to our notebooks.

We stopped for lunch after a couple of hours, with many of us continuing for a couple more after our stomachs were full. By the end of the day we'd identified a substantial list of species including: Green Wood Cup (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*) (Fig. 1), Tall Mycena (*Mycena cystidiosa*) with its copious above ground rhizomorphs (hair like mycelial cords) (Fig. 2), Wine Glass Fungus (*Podoscypha petaloides*), Toothed Jelly Fungus (*Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*) (Fig. 3), the bioluminescent Ghost Fungus (*Omphalotus nidiformis*), the vivid Orange Pore Fungus (*Favolaschia claudopus*) (Fig. 4) and many more.



Figure 3. Toothed Jelly Fungus (*Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*)
© Torbjorn von Strokirch 23/04/2023



Figure 4. Orange Pore Fungus (*Favolaschia claudopus*)
© Reiner Richter 23/04/2023

Go to iNaturalist https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=any&project_id=fncv-2023-kinglake&subview=map&view=species to see more stunning photos of the fungi we observed.

Tzaddi Degan



Day Group

The Geology of Building Stones – observations in Victoria and England Speaker: Rob Hamson

“The topic of building stones is interesting because of the combination of geology with history, architecture and geography. It is particularly useful as a teaching aid. Accessible geological exposures are increasingly difficult to find. This is because of the closure of quarries to visitors (health and safety), the grassing over or concrete spraying of road cuttings, the traffic danger of visiting such sites and the general fencing off of building sites etc where rock is exposed.

This presentation will begin with some Victorian examples, (see below), then examples from a trip to England in March 2020 (p9) and finally return to Victoria to look at the Barabool sandstone (p9).”

Rob gave a very informative talk on building stones, which included a wealth of examples. He kindly allowed FNN access to his PowerPoint file. Considerations of space has meant it is only possible to publish a limited number of images, from each section of a much more detailed presentation.

On behalf of the Day Group I would like to congratulate and thank Rob for introducing us to a fascinating aspect of geology that was new to many. **JB**

Victoria



Foundations, Mt. Buffalo Chalet. Rock age: late Silurian, 400 M yrs.



Harcourt granite, Flinders St. Station. Right: Xenoliths or enclaves in Harcourt granite.



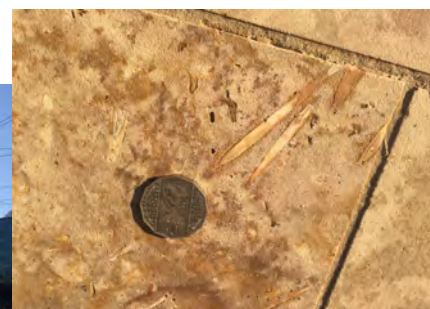
The Shrine, Melbourne.
Rock age: Devonian – 370 M yrs



Tallangatta porphyry, corner Russell and Victoria Streets. This rock formed in dykes. Rock age: Devonian.



Batesford limestone, age: Miocene – 16 M yrs. Magistrates courts, corner Russell and La Trobe Streets Melbourne. Parts of the Batesford limestone are composed largely of the foram *Lepidocyclina*, below.



Federation square: Fossil belemnites in Melligo sandstone from W.A. Rock age: early Cretaceous – 119 M yrs. Belemnites became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous.



England



Chalk and flint construction in Thetford, Norfolk, England



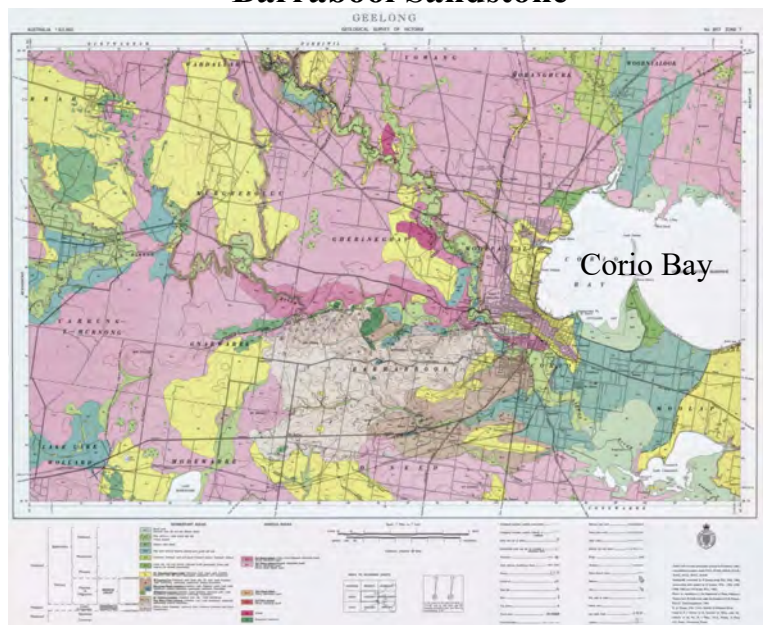
Tower of London: The White Tower with quins, window surrounds etc of dressed Caen stone from Normandy (Jurassic) with Kentish ragstone rubble infill.



Purbeck marble pillars in Salisbury Cathedral England. Fossil below: *Viviparus carinifer*



Barrabool Sandstone



The Barrabool sandstone, (*see grey area of the map above*) is an arkose - it contains more than 10% detrital feldspar which alters to clay. It was deposited by rivers in the opening rift between Australia and Antarctica. Source of sediment: pyroclastics from a volcano southwest of Cape Otway. Age: early Cretaceous 135 M yrs.



Barrabool sandstone with Waurin Ponds limestone surrounds to windows. Saint Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.



Barrabool sandstone, house on Spring Street Geelong. Detail right.



Extracts from SIG reports to the FNCV Council

Fauna Survey Group



Surveys:

Warby-Ovens National Park, 24-26 February 2023

This survey was primarily for reptiles. A small number were recorded, including two tree goannas and three species of skinks. Squirrel Gliders and Sugar Gliders were seen near the camp. The weather was hot and three members attended.

Bael Bael Nature Conservation Reserve, 10-14 March 2023

This was the seventh of the series of surveys in the grasslands near Kerang. The survey recorded only a few Plains Wanderers, Fat-tailed Dunnarts and Curl Snakes, but there were numerous Stubble Quail. This was the first year Yassom Swamp on Back Creek, an overflow of the Avoca River, contained water and numerous water birds were seen. A more detailed report is being prepared.

Mali Dunes, 7-10 April 2023

On this trip the Fauna Survey Group, accompanied by Juniors, set both pitfall and Elliott traps. Frogs have had a good breeding season and many were seen and caught. The only mammals trapped were a few house mice. We also deployed cameras which will be retrieved after a few weeks.

Meetings:

4th October 2022

The speaker was Robert Irvine, his topic being '*The Nest Box Program at Organ Pipes National Park. Birds, Sugar Gliders and microbats: successes and failures.*' Revegetation plantings took place between 1972 and 1979 which resulted in some habitat recovery. In 1989 the Sugar Glider nest box project commenced with 37 boxes. Parks Victoria reintroduced Sugar Gliders from Toolern Vale stock. Various designs of bird boxes were also installed. Commencing in 1992 and continuing over the next 20 years, the Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park commenced building and installing nest boxes. As well as being occupied by bats, some boxes attracted feral bees and some fell down.

8th November 2022

The speaker was Phoebe Macak, Wildlife Ecologist, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. Her topic was: '*A Review of nest box programs for native wildlife in Victoria*'.

Phoebe researched the nest box programs of CMAs, councils and 81 individuals, landcare, naturalist and friends groups, totalling 98 programs utilising 10,000 boxes. The main target species were: Phascogales, Sugar Gliders, Squirrel Gliders, microbats and a number of hollow dependent bird species.

Further reading: *The Victorian Naturalist*, Vol 137(1) 2020.

7th February 2023

This was a members' night, which featured Mark Smith reporting and presenting photos of a recent pelagic trip. Ray showed some of the photos from our first camera deployment at Mali Dunes, and Andrej spoke on how to navigate the intricacies of ParkConnect registration and volunteering system with Parks Victoria.

7th March 2023

The presenter was Matthew Le Feuvre, Senior Aquatic Ecologist at Jacobs and formerly of the University of Melbourne. He spoke on '*Triple Jeopardy in the Tropics: assessing extinction risk in Australia's freshwater biodiversity hotspots*'. Fresh water ecosystems are the most threatened in the global biodiversity extinction crisis. There are a million dams globally with 50% of fresh water captured. Forty-nine species of freshwater fish are found in the Kimberley, with 18 being regionally endemic. Compared to the Spangled Grunter, which has a very wide distribution in Australia, the Long-nosed Grunter has a limited range and is found only in the Kimberley. It has a low population and specialist requirements, making it an example of the triple jeopardy extinction risk in fish.

Further reading,

<https://mattlefeuvre.wordpress.com>

<https://farragomagazine.com/article/farrago/2015-03-23-drawn-to-science-triple-jeopardy-in-the-kimberley/>

Raymond Gibson

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

Launch of the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration

By Graham Ross and Glenys Grant

Reprinted from the *Eastsider News*, 17th May 2023

A huge milestone was reached on April 4 with the official launch of the Gardiners KooyongKoot/Creek Regional Collaboration. It will focus on protecting and improving the cultural, amenity and environmental value of the Gardiners Creek catchment to benefit the community and environment.

Almost 100 people were present at the launch. They included Federal MPs Michelle Ananda-Rajah, Monique Ryan and Carina Garland, many State MPs, local environmental groups, and Mayors and Councillors from the 5 LGA's within the Gardiners Creek catchment.

The 16 organisations that form the Collaboration include:

- sporting organisations AFL Victoria, Bicycle Network, Cricket Victoria, Football Victoria and Golf Australia;
- the Cities of Boroondara, Glen Eira, Monash, Stonnington, and Whitehorse;
- Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water;
- interest groups **Field Naturalists Club of Victoria**, KooyongKoot Alliance and Yarra Riverkeeper; and Deakin University.

Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) is an urban waterway originating near Blackburn and flowing through Burwood and Malvern East before following the Monash Freeway to the Yarra River (Birrarung). It plays an important role in providing open space, offering highly valued active and passive recreational opportunities as well as water and biodiversity values. The wider catchment includes Scotchmans Creek, Damper and Back Creeks.

The catchment has significant impact on the health of the Yarra River and in turn Port Phillip Bay. It is subject to poor water quality and pollution as a result of urbanisation in the region and storm water flows. The creek's indigenous Woiwurrung name, KooyongKoot, translates to 'haunt of the waterfowl'. Urbanisation has seen degradation of environmental positives, something the collaboration is determined to halt, protect and improve.

The Collaboration has a long-term shared vision.

- KooyongKoot and its catchment is protected, valued and loved, supporting diverse uses and thriving biodiversity.
 - As custodians of our natural environment, Traditional Owners play a key role in its management.
- Community and all stakeholders are working together to heal, strengthen and ensure the resilience of KooyongKoot and its catchment.

The Collaboration is seeking to form strategic and/or funding partnerships with government, business, community, educational and not for profit organisations to deliver projects and programs. These include a broadbased strategic plan for the catchment; a cultural values study and program (with Traditional Owners), and a data strategy, to collect baseline health data (biodiversity, water quality etc).

Whitehorse Mayor Cr Prue Cutts, said, 'I look forward as Chair of the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group to Whitehorse working with the other 15 partner organisations on joint projects.' She echoed the sentiments of all present. As Graham Ross noted, the Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration is important because Kooyongkoot doesn't care about administrative boundaries. 'We have to make decisions based on impact on the whole catchment. For example, pollution entering the creek at Springvale Road, Blackburn will make its way along 30 km of creek, going through multiple council areas before making its way to the Yarra River and the bay.

We all have our part to play in protecting this key refuge for flora and fauna including us humans. It contributes to our "green reprieve", our mental and physical wellbeing'.

Judith Sise is the FNCV representative on the Gardiners KooyongKoot/Creek Regional Collaboration.

Judith, Max Campbell, Sue Bendel and Su Dempsey attended the launch.

Our thanks to *Eastsider News* and authors Graham Ross and Glenys Grant for allowing FNN reprint their report on the launch.

Eastsider News is a free digital newspaper that reports to communities in the eastern part of Melbourne including the cities of Boroondara and Whitehorse and adjoining areas from Kew to Croydon.

www.eastsidernews.org.au





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Kimberley Wonders

13-Day Easy Camping Tour (assisted camping) - Departs Kununurra 28 July 2023 - Maximum of 12 participants

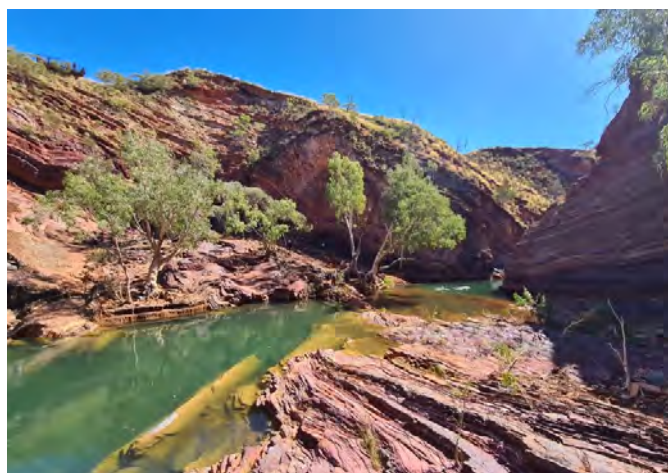
Join us in the Kimberley region of Western Australia; one of the most remote and unspoiled wilderness areas in the world. We explore Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park, the Gibb River Road, Parry Lagoons (great for wetland bird watching), Drysdale River Station and Silent Grove. There is also an optional full-day visit to the Mitchell Plateau to view Mitchell Falls, an incredible four-tiered waterfall, as well as Little and Big Mertens Falls.



Western Wanderer

14-Day Easy Camping Tour (assisted camping) - Departs Broome 19 August 2023 - Maximum of 12 participants

Head north of Perth for seabirds, marine-life, coral reefs and ancient Karijini National Park gorges. Highlights include a flight over the Abrolhos Islands with time for a short nature walk and snorkel, exploration of the Shark Bay World Heritage area including a visit to Monkey Mia, free time to explore the Ningaloo Reef in Coral Bay, camping at 80-mile beach, and two days exploring the wonders of Karijini National Park.



Mid West Wildflowers

9-Day Accommodated Tour - Departs Perth 13 September 2023 - Maximum of 12 participants

This tour has been designed to show you the magnificent diversity and abundance of flowering plants north of Perth, when they should be at their colourful best. Following the winter rains, WA wildflowers burst into bloom and transform the rugged golden outback landscape into a brightly coloured wonderland. The accompanying Naturalist will help you locate, identify and learn about the incredible wildflowers found in Western Australia, as we visit botanical hotspots such as Eneabba Wildflower Drive and Lesueur National Park.



Lord Howe Island

7-Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Lord Howe Island 30 September 2023 - Maximum of 16 participants

Lord Howe Island sits approximately 700 km northeast of Sydney in the South Pacific Ocean. It is World Heritage listed due to its astounding natural values. The beautiful landscape is dominated by twin peaks Mount Gower and Mount Lidgbird, while tall rainforests, thronging seabird colonies and lively coral reefs exist below. Only 400 visitors are permitted on the island at any time, so the human footprint is minimal. Your guide, Ian Hutton, is Lord Howe Island's resident expert; he will show you in seven days what would take you weeks to discover on your own.



Contact us for further information on these tours and for details of our full 2023 natural history expedition program.
Ph: 1800 676 016 or 08 9330 6066 - Web: www.coateswildlifetours.com.au - Email: info@coateswildlifetours.com.au