Understanding Our Natural World
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Field Nats News No 379

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
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Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10 am – 4 pm **November 2026**

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The due date for FNN will be Monday 2nd November
Please use my email
joan.broadberry@gmail.com

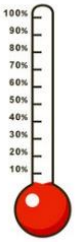
This month we have lots of news about fundraising. As I said in a previous President's Report, after 30 years in this building we have a lot of maintenance to do, as well as replacement of ageing equipment. The fridge won't see us through summer and we can't afford to keep food in there that won't reliably stay cold enough, especially as we hire out the hall and the hirers, as well as us, are likely to have functions during the festive season. Our photocopier/scanner has been repaired many times, and we were warned it is time to start looking for another. The exit signs need replacing and this requires an electrician following stringent new rules. These are a few examples.

Fund Raising Plans

To start with, we are holding **a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Box Hill on Saturday 31st October 8 am-4 pm.** This not only produces a good return for a day's work but gives us the opportunity to advertise our wonderful club. **Helpers are needed** – so if you have a couple of hours to spare, please let us know. Duties include cooking, assembling sausages on bread, taking payments, talking to potential members and more. Helpers are needed at two-hour intervals, four people for each two-hour block. Contact Judith Sise judesise@gmail.com See calendar of events page 3.

Trivia Night on Saturday 21st November

This will be a fun filled night with lots of interesting questions. Get a table together and join the competition. More details to come.



Now for the Big One! - The President's Appeal

We have a target of $10,000. The beauty of this is you can give as much or as little as you feel comfortable with and each month, you can watch tally with the progress icon. You can donate via the website (preferred) https://www.fncv.org.au/donate-to-the-club/ (Donation for general running of the club) or you can arrange payment at the office. We have done this several times in the past with great success, thanks to the generosity of our wonderful members.

Administration Officer

The other big item of news is that our wonderful Administration Officer, Wendy Gare, has decided to retire at the end of the year after 13 yrs of excellent service. So we will be looking for another person to fill that role.

More information to follow.

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Now Back to the things we love!

The warmer weather is here, the Greenhood Orchids are dying back, other wildflowers are appearing and I am seeing more caterpillars and spiders.

However, what is very obvious to me now is the bird calls. They are nest building, defending territory and calling for mates. I hear the weet weet of the Pardelote, the Ooom Ooom Ooom of the Common Bronzewing, the twittering song of the Grey Fantails and more.

The other day I was walking around Blackburn Lake when I heard a kek, kek, kek call repeated at intervals. My suspicions were aroused! I honed into the call and looked and looked. It was so close, but still hard to see. Then I spied it. I was correct, it was a Sacred Kingfisher, *Todiramphus sanctus*. I never cease to be amazed to see just how small they are. These beautiful Kingfishers arrive at Blackburn Lake around this time of the year to breed. Recently, there were two pairs and they have successfully raised chicks.

Sacred Kingfisher
Todiramphus sanctus

The other bird of interest I heard, had a downward trill call. It was a Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Cacomantis flabelliformis*. By the number of calls I heard there must have been quite a few at the lake. A few days later, they were all silent again or had moved on. Like most cuckoos, they lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. The Fan-tailed Cuckoo only lays one mauve-white with red and/or brown spotted egg in the nest of birds such as Fairy-wrens or thornbills. The nest preferred is usually domed in shape. They eat a variety of insects and their larvae, fruits and vegetables, small reptiles, mammals and birds, especially bird chicks. The cuckoo perches in an exposed position to locate its prey and then pounces, catching it in the air or on the ground.

Fantailed Cuckoo
Cacomantis flabelliformis

The next interesting bird call was in my backyard. It sounded like the chicka chicka call of a Willie Wagtail, but it came from up high in the middle of a tree. It had the right cadence, but not quite the right clarity and volume. I have seen Willie Wagtails in my backyard, but my guess is it was a Brown Thornbill, *Acanthiza pusilla*. They are known to be mimics and the ones that inhabit my garden often give the alarm call of a Common Blackbird. I actually saw one making that call. I would like to see the bird making the wagtail call though. I will keep watching.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

The birds are wonderful at this time of the year, but I must end with a couple of invertebrates. The first is a weird-looking, fast-moving insect found in my garden. A preliminary identification is a beetle larva. The next creature was a beautiful small Crab Spider (Family Thomisidae) – a male out looking for a mate. It often propped with its front four legs wide spread in ambush mode. However, my favourite photo is from its rear, busily runnning away on tip toe!

Enjoy being with nature!

Crab Spider Family Thomisidae

Wendy Clark

Beetle Larva
Suborder *Polyphaga*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS November 2026

All meetings are held at the FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn at 8 pm., unless otherwise indicated.
There may be changes to the program, for example due to extreme weather conditions or the unavailability of a speaker.
Please check with the FNCV website www.fncv.org.au or contact person for the most up-to-date information

Saturday 31st Oct - *FNCV fund raising Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings*, 259 Middleborough Rd Box Hill 8 am-4 pm. Helpers needed at two-hour intervals, four people for each two hour block. Contact: Judith Sise: judesise@gmail.com 0492 860 847

Friday 30th Oct - Tuesday 3rd Nov - Fauna Survey Group: Spring Survey*: Yarrara field trip,* survey for semi-arid reptiles, birds, and mammals. **Prior bookings essential**. Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651 or rgibson@melbpc.org.au

Monday 2nd – Fungi Group Meeting: 7 pm via Zoom and in the hall. ***Members' night: Planning the 2027 forays*.** Leader: Hamish Beshara. Come along to discuss next year's activities – Contact: Melvin Xu fungifncv@gmail.com

Tuesday 3rd - Fauna Survey Group: *No meeting*

Wednesday 4th – Sunday 8th Field Trip to Mali Dunes. Activities include Malleefowl nest monitoring, tiles and nest box checking and a working bee including tree guard removal, rubbish collection and removal. Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651 or rgibson@melbpc.org.au

Sunday 8th - Invertebrate Study Group: **Excursion: *Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve***, 9.30 am to 3 pm. Southern and Eastern end of reserve.
Bookings essential via email. Contact: Wendy Clark inverts@fncv.org.au

Sunday 8th – Juniors Group Excursion: *To be confirmed*
Information will be forwarded to Juniors by email.
Registration required.
Contact: Nicole Brown Nicole.vickridge@gmail.com

The 2026 Australian Natural History Medallion has been awarded to Nigel Forteath for his contribution to entomology, conservation and education. Nigel is a member of the Launceston Field Naturalist Club Inc. **The presentation will be made at a time and place yet to be determined.**

Wednesday 18th - Invertebrate Study Group Meeting: *The World Between Macro and Micro – A Practical Night*. Speaker: Max Campbell. Max will give an Introduction as to using microscopes for small Invertebrates - you can see them, but not the detail without magnification. Bring specimens to view. Contact: Wendy Clark inverts@fncv.org.au

Important

Those wanting to attend any FNCV excursion or camp MUST register with the leader at least two full days before the date of the activity. Some leaders may ask for registration to be earlier. After registering you will receive details of exact locations, meeting places and times.

There are several reasons for this. Attendees can be contacted if the activity is cancelled or arrangements change. It is also essential for insurance purposes.

Non-members are welcome to register and attend FNCV excursions. Club policy is that non-members, including juniors, are asked to donate $5 per meeting or excursion as a contribution towards Club overheads.

Note it is not necessary to register for meetings.

Thursday 19th – Botany Group Meeting: *The history and sex life of the ancient and intriguing Eupomatiaceae family*.
Speaker: Dr Frank Greenhalgh. Initially working as a plant pathologist for Vic Dept of Agriculture, in his retirement Frank has been undertaking research of *Eupomatiaceae* species which are native to Australia and New Guinea's rainforests and humid eucalypt forests. Contact: Philippa Burgess botany@fncv.org.au 0409 866 389

Saturday 21st – FNCV trivia night: Get a table together and join the competition. More details to come.

Sunday 22nd - Invertebrate Study Group: **Excursion: *Location to be advised*** 8 to 9.30 pm. Night walk
Bookings essential via email. Contact: Wendy Clark inverts@fncv.org.au

Monday 23rd – FNCV Council Meeting: 7.30 pm. Apologies and agenda items to FNCV secretary.
David Davies secretary@fncv.org.au

Continued page 4

Tuesday 24th – Day Group Meeting: 10.30 am coffee and a chat, speaker 11 am. ***Chasing Nature over 60 years.*** Speaker: Ray White, FNCV member**.** Contact: Joan Broadberry joan.broadberry@gmail.com

Wednesday 25th – Geology Group Meeting: ***Reading Earthquake Fingerprints with InSAR*.** Speaker: Dr. Israporn (Grace) Sethanant, Research Fellow in Earthquake Science, School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, the University of Melbourne**.** Contact: Ken Griffiths geology@fncv.org.au

Club policy is that non-members, including juniors, are asked to donate $5 per meeting or excursion as a contribution towards Club overheads.

Welcome

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

Bec Schwinghammer, Tim Schwinghammer, Zara Noar, Douglas Hillman, Christopher Hillman, Vera Lam, Margaret Brooke, and Son Thai

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

Facebook: followers 62,578

Why not have a look yourselves at the great photos and discussions that happen there?

Find us on Facebook

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Contact Wendy Gare in the Field Naturalists Office
admin@fncv.org.au
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for any orders or bookshop queries.

If you don't have access to email, please contact the FNCV office. Wendy Gare will pass on your message to Kathy Himbeck who will then get back to you.

Thank you to those who produced FNN 379
Joan Broadberry, Sally Bewsher and Wendy Gare.

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

EXTRACTS FROM SIG REPORTS GIVEN AT THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

BOTANY GROUP meeting 17th September 2026. Speaker: Peter Rogers from the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club. *Mistletoes in the Environment.* A report will appear in the next issue of FNN.

Philippa Burgess

JUNIORS GROUP Excursion to Blackburn Lake 13th of September

The trip to Blackburn Lake was led by Wendy Clark, the aim being to practice photographing flowers and invertebrates. Several families enjoyed a wonderful, warm and sunny morning. Many interesting creatures were observed including a parasitised caterpillar with the wasp cocoons next to it. Several Red and Black spiders (*Nicodamus sp*.) climbing a tree and a Wolf Spider running across the path were seen. Other highlights were: Maroonhoods and other Greenhood Orchids and a Tawny Frogmouth on its nest. Everyone observed plenty of interesting things and learnt the best way to photograph them.

Wendy Clark

Invertebrate Study Group: Excursion to Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough 5th September 2026.

The all-club trip to Cosstick Reserve and meet up with Maryborough Field Naturalists, unfortunately, needed to be cancelled due to a bad weather forecast of high winds, significant rain and potential thunderstorms. The trip has been postponed to a future date to be announced.

Marine Research Group:

No meeting. The National Biodiversity DNA Library project is continuing.

We are currently planning the next round of MRG training in field techniques to comply with our permits.

Mobile app update: Working with Google and Apple to recognise the FNCV as a legal entity so the developer accounts can be set up and the Apps published under the club's name has been, well, interesting. This included adding a TXT entry to the FNCV's DNS entry validating it with Google (thanks to Wendy Gare for organising this with our web provider) and updating the D-U-N-S number for the FNCV which contained mostly blank information and categorised the club as a drinking establishment rather than a scientific/environmental club. Testing continues on the Android App and Favourites have been added as suggested at last month's meeting. Writing the iPhone version has started but requires the developer to be set up before testing can commence.

Leon Altoff

MALI DUNES BOTANY SURVEY 17th – 23rd September

As always we got a lot done. The highlights were certainly the visits by Mark from the Murra Warra Windfarm and our botanical experts, Damien, David, Matt, and Amanda. Additionally we removed another trailer load of old wire guards, continued planting out our wind break on the western boundary, and put in some initial hollow hog hollows. And of course while we are at it checked some tile grids, nest boxes and ran the moth sheets.

I will write up the trip report and will circulate it for input. Please let me know if you would **not** like to be mentioned as well as pictured. Please send me any additional pictures or records from the trip.
https://drive.proton.me/urls/M7JFW7964C#i4ApUfjxQl05

Andrej Hohmann

Above: Pressing plant specimen collected at Mali Dunes

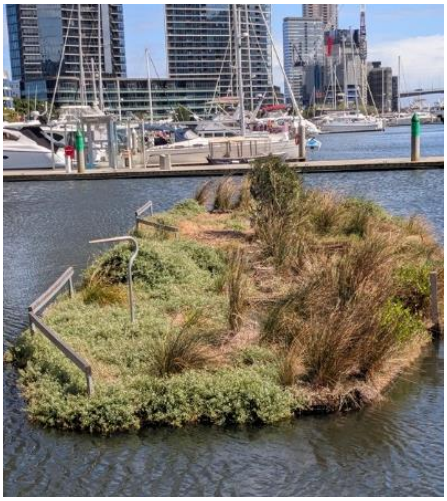
BOTANY GROUP

Botany Group Meeting Thursday 20th August
Birrarung Marr Floating Wetlands Project

Via Zoom, Skye Haldane, Dr Jacinta Humphry and Dr Kylie Soanes gave a presentation on the installation and process of the City of Melbourne establishing the Birrarung Trial Floating Wetlands project.

In the 12 months prior to installation, nine sites were monitored; three sites that would eventually receive floating wetlands, three that would not and three existing floating structures. For the first trial the focus has been primarily on wildlife that can be easily observed from the shore and will most likely respond to the habitat features installed.

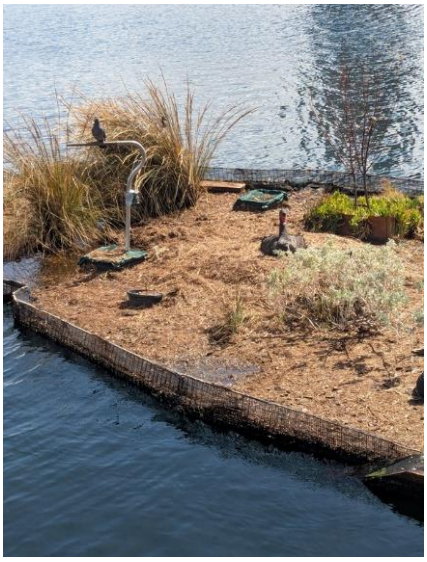
Each wetland has a unique planting, creating a wetland community tolerant of the varying salinity levels across the river. In total, 61 native plant species have been used from freshwater marsh, saltmarsh, mangrove swamp and tidal freshwater wetland ecosystems. Each wetland also includes a set of habitat features designed to encourage wildlife, including tapering perching posts, drying banisters, basking areas, sunken plantings that create habitat diversity above and below the water and easy access ramps.



Turning Basin

The local and native plant species chosen, reflect the plants that once grew along the lower Birrarung. This selection was based on a precolonial plant list compiled by botanists from the Arthur Rylah Institute. They include Saltbushes, Australian Salt-grass, Lignum, Knobby Club-rush, Chaffy Saw Sedge, Salt Marsh Rush, Coast Tussock-grass and Austral Sea-blite.

The platforms for the wetlands are constructed using interlocking buoyant modules. They are anchored to the riverbed using old tram wheels with heavy gauge chains allowing for movement with the tide. They are around 3 metres long and 1.5 metres wide. In December 2022 five floating wetlands were put into place at three sites along the Yarra River. These sites are the Turning Basin, Yarra's Edge and Victoria Harbour.



Victoria Harbour

The wetlands are regularly monitored and are visited by Eurasian Coots, Dusky Moorhens, Cormorants, Black Swans, Pacific Black Duck, honeyeaters, darters, Chestnut Teal and many more species. During one breeding season 21 Black Swan eggs were laid across the sites.

Yarra's Edge wetlands

Rakali have also been using the floating wetlands, feeding on mussels living along the anchor chains. Re-introducing native plants to the river is improving waterway health and encouraging the return of native wildlife. The vegetation, aquatic mammals and birdlife continue to improve as recorded in the monitoring performed by Jacinta Humphrey.

We have self-guided tour brochures available in the hall.

Philippa Burgess

INVERTEBRATE STUDY GROUP

Invertebrate Study Group Meeting September 2026

Unique habitats for orchids and their pollinators in the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve Speaker: *Dick Wettenhall*

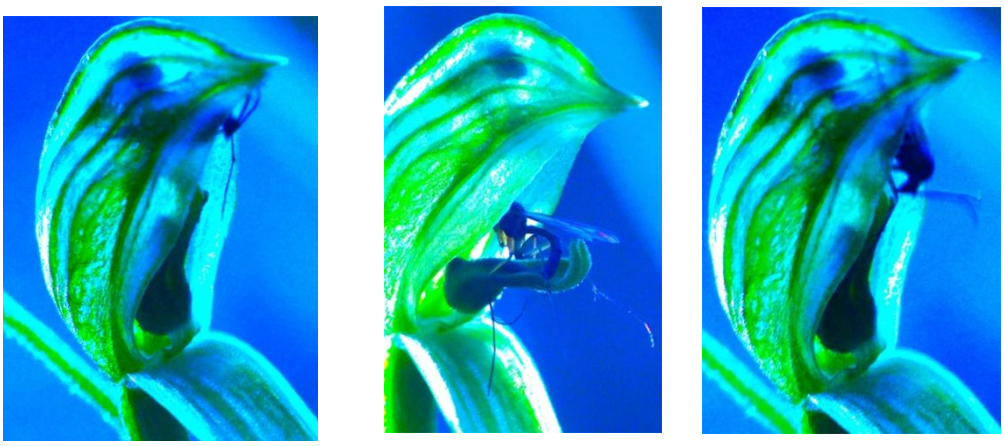
Dick gave us a wonderful presentation illustrated with many interesting photos of the habitat, the pollinators and of course orchids. He made his observations in the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve which is near Grantville on the Bass Highway. Below is a short rendition of his talk.

Different habitats in the Reserve. Each have different orchids within

It was a fascinating talk enlightening us on the pollinators of particular orchids and the techniques the orchid has for delivering and receiving the pollinia. The pollinators require the habitat near the orchid to have the plants and/or prey available for them to survive and thrive. Most orchid species have a pollinator that is specific to that species. Pollinia is pollen that is grouped into a sticky bundle that can be stuck onto the insect that comes into the orchid. The insect will then carry this to the next orchid that it visits and it will be removed by the orchid.

Lasioglossum bee with pollinia stuck to its thorax

Dick observed the situation of the Tall Greenhood where some of the plants had different pollinators. This suggests that instead of one species of Tall Greenhood, there may in fact be several – each with their own pollinator. He showed photos of the Fungus Gnats pollinating Greenhood Orchids and the intricate mechanisms the orchid has of forcing the insect to go where required.



Fungus Gnat triggers labellum, then contacts anther while escaping from green-striped leafy greenhood

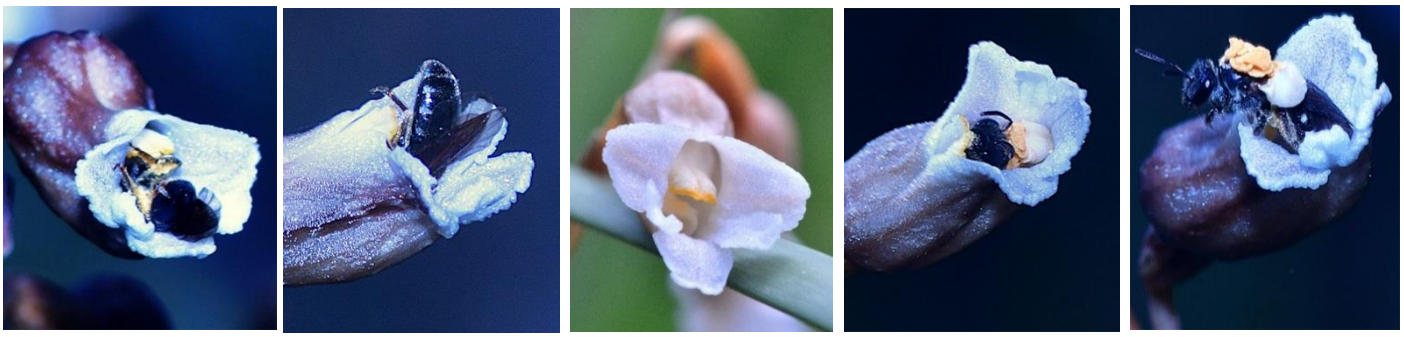
Other Pollinators and Techniques

Some orchids use pheromones to lure male wasps to pollinate them. They do not give the pollinators any reward. The pollinators are attracted by orchid sex scents that chemically mimic female pheromones. The labella resembles abdomens of female wasps and the males copulate (pseudocopulate) with the labella.

Male wasps lured by pheromones

Wasps and ants attracted by sugary foods

Some are bee pollinated



Cinnamon Bells pollinator enters flower upside down to feed on sugary pseudo-pollen on labellum

Dick showed us many other photos and different pollinators as well. For a more complete picture of this wonderful subject, I suggest you purchase his recently published books:

Guide to Orchid Paradise (2024): The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve
and *The Ecology of native orchids and their pollinators (2026*).

Wendy Clark

DAY GROUP

Day Group Meeting 22nd September 2026

Native Terrestrial Orchids of Melbourne's Fringe. Speaker: *Richard Austin*

At the September Day Group, we were fortunate to have Richard Austin speak to us about the many species of ground dwelling orchids to be found within a range of 50 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD. Of the total species of terrestrial orchids listed for Victoria, approximately 1/3 can be seen within an hour's drive from Melbourne. Richard is a past president of the Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS) and has encyclopaedic knowledge of his subject. He spoke without notes, with great enthusiasm, to give us an in depth look into some of the unique characteristics of terrestrial orchids and their pollinators.

First was a quick explanation of orchid anatomy. Orchids grow from small tubers. They have three petals and three sepals. Usually, the top one is the *dorsal sepal*, and the bottom two are the *lateral sepals*. The two side petals mostly look identical. The third, modified petal, the labellum, is typically the largest, most colourful, and most intricately shaped part of the flower. It acts as a landing pad for pollinators and often features ridges, calli, pouches, or nectar paths to guide insects inside. The column (or gynostemium) is the central organ formed by the fusion of the flower's male and female parts. It is often attached to, and works together, with the labellum in pollination. Other characteristics are that the plants die back annually for a dormant period and have a strong mycorrhizal association. The mycorrhizal fungi reside in the tuber and are unique to each species.

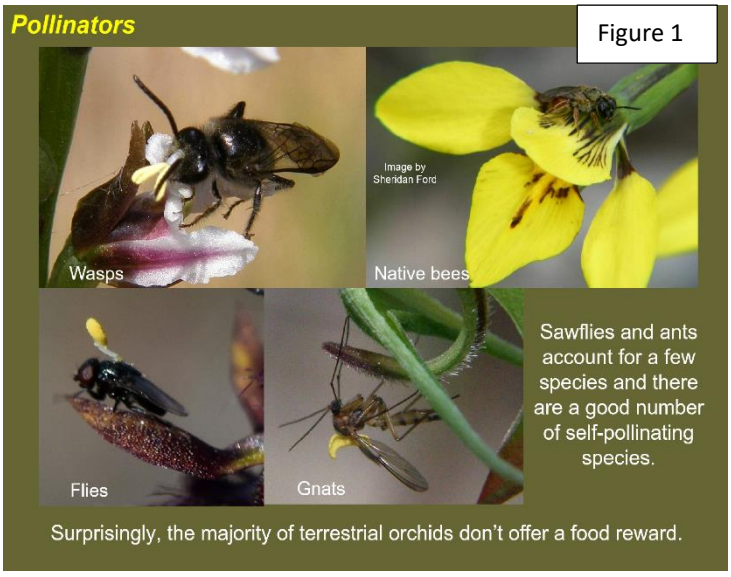


Figure 1

Two key features of orchids are that they mostly do not produce nectar and so do not reward insects that visit them nor use the wind to distribute pollen. Instead they employ complex strategies based on sexual deception to attract pollinators. This works by orchids mimicking a female insect's sex pheromones. The males, in the process of trying to mate with the orchid, transfer pollen packages to their bodies and then to other plants when they are fooled again by the same tricks.

Pollinators include wasps, native bees, flies and gnats. There is even an orchid, the Fringed Hare Orchid (*Leporella fimbriata*), that is pollinated by the baby bull-ant. Many orchids do not have a range of pollinators but rely on a single species. It is important when relocating orchids to make sure that the pollinator is present in the new location. See Figure 1.

Some orchids, such as the Flying Duck Orchid (*Caleana major*), in their pursuit of pollination by mimicry and sexual deception, have rearranged their anatomy. With this orchid the labellum is on top as the 'duck head'. It sits at the end of a sensitive strap and looks exactly like a small duck's head and bill. It is covered in dark, warty glands that secrete a chemical scent (pheromones) mimicking a female sawfly to attract a male insect. The column is broad and cup-like and forms the central cavity of the duck orchid. See Figure 2. Lured by the fake scent and appearance, a male insect lands on the hinged duck head and immediately the labellum snaps down, trapping the insect upside down. See Figure 2, small inset photo. When trapped inside the column pocket by the downward-flipped labellum, the insect is forced to crawl its way out, either depositing pollen from a previous visit onto the stigma or getting new pollinia glued to its back before flying away. It is assisted in escaping when, after a short while, the trap opens back up.

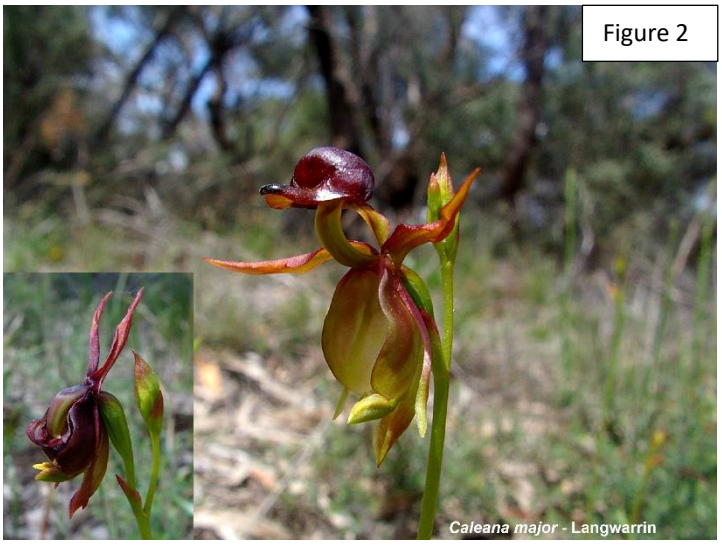


Figure 2

Some orchids practice floral mimicry of nectar-rewarding flowers. For instance, the Leopard orchid (*Diuris pardina*) and the Donkey orchid (*Diuris orientis*) mimic the pea flowers. See Figure 3.

Figure 3

In the second part of his talk Richard presented an overview of the orchid populations in five areas surrounding Melbourne. See Figure 4. The only area where orchids are not now present is the western volcanic plains where less than 1% of the original grasslands remain. He did not name specific reserves in the five areas and tended to concentrate on stories about the rarer orchids, mentioning when they were last seen and/or conservation work is being undertaken by The Australian Native Orchid Society and Parks Victoria at the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. Richard's remarks were illustrated by superb photographs of the orchids he was referring to.

Figure 4

Figure 5

He also gave us tips on identifying orchid species, explaining it is the column structure that normally identifies a species. This was illustrated with a number of slides showing that colour is not definitive. For example, the Great Sun Orchid, (*Thelymitra aristata)* can vary from blues to purple, lilac or white. See Figure 5.

Orchids often hybridize which makes them difficult to identify. A tip is if you see an unusual orchid and think it is a hybrid make a note of the surrounding species to help sort out what is going on.

Richard finished up with two interesting but not well-known facts about orchids. Firstly, in their evolution they share a common ancestor with lilies and secondly the Orchid family and the Daisy family are neck and neck in having the most individual species in the world.

Barbara Burns

LIFE ON A SENECIO By Wendy Clark

Often on my walks in the bush or in the local parks I see Senecios or Fire Weeds in open areas or at the sides of paths. They like good light and flourish at the edges of the bush. They are primary colonisers, rapidly appearing on disturbed ground or after fires.

Senecios are in the Daisy family (Asteraceae) that includes groundsels and some ragworts. The genus *Senecio* is one of the largest genera of flowering plants.

Poisons in the Plant Transfers to the Caterpillars

The plants have Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in them which are found in all *Senecio* species. These alkaloids serve as a natural biocide to deter or even kill animals that would eat them. Livestock generally do not find them palatable. Some caterpillar species have however learnt to tolerate these alkaloids that the *Senecios* have and use them as food plants. The caterpillar of the Magpie Moth, pictured below, benefits from the alkaloids as it imparts a distasteful or toxic effect if a predator tries to eat them.

I have been observing what lives on my local Senecios in Blackburn Lake. This year, they did not die down for long in winter and they even had caterpillars on them throughout all seasons. Probably the milder weather and good rain contributed to this.

Nearly all year round, the larvae of the Magpie Moth, *Nyctemera amicus* can be seen on the silver leafed Senecio*, S. quadridentatus.* This caterpillar is hairy, black with red and blue on them – classical warning signs of "don't eat me, I don't taste good." This bad taste is caused by the alkaloid in the plant's leaf as described above.

A caterpillar eating the flowers on a green Senecio

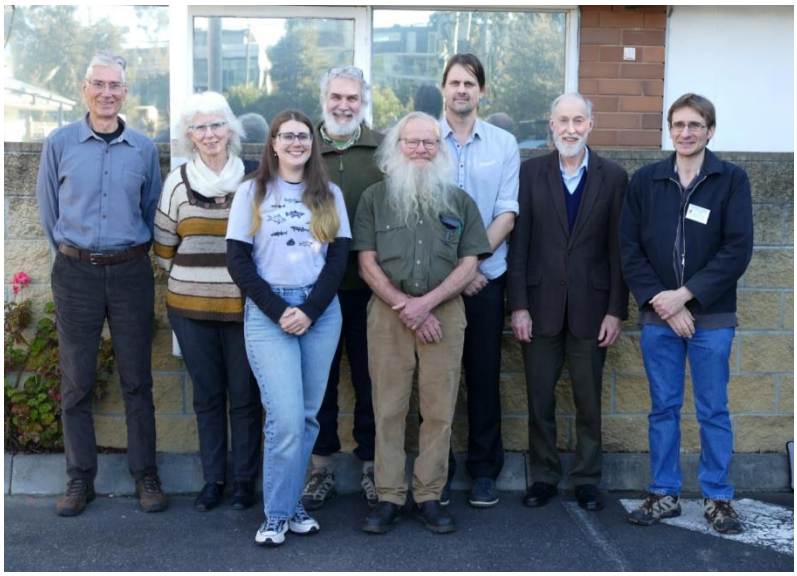
I noticed the Spittle bug has settled on this plant now (September), forming its frothy mass as protection and keeping the sap sucking bug moist and safe underneath it. Black Aphids are also starting to appear, which will bring in predators as well as ants that milk them. It will be a fascinating few months watching what arrives on these plants.

Watch out for the next update of Life on a Senecio to find out what will appear next.

FNCV BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

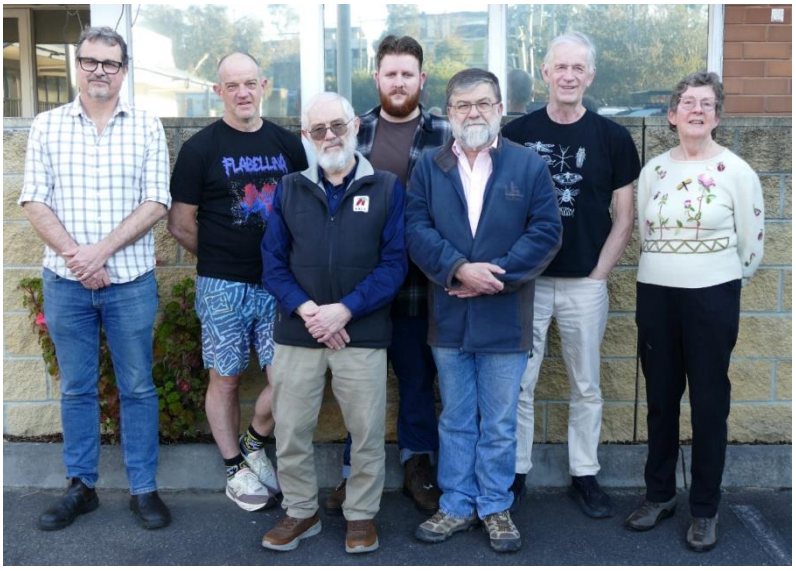
The FNCV Biodiversity Symposium of August 29th and 30th, 2026 was an outstanding success with very positive feedback from both presenters and delegates alike. Its goal was to deliver presentations from a wide range of disciplines, embracing sixteen areas of biodiversity to help broaden understanding of the "Nature of Biodiversity". From the feedback received, I believe that the symposium achieved that goal.

The event would not have been possible without the generous contribution of the speakers who volunteered their time to deliver sixteen outstanding, informative presentations. The organisation and catering for the symposium was, as ever, made possible by the efforts of the members of FNCV who worked tirelessly to make the event a success. The management team of the Blackburn RSL provided enormous assistance and support with the setup and availability of their premises.
The presentations embraced a broad range of disciplines including, vegetation, algae, bryophytes, forests, fresh-water fish, fungi, mammals, amphibians, arachnids, insects, protozoans, crustacea, reptiles, intertidal life, birds and invertebrates.



Presenters Day 1: (Left to right)
Peter Menkhorst, Dr Michelle Casanova,
Sarah Butler, Dr Tom May,
David Cameron, Dr Matt Dell,
Dr Graeme Lorimer and David De Angelis.

Presenters Day 2: (Left to right)
Sean Dooley, Kade Mills,
Maxwell Campbell, Eathan Douglas,
Dr Rob Walsh, Martin Lagerwey and
Wendy Clark. (Nick Clemann was not available when the photograph was taken.)



The FNCV Biodiversity Symposia are an important part of the FNCV calendar and we can look forward to the next one in 2027. Our symposia support the Club's stated goals and purposes by increasing our understanding of the natural world.

Maxwell Campbell