



Field Nats News No.217

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130
Telephone/Fax 9877 9860
www.fncv.org.au
email: fnnews@fncv.org.au

Editors: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218
Dr Noel Schleiger 9435 8408

Patron: Governor of Victoria

Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Reg. No. A0033611X

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9 am-4 pm.

March 2012

From the President

Dear Members, Welcome to the March edition of the Field Nat News. I hope that your Christmas and New Year were enjoyable and that you have settled back into your routines.

Over the break, I had the opportunity to spend Christmas in Western Australia with my fiancée's family. It was the first time I had experienced a WA Christmas and my first opportunity to see the local Christmas Tree, *Nuytsia floribunda*, in flower. This species is a root parasite of grasses, amongst other plants. The scientific name 'Nuytsia', is derived from Pieter Nuyts, a member of the Council of Dutch Indies and 17th century explorer in south western Australia, and 'floribunda' from the Latin *floribundus*, meaning 'profusely flowering'. *Floribunda* is very apt, as the trees that I saw often had very little foliage, but masses of flowers. (Photo below).

While primarily in WA to renovate a bathroom, I had many moments to stop and admire nature. I saw Long-billed (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and Red-tailed (*Cacatua banksia naso*) Cockatoos and Western Gerygone (*Gerygone fusca*), each day. After rain, I heard the Motorbike Frog, (*Litoria moorei*), well named due to its call. (Photo page 3)

Financial Issues

The final accounts of the FNCV for the year ending 31st December 2011 are not yet complete. They will be available at the AGM on 6th May and will be included in the Annual Report. However, we are looking at a substantial operating deficit of more than \$15,000. The Club has unfortunately been running at a deficit for the last couple of years. The situation has been exacerbated by, but not caused by the fire. More later.

(Continued on page 3)

.Due date for the April FNN, 218 will be **Tuesday 6th March** We will go to the printer on 13th March and collation will be on the 20th.

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



Index	Page
From the President	1-3
Calendar of Events	2
Members' news, photos & observations.	3- 4
Index to 2011 FNN issues -205-215	5-8
FSG Group News: Christmas camp at Dergholm State Park	9
Day Group News: Bird watching in New Caledonia	10
Club Diary Dates & Requests: Extracts from SIG reports	11
Camps & Excursions policy; Library News	12



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.

March

Saturday 3rd - Bat Group. Bat lover's Barbee. Yarra Bend Park, Bellbird Picnic Area, Mel. 2D K6. from 2.30 pm.
Contact Ian Kitchen 9795 7423. (This event was first advertised in February).

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th – Geology Group. Excursion - Western Port Geology. Leader: Dr. Eric Bird, Geostudies University of Melbourne. Contact: Kaye Oddie 9329 0635; koddie@bigpond.com

Monday 5th – Fungi Group. Meeting – *Macrophotography*. Speaker: Paul George Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 6th - Fauna Survey Group. Meeting - “*Insights into breeding shorebirds – the research paparazzi*”.
Speaker: Dr. Mike Weston, Deakin Uni. Contact: Sally Bewsher 9752 1418

Wednesday 7th – Bat Group. *Grey-headed flying-fox count*. Meet at Yarra Bend Golf Course carpark Mel 2D G7 at 7.30 pm.
RSVP Megan Davidson. 9380 5062; m.davidson@latrobe.edu.au. Prior registration of at least a week essential

Saturday 10th – Monday 12th - Fauna Survey Group. Survey - Wildlife survey in the Mt Samaria State Park (north of Mansfield). Prior registration of at least a week is essential. Contact: Robin Drury 0417 195 148; robindrury@hotmail.com

Monday 12th – Friday 16th – Marine Research Group. Survey - Surveying in the Inverloch area with low tides early in the morning. Please register for info on meeting places and times. Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180; 0428 669 773

Monday 12th – Marine Research Group. No Meeting.

Thursday 15th - Working bee FNCV garden. From 10 am. Please bring tools.
Contact: Heather Eadon 04 3754 1918; heathereadon566@gmail.com

Thursday 15th – Botany Group. Meeting – ‘*An introduction to sedges and rushes.*’ Speaker: Graeme Lorimer.
Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Saturday 17th – Botany Group. Excursion – 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, meet at Bonview Wetlands, Ruffey Lake Park, The Boulevard, off George Street, Doncaster. (Mel. 33 F10). Contact: Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Tuesday 20th - Collate FNN 218 Starting about 10.30 am. Many hands make light work. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 21st - Microscopy Group. Meeting – Danilla Grando from RMIT will be speaking on Ocular Infectious Diseases.
Contact: Phillipa Sterpin 9598 3231 AH.

Saturday 24th - Fauna Survey Group. Stagwatch - Come along to an evening stagwatch to search for Leadbeater's Possum and other nocturnal wildlife in the Yarra Ranges National Park. Prior registration of at least a week essential.
Contact: Ray Gibson 0417 861 651

Monday 26th - FNCV Council Meeting - 7.30 sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Hali, 9877 9860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 27th – Day Group. Meeting – ‘*Silviculture in Victoria's State Forests*’. Speaker: Peter Fagg (retired forester). 10.30 am for coffee, speaker 11.00 am . Contact: Gary Presland 9890 9288

Wednesday 28th – Geology Group. Meeting – ‘*Secrets in the Sediments – Evidence for our ever-changing Climate.*’ Speaker: Professor Peter Gell, Professor of Environmental Science and Director, Centre for Environmental Management, University of Ballarat. Contact: Kaye Oddie 9329 0635; koddie@bigpond.com

Friday 30th – Juniors Group. Meeting – 7.30 pm. *Turtle Research*. Speaker: Danielle.
Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairf@gmail.com



The policy of the FNCV is that non-members pay \$5 per excursion and \$2 per meeting, to cover insurance costs. Junior non-member families, \$2 per excursion only.

(Continued from page 1)

Future Directions for the Club

As highlighted in last month's President's Report, the Council is seeking input from members on various aspects of the functioning of the club, (including strategies to deal with the financial issues mentioned above). Thank you to those members who have already taken the time to put their thoughts down on paper. The closing date for submissions is the end of February. After that, the Council, including the representatives from all SIGs, The Victorian Naturalist, library, administration etc., will meet to discuss these issues and will prepare a report to be tabled at the AGM in May.

I encourage members from all SIGs to think about making a submission as to the future of your club. You may choose to look at just one or two of the matters raised.

New Mural in the Hall

After our time at the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary clubrooms last year, it was mooted that we should liven up our building by adding some murals to the walls. After the Council approved the preliminary drawings, the first mural was completed in late January. I would like to thank the anonymous donor who generously covered the cost and the artist, Lori Duncan, for her fine work.

We plan to commence fund raising for future murals. More details of this exciting project and see photo page 4.

John Harris

Litoria moorei, Motorbike Frog



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: fnnews@fncv.org.au by the first Monday in the month.

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

Welcome
Welcome

Zoe Crowley, Valerie Chetelat, Alison Pouliot, Raphael Green, Elizabeth Green, Phil Bock, Matthew Gunadi, Rebecca Ann Menzies, David Menzies, Katherine Menzies, Phillipa Hynes, Jane Currie, Tina Konstantinidis, Nicola Petch-Baker

VALE

Tui Elizabeth Coto died on 17 January 2012, aged 95, in a nursing home in Kilsyth. A notice was published in the *The Age*

Tui was elected to the club on 11 August 1952, and became an Honorary member in 1992. She was a regular attendee on day trips and excursions, especially those organised by Marie Allender. Tui enjoyed botany, bird-watching and all aspects of being in the bush.

Tui was interviewed by Alison Houghton as part of the Club Oral History Project. The transcript of the interview is in the oral history archive in the FNCV library.

Our sincere condolences go to her family.

SPIDER RECORDS & PHOTOS WANTED

A working draft for a Field Guide to Australian (and possibly New Zealand) Spiders is due to be published in 2014-15 by Robert Whyte. As Rob is Brisbane based, non-Qld records and photos of spiders would be particularly helpful. Contact details for Rob are below:

rob@toadshow.com.au <http://www.toadshow.com.au>
2 Eton Street, Toowong 4064
07 3335 4000; 0409 055 325

email received 20/1/12) Hi Field Nats,

Yesterday we had an exciting visitor in our backyard, an Echidna, I kid you not! in downtown Mitcham. We've lived here for almost 40 years and never have we had one on our property, which is standard quarter acre in built up area.

We got him into a crate and weighted it down thinking of maybe taking it to a shelter, but it escaped and we haven't seen it since. We're worried it will get run over, because here is a lot more traffic now and speeding hoons. Do you think it might have been picked up in the bush and then dumped here?

I thought FNN readers might find this interesting. I hope he finds his way to some nice bushy area safely.
Regards Sue.

MURAL

Anyone who has visited the FNCV premises recently cannot help but notice how well the kitchen, floors and walls have come up after last year's fire. However, as at the end of January there is even more exciting development. A mural has appeared on the east wall. I believe I am correct in saying it has been inspired by the wonderful atmosphere created in the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary building.

As everyone knows, for some months last year, the FNCV held its meetings at nearby Blackburn Lake. It was extraordinarily generous of their committee to volunteer the use of their beautifully decorated hall. Its walls are painted with bush scenes and Field Naturalist Club members could not help but notice the contrast with their own, very functional, but plain building.

The Council commissioned artist, Lori Duncan, a professional painter from Heathcote Victoria, to design and execute a number of murals in the Gardenia Street Hall. The murals will embody the work of our different interest groups and the spirit of the Club. Lori's first mural, just completed, represents the Juniors Group, but also anyone who has experienced a sense of the wonder of nature and love of the Australian bush.

A very generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has provided the finance for the first mural. The Club is now asking for donations to fund further murals. Our goal is to raise about \$1000

A detail from the work is included here, but its full impact can really only be appreciated by a personal viewing. A colour photocopy of the proposed second mural is displayed in the office, so please do drop in during office hours or at meetings and see for yourself.



J. Broadberry

SEANA autumn Camp, based at Camperdown

Hosted by the Timboon Field Naturalists Club,

16- 19 March 2012



Autumn in the Western District should provide magnificent vistas, spectacular volcanic forms and wetlands full of birds. The autumn SEANA camp is among the lakes and craters which surround Camperdown.



Excursions are planned to visit volcanic features and lakes (for birding) including Lake Toolirook, Mt. Elephant, Mt. Shadwell quarry, Mt. Noorat, Red Rock, Lake Corangamite, Stoney Rises, Mt Leura, Lake Gnotuck and Lake Bullen Merri.

Please arrange your own accommodation. Camperdown has a range including caravan park, hotels, motels and B&Bs. Other possibilities are Lake Purrumbete s/c cottages and caravan park 10 km east. Cobden 14km south or Terang 22km west

The \$90 registration includes dinner on Saturday & Sunday evenings (with speakers) at the Camperdown Golf Club.

Contact: Sue McInnes: jitarining48@msn.com

REGISTRATION DUE 28TH FEBRUARY

Ed. Apologies: details on the emailed registration form were corrupted and could not be printed

Note: THE DATES OF THE SEANA SPRING CAMP HAVE BEEN ALTERED.

This camp will be hosted by Bendigo FNC and will run from the afternoon of Friday 17th August to Sunday 19th August.

FNCV SEANA REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

This involves only 2 meetings a year, representing the FNCV, at our own hall in Gardenia St. Please contact Hali if you can help.

RANFALL RECORDS for BLACKBURN

I have been recording rainfall at our property in Blackburn (Baldwin Rd) for the last 19 years. Although these are not official readings, some of the statistics over that period (1993-2011) may be of interest to members. The rain gauge used was a Nylex wedge-shaped plastic one, mounted on a fence in a clear area, and was usually read daily between 8.30 and 9.00 am.

The highest annual rainfall over the period was 1034 mm in 1995, although the 2011 rainfall (1020 mm) was close. The lowest year was 1997 (491 mm), followed by 2006 (534 mm) and 2008 (546 mm).

The annual mean (or average) over the 19 years was 740 mm, compared with the mean for Melbourne city (station 08607) of 587 mm over the same period, a difference of 153 mm. Each year, Blackburn's total rainfall comfortably exceeded Melbourne's total rainfall. Blackburn's annual mean for the 13-year 'drought' period (1997-2009) was only 655 mm, compared with 923 mm over the 6 'more normal' years of 1993-96 and 2010-11.

The two months of highest average rainfall were November (76 mm) and October (67 mm), while the two months of lowest average rainfall were March (48 mm) and January (49 mm).

The highest monthly rainfall I recorded in the 19-year period was in February 2005 (194 mm), followed by April 1996 (169 mm) and November 2004 (163 mm). The highest daily rainfall was 133 mm on 3 February 2005, followed by 98 mm on 5 February 2011.

Peter Fagg

Field Nat News
Index to Issues 205-215, 2011
Compiled by Sheila Houghton

Once again, hanks to Sheila Houghton for compiling the index for 2011. In future we will publish an index to the previous year in the March edition of FNN

Acacia implexa: galls (illus) **210:3**

Administration

Webmaster required **208:3**; website: team updating **211:1**; office hours Dec. 2011 – Jan. 2012 **215:1**

Advertisements **205:10, 14; 206:7, 12; 207:9, 10; 208:10; 210:6, 12; 211:12; 212:6, 12; 213:8, 10, 12; 214:10, 12; 215:11, 14**

Aitken, Victoria: Whitehorse Spring Festival notices **213:12; 215:12**

Ashdown, Robert: Nature photography on blog **205:6**

Australian Natural History Medallion: presentation to Dr John Woinarski: invitation **214:5**; report **215:1**
 Photo **215: 9**

Australian Naturalists' Network (ANN): Get-together, Canberra 13-21.10.2012 (notice) **211:12**

Bat Group *See also* Grey-headed Flying Foxes

Grey-headed flying fox count, Yarra Bend Park 16.2.2011 (illus) **206:6; 207:6**

Halloween BBQ 30.10.2011 (notice) **214:5**; report (illus) **215:3**

Organ Pipes bat box project 13.2.2011 (illus) **207:6**

Bewsher, Sally: Fauna Survey Group report (illus) **209:6** Photo credits **206:1; 207:8**

Biodiversity Symposia

International Year of Biodiversity 21.11.2010 report (illus) **205:7, 14**; International Year of Forests 19-20.11.2011 (notice) **212:4; 213:12**; registration form **214:7**

Birds: Nature notes **205:3; 209:4**; Naming Names (Edited article from Blue Mountains Bird Observer August 2010) **209:10**; Response **210:4**; Powerful Owls (illus) **206:6**

Bock, Philip: Awarded 2010 Golden Trilobite Award by British Palaeontological Association **211:4**

Booksale, secondhand 8 October (notice) **210:4; 212:4; 213:3**; report **215:9**

Botany Group: Excursion 21.8.2011 Badger Weir: ferns **213:4, 8**

Broadberry, Joan

Day Group reports **205:9; 208:5-6; 210:8; 211:5; 213:9; 215:10**

Photo credits **205:5, 7, 14; 206:8; 209:4; 214:3**

Bunnell, Dave: Photo credit **208:4**

Calendar of Events: Dates for 2011 **206:4**; deadlines for June-Sept. 2011; **207:3**; Oct. 2011-Jan. 2012 **211:3**

Carle, Annabel: Seeking *Flora of Victoria* vols. 3, 4 for extended use **210:3**

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club: Swift parrot DVD available **205:3**

Clark, Wendy: Honorary membership (illus) **209:1**; Condolences on death of mother **211:3**

Terrestrial Invertebrate Group report **210:9-10**

Club policy: camps and excursions **213:3**

Corrick, Margaret: Photo credit **206:10**

Day Group: Excursion

Damper Creek Reserve, Mt. Waverley 23.11.2010: leader Cecily Falkingham (illus) **205:9**

Day Group: Meetings

Margaret Corrick 25.1.2011 'Plants and mining in the banded ironstone country of W. A.' (illus) **206:10**

Leon Costermans 28.6.2011 'Photography as a stimulus to environmental observation and understanding' **211:5**

Film 24.5.2011 'The Curious Mister Catesby' (illus) **210:8**; letter **212:4**

Meredith Fletcher 22.3.2011 'Three editions of *Wildflowers of Victoria*: a rollercoaster ride' (illus) **208:5-6**

Dorothy Mahler, Noel Schleiger 26.10.2010 'Galapagos Islands, Part 2' (illus) **205:8**

Anne and John Morton 25.10.2011 'Crossing the Simpson Desert' (illus) **215:10**

Gary Presland 26.7.2011 'A brief tour through some of America's National Parks' (wrongly attributed to June meeting) **212:5**

Ian Wacey and Ray Barber 23.8.2011 'Waterfalls of Victoria' (illus) **213:9**

Environment East Gippsland/Wilderness Society: Forests Forever Ecology Camp Easter 2011 (notice) **206:5**

Environment Fund: Call for applications **205:13**; call for donations **206:5**; 2010 grants: report **209:1, 5**

Equisetum genus (illus) **207:7**

Eriocaulon australasicum (Austral Pipewort) found near Horsham **215:4**

Fauna Survey Group:

Thanks for Christmas/New Year camp at Yookamurra (letter) **206:6**

Fauna Survey Group: Camps/Surveys

Beechworth /Lake Eildon National Park 11-12, 14-15.3.2011 VBRRRA post-fire survey (illus) **209:6; 210:1**

Cape Liptrap 10-13.6.2011 **211:5**

- Cathedral Ranges 22-26.1.2011 Post-fire survey (illus) **207:8**
 Paiwalla Wetlands 2.1.2011 **206:9**
 Rushworth Forest 14-15.5.2011 (illus) **212:7**
 Wathe Flora and Fauna Reserve 25.9-2.10.2011 (illus) **215:5**
 Yookamurra, S.A. 26.12.2010-2.1.2011 (illus) **206:8-9**
- Fauna Survey Group: Meetings: Geoff Williams, Australian Platypus Conservancy 5.7.2011 **212:7**
 Ferguson, Hali: Book sale report **215:9**; Fire report (illus) **211:1**; Sausage sizzle report (illus) **205:5**
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
 AGM 2011 (notice) **207:4**; **208:8**; Minutes **209:9**; Report **209:1, 5**; Presentation (illus) **209:8**;
 Christmas party 2010 (illus) **205:5**; Thanks for help with BBQ **206:3**; 2011 notice **215:12**
 Council nomination form **207:12**; **208:12**
 Council 2011-2012 **209:9**
 Fundraising: **214:3**; **215:12**
 New roof installed (illus) **208:1**
 Patron: Farewell to David de Kretser **208:1**
 Signage **206:3**
 Working bee 27.10.2011 **214:3**; 15.12.2011 **215:12**
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria: Council reports
 Council minutes available from office **209:5**
 Meetings: SIG reports 25.11.2010 **205:6**; 28.3.2011: **208:9**; 18.4.2011: **209:5**; 27.6.2011
211:10; 25.7.2011 **212:3**; 26.9.2011 **214:9**; 23.5.2011 Vice-President positions filled; SIG places in First Aid
 course to be subsidised **210:10**;
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria: Newsletter
 Advertising rates **207:6**; **209:4**; **211:3**
 Collation, layout teams: thanks **205:7, 9**; **206:12**; **207:3, 4**; **208:3, 9**; **209:4**; **210:7, 12**; **211:5, 10**;
212:4, 11; **213:12**; **214:12**; **215:9**
 Editors: Joan Broadberry, Noel Schleiger **206**
- Fire in Club Hall
 Damage to premises 17.6.2011 (illus) **210** (insert); update (illus) **211:1**; progress report; thanks to
 volunteers (illus) **212:1, 12**; return, thanks to volunteers and service people (illus) **213:3, 5**
- First Aid
 Expressions of interest for course requested **205:4**; **206:4**; **207:4**
 Places for SIG representatives to be subsidised **210:10**
- Flora (illus) **206:10**; **215:4**
- Fuhrer, Bruce: Awarded OAM in Queens Birthday Honours List (photo) **210:3**
- Fungi (illus) **210:7**; **211:6, 9**; **212:8, 9**; **213:6, 8**; **214:8, 9**
- Fungi Group
 The FNCV Fungi CD 2nd ed. reviewed in *Field Mycology* **213:7**; **214:3**
 Forays: The Beeches, Lady Talbot Drive, Marysville 5.6.2011 (illus) **211:8-9**
 Blackwood, Jack Cann Reserve 19.6.2011 (illus) **211:6**
 Bunyip State Park, Mortimer Picnic Ground and Nature Trail 8.5.2011 (illus) **212:10**;
 12.6.2011 (illus) **211:7**
 Coranderk Bushland, Healesville 15.5.2011 (illus) **214:8**
 Doctors Creek Walk, Upper Yarra Reservoir, Refton 17.4.2011 (illus) **210:7**
 Greens Bush, Mornington Peninsula 10.4.2011 **209:8**; 3.7.2011 (illus) **212:9**; 22.5.2011
 (illus) **214:9**
 Ned's Gully, Cathedral Range State Park 29.5.2011 (illus) **215:6**
 Otways 29.4.- 1.5.2011 (illus) **213:6-7**
 Warrandyte State Forest, Jumping Creek 26.6.2011 (illus) **212:8**
- Meetings: Paul George 7.3.2011 'Slime moulds (Myxomycetes – slime fungi)' **208:7**
 Fran La Fontaine 1.8.2011 'Fungi that live in water' (illus) **213:7-8**
 Elizabeth Sheedy 4.4.2011 'Mushrooms, microsatellites and other molecular markers: a study
 of Australian *Laccaria*' **209:7**
- Photo **205:3**
- Geology Group: Meetings: Frank Drost 28.9.2011 (illus) 'What's up SAM?' (illus) **215:7-8**
 Helen Green 23.4.2011 'Speleothems and their connection to paleoclimate' (illus) **208:4-5**
 Dermot Henry 24.8.2011 'Stories from the Geoscience Collections' (illus) **215:8-9**
 Tim Holland 27.7.2011 'Australian crawl: evidence for the evolution of early tetrapods down under
 (illus) **214:4-5**
 Neil McLachlan 25.5.2011 'Travels in Greenland and Svalbard' (illus) **210:5**;

- Carol Hall: Letter re photographic exhibition of trip to Spitzbergen and Greenland **211:4**
Gary Presland 22.6.2011 'The geological basis of Melbourne's history' **212:5**
Ian Wacey and Ray Barber 23.2.2011 'Waterfalls in Victoria' (illus) **207:5**
- George, Paul: Fungi Group reports **209:7; 213:7-8**
Gibson, David: Geology Group reports **208:4-5; 210:5; 212:5; 214:4-5; 215:7-9**
Gibson, Raymond: Fauna Survey Group reports **212:7**
Leadbeater's possum rediscovery 1961 celebrated **209:3**
- Gillbank, Linden: *The curious Mr Catesby* (letter) **212:4**
GPS training: Thanks to Julie Sims for sessions **206:3**
- Grey, Ed: Fungi Group reports **210:7; 211:7; 212:9, 10; 214:8-9; 215:6**
Photo credits **212:8-9; 214:8, 9**
- Grey, Pat: Botany Group report **213:4, 8**
Fungi Group reports **208:7; 210:7; 211:6-9; 212:8, 9, 10; 213:6-7; 214:8-9; 215:6**
Photo credits **210:7; 211:7, 9; 212:10**
- Grey-headed Flying Foxes: Observations at Ned's Corner **215:4**; Thousands at Yarra Bend Golf Course **205:6**
- Hall, Carol: Arctic photography exhibition (notice) **211:4**
Hall, Naomi: Photo credit **205:8**
- Hansen, Carl: Photo credits **206:5**
Hansen, Knut: Paiwalla Wetlands report **206:9**
- Harris, John
Fauna Survey Group reports **207:8; 215:5**
Fire in Club hall (illus) **210** (insert)
Photo credits **214:1; 215:5**
President's reports (illus) **205:1; 206-1, 5; 207:1, 6; 208:1; 209:1, 5; 210:1, 10; 212:1, 12; 213:1; 214:1; 215:1, 3**
- Hastwell, Karma: 26 hectare property to be added to Kinglake National Park **206:3**
- Hawthorn Junior Field Naturalists Club: Reunion **205:5**
- Houghton, Alison: AGM presentation (illus) **209:8**
Houghton, Sheila: Achievements **205:5**; Day Group report **206:10**; Library and Archives dedication (illus) **205:5**; Thanks for dedication **206:3**; Retiring as Librarian **208:8**; Library News **205:7; 207:4; 208:8**
- Howes, Michael: Long Term membership **209:5**
- Hubregtse, Jurrie: Photo credit **215:6**
Hubregtse, Virgil: Fungi Group reports **209:8; 210:7; 211:7; 212:10**; Photo credit **213:6**
- Invertebrates (illus) **209:3; 210:3**
- Junior Field Naturalists Group
Camps: Baw Baw 17-19.2010: report **206:5**
Easter camp, Clarkesdale Sanctuary, Linton 22-25.4.2100 (notice) **208:3**
Excursion: Baluk Willam Reserve, Belgrave 17.9.2011 Photos **214:3**
Meetings: Ian Moodie to speak at June 24 meeting **210:4**
Members' night 28.1.2011 'Grow your own greenhood orchids'; Wendy Clark farewelled **206:5**
- Kitchen, Ian
Bat Group report **206:6; 207:6; 215:3**
Fauna Survey Group report **206:8-9**
Photo credits **206:6**
- Lamb, Annie: Plant profile: horsetails (*Equisetum* species) (illus) **207:7**
- Leadbeater's Possum: celebration of rediscovery 1961 **209:3**
- Library
Dedicated to Sheila Houghton (illus) **205:5**
Librarian appointed May 2011: Gary Presland **209:12**
Library News **205:7; 207:4; 208:8; 209:12; 210:12; 211:10; 213:9; 215:12**
- McCann, Ian: *The Mallee in Flower* reprinted **205:3**
- Mahler, Dorothy: Day Group report **205:8**; Photo credits **205:8**
- Mammals (illus) **206:8, 9; 208:3; 209:5; 212:7; 214:1**
- Mansergh, Ian: eucalyptus seedlings planted in 'naming ceremony' (illus) **214:6**
- Marine Invertebrates (illus) **207:11; 210:11; 211:11**
- Marine Research Group
Excursions: Clifton Springs, Port Phillip Bay 23.4.2011 **212:11**
Mallacoota region 19-21.1.2011 (illus) **207:11; 208:11; 210:11**
Stony Point, Westernport Bay 26.3.2011 (illus) **211:11**; Members at Stony Point (illus) **209:4**
Warrnambool 23-26.2.2011 (illus) **210:11**

- Meetings: Leon Altoff 12.9.2011 'Identifying Victoria's inter-tidal chitons' **214:11; 215:13**
 Simon Branigan 10.10.2011 'VNPA marine conservation priorities and issues for Victoria' **215:13**
 Steve Hay 14.2.2011 'SeaNet: smarter fishing for industry' **208:11**
 Luke Hynes 13.9.2010 'Japanese kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*)' see FNN 203: addenda **208:11**
 Michael Lyons 11.4.2011 'Molluscan biodiversity in Victoria' **209:11**
 Julie Marshall 8.8.2011 'Voyage to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula' (illus) **213:11**
 Members' night 13.12.2010 **206:11; 9.5.2011 212:11**
 Alan Monger 11.10.2010 'The borders of the state and the state of the borders' **205:11-12; 206:11**
 Jason Strugarek 13.9.2010 'Trait differences in an invasive marine predator (*Carcinus maenas*) in temperate Australia' (cont.) **205:11**
- Marshall, Alan Photo credit **213:11**
 Marshall, Julie Photo credit **213:11**
 Matheson, Alannah: Fungi Group report **215:6**
 Microscopy Group
 Benefits of microscopy **207:3** support needed, invitation to open night **205** (insert)
 Meetings: Nick Porch [17.8.2011] 'Human moderated translocation and catastrophic extinction in the Indo-Pacific fauna' **213:9**
- Nature Notes **205:3, 4; 206:6; 207:3; 208:3**; response to query in **208:3** (illus) **209:5; 210:3; 215:4**
- New members
 List **205:4; 206:4; 207:4; 208:9; 209:3; 210:4; 211:3; 212:3; 215:4**; New members' night: invitation **205:4; 213:3**; reports **207:3; 209:4; 210:3; 215:12**
- Oddie, Kaye: Geology Group report **207:5**
 Orchids **205:4; 215:4**
- Page, Carol: Fungi Group (illus) **205:3**; Photo credit **205:3**; report **215:6**
 Patterson, Graham: Library News **210:12**
 President's report. This appears on page 1 of each issue.
 President's Roof Appeal
 Total **205:1; 206: 3; 207:3; 208:8; 209:12; 211:4** Donors **205:14; 206:3; 207:3; 211:4** Good Will Wine fundraiser **205:7; 206:4; 207:5; 208:9**; Raffle **207** (insert); **208:8**; winners **209:12**; Sausage Sizzle (illus)**205:5**
- Presland, Gary: Honorary Librarian May 2011
 Library News **209:12; 211:10; 213:9; 215:12**
- Reptiles: Photos **206:5, 8**
- Ringwood Field Naturalists Club: 50th anniversary: invitation **212:4**
 Schleiger, Noel: Day Group report **205:8**
 Shepherd, Geoffrey: death notice **208:3**
 Shire of Yarra Ranges: Draft Flora and Fauna Strategy available for comment **206:3**
 Sise, Judith: Thanks for FSG camp 2010 (letter) **206:6**
 South East Australian Naturalists' Association (SEANA)
 Autumn camp Anglesea 25-28.3.2011 (notice) **206:12**
 Spring camp Wonthaggi November 2011: FNCV hosting (notice) **208:9**; Relocated to Phillip Island **210:1**; report (illus) **215:1**
- Southern Brown Bandicoot: **208:3**; (illus) **209:5**
 Spiders (illus) **208:3; 209:3**
- Sterpin, Phillipa: Microscopical Group report **213:9**
- Terrestrial Invertebrate Group
 Excursion: Blackburn Lake Reserve 20.3.2011 (illus) **208:6**
 Meeting: Heloise Gibbs 18.5.2011 'Ants on a sugar high' (illus) **210:9-10**
- Thompson, Russell: Fauna Survey Group report **211:5**
- Trees: eucalyptus seedlings planted in 'naming ceremony' (illus) **214:6**
- Vafiadis, Platon
 Marine Research Group reports **205:11-12; 206:11; 207:11; 208:11; 209:11; 210:11; 211:11; 212:11; 213:11; 215:13**; Photo credits **207:11; 208:11; 210:11; 211:11**
- Waldheim Chalet: information on FNCV visitors required **208:8**
 Weatherhead, Hilary: death notice **208:3**
 Whitehorse Spring Festival 23.10.2011: volunteers needed **212:4; 213:12**; thanks to volunteers **215:12**
 Yen, Alan: Terrestrial Invertebrate Group report **208:6**



Fauna Survey Group

Dergholm State Park Christmas camp, December 2011

Thirteen field naturalists had an interesting and enjoyable camp at the Bailey's Rocks Picnic Ground, located near Dergholm State Park. The Dergholm State Park is located approximately 45km north of the town of Casterton, in the Western District of Victoria. The weather was cool to mild at the beginning of the week, then became warm to hot toward the end of the week. The state park mostly consisted of open heathy woodland of Brown Stringybark with areas of open treeless plains, Yellow Gum forest, and the odd patch of River Red Gum Woodland. Survey techniques used during the survey included the use of cage and small Elliott traps, Harp traps (for bats), spotlighting with a red filter, log or rock turning and whatever else could be detected by chance sightings

The bat traps caught approximately 45 individual specimens of bats of six species which included the Little Forest Bat, Southern Forest Bat, Chocolate Wattled Bat, Gould's Wattled Bat, Lesser Long-eared Bat and Southern Freetail Bat (*Mormopterus planiceps*, large penis form) A seventh species, the White Striped Freetail Bat, was heard in and around the campground at night flying above the tree canopy.

The Yellow-footed Antechinus and a House Mouse were the only animals caught in the cage or Elliott traps. A rather active specimen of the Eastern Pygmy Possum was the only mammal trapped in the pitfall traps. Other animals caught in the pitfall traps included four species of frog, Eastern Banjo Frog, Mallee Spadefoot Toad, Common Froglet and the Southern Brown Tree Frog. Reptiles included the

Common Garden Skink (*Lampropholis guichenoti*), Large Striped Skink (*Ctenotus robustus*), Eastern Three-lined Skink (*Acritoscincus duperreyi*), Bougainvilles Skink (*Lerista bougainvillii*) and the Striped Worm-lizard (*Aprasia striolata*). A Jacky Dragon was caught by hand at one of the pit sites. This lizard was seen quite frequently out and about throughout the survey area. Several Shingle-back Lizards were also found as we explored.

Sugar Gliders, Brush-tailed Possums and the Red-necked Wallaby were detected with spotlights at night. Three other macropod species: the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Black Wallaby were also seen.

Digging a pitline Photo: S. Bewsher



Up to 40 bird species were seen or heard, some of which included the Emu, Tawny Frogmouth, Boobook Owl, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Goshawk, lots of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and the Grey Fantail which was seen nesting with dependant young in the nest.

An interesting and dramatic observation of animal behaviour was witnessed by one of our members. It all started after having a nice swim in a dam. Upon leaving the dam, a rus-



Aprasia striolata - Striped or Lined Worm-Lizard Photo: S. Bewsher

ting sound was heard in the vegetation near the edge of the dam. Once the disturbance was located, an Eastern Brown Snake was observed swallowing a recently caught Jacky Lizard, Wow! It was said to be better than being at the movies!

Another highlight of the camp was when we all got together and spent an evening at the Dergholm Pub eating fresh, home-made pizza and enjoying the country hospitality. There are a lot of possibilities for future survey sites in the southwest of Victoria and we are looking at doing more survey work at Easter. We look forward seeing everyone then.

Russell Thompson

Many thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 216

Andrew Brentnall
Hazel Brentnall
Edward Brentnall
Joan Broadberry
Barbara Burns
Cecily Falkingham
Bill Fenner
Sheina Nichols
Noel Schleiger
Dorothy Mahler
Ray Power



Day Group

Bird watching in New Caledonia

On 24th January 2012 the Day Group welcomed FNCV President John Harris. John holidayed for five days in New Caledonia in June 2010. His talk was titled, "Bird watching in New Caledonia". However, it also touched on many aspects of this little known, neighbouring Pacific country.

Noumea, the capital is about 2100 k from Sydney. The language of the towns, tourism and commerce is French and cars drive on the right. John and his daughter stayed in a beachside location just outside Noumea. Being an enthusiastic twitcher, John began his bird watching immediately at La Tontouta airport, 45k from Noumea, by identifying the tiny Glossy Swiftlet. Some days later, he photographed it flying at head height around palm trees. Incidentally, John's images, some borrowed from the internet, came with a downloaded recording of each bird's call.

Around the capital, (when he could escape from shopping), John photographed a number of urban bird species, many of them well known in Australia such as the Common Myna, House Sparrow, Silver-eye, Sacred Kingfisher, Spotted Turtle-dove, Silver Gull, Purple Swamp Hen, Pacific Black Duck and Crested Tern. The Common Waxbill is a species introduced to New Caledonia, probably an aviary escapee. The Red-vented Bulbul is also introduced, originally from India. The Dark-brown Honeyeater, similar to our own Brown Honeyeater, is a common urban endemic. Another endemic with a beautiful repetitive call is the Fan-tailed Gerygone. The endemic black and white Long-tailed Triller was spotted in vegetation around the zoo. Endemic sub-species of the Rufous Whistler and the Rainbow Lorikeet were interesting to compare with our Australian birds.

John commented on the great contrast between the beautiful tourist playground by the sea and the rather rundown and depressed areas of the central city and surrounding shanty towns.

A car was hired to travel inland to the Parc Provincial Riviere Bleue, a must-see place for bird watchers. In the forest were gigantic Koari trees (*Agathis lanceolata*), with trunks up to 2.7m across. Here John was very excited to see and photograph a group of the endangered, official national bird, the Kagu (*Rhynochetus jabatus*). These large, ground-feeding birds belong to the only endemic New Caledonian genus. They are grey-white with orange beaks and legs and an unusual floppy white crest which is raised when the bird is socializing. The Kagu image is seen everywhere including on the 1000 franc note.

Bird watching in the Parc that day, John must have been in seventh heaven with sightings including the following mostly endemic bird:

- A pair of Horned Parakeets - mostly green birds which have two black feathers with red tips protruding from their heads.
- Red-fronted Parakeet - related to the New Zealand parakeet species.
- Barred Honeyeater - endemic to New Caledonia
- New Caledonian Friarbird - in the same genus as the Australian friarbirds.
- New Caledonian Imperial Pigeon or Notou, (*Ducula goliath*) - the largest fruit pigeon in the world, bigger than a chicken. (Photo below)



- Yellow-bellied Robin - in the same genus as the Australian robins.
- Cloven-feathered Dove - a

beautifully patterned yellow and green fruit dove. (Photo below).



- Crow Honeyeater - a highly sought after endemic, the size of a White-winged Chough with bright red, bare skin on the face.
- New Caledonian Crow, heard only. This amazing bird uses tools to prize insects from tree crevices.

John's and his daughter's final bird watching destination was the Ile Aux Canards, the Island of Ducks, a short boat trip from their hotel. The island is known for its self-guided, underwater snorkelling trail. Birds seen included: Eastern Osprey, Pacific Golden Plover and a White-faced Heron. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Terns nesting in roped off areas during the breeding season.

I would like to thank John for a fascinating talk. One did not have to be a bird-watcher to enjoy his presentation. He spoke naturally and from the heart. The number of questions and comments from the audience was evidence of the interest of his listeners. Many, including myself, have gone on to learn more about this nearby Western Pacific nation.

John also presented this talk to the Fauna Survey Group on 7.2.12

Editor: I recommend *The Future Eaters* by Tim Flannery. Chapter 3, 'Land of Geckos, Land of Flowers', which deals with the natural history of New Caledonia.

Joan Broadberry

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

Club Diary Dates & deadlines for 2012

Council Meetings

27th February
 26th March
 23rd April
 28th May
 25th June
 23rd July
 27th August
 24th September
 22nd October
 26th November

Field Nats News deadline for copy is always the first Tuesday of the month at by 10 am please.
Collation is from 10.30 am on the third Tuesday of each month. No collation in December

Calendar of Events:

June to September: Due Date: Friday 13th April
October to January : 2013 Due Date: Friday 17th August
February to May 2013:: Due Date: Friday 7th December

AGM: 6th May (Sunday)

Biodiversity Symposium: September (Saturday/Sunday) TBC

ANHM: 12th November (Monday) – Replace MRG meeting

Xmas Party: 15th December (Saturday)

As background to these two items, please read *From the President*, page 1, **Financial Issues**

From Hali—Request for Donations

This may seem a little unusual, but as an experiment to cut the costs of the club, I have decided to ask for donations of specific items each month. These items will be used in the running of the kitchen and the hall generally. If you could put one item from the list in your shopping trolley and bring it to the FNCV when you are next in, it would be greatly appreciated. Each month I will advertise two or three different items. Many small donations can add up to a substantial saving.

This month's donation items are:

- Bin bags (for kitchen bin Large)
- Green tea bags
- 1 litre long life milk (reduced fat)

Or you may prefer to send

- Gift vouchers from Office Works, Coles or Safeway.

Thanking you in anticipation, **Hali**

PLEASE CONSIDER RECEIVING YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Another very important cost-saving measure, plus saving paper and caring for the environment, is choosing to receive your newsletter by email.

We have estimated that with printing and postage costs, each FNN costs the club approximately \$1. Therefore for a full year, each person opting for email saves us \$11. If 100 people did this our costs would be reduced by \$1100.

To make this simple change please email your name and request for an emailed newsletter to **Hali at admin@fncv.org.au** It is that easy.

As a bonus, we will immediately know your current email address.

Hali

EXTRACTS: SIG REPORTS FROM JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

Bat Study group - A BBQ was held in January with several people from DSE etc in attendance with the bat lovers. 30,000 bats flew out that night. The Organ Pipes project has now been going for 30 years and is still very active. The Bat lovers BBQ was postponed and will now be held on March 3rd. *See calendar p 2.*

Botany Group - **Thurs 15th Dec. 2011** We had a casual but enjoyable member's night. Grass samples were identified by use of books from the library. Photos were brought of plants from the local area, which were all identified by the provider. Other photos from the Grampians and Alpine area were not successfully identified.

Fauna Survey Group - **Tuesday 6th Dec 2011.** This meeting was a members' night attended by a small number. Slides of the year's activities were shown.

Stagwatch - **14th Jan.** This trip was attended by 10 members and Leadbeater's Possums, Greater Gliders, and Mountain Brushtail Possums were seen. Yellow-bellied Gliders and Sugar Gliders were heard calling.

Juniors Group - The first meeting of the year was Jan. 28th, and involved talks by Council members. Claire Appleby has donated shells, rocks, sponges, etc

Club Camps & Excursions Policy

It has been decided at a recent Council Meeting that a club wide policy needs to exist for both Excursions and Camps.

Non-members will be charged \$2 per person for each FNCV meeting and \$5 per person for an excursion or camp.

Junior meetings are free to non-members, however, non-members on Junior day excursions pay \$2 per person. All those who wish to attend Junior camps must be members.

Attendance books need to be signed at every SIG meeting and excursion. This is vital for insurances purposes.

The club recommends that people with a medical condition, e.g. anaphylactic or heart conditions, carry written medical information on their person. They should inform the excursion/camp leader of the whereabouts of this information on each outing, (for example, "it is in the pocket of my parka.")

Parents or designated guardians are responsible for all medical needs on Junior camps or excursions.

Library News



A number of monographs have been added to the Library in the past couple of months through donations. One magnificent book which was given by the reviewer is *Frogs and Toads* by Chris Mattison.

Club stalwart Bill Fenner also continues to give us books and brochures that are superfluous to his requirements.

Recently received periodicals include: *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Vic.* 123(2), which contains articles about

- variation of the tides in Victoria,
- two species of ticks hosted by a range of animals and now known to occur in Victoria
- historical ecology of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp

The latest periodicals are displayed in a rack in the library. You can borrow periodicals in the rack, as well as previous issues. Don't forget to fill in the borrowing book please.

Gary Presland
Honorary librarian

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 217

Joan Broadberry
Noel Schleiger
Hali Ferguson
Sally Bewsher

Twitcher's Cottage

Field Nats members Merrin and Paul will welcome you for tranquil and guilt free relaxation less than two hours from the bustle of Melbourne. Set in a native garden with spectacular views and near Mount Worth State Park. Twitcher's Cottage puts you back in touch with nature for a relaxing short or long break.

Twitcher's can now also ensure that your holiday is carbon neutral, with solar photovoltaic panels, our own carbon sink re-vegetation and the use of our own plantation firewood. No tricky offset calculations, everything is managed on site!

At \$110 per night for up to four people (self-catering), it is affordable and comfortable for couples families or small groups. **Check**

availability and book at:
www.twitchers-cottage.com.au
Phone: 03 5634 4256
Mob: 04 0305 1853



Field Nats News 217



The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
Locked Bag 3 PO
BLACKBURN VIC 3130
Reg.No. A0033611X

**PRINT
POST
PP333964-0003**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**