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# Field Nats News No 350



Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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April 2024

## From the President

Welcome to the April FNN. The SEANA gathering is only weeks away and the Annual General meeting will soon follow that. If you intend going to the SEANA

gathering make sure you register as soon as possible. If you are planning to nominate for Council, please complete a nomination form before it is too late to do so. SIG representatives on Council need to be nominated as soon as possible.

I had of late been wondering if I still had a few species of small lizards living in my garden; they are all very elusive and difficult to observe at the best of times, and recently there has been a high level of predation by birds, notably Butcher Birds. However, I was not planning a destructive, ecological survey to check for their presence by rolling carefully positioned and established logs and rocks. As it turned out, the violent storm on February 13th provided some useful data in this regard. A few minutes of exceptionally violent gusts of wind, accompanied by large hailstones and driving rain forced a number of skinks and geckos to seek safety indoors. Two marbled geckos, a Weasel Skink and a few Common Garden Skinks took up temporary residence under the washing machine, cupboards and the refrigerator. We were able to round them up over a few days and release them into more natural homes in the front garden. The backyard and garden, from which they came, was covered in leaves and debris including ten large branches that were blown from enormous trees in the property behind us.

(Continued page 4)

The due date for FNN 351 will be, as always, 10 am on the first Tuesday in the month, 2nd April.

Please use:

[joan.broadberry@gmail.com](mailto:joan.broadberry@gmail.com)



Love bites or barely contained predatory behaviour ?



Copulating *Pseudomantis albofimbriata* (male on top). They can be brown or green.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### April

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Marine Research Group Field Work: Ricketts Point, incl. Watkins Bay.** Meet at 12.10 pm. Register for more details. Contact: Leon Altoff 0428 669 773

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Fungi Group Meeting: *Peziza in Australia*.**

Speaker: Luke Vaughan, Research Assistant at the National Herbarium of Victoria  
Contact: Tobi May [tobi.fungi@gmail.com](mailto:tobi.fungi@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Fauna Survey Group Meeting: *Monitoring and recovery actions for endangered Murray Hardyhead in Victoria*.** Speaker: Gabriel Cornell.  
Contact: David De Angelis 0409 519 829 [d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au)

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Terrestrial Invertebrates Group: Zoom Meeting: *Informal discussion of invertebrates*, seen or in photos, presented by members.** Contact: Wendy Clark [wendy.empathy@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendy.empathy@optusnet.com.au)

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Marine Research Group Field Work: Williamstown – The Jawbone** Meet at 10.15 am. Register for more details. Contact: Leon Altoff 0428 669 773

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Excursion: *Toorongo Falls*.**

**Registration essential** for more details. Contact: Wendy Clark [wendy.empathy@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendy.empathy@optusnet.com.au)

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Microscopy Group Practical Meeting: Compound, dissecting and digital microscopes set up for members' use.** Full instruction provided, workshops on slide preparation and toolmaking, freshwater pond samples containing abundant organisms, videos of live microorganisms. Hundreds of prepared slides and specimens for viewing. BYO specimens with ID assistance. Contact: Philippa Burgess 0409 866 389

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> – Botany Group Meeting: *To be advised*.** Contact: Ken Griffiths [botany@fncv.org.au](mailto:botany@fncv.org.au)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>—Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>. South Eastern Australian Naturalists Association (SEANA) get-together** at Phillip Island. Registration details in the second circular have already been emailed to FNCV members, to other field naturalist clubs and appear in FNN 349. If you need a copy of the registration form one is available on the website.  
<http://www.fncv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/seana-2.pdf>

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Geology Group Meeting: *Reefs, redox and Earth's evolution*.**

Speaker: Dr Ashleigh Hood, University of Melbourne. Contact: Ken Griffiths [geology@fncv.org.au](mailto:geology@fncv.org.au)

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – Fauna Survey Group Survey: *Red Bluff, Big Desert*. Prior bookings essential**  
Contact: David De Angelis 0409 519 829 [d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:d.deangelis@latrobe.edu.au)

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – Juniors Group 6.45 pm. Meeting: *To be advised*.** Contact: Adam Hosken [adamhosken@gmail.com](mailto:adamhosken@gmail.com)

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> - FNCV Council meeting**, likely to be held in the FNCV hall at 7.30 pm. Apologies and agenda items to Wendy Gare [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> – Day Group Meeting: 10.30 am coffee and a chat, speaker at 11 am. *The habitats of Victoria's Faunal emblems: the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum*.** Speaker: Sue Bendel, FNCV member.  
Contact: Joan Broadberry [joan.broadberry@gmail.com](mailto:joan.broadberry@gmail.com) or [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au)

Attendees are requested to register for excursions so that they can be contacted if there is a change in arrangements.

Registering also means that the leader is better able to plan activities.



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](mailto: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:

*Lily Moore, Wesley Moore, Justin Moore, Darcy Moore, Dr John Smith, Tate Mammerella, David Clark, Gen Blades, Lisa Hall, Angeline Tan and Janette Tunaley*



## FNCV AGM

**Sunday 5th May 2024 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:** **Dr. Tom May**, mycologist at the National Herbarium of Victoria, originator of Fungimap & past winner of the Australian Natural History Medallion.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, by 2 pm**

## An Important Reminder to SIG REPS

Max would like to remind us that each SIG leader must work with their group to elect a Council representative for the following year, to be ratified at the AGM on 5th May.

Ken Griffiths mentioned that he is trying to find someone to lead the Botany Group.

**Thank you to all those who helped  
produce FNN 350**

Joan Broadberry, Wendy Gare &  
Sheina Nicholls

[bookshop@fncv.org.au](mailto: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.

## Juniors monthly newsletter – new editor needed

Max has spoken to Zoe Burton who no longer has time to edit the newsletter. She has been trying to find a replacement. Members please consider if you know of anyone who would be interested.

Contact Max 0409 143 538 or the FNCV office [admin@fncv.org.au](mailto:admin@fncv.org.au).

FNCV Facebook followers  
40,867

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



(Continued from page 1)

They would not have enjoyed the following weeks of disturbance, chainsaw noise and power mulching required to reveal the sad remains of the back garden once again. At any rate, I now know that there are at least three species of small reptiles still living in the garden. It is not a survey method that I would recommend or be happy to repeat. I suspect that some spiders may have a level of intelligence or common sense commensurate with the reptiles; quite a few large huntsman spiders and some wolf spiders also moved indoors to be quickly, but gently, escorted outdoors once again.



Large numbers of previously hidden mantids and katydids turned up as the storm-damaged foliage started to dry off and I was able to witness a number of matings but never got to see if the male was eaten by the female as often happens. The male in the photos (page 1) still had his head after four hours of uninterrupted copulation. However it is noteworthy that he was chewing on the female's pronotum. They escaped into the foliage before the final scene played out.

All photos M Campbell  
Maxwell Campbell



Photo 1. Some of the foliage and large branches that upset the ecology of my garden.

Photo 2. *Saproscincus mustelinus* in the garden late 2023.

Photo 3. *Christinus marmoratus*, Photographed in the garden at night a couple of years ago.

Photo 4. *Christinus marmoratus* on its way outside again.

Photo 5. *Saproscincus mustelinus*. A Weasel Skink sunning itself at some risk on Angophora bark

Photo 6. *Saproscincus mustelinus* in the garden late 2023.

Photo 7. A male huntsman hiding indoors.



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Website: [www.fncv.org.au](http://www.fncv.org.au) Phone: (03) 9877 9860

**Nomination for FNCV Council 2024/25**  
The FNCV AGM will be held on Sunday 5th 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.....24

Name..... Signature.....Date.....24

\*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 3rd May at 2 pm.***



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Website: [www.fncv.org.au](http://www.fncv.org.au) Phone: (03) 9877 9860  
Reg. No A0033611X ABN 55 791 612829

**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 2024 Annual General Meeting to be convened on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 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: .....24






# Fauna Survey Group

## SHORT REPORT ON THE FNCV/PARKS VICTORIA JOINT SURVEY FOR THREATENED SMALL MAMMALS AND REPTILES AT POWLETT RIVER MOUTH. 8 – 11 February 2024.

Around 18 members of the Field Naturalists Club attended the camp together with up to seven Parks Victoria staff. Tim Schwinghammer and Andrew Constantinou, from Parks, were the main organisers. We camped at the Powlett River Caravan Park in a beautiful, grassy spot close to the mouth of the Powlett River. We were very fortunate with the weather and had three perfect days.

The primary survey method was the use of Elliot traps and by the Thursday evening the various teams had set out 175 traps at seven sites; two salt marsh areas, two tussock grasslands, one site of swamp scrub and two banksia woodlands zones. Target species were Swamp Antechinus and the White-footed Dunnart.



### Elliot Trap

They operate using a treadle plate mechanism, which is set off when an animal treads on a weight-sensitive trigger plate, baited with food, and springs the door closed.

*Source:* internet.

The final results of the survey are not yet available but my team caught and identified three Swamp Antechinus, a threatened species, and I believe other teams also caught some. Many Swamp Rats (native) were found in the traps and unfortunately too many house mice and black rats. No dunnarts were seen.

Other survey methods employed were harp trapping for microbats, shorebird monitoring by walking two stretches of beach and recording species numbers and keeping lists of incidental records, mainly frogs and birds, seen when people were moving to and from the various sites and also spotted around the caravan park area.

The results from the beach walking teams are set out below.

Williamsons Beach, Bass Coast, Victoria, AU Feb 9, 2024 11:51 AM - 12:55 PM Protocol: Beach walking (2.71 kms) 9 species.	Cape Paterson Coastal Reserve, Bass Coast, Victoria, AU Feb 10, 2024 12:02 PM - 2:01 PM Protocol: Beach walking (2.56 Kms.) 13 species.
Black Swan 6 <b>Hooded Plover 17</b> Silver Gull 31 Crested Tern 8 Little Pied Cormorant 1 Great Cormorant 5 Pied Cormorant 1 Grey Fantail 1 Welcome Swallow 2	Spotted Dove 5 <b>Hooded Plover 10</b> Silver Gull 13 Pacific Gull 6 Australasian Gannet 3 Little Pied Cormorant 2 Great Cormorant 4 Pied Cormorant 2 White-faced Heron 2 Australian White Ibis 6 Australian Magpie 2 Little Raven 24 Welcome Swallow 4

Four bat traps were set up in the evenings on the flyways around the park and a good number of microbats of various species were caught and processed. Several frog species were seen or heard and David De Angelis set up some fish traps for frogs and tadpoles in a small wetland area of the park. A general bird list was assembled which included Fairy Martin, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Cisticola, White-fronted Chat, Swamp-Harrier and Skylark. There was a scarcity of reptiles with few skinks

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and no snakes observed.

On the final days additional activities involved setting up tile grids and remote cameras at the seven designated site. The tiles provide artificial refuges for reptiles and small mammals such as dunnarts and will be a resource for ongoing monitoring. The cameras were employed at a number of suitable locations at each site and will remain for several weeks before being collected and the images examined for skinks, reptiles, animals etc.

**Barbara Burns**



Setting up bat traps at the Powlett River camp. Photo: Sally Bewsher

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



David De Angelis explaining the use of fish traps at the Powlett River camp. Photo: Sally Bewsher



## Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

### Botany Group: Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February

Our speaker Geoff Lay introduced us to the Kimberley region, starting at Kununurra and travelling south-west. The Ord River and Fitzroy River flow through the region. Numerous stops at river-gorges revealed sites suiting the highly adapted local plants, from Boab trees to grassland species. The heat and ancient soils are important features influencing plant growth. Geoff illustrated numerous species in his photos, citing genus and family. There are 5,000 different plants in the Kimberley. Fifteen people attended.

Ken Griffiths

### Terrestrial Invertebrates Group: February 11<sup>th</sup> Excursion to Eden Park, Whittlesea 2024

This was a well-attended trip to John and Kathy's property at Eden Park. The day was hot and sunny. Some of the group headed down the slope and started looking at the foliage and bark of some very large gum trees. This kept many of us busy for quite a few hours. Others progressed toward the dam and gully and ended up on the flats where regenerating small eucalypts grew. We found a number of *Doratifera* caterpillars (two

species) on the eucalypts, as well as other caterpillar species. Lunch was had on the well-situated, cool verandah overlooking the area. We headed back out once more for a short time before the heat became too much, and we went home.

Some examples of what was found were: Gum-leaf Beetles, larvae and eggs, Geometer caterpillars, Emperor Gum Moth and cocoon, Common Brown Butterflies, several moth species, *Amorbus* bugs, both juvenile and adult, dragonflies and damselflies, Longicorn beetles, weevils, a colourful *Rutilla* fly and a Thick headed Fly that looks like a wasp.

More can be seen on the iNaturalist project page

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/fncv-2024-eden-park?tab=observers>

### February 14<sup>th</sup> TIG Zoom Meeting

This is the first of the Zoom meetings that are to be held every second month between in-person meetings. Despite a few technical issues which inhibited some sharing of photos, (caused by Zoom doing an update just as we signed on!) all enjoyed a visual feast of observations. Highlights included the ant mimicking spider, *Li-gonipes* and its retreat, *Crexa* moth, Red Legged *Austronomia* Bees roosting and more.

Wendy showed an article on a Rove Beetle which had adapted to look like a termite. Its abdomen had grown and become shaped like a termite allowing the beetle to be accepted and fed within the ant colony. This article professed that it was the discovery of a new species, however Max remembered reading about it in textbooks many years ago.

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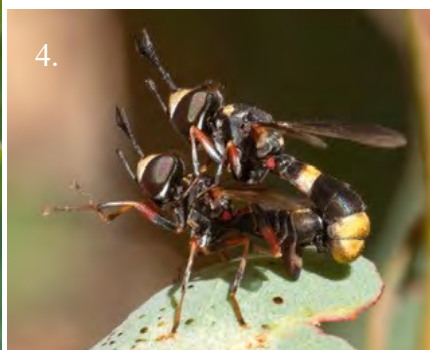


Photo 1. Four Spotted Cup Moth *Doratifera quadriguttata*

Photo 2. Weevil *Haplonyx* sp. family Curculionidae

Photo 3. Leaf-footed Bug *Amorbus* sp.

Photo 4. Thick Headed Fly family Conopidae



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After the meeting Max went through his *Insects of Australia* book and found the reference written up 50 years ago! It was in other text books as well. Much discussion was had around this issue as well as about the other photos that were shown or invertebrates that were seen. All enjoyed the meeting and are looking forward to the next Zoom meeting.

Wendy Clark

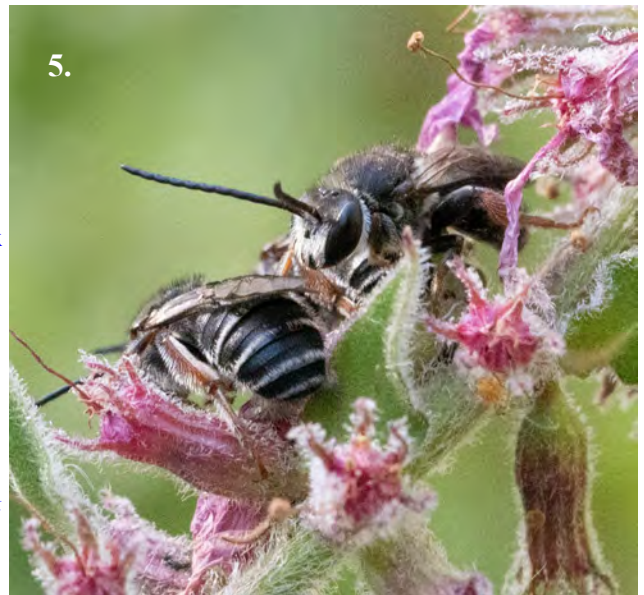
Photo 5. Red-legged Austronomia Bees, Blackburn

Photo 6. Crexa Moth male, eggs on grass from recently mated Female

Photo 7. Crexa Moth at rest

Photo 8. Rove Beetle Termite Mimic *Austrospirachtha carrioi*, this beetle is found beneath the soil in Australia's Northern Territory

All photos: W. Clark



## Advertising in the Field Nats News

VERY REASONABLE RATES

Contact Wendy in the Field Nats  
Office

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9877 9860

(Mon –Tues 10 am—4 pm)



## Day Group

**February 27th—Exploring the more remote areas around Mali Dunes with a focus on the many species of Australian native terrestrial orchids found in the Mallee.**

Speaker: Bill Kosky, FNCV member and active member of ANOS, (Australian Native Orchid Society.)



**Short and longer day trips around Mali Dunes.** Above: **Map of Locality** From *Outback Victoria* (Westprint). It and *Victorian Deserts Touring Guide* (Meridian Maps) are recommended.

[1] Mali Dunes [2] Milmed Swamp [3] Broken Bucket Tank Reserve [4] Red Bluff [5] Red Bluff Tk (aka Southern Firebreak Tk [6] Murrayville Tk [7] Tk from Murrowong North Rd [8] Taylors Rd [9] Best way into Ngarkat CP [10] Best route across to Pinnaroo Bordertown Rd .

\*Unless specified otherwise, tracks are 4WD. Ease of passage along sandy tracks is dependent on soil moisture and vehicle traffic. When moist and less used, passage is easy. Less so in dry times with heavier traffic. Some steeper dunes have work around tracks that should be used.

**Tracks:** The Murrayville Track [6] is bitumen to just past Broken Bucket then formed loose gravel which, when dry is OK for 2WD but is slippery and treacherous, even for 4WD, after rain. Plenty to see along its length, particularly in Spring.

The Milmed Rocks Track into **Milmed Swamp** [2] is a slow sandy bumpy track but OK for 4WD with care. There is one steeper sand dune on the east west return journey made worse by deeper sand in the run-up, and a bend in the track up the hill. Best take the work around track.

The **Milmed Swamp** is not a swamp but rather a clay-based oasis in the middle of a sandy desert. It begins on the Track some 25 km in from the Murrayville track, just past as small rocky outcrop (Milmed Rocks). It is an unspoilt natural wonderland containing a number of unusual native orchids. No toilets or formal camping grounds, but plenty of beautiful campsites well away from the main track.

Further on **Arnold Springs** and **Round Swamp** are similar but smaller. It is possible to complete a loop by continuing east then returning to Murrayville Track via Pells and Chinamans Well Tracks, but that is a long drive, and doesn't leave sufficient time to stop and smell the roses.

It is possible to access **Red Bluff** [4] via the Red Bluff Track [5] from (a) the Murrayville Track [6] ; or (b) a track from the north end of Murrowong North Road [7] ; and possibly via the firebreak track from the end Taylors Road [8]. However, there is plenty to see beginning at the Murrayville Track and travelling the 46 km to the SA border Red Bluff, stopping here and there at likely places. To access Red Bluff from the border intersection, turn left at the border for a short distance, then left again into Red Bluff. There is a small campground and toilets and a walking track up to the crest of one section of the bluff.

The **Red Bluff Track** from the Murrayville track for about two thirds of the way in is mainly clayey loam. This section is usually OK to drive but can be extremely difficult, to impassable, if water pools during, or after rain. In this section there are two parallel tracks both sides of

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the fire break. These offer an alternate route if one is impassable. Beyond that the track becomes sandy and there is a steep dune with a work-around track. There can be deep sand at the intersection with the SA Border Track. Approach it with care.

It is possible to travel to the **Ngarkat Conservation Park** from Red Bluff north along the Border Track then to Ngarkat via reasonably good sandy tracks [9].

**Broken Bucket [3]** is easily accessed by a made road. Plenty to see there including the rare *Pterostylis peakallanna* orchid (late October to early November).

There are a number of **small reserves around Mali Dunes** well worth exploring including several such as the **Yarrangook Conservation or Bushland Reserves**.

The **Big Desert Wilderness** contains a number of interesting rocky outcrops that may, in the longer term, be of interest to Field Naturalists.

### Some orchids to look for: *Pterostylis* (Greenhoods)

*Pterostylis peakallanna* (Right) [Broken Bucket and surrounds, Red Bluff; late Oct-mid Nov, ] Reasonably common at Broken Bucket (and suitable habitat nearby) in a good year. Rare or absent in a dry year. Rare at Red Bluff. The only other known population in a small reserve near Boort. Plants ~ 20-30 (-50) cm tall. Similar to *P. biseta* save that *P. peakallanna*'s labellum is fleshy, and the 2 (-2+) pointing bristles are divergent.



*Pterostylis biseta* (Left) [Milmed Swamp, Milmed Track, further north and east; mid Oct-early Nov]. Plants ~ (10-)15-30 cm tall. Its labellum is thin and warped, with 2 longitudinal translucent windows and 2 parallel pointing bristles. Colour varies from green to olive to brown, often a mixture.

*Pterostylis boormanii* (Centre below) Many at Milmed Swamp otherwise rare in NW Vic scattered in a few semi-arid places; Mid to Late Oct. Smaller than the plants described above, 8-15 cm tall, with smaller darker flowers. Labellum narrowly triangular. Upper part of lateral sepals semicircular.



*Pterostylis pusilla* (below) [Reasonably common throughout region, including Telopea Downs; Oct to Nov] Small.



My thanks to Bill from one orchid lover to another. Special thanks to him for providing a copy of his presentation of which only a portion has been able to be published. I hope to be able to include some more species next month. JB



**Mallee Nana** (right) [Red Bluff, Track to Red Bluff, disjunct in NW also Little Desert and SA; Aug to Nov] An unnamed taxon closely related to *P. nana*, with short slightly thickened brownish green lateral sepals.



**Diary Date:** SEANA get-together on Phillip Island Friday April 19th—Monday 22nd - hosted by FNCV.



**South East Australian Naturalists Association**





## Coates Wildlife Tours

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### Western Wanderer Expedition

**15-Day Easy Camping Tour (assisted camping) - Departs Perth 15 May 2024 - Max of 12 participants**

Spend 14 nights travelling from Perth to Broome and discover Western Australia's beautiful coastline and ancient Pilbara region. You will fly and land on the Abrolhos Islands, visit the HMAS Sydney Memorial & Maritime Museum, explore the Shark Bay World Heritage area, swim the Ningaloo Reef (perhaps alongside a Whale Shark), camp at 80-mile beach, visit Marble Bar (the 'hottest town in Australia'), and spend two days exploring the wonders of Karijini National Park. Tents and camp beds are put up and taken down for you on this trip by the Easy Camp Support Crew, giving you more time to relax and be in nature.



### Kimberley Wonders Expedition

**13-Day Easy Camping Tour (assisted camping) – Departs Broome 6 June 2024 - Max 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 National Park (the Bungle Bungles), the Gibb River Road and its many spectacular waterfalls and gorges, Parry Lagoons (great for wetland birds), Drysdale River Station, Windjana Gorge and Silent Grove. You will also take an 18-minute helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungles, and there is an optional (*at extra cost*) full-day visit to view Mitchell Falls, an incredible four-tiered waterfall.



### Tanami Desert Expedition

**14-Day Camping Tour – Departs Alice Springs 22 June 2024 - Max 10 participants (6 in lead vehicles & 4 tag-alongs)**

On this expedition you will explore some of the most isolated areas in northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory, including Newhaven Station, the Tanami Desert, Paruku, Wolfe Creek Crater and Keep River National Park. We hope to see a variety of arid zone plants and wildlife in the Indigenous protected area of Paruku (Lake Gregory and Lake Stretch), as well as freshwater species including Black Necked Storks, Brolgas, Black Swans, and Spoonbills. Join us for ancient desert landscapes, scenic gorges, inland lakes and clear starry night skies.



### WA Outback Expedition

**15-Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 11 September 2024 - Maximum of 6 participants**

This outback expedition follows two tracks built by the 'last real Australian Explorer', Len Beadell. Journey on the Connie Sue and Anne Beadell highways, passing through remote areas along the western side of the Great Victoria Desert, where we discover arid zone plants, wildlife, and landscapes. Two days are spent at the Eyre Bird Observatory, a favourite amongst bird watchers, and two days following the Granite Woodlands Trail, which passes through one of the most extensive temperate woodlands left in the world.



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

Ph: 1800 676 016 or 08 9330 6066 - Web: [www.coateswildlifetours.com.au](http://www.coateswildlifetours.com.au) - Email: [info@coateswildlifetours.com.au](mailto:info@coateswildlifetours.com.au)