



Understanding
Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No 344



Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm

September 2023

From the President

ing jobs that need to be done around the hall and at Mali Dunes. If you would like to work on a particular job at a convenient and manageable pace don't hesitate to contact me via email.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the working bee (see p3). More working bees are to be organised to pick up the outstand-

The due date for FNN 345 will be, as always, the first Tuesday of the month,
Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Please use

joan.broadberry@gmail.com



Hardenbergia violacea,
Clayton garden 1-08-2023

Thankfully the cold weather is easing and we seem to be developing a pleasant pre-spring ambience with patches of warm sunlight. There is nothing more indicative of spring approaching than the appearance of our native flowers. My garden is starting to colour up with *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Wahlenbergia gloriosa*, *Chorizema cordatum* (WA native) and *Kennedia prostrata*; the latter bearing many promising red buds at this stage. The chocolate lilies are growing rapidly and the colourful *Brachyscome multifida*, daisies are flowering prolifically. Many are starting to bloom out in the bush and I am looking forward to seeing more of our native orchids flowering. It is interesting to see that my cultivated *Hardenbergia*, slightly crimson, are flowering synchronously with those in the wild at St Andrew's. However, they do not appear to be flowering at Yellingbo as yet. *Drosera spp.* are growing well but also don't seem to be flowering as far as I have seen.

Overall, I think it augers well for wildflowers and insects this coming spring so there should be some good TIG excursions again soon, hopefully timed for the increased emergence of native flowers and insects. Spiders will also be making their usual appearance and feeding on the insects. In fact, small orb web spiders are already appearing in my garden and there has been an increase in the numbers and types of flies, so there should be plenty of opportunities to practice and develop your macrophotog-

raphy skills.

It is clear that human activity is rapidly degrading the earth and its biosphere with many threatening processes acting in synergy to damage our waterways, atmosphere and terrestrial environment. One threatening process that immediately comes to mind is the use of rodenticides which are accumulating in the food chain. Some of the newer, Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) are far more damaging than the earlier First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs). SGARs are referred to as 'single-dose anticoagulants' and a lethal dose can be ingested in a single feeding, making SGARs substantially more potent than FGARs. Since SGARs are slower to break down than FGARs they



Hardenbergia violacea, growing wild,
St Andrews 1-8-2023.

Photo: Danielle Edwards

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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.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday 4th – Fungi Group Meeting: *Fungi down under part 2. Speaker: Dr Tom May.*
Contact: Melvin Xu fungifncv@gmail.com 0410 522 533

Tuesday 5th - Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Fire ecology and reptiles in the Little Desert: an understanding of indirect consequences of fire and fire management.* Speaker: Jaclyn Harris, PhD student, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University. Contact: David De Angelis 0409 519 829; d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au

Monday 11th – Marine Research Group Meeting: *No meeting this month.*
Contact: Leon Altoff 0428 669 773; 9530 4180 AH

Wednesday 20th - Terrestrial Invertebrates Group. Meeting: *Peacock Spiders. An introduction to the Victorian species you may find on field trips.* Speaker Wendy Clark. Contact: Wendy Clark wendy.empathy@optusnet.com.au
Max Campbell mcam7307@bigpond.net.au 0409 143 538; 9544 0181 AH

Thursday 21st – Botany Group Meeting: *To be advised.* Contact: Ken Griffiths botany@fncv.org.au

Sunday 24th – Terrestrial Invertebrates Group: *Field Trip to Buttongrass Walk at Bunyip State Park and then to Mortimers Picnic Ground.* Meet at 10.15 am for a 10.30 am start. Finish 3 pm. Registration essential.
Contact Wendy Clark wendy.empathy@optusnet.com.au

Monday 25th FNCV Council Meeting 7.30 pm. Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 26th – Day Group Meeting: *Travels in Turkey with Gary with particular attention to geographical*
Speaker: Dr Gary Presland, author, FNCV librarian, archivist and journal editor. 10.30 am. coffee and a chat. Speaker 11 am All welcome. Contact: Joan Broadberry joan.broadberry@gmail.com

Wednesday 27th – Geology Group Meeting: *To be advised.* Contact: Ken Griffiths geology@fncv.org.au



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



FUN FACT

The Mediterranean Sea and much of its surrounding land area, fits easily within the Australian continent.

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:

Enastin Helena Fernando, Nirosha Hapuarachchige, Ariel Voigt, Tim Voigt, Selena Papps, Melissa Prujs, Charli Prujs, Kari Matthews, Adrian Moorrees and Lauren Blair.

FNCV working bee 14th July 2023

Many thanks to those who attended:

Maxwell Campbell, Sally Bewsher, Karen Christensen, Sheina Nicholls, June Anton, Philippa Burgess, Carol Page, Grey Markowsky and Maryse Hermence.

Barbara Burns (photo below) couldn't make it on Friday, but instead worked on pruning, weeding and planting in the garden for several hours the day before.



Jobs done included: thoroughly cleaning out the kitchen cupboards, patching up holes and cracks in the outside brickwork, redoing the safety strips on the front steps, (photo right) checking the wheelchair ramp, sorting microscopes and some further work on the garden.

JB



Missing microscope—can you help?

While reviewing the microscopes during the working bee, it was noticed that the Olympus Zoom Dissector, part of a teaching class set, was missing.

It appears to have been removed without authorization. If you can help us find this valuable microscope, please contact Max.

Facebook followers:
34, 029

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

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.

Thank you to all those who helped produce FNN 344

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

(Continued from page 1)

pose a higher risk of secondary poisoning to non-target animals. Powerful Owls, Butcher Birds, Tawny Frogmouths and other predators are subject to the bioaccumulation of such poisons which will ultimately kill them. There are five SGAR active constituents currently registered for use in Australia: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, difenacoum and flocoumafen. This problem was the subject of an informative presentation at the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary on July 23rd by Associate Professors Raylene Cooke and John White from Deakin University. In addition to rodents, possums may ingest carelessly deployed baits which are passed on, thus also poisoning the predators that eat them.

We need to beware of what poisons we use in our everyday lives to control so-called pest species because many toxins persist in the environment. Insecticides and herbicides are also causing many environmental problems so it is a good idea to avoid their use altogether where possible. Always read the labels carefully and research the active components of poisons to understand their mode of action and their likely effects on both the environment and your own health and safety before using them. When the responsible authorities fail to effectively control and regulate the use of hazardous substances, it is up to all of us to regulate them ourselves if necessary. Many countries carefully control the purchase, distribution and use of pesticides and herbicides which are not so easily obtained by the general public.

Another threatening activity impacting Powerful Owls is the irresponsible reporting of their location on social media platforms including *iNaturalist* which has resulted in large numbers of people visiting these sites and stressing the birds.

Max Campbell, unless otherwise indicated, photos M. Campbell



Wahlenbergia gloriosa.
Clayton 1-08-2023



Brachycombe multifida. Large numbers of flowers



Chorizema cordatum (WA native)
brightening up the garden 1-8-2023



Sundews (*Drosera aberrans*) St Andrews 1-8-2023
Photo: Danielle Edwards

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Geology Group: Meeting 20th July

Prof Eddie Pang described Wilsons Promontory: its original people, its early reserve status, its geology, animals and vascular plants. Unfortunately it is over-visited. The Friends Group implements re-vegetation, using local seed, in the former air-strip region.

Eucalypts are planted out, needing wire protection from native herbivores. Similarly in the north of South Australia, plants in fenced reserves were predated by bilby, betong, pythons and even dingoes.

At Squeaky Beach middens and burial sites are sprayed for weeds, to avoid disturbance. A BushBank project at the Prom has been written up in the Sydney Morning Herald. 14 people attended.

Ken Griffiths.



Fungi Group

Foray, Greens Bush 2nd July 2023

A group of around 20 eager fossickers attended the Greens Bush foray on July 2nd 2023. Reasonable weather conditions prevailed with a heavy overcast day and the occasional light shower.

Located on the northern edge of the Mornington Peninsula National Park in the traditional Country of the Bunurong People, Greens Bush is a 900 hectare protected reserve with a mostly open forest dominated by *Eucalyptus viminalis*, Banksia and a large population of Xanthorea. Little fauna was identified on the day.

As is the usual practice, footwear was sanitised prior to entry and on completion of the day's work.

The predominant species were found on logs and rotting material, few items were found in the soil. There are a number of excellent slime mould observations taken. See page 6 for photos.

A note on camera and lens quality for the first two images. The image on the left was taken with an iPhone and tweaked in editing for clarity (and a little creative license on colour levels) whilst the other image was taken with a quality camera and macro lens.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fncv-2023-greens-bush-foray>

Scott Brunton



Genus *Mycena*—Bonnets



Cladonia verticillata Ladder Lichen

Photo: John Eichler
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



Honeycomb Coral Slime Mold
Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa



Phylum Mycetozoa – slime mould



Phylum Mycetozoa – slime mould



Fauna Survey Group Reports

Meeting, 6th June 2023. This was a triple speaker presentation: *Christmas Island fauna—conservation challenges and issues.*

Ken Hoppen, diver and photographer, covered the fauna of the island, on land and in the sea. Christmas Island is an island of crabs and the only place where good numbers of Robber Crabs, which grow to 4 kg, are found. Other crabs are the Blue Crab, a totally freshwater species, and Little Nipper Crabs. The Red Crab with numbers estimated to be up to 130 million, is well known for its migration to the sea to lay eggs which are consumed by plankton eaters such as Manta Rays, Whale Sharks and Trigger Fish.

Flying Fish Cove near the jetty has good snorkelling with many fish and corals. Other parts of the island have a sheer drop into deeper water.

Penny Richards from DEECA, presented the Blue-tailed Skink (*Cryptoblepharus egeriae*) recovery program. The Blue-tailed Skink is endemic and was once common with home ranges of less than a Ha, but is now extinct in the wild. Various threats causing the decline include: the introduced Asian Wolf Snake, Yellow Crazy Ants, rats and cats. Several captive breeding populations have been established.

John Weiss from Agriculture Victoria, covered threatening processes on Christmas Island which include the Wolf Snake, cats, rats and the giant centipede. Yellow Crazy Ants arrived in the early 1900s but it wasn't until after the introduction of scale insects which provided more food for the ants, that their population irrupted in the last 20-30 years. The ants kill the Red Crabs which are mainly herbivorous. This means the forest understorey is altered in the crab-depleted areas. Control measures have been undertaken against Yellow Crazy Ants and also against feral cats.

Meeting, Tuesday 4th July. Speaker: Sandi Czarka, Statewide Program Leader for Deer Control, Parks Victoria. 'Actions to control Deer on Parks Victoria managed estate across Victoria'.

The Parks Victoria deer strategy aims to primarily protect high value biodiversity in Parks Victoria estate and is becoming more urgent as deer populations increase.

The biggest problem are Sambar Deer which are widespread and do a lot of damage in alpine areas. Their population is expanding. Sambar Deer are wary and difficult to control. Fallow Deer also have a rapidly growing population and are present in many areas. Red Deer are found in the Grampians area and Hog Deer in South Gippsland.

In all areas deer are controlled to some extent with ground shooting done by trained volunteers. Aerial shooting is also effective in some more remote areas. In the Yarra Ranges there are many deer and which present problems with control efforts because of closer settlement.

Below is a link to a YouTube clip from the Invasive Species Network, which vividly illustrates the growth of deer numbers in Victoria 1920 to the present day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyuyHAYOBzU>



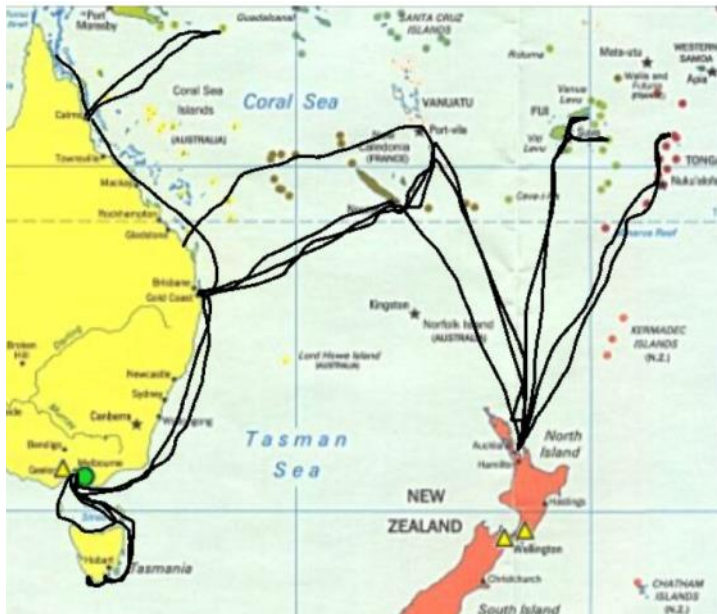
Ray Gibson



Day Group

Sailing the Pacific, including wildlife of some Pacific Islands. Speakers: Ken Madill & Di Young

In 2006, Di and Ken bought a ketch *Platinum IV* and, until it was sold in 2023, undertook many voyages along the Eastern Australian coast and into the Pacific Ocean, see below. This is a brief report on some of the highlights of their presentation to the July Day Group.



Platinum IV: two masted ketch, 47 feet in length with an 80 HP engine



One of their early voyages was to the Louisiade Archipelago in New Guinea where they came upon a boat stuck on a reef (photo right). Using their skills and equipment and working with capable locals, they spent several days helping to successfully refloat it.

Ken went on to give the Day Group a short tutorial on strategies to keep a boat safe.

1. **Keep it upright.** Maintenance is critical as is avoiding extreme weather. Do not sail in the cyclone season! Di and Ken did not set out until May/June and were back in port by December. This allowed them to take advantage of the trade winds, normally blowing steadily at 10-20 knots. Another critical factor is accessing up to date weather forecasts.

2. **Keep the water out.** Ensure that the boat is sound, properly maintained with effective bilge pumps and a strategy to deal with major leaks.

3. **Make it go where you want.** Must have a reliable motor and sailing rig. Prepare a clear plan of where to go and thoroughly investigate possible hazards. Location was by GPS with good reliable charts, both electronic and paper.

4. **Avoid collision.** Keep a regular lookout. Keep away from obvious hazards, such as shallow water. Only sail close to land and reefs when it is safe to do so. Have an AIS vessel tracking alarm and anchor alarm.



5. **Backup Plan.** Maintain regular communication with other boats and land based stations. Radio emergency contact, a serviceable life raft and an EPIRB (including one on a life jacket) should always be available.

Di then spoke about some of the wildlife encountered on their voyages. A large number of Humpback Whales (40,000 – 50,000) make their way from Antarctica to the Pacific Ocean during May and June, returning with their calves in September. After the horrendous slaughter of the 1800 and 1900s, whale numbers have recovered and they are now very much a tourist attraction. Di reported some wonderful interactions with the whales at places such as Coffs Harbour, Vanuatu and Tonga. For example, the beautiful sound of the males

(Continued on page 8)

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singing and a mother and calf diving under their boat.

Photo right, shows the whales' migration path to Tonga. A permit system for tourist operator allows visitors to swim with the whales.

Di's presentation included stunning video footage taken while she swam with the Humpbacks.



The Chesterfield Archipelago, photo left, made up of 10 coral cays/sandbars, is a nesting site for thousands of birds such as Masked and Red-footed Boobies, Frigate Birds and Noddies. Again video allowed the Day Group to appreciate the spectacle and the deafening noise made by the birds. In the water were Black-tipped Reef Sharks. Turtle tracks were everywhere. The females use their back flippers like hands to shovel sand as they dig their nests. Unfortunately

some turtles were unable to make it back to the sea, but they were too heavy for two people to rescue, see below.



Other wild-life seen were: eels, shore crabs, hermit crabs, giant clams and Christmas Tree Worms, photo below left.

Dolphins would play around the bow of the Platinum IV as it came in to anchor. Small fish could be lured in for a photograph with bread crumbs. At one point Di and Ken, worked with the locals to help clear Crown of Thorns Starfish from a cruise boat site. Especially admired were many species of nudibranchs, the Spanish Dancer being one of the most beautiful, photo below right.



It is difficult for this short summary to do justice to Di and Ken's engaging presentation. The audience, including many visitors, was one of the largest for some time. On behalf of the Day Group I would like to thank them for sharing their love of sailing with us.

Joan Broadberry
(All photos Di & Ken)





FNCV Environment Fund: Call for Grant Applications, 2nd round. *Due Date: Monday 9th October 2023*

The FNCV Environment Fund has the following purposes:

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

The FNCV Environment Fund is administered by a committee consisting of John Harris (Chair), Barbara Burns (Secretary and Treasurer), Ian Moodie, Cathy Willis, Bruce McGregor, Ian Temby, Philippa Burgess.

**The committee calls for applications for the 2nd round of funding for 2023.
Requests for projects between \$200 and \$1,250 will be considered.**

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

**Applications for this 2nd round of funding close *Monday 9th October, 2023 at 3 pm.*
Late applications will not be accepted.**

All applications will be acknowledged and results of applications communicated by
Friday 27th October 2023.

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

Additional information about the Fund is available at www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/

Please include the following information in the application:

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

Applications should be sent to:

**Secretary FNCV Environment Fund,
Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.,
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130.**

or emailed to admin@fncv.org.au

Your support is much appreciated.

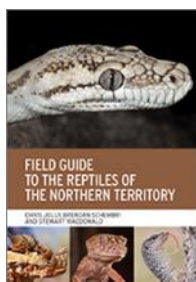
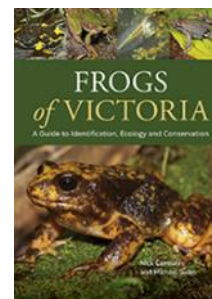
Donations to the FNCV Environment Fund are tax deductible.

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

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP (September 2023)

Whilst not showing a presence in the newsletter over the last few months, the FNCV Bookshop has been continuing as usual, selling books and acquiring new stock. The titles included here are some of the new titles which have been released, or are planned to be released this year. Most are currently in stock and all are available to order. The long awaited release of the next instalment of the digital archive of *The Victorian Naturalist* occurred at the AGM in May. The profits from the Bookshop fully funded the creation of the USB including all of the scanning requirements. The digital archive is the size of a credit card. The cost of postage nationally is the price of a regular letter. I would like to formally welcome Maryse to the Bookshop team. She is a welcome addition and will be attending to the bookshop orders, so they should be processed more quickly. To order or inquire about a book, please send an email to, bookshop@fncv.org.au and we will reply as soon as possible. Members receive a 20% discount. Non-members pay the recommended retail price, so become a member today. *Happy reading, Kathy*

Frogs of Victoria (N. Clemann & M. Swan) is an authoritative resource that provides the tools required to identify Victorian frogs. The book includes keys, photographs and comparative information on similar species, along with detailed information on the biology, habitats, status and threats to Victorian Frogs. Importantly, the authors also detail the urgent actions required to prevent further loss of amphibian diversity in Victoria. (PB, 180 pp., July 2023) RRP \$49.99, Member \$40.



Field Guide to the Reptiles of the Northern Territory (C. Jolly, B. Schembri & S. Macdonald) is the first regional guide to the crocodiles, turtles, lizards and snakes of this megadiverse region in the Northern Territory. The book presents introductions to order, family and genus; keys to family, genus and species; and species profiles, including descriptions, photos, distribution maps and notes on natural history. It features profiles for the 390 species that occur or may occur on the land and in the sea of the Northern Territory.

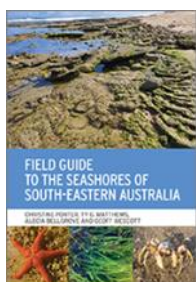
(PB, 424 pp., June 2023) RRP \$49.99, Member \$40

Strahan's Mammals of Australia (A. Baker & I. Gynther) is the 4th edition of the acclaimed "The Mammals of Australia" with the latest title paying homage to the contribution of the late Ronald Strahan. This edition has been fully updated and with completely reworked text and images and sees the addition of 14 newly described species. It includes all of the latest taxonomic treatments and many changes to names and other features that have been accepted in the 14 years that have passed since the last publication. (HB, 838 pp., 4th ed, May 2023) RRP \$199.99, Member \$160



Quail, Buttonquail and Plains-Wanderer in Australia & New Zealand (J. Forshaw) examines 14 species of these small, secretive ground-dwelling birds, including Old World and New World quail, the endangered Buff-breasted Buttonquail, the elusive Plains-wanderer and the extinct New Zealand Quail. Includes detailed species descriptions, key features, habitat, status, diet and breeding, along with information on eggs, calls and distribution. Each species is fully illustrated with exquisite colour identification plates by renowned wildlife artist Frank Knight. (HB, 200 pp., May 2023) RRP \$170, Member \$136

Aboriginal Peoples and Birds in Australia (P. Clarke) provides a review of the broad physical, historical and cultural relationships that Aboriginal people have had with the Australian avifauna. This book aims to raise awareness of the alternative bodies of ornithological knowledge that reside outside western science. It describes the role of birds as totemic ancestors and spirit beings, and explores Aboriginal bird nomenclature, foraging techniques and the use of avian materials to make food, medicine and artefacts. (PB, 344 pp., May 2022) RRP \$59.99, Member \$48

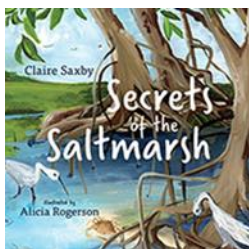


Field Guide to the Seashores of South-Eastern Australia (C. Porter, Ty G Matthews, A. Bellgrove & G. Wescott) features colour photographs, descriptions and ecological notes for around 240 species of the more common plants and animals found on rocky, sandy and muddy shores along the coastline from Port Lincoln, South Australia, to the Hawkesbury River, New South Wales, and Tasmania. This guide will allow beachgoers to learn interesting details about the plants and animals they come across, while also have sufficient scientific details for natural history enthusiasts. (PB, 228 pp., May 2023) RRP \$39.99, Member \$32

The Victorian Naturalist Digital Archive: Vol. 1 (1884) - Vol. 137 (2020), comprises 137 complete volumes of *The Victorian Naturalist* journal in word-searchable PDF's, grouped in three folders. Instructions on how to search these files is contained in the MS Word document 'Readme' on the USB. RRP \$88, Member \$70

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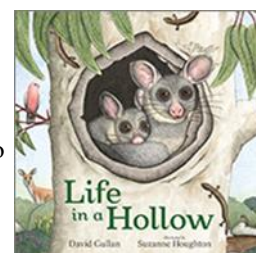
Secrets of the Saltmarsh (C. Saxby) offers a close-up look at the fascinating world of saltmarsh wetlands. Saltmarshes are full of energy and life, providing food and shelter for migratory birds as well as microscopic plants and animals. Explore the fascinating world of saltmarsh wetlands in this lyrical and beautiful picture book. The reading level is recommended for ages 5 to 9. (HB, 32 pp., Nov 2023) RRP \$24.99, Member \$20

The Great Southern Reef (P. Venzo & P. Francis) is home to giant kelp forests and fascinating animals such as rock lobsters, sea snails and sponges. Go beachcombing with Professor Seaweed and learn the hidden treasures of the sea. Explore the sandy beaches and discover marine curiosities that are washed up along the coast after a big storm. The reading level is recommended for ages 6 to 9. (HB, 32 pp., May 2022) RRP \$24.99, Member \$20



Alight: A Story of Fire and Nature (S. Lloyd) shares the story of Australian native plants and animals during a planned fire. Discover how the fire helps Christmas Bells grow new flowers and Wallum Banksia to open its woody seed capsules. Follow Antechinus and a tiny Wallum Sedge Frog as they face the danger of the fire – and the challenges that come after. The reading level is recommended for ages 6 to 9. (HB, 32 pp., June 2023) RRP \$24.99, Member \$20

Life in a Hollow (D. Gullan) is a lyrical story about the native animals who call a tree hollow in the Australian bush, home. Explore life in a tree hollow in the Australian bush and meet the native creatures who come to call a hollow a home. You'll be surprised just how many choose to move in! You'll also discover the important role tree hollows play in the environment and how we can help protect them. Reading level recommended for ages 5 to 9. (HB, 32 pp., April 2023) RRP \$24.99, Member \$20



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

The July meeting had a small attendance on a cold winter's night. Wendy Clark gave a presentation, *Fascinating Lifecycles and other Curiosities of Insects*, some of which had recently been given to the FNCV Day Group. Her talk was fine-tuned for a TIG audience. Additions included: *Ledromorphs sp.* (Flat Headed Leaf Hoppers), *Monophlebulus sp.*, the Snowball Large Mealybug, and the full life-cycle, from eggs being laid to adult, of a local small Leaf Hopper in the genus *Eurymeloides*.

Wendy's presentation was very well received and there was plenty of discussion which is always of benefit. See the Day Group, FNN 343 p 12 –13, for a more comprehensive report. The TIG program for Spring/Summer was discussed to try to determine members' interests.

No field trips were scheduled as it is the winter dormant season. It was suggested that we start trips in September as the effect of el Nino could mean a drier summer ahead and maybe a warmer start to spring.



Monophlebulus sp.
The Snowball Large Mealybug



Flat Headed Leaf Hopper
Ledromorpha planirostris
nymph. Notice red mite on head.



Adult Leaf Hopper laying eggs.



Adult and juvenile Leaf Hoppers

Wendy Clark



Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialists in Nature Tours since 1986

- Informative naturalist guides • Small groups (6 – 12 participants) • Private charters available
- Fully accommodated, assisted camping, and remote camping tours

Christmas and Cocos Island

11-Day Accommodated Tour - Departs Perth 5 December 2023 - Max 12 participants

Two totally different islands, both are naturalist's wonderlands. Christmas island an extinct limestone, capped volcano, rugged shoreline and rain-forested terraces and the central plateau, Cocos Islands are palm fringed, sandy beaches, more like we think a tropical island paradise should be. The bird, plant and marine life on both islands are plentiful with a number of endemic species of plant and birdlife. We have set the timing of the trip to hopefully coincide with Red Crab migration, a truly amazing sight.



Botswana Wildlife Safari 2024

12-Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Maun 10 March 2024 - Maximum of 14 participants

We travel to Botswana in the green season, when the rains change the brown winter landscape into a lush green wonderland. Wildlife is looking fit and healthy, and offspring born in November and December are still young and small. It will be a treat to see this new life, especially in the Kalahari and Chobe areas. Migratory bird species from Europe, Asia and other parts of Africa will be in abundance, and water birds as well as dry land birds will be present in the Okavango Delta. We end the trip with the spectacular Victoria Falls, and a cruise on the Zambezi River.



New Zealand North or South Island Tours

14 or 15-Day Accommodated Tours – Departs 31 January or 17 February 2024 - Maximum of 12 participants

Coates has been visiting the South Island of New Zealand for over 10 year and delighting our clients with its natural wonders. In 2024, Coates will be running two tours to New Zealand and for the first time one will be touring the North Island. On our North Island tour we search for the finest forests amidst dramatic landscapes. From the beech forests to the ever-changing podocarp forests of the volcanic plateau, we study the intricacies of the forests, their birdlife and the landscapes on which they sit. We have also updated our South Island tour for 2024



Sri Lankan Wildlife, History & Culture Tour 2024

15-Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Colombo 12 March 2024 - Maximum of 12 participants

Sri Lanka is home to wild elephant herds, leopards, sloth bears, Asiatic buffalo, numerous monkey species and beautiful birdlife. The island features diverse habitats and plant life, as well as magnificent scenery and historic fortresses, temples, and monasteries. Ancient Buddhist traditions, teaching compassion for all living creatures, have paved the way for the country's long history of conversation. Highlights include Yala National Park and whale watching off the coast of Mirissa in search of Blue Whales and Sperm Whales.



Contact us for further information on these tours and for details of our full natural history expedition program.

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