



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Field Nats News No.244

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130
Telephone 9877 9860. Fax 9877 9862

P.O. Box 13, Blackburn 3130 www.fncv.org.au

Newsletter email: fnnews@fncv.org.au

Office email: admin@fncv.org.au

Editor: Joan Broadberry 9846 1218
Founding editor: Dr Noel Schleiger

Reg. No. A0033611X

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August 2014

From the President

Here we are in the middle of winter and unlike other years, everything seems to be happening at once. Since I last penned my *President's Blurb*, as I affectionately refer to it, my month has been full of naturalist type events with a lot of them not being associated with the FNCV.

Last week I was away in the field doing surveys for Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots in north-east Victoria. While neither of these birds were recorded during our surveys, we did take time out during our lunch break, to go searching for the Regent that had been seen in the northern part of Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP. Armed with some vague and not-so-vague instructions on the location of this bird, we spotted it about 5 minutes after getting out of the car. My new 100-400mm camera lens was immediately put into action, snapping approx 150 photos of the bird before it was time to return to work (see photo below). It wasn't a tick i.e. new bird for me but was for my work mate :-)

Also during the past month I have had the privilege to attend two book launches. The first was *Finding Australia*

lian Birds by Tim Dolby and Rohan Clarke. I spent many hours proof-reading chapters of this book, so it was good to see it finally launched. The second book launch was on a topic I am less familiar with, being a zoologist, Marilyn Bull's *Flora of Melbourne* where she again teams up with illustrator George Stolfo to produce a fabulous book for botanists, naturalists and professionals alike.

I can highly recommend both of them and already have them in my library. Both are available through the FNCV Bookshop. Just email Kathy with your order and any other books you would like. See page 11 for details of some of the new books in stock and details for contacting Kathy.

As I write this blurb, the Australian Mammal Society annual conference is on at the Melbourne Zoo with today being Day 1 of the four day program. There have been many interesting presentations so far, some of which may be followed up as presentations to the FNCV.

Those of you who have been to the hall lately will have noticed some changes in the gardens. A very small but dedicated group of volunteers turned up on July 21 to rejuvenate the gardens and remove some of the senescing wattle trees.

A couple of the trees on the carpark side of the hall were in bad shape and possibly a risk to cars and the public, so they have been removed. Replanting has begun and will continue over the next month or so. Thanks to Barbara, June, Kathy and the bloke wielding the chainsaw. See report p4.

John Harris

The deadline for the September issue of Field Nats News will be **10 am on Tuesday 5th August**. FNN will go to the printers on Tuesday 12th August with collation on 19th.



(c) John Harris - Wildlife Experiences 2014

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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.

August

Monday 4th – Fungi Group meeting: The speaker is Paul George whose topic is: *The April Fungi Festival in Brisbane*. He will show some of his beautiful images. Contact: Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 5th - Fauna Survey Group meeting: *Current issues with Victoria's freshwater fishes*. Speaker: Jarad Lyon, Arthur Rylah Institute. Contact: Ray White 9308 3770 AH.

Saturday 9th to Sunday 10th - Fauna Survey Group Survey & Working Bee: *The FNCV property at Cossticks Reserve, Maryborough*. We will be checking the nest boxes and doing any maintenance required on them, as well as setting up a tile grid along with other activities to be finalised. If you have never been to the *Walter and Louisa Cosstick Wildflower Reserve*, as it is known, then this is an opportunity to see our property. If you would like more information, please email me at wildlifeexperiences@gmail.com. As we will be doing fauna-related activities, it is a requirement of our permits that you let me know if you are attending by the August FSG meeting on Tuesday 5th August Contact: John Harris 0409 090955 or email.

Monday 11th - Marine Research Group meeting: Contact: Leon Altoff 9530 4180AH; 0428 669 773

Sunday 17^h – Juniors' Group excursion: *Walk and talk with Ian Penrose, Yarra River Keeper*. \$2 per person Meet at the Studley Park Boathouse at 10 am. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairref@gmail.com

Tuesday 19th—Collate FNN. Starting about 10.00 am. Some folk come earlier. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 20th - Microscopy Group meeting: Contact: Philippa Burgess 0428 669 773

Thursday 21st – Botany Group meeting: *The role of native forests in a world threatened by global warming and the case for a 'Great Forest National Park'*. Speaker Bernie Mace. Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055 071

Monday 25th - FNCV Council meeting - 7.30pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Wendy, 9877 9860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 26th – Day Group meeting: *Mistletoes*. Speaker: Peter Rogers (Ringwood Field Naturalists Club). Meet at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat. Speaker at 11 am. Contact Gary Presland 9890 9288

Wednesday 27th – Geology Group meeting: *Last of the giants: Alfred Russel Wallace and his legacy to the Geosciences*. Speaker: Dr. Rolf Schmidt, Collection Manager, Invertebrate Palaeontology, Museum Victoria. Contact: Kaye Oddie 9329 0635; koddie@bigpond.com

Friday 29th – Juniors' Group meeting: 7.30 pm. *Party Night*. Theme: “Endangered animals of the world”. Come in costume for us to guess which animal you are. Also, party games, prizes and a birthday cake to celebrate 71 years of the Juniors' Group. Please bring a small plate of party food to share. Contact: Claire Ferguson 8060 2474; toclairref@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.

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.

Welcome
Welcome

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

Meg Loyn, Debbie Tully, Chris Clarke, Tamara Morgan, Ruby Albury, Trish Conwell.

Congratulations to Ray Gibson

Congratulations to Ray Gibson who has been awarded this year's Deakin Community Award. This award seeks to celebrate volunteers who give their time, skills and energy to community organisations, helping to make our local area a better place to live. The presentation by Michael Sukkar, Federal Member for Deakin, will take place on 21st July. Each award winner will be in the running to be named the Overall Deakin Community Award Winner 2014.

Below is the citation, nominating Ray, prepared by the FNCV.

“Ray GIBSON has been an active member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria since he joined in 1972. His contribution to the Club has been enormous, including being a member of Council between 1973 and 1976, and the representative on Council of the Club's Fauna Survey Group (FSG) in 2000 and 2001. He has contributed numerous reports of FSG activities for the Club's newsletter, *Field Nats News* since January 1995.

At a community level, Ray has been actively involved over many years with numerous field surveys focused on documenting the fauna of Victoria. He has been instrumental in documenting the occurrence of Leadbeater's Possum and with organising nest-box surveys for other threatened native fauna in Victoria's forested areas. He has also been actively involved in representing the FNCV during the Mullum Mullum Festival, leading spotlighting walks at Yarran Dheran and organises our participation in the Whitehorse Spring Festival every year.”



MYSTERY PHOTO: The image above was taken very recently through a car windscreen on a country road. *Can you work out what is going on?*

An explanation appears on page 7. Clue: The photo has been included to draw readers' attention to one of the important points about conserving wild-life, made by Adriana Simmons in her presentation to the June Day Group.

OpticsCentralAffiliate Program

When FNCV members purchase binoculars, microscopes, telescopes etc from OpticsCentral, 6% of the total amount (excluding shipping) will be a store credit to the FNCV.

Members will need to key in the CouponCode: FNCV3130.

There is no minimum order and no limit on items. From recent purchases the FNCV has a balance of \$308.34

Their address is 8/23 Cook Rd. Mitcham, phone 1300 884 763.



Photo above: Maxwell Campbell receiving his long-term membership certificate (forty years) from FNCV president John Harris. Congratulations Max.

Photography Expo

Sunday 31st August 10 am – 4 pm

Free Entry!

Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre

Come & see

- Displays of Photographs of Nature, Landscapes, people & more
- Talks & Demos on taking Photographs

Topics include: small creatures, flowers and people

- Information on Short Courses & Workshops
- Chance to WIN some Photography Tuition
- Talk to the professional Photographer and students

More info: wendy@masteryourcamera.com.au

ph 0435 377 065 www.MasterYourCamera.com.au



PHOTO AND ART SHOW

Naturalists, photographers and artists!

You are invited to join in a show at a friendly Geelong gallery.

“Birds”- *The Heather Gibbs Memorial Art Prize* is open to amateur and professional artists and photographers; all comers welcome. The exhibition is to commemorate Heather Gibbs, who passed away in 2012. She was a keen bird observer, environmentalist, researcher, past member of Geelong Field Naturalists Club and the Birdlife Australia Wader Group. It is hoped that this will be an annual event in memory of Heather.

Your work will be exhibited in October, with prizes awarded for photography, painting, works on paper and the \$500 Heather Gibbs Prize for excellence. See you on Opening Night!

Entry forms and details are available from:

Jan Synot

Art is...studios and gallery
Level 1, 64 Little Malop Street
Geelong 3220
0421969230

www.artisgeelong.com.au

FNCV Garden Working-bee

Thank you to Barbara Burns, June Anton, John Harris and Kathy Himbeck for attending the garden working bee on 21st June.



Two small trees were removed to open up the signage at the front of the building. Three grevilleas were planted, weeds and rubbish were removed and quite a lot of pruning was done. Thanks also to those who have helped dispose of the prunings

Barbara Burns



Library News

Recent additions to the collection:

1. Books

- Cogger, HG (2014) *Reptiles and amphibians of Australia*. 7th Edition
Dolby, T & Clarke, R (2014) *Finding Australian birds: a field guide to birding locations*.
Guiler, E & Godard, P (1998) *Tasmanian Tiger: a lesson to be learned*.
Olsen, P (2014) *An eye for nature: the life of William T Cooper*.
Patterson, G (2013) *Coastal guide to nature and history: Port Phillip Bay*.

2. Periodicals

- A genetic study of the boab tree in north-west Australia in *Australian Journal of Botany* 62(2) draws conclusions about its geographic spread. There is also a review of the flora of Cape York which illustrates the development of sclerophylly in Australia during the Cenozoic.
- *Australian Journal of Wildlife Research* 41(1) has an article looking at fertility control for wildlife, and another studying the decline of the koala in south-east New South Wales. *Wildlife Australia* 51(2) covers Australian mice and rats, dragon lizards, the brown falcon and many other topics.

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 'Periodicals' borrowing book.

Gary Presland
Honorary Librarian

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 244

Joan Broadberry
Wendy Gare
Sally Bewsher



Fungi Group

FORAY 11th May 2014

White's Corner Shrubby Foothill Forest

Two years after the fire.

The ground cover vegetation was starting to recover from the fires and litter from the trees was beginning to cover the ground. Amongst the new undergrowth were lots of LBM's (Little Brown Mushrooms), that we didn't recognise, and numerous *Laccaria* sp. We could only identify *Laccaria* sp. B because it had a convex, orange-brown, striate cap, pale gills and, in particular, clusters of cells at the top of the stem (visible under hand lens).

A number of the *Cortinarius* species seen had glutinous caps. One had a slimy mauve-brown cap with a wavy margin,

There were only the very purple glutinous caps of young fruit-bodies visible.

We were able to identify three corals. The yellow *Ramaria capitata* var *capitata* was 90mm high, 45 mm wide and viscid (soil adhered to it). The branches were pale yellow, with yellow tips forming terraces of individual cauliflower-like florets bunched tightly together. It grows by itself on soil. The two other species were similar to one another. One had branches that were white tinged pink and with pink tips, while

Two boletes were interesting: *Boletellus emodensis* was amusing because it had horizontally stuck its hairy head out from a log (photo below left), and the other was Bolete 'Brilliant Red', a stunning species with a dense bright red cap and stem and contrasting yellow pores.

It was concerning to see the weedy, tiny bright orange bracket *Favolaschia Calocera* on twigs at our site and widespread in the unburnt forest on the other side of the road. The cap has a 'scooped' type texture, and relatively large pores on the underside. It is a tropical species, originally from Madagascar, but has invaded a



Boletellus emodensis Photo. Pat Grey



the other had whitish branches with wine-red tips and a cauliflower form. The one with pink tips was 30 mm high x 50 mm wide above ground with all the branches emerging from a whitish common stem below the ground. Microscopically its spore size is closest to *Ramaria botrytis*. The other with purplish tips to the branches is bigger, 50 mm x 50 mm, above ground, and the spores are smaller. Thus microscopically it is closest to *R. botrytis* var *holorubella*. In the field the different coloured tips, the general fruit-body shape and possibly the size above ground separates the two species, but both are solitary, both grow in soil and both have a pale yellow spore print.

Photo: Richard Hartland
number of other areas. In southern Queensland forests it was particularly noticeable on numerous logs, which were covered with it and here in Victoria we regularly see it, mostly in urban/suburban reserves and parks, though, as yet, in not such large numbers as Queensland (and New Zealand). Dr Tom May (senior mycologist at the RBG Melbourne) said 'A worrying point is that the species seems to produce fungal inhibitors and there is some evidence that it is displacing native fungi.'

SHIPROCK FALLS CAR PARK

At Shiprock Falls Richard Hartland again saw the purple-tipped *R. botrytis* var *holorubella* and Paul George discovered a
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(Continued from page 5)

mass display of a salmon-pink coral which is identified as *Ramaria anziana*, a coralloid fungus. Individual fruit-bodies were arranged in a large circle in the litter under eucalypts. The multiple branches were bright salmon to peach in colour, and they arose from a common stem made up of several joined branches and the tips tend to be yellow and are either awl-shaped or like the crown of a tooth. The stem grades from white below ground to pinkish above. It differs from *R. capitata* var. *ochraceosalmonicolor* and is a cauliflower-shaped species which does not have such bright salmon-pink branches. In contrast to these large corals, there were the small, rod-like white fruit-bodies of *Clavulina subrugosa*. It had both branched and simple structures arising from a common base and a white basal mycelium.

Richard Hartland found Large Banksia Discs *Banksiomyces macrocarpus* (Fungimap Target Species,) (photo previous page) on old Hairpin Banksia *Banksia spinulosa* cones growing between the seed capsules. Some old cones were still on the tree, others had fallen to the ground. Bill Leathhead had walked down the track to Ship Rock where he found a group of over twenty *Austropaxillus infundibuliformis* – golden-yellow funnel-shaped cap, decurrent, forking gills and pale yellow stem.

Thanks to the photographers (Ed Grey, Pat Grey and Richard Hartland) who supplied photos for the report and the species list.

Ed and Pat Grey

FORAY 25th May 2014

The Ada Tree Rainforest Gully and Wet Sclerophyll Forest

A somewhat traumatic morning saw several members touring forest roads before finding the Ada Tree car park. The threatening rain held off and we enjoyed a fine mild day.

Billy (from the FNCV Juniors' Group) found numerous fungi and one of the first, under the table seat was the beautiful green Green Stem Pink-gill *Entoloma rodwayi*. Under the gloomy light the cap

looked dark green, the gills had a pale pink tinge of spores and a pale green stem. In contrast with this small fairly delicate species, in the afternoon we saw the sturdy Green Skinhead *Cortinarius austrovenetus* (*Dermocybe austroveneta*, Fungimap Target), but the stem and gills were yellow, and the maturing spores were colouring the gills rusty-brown.

An early find was a group of Common Prettymouths *Calostoma fuscum*, (photo right) standing erect on their stems of woven gelatinous strands and showing off their orangey-red star-shaped 'mouths' after the solid caps had fallen off.

One of the most obvious sightings along the walking track into the rainforest gully, was the masses of sterile stipes of *Mycena cystidiosa* throughout the litter, although very few fruit-bodies were seen. *Mycena* species were common, mostly the difficult minute species, but one small branch had the distinctive white criniform stipes of *M. maldea* (again pointed out by Billy). Three other *Mycena* species were found on wood – the pink-capped (more like brown-pink) *M. kurramura* with a reddish edge to their gills and the glistening, sticky, brown-capped *M. mulawaensis*. The small, conical fruit-bodies of *M. subgalericulata* were common on the bark of living Eucalypts, and our favourite – the blue Pixie's Parasol *Mycena interrupta* (Fungimap Target) were seen several times on fallen trunks.

Further round the track was the exciting find of several Beenak Long Tooth *Beenakia dacostae* (Fungimap Target), photo right, growing in dry debris under logs of Mountain Ash. This small, stalked tooth fungus has a white cap and pale olive-brown teeth running down the stem and is not often seen. Another unusual find was a small pure white *Entoloma* with a mass of white mycelium at the base of the stem growing on a Smooth Tree-fern *Dicksonia antarctica* stem. Jurrie Hubregtse later identified it as *Entoloma albidosimulans*

Calostoma fuscum Photo: Carol Page



A search for small coral fungi (*Ramariopsis* sp.) under Tree-ferns was unsuccessful. Ed Grey then turned his attention to the stems of the Soft Tree-fern and eventually found a colony of short (ht to 13 mm), yellowish fruit-bodies. These proved identical to the illustration in Bruce Fuhrer's book, *A Field Guide to Australian Fungi* photo 511, with yellow-brown grooved, club-like heads on a brownish stem and appeared to be a *Mitrula* sp. species which is confined to the fibrous stems and bases of the Soft Tree-fern.

(Continued on page 7)



Beenakia dacostae photo: Richard Hartland

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At lunchtime, Sally Green showed us her latest crochet work – a crochet log on and around which were some crochet Fungimap Target fungi – among them the blue *Mycena interrupta* and the red *Mycena viscidocruenta*. Hiding in one end was *Mycena nargan* – ‘scales glistening like the eyes of the Nargan’.

In the afternoon along the management road in the Eucalypt forest section, we saw a group of branched corals growing on soil amongst the litter. At first there appeared to be two species – a shorter one (height to 80mm) with cream branches and pinkish red tips and a larger specimen (height to 140 mm), cream to pale buff with a few pinkish branched tips, but with most tips cream to pale buff. Using the Queensland Mycological Key to *Ramaria* both these specimens were identified as *Ramaria botrytoides*. As with a number of *Ramaria* species young stages can be quite different in colour and growth habit from the mature form. Young fruit-bodies of *R. botrytoides* have distinctly pink branch tips and short branches, while in maturity the branches elongate and gradually lose the pink coloured tips until the whole fruit-body becomes uniformly cream-buff. Species that could be confused with *R. botrytoides* include *R. botrytis* var *holorubella* (Fuhrer, photo 320) and *R. aff formosa* (Fuhrer, photo 324) but

at maturity both of these species retain pink-red branched tips over the whole fruit-body. Staying with coral fungi, in the morning we found the Peppery Coral *Artomyces austropiperatus* growing on a log and in the afternoon, the other little peppery coral *A. colensoi* growing on the bark of a fallen log. These are the only two species of coral that grow on wood. It was possible to clearly view the structural differences between the two – the sturdy, densely-branched *A. austropiperatus* has branches to 2 mm diameter, and the fine, delicate, open-branched *A. colensoi* has branches 1mm or less in diameter.

Forayers further round the Ada Tree track saw the Rhubarb Bolete *Boletellus obscurecoccineus* (Fungimap Target). This species is characterised by the brilliant smooth red cap, bright yellow pores, and scales scattered on the stem, which is yellow at the top grading to deep red at the base. The flesh is yellow.

Thanks to Richard Hartland and Carol Page for their photographs.

Ed and Pat Grey

MYSTERY PHOTO: Your FNN editor is pulling a dead kangaroo from the path of traffic. As we passed the carcass we noticed a beautifully marked Wedge-tailed Eagle feeding on it. These birds are slow to take off, especially when full of meat and no match for a 100 km per hour car. The best technique is to hold the dead animal by the tail using a plastic bag to protect your hands. Try to pull it as far across the verge as possible. Without me realising it, Carol Page snapped the photo.

Thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 243

Keith Marshall
Sheina Nicholls
Margaret Brewster
Pieter Boshma
Andy Brentnall
Ray Power
Joan Broadberry
Margaret Corrick

Apology: In a recent big clean-out, I somehow threw out my list, so please excuse any omissions. A special thank you to Margaret Corrick’s son, here on a visit from Perth, who once again came to help us out. Ed.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

| FNCV Schedule of new membership fees, applicable from 1st July 2014. | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| (5%increase) | |
| Family/Joint (up to 2 adults & 4 children at same address) _____ | \$ 100 |
| Single _____ | \$ 79 |
| Pensioner/Country - Concession ID # _____ | \$ 58 |
| **Additional Concession Member (1 only, must also be Concession) _____ | \$ 21 |
| Schools/Clubs _____ | \$ 89 |
| Student – Student ID # _____ | \$ 32 |
| *Junior (First member) _____ | \$ 32 |
| **Additional Junior Members (parents, guardians, brothers or sisters) _____ | \$ 16 |
| each | |
| Institutions/Libraries/Businesses (within Australia) _____ | \$152 |
| (overseas) _____ | \$163 |
| * Note Junior membership entitles you to receive the Junior Naturalist only | |
| (All prices include 10% GST) | |



Extracts from SIG reports given at the June FNCV Council Meeting

Botany Group:

At the May meeting Jasper Hails from friends of Kurth Kiln Regional Park spoke about "Recovery of Tall Astelia in Kurth Kiln Park". The sub catchment of Tomahawk Creek and Egg Rock Creek in Kurth Kiln is the only location in the Yarra catchment where Tall Astelia is found. This area was previously logged and was burned in the 1926 fires. It has Mountain Ash regrowth dating from then. On maturity, Tall Astelia spreads by rhizomes which break off and become separate plants, so it is not known how many separate plants exist, or if they are all one clone.

The Tall Astelia was surveyed in 1993 and has declined 80% since then. It is thought that the Tall Astelia flowers when a tree falls in the forest allowing more light to reach the forest floor. Friends of Kurth Kiln want this area to be reserved as a protected area. Deer threaten the Tall Astelia as they not only graze it, but also dig up and trample the plants. It is thought that the loggers' bullocks grazed the Tall Astelia pre the 1926 fires. Another threatening process is the prescribed burns which will take place every fifteen years as part of the 5% annual burn target for Victoria. This is damaging to the Tall Astelia as each time a fire occurs, it will dry out progressively more wet forest, making the habitat unsuitable.

Fauna Survey Group: Grampians – 6 June to 9 June

The FSG was invited to the Grampians by Parks Victoria to survey for arboreal mammals, in particular Squirrel Gliders, in reserves to the north of the national park.

The reserves surveyed were Heatherlie, Silverband Falls, Deep Lead, Lonsdale and Ledcourt.

We camped at the Plantation Camp Ground, just north of Halls Gap. The survey consisted mainly of spotlighting and the placement of remote cameras and hair tubes. Spotlighting did not take place at Deep Lead because of mine activities and the consequent safety concerns. Club cameras were placed at all sites except Silverband Falls, where Parks Victoria placed some cameras. Some bird watching and rock-turning activity also took place.

With the exception of Heatherlie, the spotlighting results produced mainly small numbers of Brushtail Possums and one Common Ringtail Possum at Silverband Falls. In the banksias at Heatherlie a Pygmy Possum and a Feathertail Glider were seen.

Only three of the six cameras at Lonsdale and Ledcourt produced results, with Common Brushtail Possums recorded at two sites and an Antechinus at one site. Arboreal mammals were recorded at four of the five sites at Deep Lead and four of the six sites at Heatherlie. At Deep Lead Sugar Gliders and Common Brushtail Possums were recorded, while at Heatherlie we recorded a Feathertail Glider, Sugar Gliders, Common Brushtail Possums and our only record of the elusive Squirrel Glider.

Our 'rock-turning' produced specimens of Boulenger's Skink, Marbled Gecko and Bibron's Toadlet. Some 40 species of bird were recorded including Gang-Gang Cockatoos and Emus. The hair tube results have not yet been analysed.

Fungi Group: The Fungi Group has held one meeting and four forays so far this month.

At our meeting, Research Scientist Gregory Bonito (from Duke University, North Carolina), who is currently working at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, spoke about tropical fleshy fungi. He and two other mycologists have been searching parts of the Northern Territory for fungi, because there are few records of fungi from that area: understandably, most people don't go exploring there in the wet season, when fungi emerge. The expedition was very successful, and plenty of fungi were found. Gregory introduced us to some fascinating genera that we weren't familiar with, including Endogone (pronounced end-odg-on-ee), which is an ancient group of mycorrhizal fungi, and Sebacina, a group of gelatinous ectomycorrhizal fungi that grow up the stems of plants.

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

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Four forays have been held, at Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood; Mount Worth State Park; Jehosaphat Gully, Kinglake National Park; and Greens Bush, Mornington Peninsula National Park. At the Kinglake foray we were joined by members of the Kinglake Landcare Group who kindly provided pizzas for our lunch. Some members of the Juniors' Group joined us for the forays at Kinglake and Greens Bush. The fifth foray for this month will be at Neds Gully, Cathedral Range State Park

Geology Group:

At the May meeting (following the late withdrawal of our intended speaker), we were shown a DVD called 'Chasing Ice' made about the environmental photographer, James Balog. He installed a large number of time lapse cameras photographing selected glacier fronts in Iceland, Greenland and Alaska. The resulting photos showing the retreat of these glaciers over the ten years the cameras have been in action were just incredible. It was a gripping and very pertinent look at the Earth's changing climate.

Juniors' Group: Meeting 30th May:

Russell Thompson spoke to us about identifying bones. He is a horticulturalist who has been fascinated in the natural world since the age of five with a special interest in bones. He has been a member of the FNCV Fauna Survey Group for nearly 30 years and has much experience in this area. Russell brought along many bones to show us and many Juniors brought along bones to show and have identified. We looked at different skulls to see the different features (including their teeth to consider what they would have eaten), vertebrae, sternums, pelvis and all the other various bones that make up a skeleton.

Some of the bones we saw were full skeletons and others were just fragments of one bone. We saw the difference between two different species of wombat. Russell was hesitant in getting too specific about identifying the bones with the children as he was more interested in them coming away with a fascination for them and wanting to learn more.

FNCV receives a grant for the printing of its history

In November last year, Gary Presland applied on behalf of the Club for a grant to fund the production of the history of FNCV he is writing. The Local History Grants Program is administered by the Public Record Office Victoria and annually provides grants of up to \$15 000 for projects related to local history. Gary applied for \$8000 to purchase a computer and appropriate software to lay out the book, pay for assistance with editorial work, the acquiring of images and the printing of the finished manuscript.

News came at the end of May that he had been successful in attracting the sum he applied for and money has since been transferred to the Club's account. In the middle of June, Gary and Robin Drury were presented with a certificate to mark the achievement, by Lorraine Wreford, the State Member for Moorabbin. Robin and Lorraine were involved because Robin agreed to be the contact person on the application, and Lorraine is his local member.

Photo: Robin Drury and Gary Presland receiving the certificate from Lorraine Wreford, 16 June 2014.



Good Will Wine – fundraiser

The FNCV in partnership with Goodwill wine raises money for the Club. This fundraising endeavour will be going and will benefit the Club for many years to come.

Goodwill wine is a fundraising website, which offers Charities and not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to raise money through wine sales. Simply go to the website: www.goodwillwine.com.au or call them on

03 5348 2848 and order either half a dozen or a dozen bottles of wine. Most of the wine is sourced within Victoria, Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula etc, with the rest coming from elsewhere in Australia.

For every dozen bottles sold the Club will receive \$20.00 (\$10.00 per ½ dozen). The wine comes with a 100% money back guarantee and will be delivered to your door. These bottles of wine, with our FNCV label, would make a great gift and are a wonderful way to advertise the Club. So drink up, enjoy a good wine and raise money for the FNCV.



Advertising in the Field Nats News

VERY REASONABLE RATES

Contact Wendy in the Field Nats Office

admin@fncv.org.au

9877 9860

(Mon – Tues 9.30–4)



Day Group

Our Native Wildlife and Us

Speaker: *Adriana Simmons*

Adriana Simmonds studied biology, specializing in zoology, in far off Columbia. She migrated to Australia with her family 15 years ago and immediately fell under the spell of Australian wildlife. Adriana was amazed by the extraordinary and unique fauna which has evolved here, and the way native animals and birds live side-by-side with people, even in urban environments. However, this wildlife is also very fragile and Australia has the highest rate of extinction in the world. Adrianna saw clearly that many issues needed to be confronted.

Very soon she became a volunteer wildlife carer, establishing her own shelter on her family property in Wonga Park.

This is rewarding, but also exacting and often heartbreaking work. Adriana illustrated her presentation with many images that were difficult to view and stories that were hard to listen to. Below is an attempt to summarise her message. What I cannot do is adequately reproduce Adriana's passion, strong convictions, gentle humour, apt illustrations and glowing sincerity.

Adriana began by listing four situations where native animals require care. Firstly, when they are *orphaned*. The

carer initially acts in place of their mother. Later she must disengage and set the animal up to survive in the wild. When animals are *ill or injured*, the help of vets and skilled nursing is needed to give the animal its best chance. Lastly, native animals need urgent help when they are *displaced* through the destruction of their habitat. In this case it is often very difficult to capture and relocate an active, healthy creature. These situations are caused by humans, usually not deliberately. However, we must own the fact that *we* are the main reason that our Australian wildlife suffers.

SPECIFIC CAUSES & SOLUTIONS

Traffic. Adriana was shocked when she arrived in Australia to witness the carnage caused to animals by vehicles. It is of no use to talk about traffic (or any problem) without proposing solutions. Some of these are:

- Respect signs that warn animals may be sharing the road.
- Slow down and be very watchful early in the early morning, late afternoon and evening when the daylight animals are moving to their beds and nocturnal animals are waking up.
- Remove dead bodies from the path of cars (using gloves or plastic bags) as other animals e.g. Tasmanian Devils, Ravens and birds of prey feed on them and can thus easily be hit too. (See photo page 1—editor).
- Check the pouches of road-kill for babies. Adrianna believes that just as all Australians should learn to swim, we should all know how to check a pouch. (She offers tuition.)



Photo: J. Broadberry

Pets. Another huge issue. Cats are predators by nature and hunt both in the daytime (lizards and birds) and at night, even though most owners will not admit this. The solution to co-existence between cats and wildlife is keeping cats inside, perhaps with an outside enclosure. Adriana herself has done this for her three cats. It is good for the cat, protecting it from fights and car accidents and also protects the owner from diseases a cat may pick up. Dogs too, are powerful predators, able to injure large animals such as koalas or kangaroos. The answer is to allow them off lead only in designated areas.

Entanglement. Fences, especially ring-lock or barb-wire fences, trap, maim and kill many animals. Adriana recommends googling “wildlife friendly fences” for a host of design ideas. Where it is impractical to rebuild fences, making them more visible by hanging shiny objects along them is easy and effective. Protecting crops or plants with nets, especially those that are thin and black, can entrap wildlife including birds and flying foxes. Solutions are to attach nets to a frame and use bright colours e.g. white or orange so that wildlife can see and avoid them. Rubbish from packaging, hooks and fishing line is another big issue, injuring wildlife through entanglement and within from ingestion. When talking to school groups, Adriana tells the kids that, “picking up rubbish (it doesn't have to be yours) may save the life of an animal”. We can also utilize consumer power to encourage manufacturers to use less packaging.

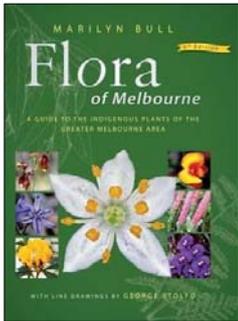
Habitat destruction is the biggest issue of all. Adriana described humans as the only species that destroys the very thing that keeps them alive. Not even parasites do that. There are too many people on the planet. Many are arrogant and poorly educated about the environment. In Australia in just 200 years, 80% of forests have been destroyed. Introduced plants for what Adriana calls our “plastic gardens”, have spread into the bush and have replaced so many of the native plants that provide essential food and shelter for wildlife.

A clear three-step program was out-

(Continued on page 12)

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSHOP

The long awaited 4th edition of *Flora of Melbourne* is now available and it is selling fast. It is selling so fast that it is a challenge to keep copies on the shelf for long. If you find there are none on the shelf, let me know and I can notify you of when more are due in. Another book that flew off the shelf when released is Volume 6 by French, *A Handbook of the Destructive Insects of Victoria*. Copies are still available of this once, thought to be lost edition. I am always happy to take emails for any books of particular interest, so send me an email to the bookshop, bookshop@fncv.org.au. There are new titles and updated editions being added to the collection each month. Happy reading! *Kathy Kimbeck*

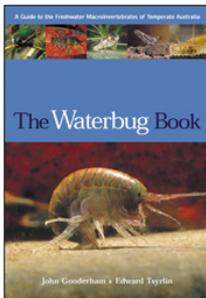
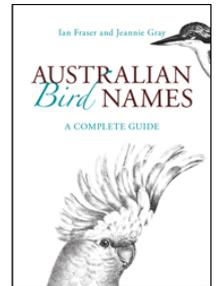


Flora of Melbourne (M. Bull) 4th edition (hardback), is a resource that assists in the recognition and botanical identification of species while encouraging an awareness of the interrelationships between indigenous plants and animals. It identifies the usefulness of these species, both to the local Aborigines in the past and to all who wish to understand our diminishing natural environment in the present. It provides an important record of the plant life that developed in the Greater Melbourne area over a long period of time. *The Flora of Melbourne* works on a few different levels. It provides an important record of the plant life that developed in the Greater Melbourne area over a long period of time.

RRP \$89.95, Members \$70.

Australian Bird Names: A Complete Guide (Fraser & Grey) was awarded the 2013 Whitley Award Commendation for Zoological Resource. This book was published in 2013 and is aimed at anyone with an interest in birds, words, or the history of Australian biology and bird watching. It discusses common and scientific names of every Australian bird, to tease out the meanings, which may be useful, useless or downright misleading. Stories behind the name are included, as well as relevant aspects of biology, conservation and history.

RRP \$49.95, Members \$40.

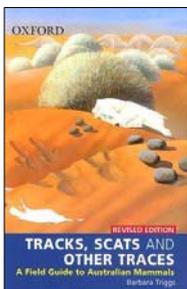


The Waterbug Book (Gooderham & Tsyrlin) won the 2003 Eureka Science Book Prize and the 2003 Whiteley Medal. This book provides a comprehensive and accurate identification guide for both professionals and non-professionals. It contains an easy-to-use key to all macro-invertebrate groups and, for the first time, high quality colour photographs of live specimens. It provides a wealth of basic information on the biology of macro-invertebrates, and describes the SIGNAL method for assessing river health.

RRP \$49.95, Members \$39.95.

Josh Saves Joe-Joe (White & Liddicut) is a fund raiser for wildlife carers of the Grampian region. Is it the lovely relationship between Josh and his Dad, the shared concern for Joe Joe, their love for the bush, the wonderful caring nature of Vicki or the sad helpless situation of Joe Joe. Whatever it is, all these elements make for a heart warming simple story that works and succeeds in raising an awareness of our wildlife and the remarkable work of wildlife carers.

RRP \$10



Tracks, Scats and other Traces: A Field Guide to Australian Mammals. (B. Triggs) was fully revised and published in 2004. Mammals inhabit every corner of our vast continent, yet the great majority of species are seldom seen. The only clue to their presence might be a footprint left on a muddy track, a scat deposited on a rocky ledge, or bones scattered on a forest floor. This book provides all the information needed to identify mammals anywhere in Australia using only the signs they leave behind.

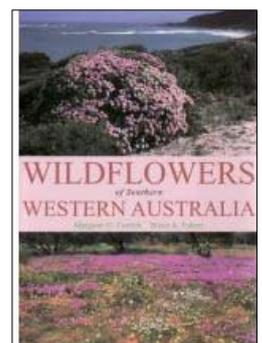
RRP \$49.95, Members \$39.95.

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.

Wildflowers of southern Western Australia. (Corrick & Fuhrer) is a unique and stunning guide to the beautiful wildflowers of southern Western Australia. Lavishly photographed in full color, it features photographs and brief descriptions of 755 species found in the popular region. If you are thinking of a trip over to WA to discover the wealth and beauty of their wildflowers, this book is a must. **RRP \$39.95, Members \$31.95.**



From the Office.....



- ◆ The FNCV Annual Report for 2013, distributed at the AGM is now available for viewing on our website.
- ◆ Apologies to Rob Bird who in FNN 242, in relation to his FNCV long-term membership, was credited with helping with our website. His contribution was in fact to the recent establishment and content of the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club website.
- ◆ We have now booked at the following festivals where we're setting up stalls and require members to help look after them. This will only take a couple of hours of your time, it will be fun to chat to interested members of the public and you'll have the opportunity of looking round the festival as well.

Please contact me in the office to let me know when you could help. Phone me on 9877 8040 or admin@fncv.org.au

Eltham Copper Butterfly Festival — Eltham Lower Park, 570 Main Rd Eltham
Sunday 7th September 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Australian Plants Expo – Community and Reception Centre, Main Rd. Eltham.
Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Whitehorse Spring Festival—Nunawading Council Offices, Whitehorse
Sunday 19th October 10.00 am to 4.00 pm



Wendy Gare, Administration Officer

(Continued from page 10)

lined. *Protect* areas of natural vegetation; *enhance* what exists e.g. by weeding and *restore* by replanting truly indigenous species, not just vegetation native to some part of Australia which could become an environmental weed. Many nurseries exist which collect local seed and propagate indigenous plants. (*Some local ones are Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Bungalook Nursery and Greenlink Boxhill.*) Adrianna then described how she, with the aid of FNCV member Cecily Falkingham, came to totally rethink her ideas of what makes a beautiful garden and how she has transformed her own property, including creating a frog-pond and creating a wildlife corridor, by clearing and replanting.

This was a Day Group presentation I really wanted to write up. Possibly we are already converted to the theory, but I rather think that many of us have some way to go on the practical side. Those who were unable to be present may well be able to attend another of the many talks Adriana gives. To spread her message as widely as possible she has set up and is director of "*Human Seeds. Environmental Programs and Seminars.*" I would encourage readers to seek out www.humansseeds.com.au and learn more about this wonderful person and her work.

Joan Broadberry

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The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
P.O. Box 13
BLACKBURN VIC 3130
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