



Field Nats News No.246

Newsletter of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

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Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9.30 am - 4 pm.

October 2014



Where is John Harris?

John and Kathy are away for six weeks surveying with *Desert Discovery*, west of Alice Springs. They will be back on 21st September.

John has kindly sent some amazing photos for us to enjoy.

From top: Sandy Inland Mouse, Desert Banded Snake and Pygmy Desert Goanna.

We wish them both a wonderful trip.



Left: Sue Bendel, convener of the Botany Group is a wildlife carer.

I photographed her at a recent Council meeting feeding an orphaned Brush-tail Possum. **JB**

FNN DEADLINES

The deadline for the November issue of Field Nats News will be **10 am Tuesday 7th October.**

FNN will go to the printers on Tuesday 14th October with collation on the 21st Oct.

ADVANCE NOTICE for the Dec/Jan 2015 newsletter deadline.

The due date for all copy will be one week early, i.e. 10 am on Tuesday 28th October. The editor will be on holidays.

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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. No pets. Please check with leader.

October

Sunday 5th – Juniors' Group - Excursion: Macro-invertebrate session with Priya Crawford-Wilson from Melbourne Waterwatch team. Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474: toclairef@gmail.com

Monday 6th - Fungi Group - Meeting: Planning for 2015. Contact Virgil Hubregtse 9560 7775

Tuesday 7th - Fauna Survey Group - Meeting: Ecology of the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot in peri-urban Melbourne. Speaker: Sarah Maclagan, PhD Candidate, School of Life and Environmental Science, Deakin University
Contact Robin Drury 0417 195148

Sunday 12th - Botany Group & Juniors' Group - Field Trip: Toolangi including Wirra Willa Rainforest Walk
Come with Bernie Mace and see Leadbeater's Possum habitat and enter a giant Mountain Ash that thirty people can stand in!
Meet at 11am Myers Creek Rd and Sylvia Creek Rd, Toolangi. Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055071

Monday 13th - Marine Research Group - Meeting: Contact Leon Altoff for details, 9530 4180 AH; 0428 669773

Wednesday 15th - Microscopy Group - Meeting: Microalgae, with high algal specimens for us to view
Speaker: Kumar Eliezer, Principal Biologist, ALS Global, Environmental Division, Aquatic Department.
Contact Philippa Burgess 0409 866389

Thursday 16th – Botany Group - Meeting: The Virtual Herbarium. Speaker: Niels Klazenga.
Contact Sue Bendel 0427 055071

Saturday 18th - Fauna Survey Group - Stagwatch: An evening survey to look for Leadbeater's Possum, gliders, owls and other nocturnal wildlife. Contact Ray Gibson 0417 861651

Tuesday 21st - Collate FNN. Starting about 10.00 am. All welcome. Contact Joan Broadberry 9846 1218

Wednesday 22nd – Geology Group - Meeting: Snowball Earth. Speaker: Dr. Peter Jackson, Geologist.
Contact Kaye Oddie 9329 0635

Saturday 25th - Fauna Survey Group - Survey: Reptile survey, Eastern Metropolitan Parks.
Contact Robin Drury 0417 195148 [Prior Registration essential.](#)

Monday 27th - FNCV Council Meeting -7.30 pm sharp. Agenda items and apologies to Wendy, 98779860 or admin@fncv.org.au

Tuesday 28th – Day Group - Meeting: Bees of the Bogong High Plains. Speaker: Lucy Johanson, Masters student at Melbourne University. Meet at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat. Speaker at 11 am. Contact Gary Presland 9890 9288

Friday 31st – Juniors' Group 7.30 pm - Meeting: People and Parks. A Kinglake Community Project. Speaker: Tony Fitzgerald, Kinglake ranger, speaking to us about a community project he was involved in following the devastating fires in the Kinglake region.
Contact Claire Ferguson 8060 2474: toclairef@gmail.com

For your calendar

Monday 10th November— Australian Natural History Medallion presentation and dinner
Invitation p12.

Saturday 22nd November— FNCV Biodiversity Symposium.
Topic: "**Farming and Conservation**". *Registration form p4*



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 Council meeting: *Leanne Greenwood, Jaynaya Atkins and Kyvelie Tsolakis*

If you find injured wildlife:

Wildlife Victoria

1300 094 535

Help for Wildlife

0417 380 687

Will connect you to your nearest suitable wildlife shelter

PUT THESE NUMBERS IN YOUR PHONE NOW.



WOULD ANYONE VOLUNTEER TO DO SOME EXTRA JOBS AROUND THE FNCV HALL ON A REGULAR BASIS?

We have a cleaner who comes fortnightly and does a great job, but there are a few things that still need attention e.g. cleaning out the fridge, washing tea-towels, freshening up the noticeboards, tidying up things left around. Please contact the office if you can help out. Maybe two people could share the Job?



Orchids –from left—anticlockwise

Pheladenis defomis,
Blue-beard;
Ptetostylis curta,
Blunt Greenhood;
Cynaculia caerulea,
Blue-fingers;
Corybas diemenicus,
Veined Helmet;
Caladenia Praecox,
Early Caladenia.



Could not resist sharing a few native orchid photos, all taken in the bush near Melbourne in the last few days.

Joan Broadberry

Monitored Smoke Alarms

FNCV has contracted with ADT Security of Mt Waverley to install monitored smoke/burglar alarms in the Club building.

ADT has offered the FNCV a \$100 rebate on alarm monitoring costs for each person who signs up for a three year security agreement as a result of reading this promotion.

Phone Aaron Walter 9538 7113
www.adtsecurity.com.au

Their current offer is \$199 for an installed security system and monitoring for 3 years at \$37.45 per month.

Optics Central Affiliate Program

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

Members will need to key in the Coupon Code: FNCV3130.

There is no minimum order and no limit on items.

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

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.



The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

“Understanding Our Natural World”

BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM 2014 “Farming & Conservation”

Venue: FNCV Club Rooms, 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd November 9.30am—4pm

The aim of the symposium is to deliver specialized knowledge on topics such as regenerating damaged land and conservation management networks. The symposium will bring together experts and practitioners to discuss complex farming and conservation issues.

Saturday - Presentations

Speakers include:

- **Tony Brindley - Conserving, restoring and creating wetlands.**
- **Ben Carr, The Nature Conservancy:** Policies and practices that support conservation on farms including *Wildlife Corridors and Bio links; Collaborative conservation; Conservation Covenanting & Action Planning*
- **Bernie Fox - Mallee regeneration**
- **Neville Oddie:**
- **Rob Youl AOM, Landcare and forestry expert:** *Creating new wildlife habitat, carbon sinks and pleasing landscapes on former farmland in Victoria's box-ironbark country*
- **and more. . .**

Note: MORNING TEA and LUNCH included

Sunday - Field Trip

We hope to be hiring a minibus and going to properties near Melbourne to observe ecological restoration. At the time of the newsletter going to the printer arrangements were not finalized. Space will be limited to 22 participants, (strictly first-come-first served) BYO lunch and drinks.

For more information contact our office 9877 9860 Mon & Tues 9.30—4 pm or admin@fncv.org.au



REGISTRATION FORM FNCV BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM 2014 - FARMING & CONSERVATION

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____ P'code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Early Bird Fee: must be paid by 30/9/14	(Members Only) <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat & Sun \$80	
Full Fee: Final registration & payment by 15/11/14	(Members Only) <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat & Sun \$90	Includes GST
	(Non-members) <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat & Sun \$110	

PAYING BY (Please tick): Direct Entry

Direct entry payment option:
 Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Acc No: 123098725
 Name: The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
 Please use your name with "BioD" as your reference

Cheque

Cash

Visa MasterCard

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Cardholder's name: _____

Signature _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

Number attending	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL \$	<input type="text"/>

Return registration form by 15 November 2014 to: FNCV Inc., PO Box 13, Blackburn Vic 3130
OR: Scan & email to: admin@fncv.org.au

Extracts from SIG reports given at the last FNCV Council Meeting

Fauna Survey Group: At the meeting on 5th August 2014, Jarad Lyon from the Arthur Rylah Institute spoke on current issues with Victoria's freshwater fishes. Jarad took us through some of the many reasons for the decline of Victoria's freshwater fish population: weirs, erosion, pollution, de-snagging and fires were some of the culprits. Weirs disrupt the natural movement of fish, preventing the recolonisation of barren stretches of waterways. Some effective solutions to this problem have been to remove the weirs altogether, or to create fish passages, rock ramps, or to install fish lifts. Erosion clouds the water reducing its oxygen capacity, clogging fish gills and reducing the populations of invertebrates that the fish feed on. Verge revegetation helps improve this problem. Pollution is similar to erosion either killing the fish directly or their food supply. Snags used to be removed from the rivers to improve the water flow but they act as refuges for native fish who feed at night, whereas Carp, which are one of the main pest fish species, prefer open water. So de-snagging actually improves the environment for pest species, and re-snagging greatly benefits our native species. Fires cause large amounts of ash and debris to be introduced into the waterways smothering the living creatures and creating dead zones.

Jarad took us through the identification of various native and pest species and showed us some of the techniques used to sample fish populations and some of the fish that were caught. Some of the fish were excellent specimens. He also displayed the results of some of the work that has been done by improving the habitat for the native fish which he thought was the best way to increase native fish populations. Captive breeding and restocking is another method used, but improving the habitat seems to be more effective in the long term. Jarad's talk was very interesting and informative resulting in many questions at the end of his presentation.

Fungi Group: At our August meeting Paul George spoke about the April 2014 Brisbane Fungi Festival, and showed photos of many of the interesting fungi that he saw there during the forays. A summary of the activities at the festival can be seen on the Fungi-map web site.

Juniors' Group: We had a perfect winter morning for 30 of our members on our walk with Yarra River Keeper, Ian Penrose, on Sunday the 17th August. We started and ended at the Studley Park Boathouse in Kew and walked a circuit which led us past historical, geological and ecological points along the way. The Yarra River is Melbourne's most important natural asset and all Melbournians are dependent on it. It provides 70% of our piped water and its valley is world renowned for its vineyards and natural beauty. It is the centrepiece of many city cultural events and plays host to sports, recreational and nature-based activities. The Yarra rises east of Melbourne near Mt Baw Baw and flows 240 km to Port Phillip Bay. Its environs are not just our home, they are home for hundreds of different plants and animals, including platypus, koalas, lyrebirds and native fish.

However, the impact of our large city is putting the Yarra's health under stress. Most of the river's water is taken to supply our homes and industry, and river flows are now dangerously low. The Yarra is polluted with litter and a cocktail of urban waste and its water quality falls well short of legal standards. The Yarra's wetlands, floodplains and banks are damaged by weeds, and continue to shrink from the pressure of urban growth. Many wildlife species are now endangered. State Government research shows that only 36% of the Yarra and tributaries are in good condition.

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association is a not-for-profit community organisation formed in 2004 by a group of citizens who love the Yarra River and care for its future. They aim to protect and restore the Yarra River and its tributaries, from source to mouth, for current and future generations. They are members of the international Waterkeeper movement of community groups around the world caring for their local waterways. They tell the river's "story," highlighting its wonders and its challenges and monitor its health and activities affecting it. They run educational events, river tours and give informative presentations to a variety of community groups. They work closely with numerous government bodies and advocate directly and through media for river care. For more info: www.yarrariver.org.au/

Marine Research Group: At our meeting on the 11th of August Peter Bathie of Bathisphere Productions gave an interesting talk on his time diving in Papua New Guinea. While the trip was affected by mechanical failures and even pirates, the weather was perfect and he shared 30 minutes of video taken during the dives in crystal clear water. The meeting was attended by 13 members and 2 guests.

Microscopy Group: Our last meeting on 20th August was a members' night. Members were asked to bring along any items they were interested in viewing under the microscope. Many people brought interesting things; plants, stagnant water full of water fleas and amoeba, several deceased stick insects and dragonflies, and a large collection of various marine and plant segment specimens. Max, Ray and Philippa set up many different microscopes for people to use, including several from our newly acquired collection donated by Melbourne University and painstakingly resurrected by Max Campbell.

The highlight of the evening were many short videos patiently recorded by Max. The quality of the videos was superb, giving us such a great view on the big screen of the microscopic life unseen all around us. We saw: many swimming amoeba, difflugia and euglypha, the latter involved in conjugation and then enforced separation due to an interrupting rotifer! ciliates spirostomum, euplotes, vorticella and tokophyra beautiful rotifers with their wheel organs creating water currents for feeding minute collembola floating on water with predatory mites walking all over them. There were close up videos of a brightly coloured water mite and we saw his tiny red eyes pulsating. This was followed by a scorpion feeding on a centipede, made iridescent under UV light. We also saw cabbage looper caterpillars feeding and pill millipedes mating! Everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed the videos and had a great time viewing the lovely variety of specimens under the microscopes.



Day Group

Mistletoes

Speaker: *Peter Rogers*

WHAT IS A MISLETOE? Mistletoes are hemi-parasitic shrubs found on the branches or trunks of woody plants. They are attached by woody haustoria, with or without epicortical runners producing secondary haustoria. Mistletoes rely on their host for water and nutrients, but as with other green plants, most mistletoes are able to photosynthesise. A few mistletoes attach to roots, but the majority are aerial plants. The haustorium is the woody structure with which the mistletoe attaches to its host. It forms as the developing embryo begins to grow. In general terms the developing mistletoe is sending its roots into the tree branch, penetrating the host's xylem. The resultant haustorium is a conglomerate of mistletoe and host cells, which enable the flow of water and nutrients from the host to the mistletoe. There are over 1400 species of mistletoe in the world.

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTION

There are approximately 89 species of mistletoe in Australia, with 65 being endemic. Queensland has 68; NT 39; WA 38; NSW 35; SA 17; Vic 12. The further south you go, the fewer mistletoe species there are to be found. None occurs in Tasmania, although there is fossilized evidence of mistletoe having been present at some stage.



Amyema pendulum ssp *pendulum* (Drooping Mistletoe)

INTERACTIONS

a. Dependence on mistletoe as food

Possums and Koalas - The leaves and branches of mistletoe are

widely consumed. Mistletoe plants contain abundant water and high concentrations of metals in their tissues. Common Brushtail Possums, Bobucks and Greater Gliders will select mistletoe over host foliage or leaves of other plants.

Birds - A range of birds assist with the dispersal of seeds and pollen. Some of the birds include numerous honeyeaters, Olive-backed Orioles, Silvereyes, various parrots and lorikeets and



Mistletoe bird

bowerbirds. Ripe mistletoe berries are the main food of Mistletoe-birds, although insects are also consumed. This bird is an important agent in the dispersal of mistletoe seeds, which pass through the bird in about 25 to 30 minutes with the sticky seeds finally being deposited on a branch.

(*Photo above*)

Butterflies - At least 27 species of Australian butterflies use mistletoe as their host plants

Other insects - eg. weevils, thrips, and beetles also feed on mistletoe leaves.

Moths - The mistletoe moth is a large day-flying moth that uses mistletoe to play host to its offspring. Its caterpillars are beautifully striped.

b. Mistletoe as shelter for nest and roosting sites

Mistletoes are also widely used as dens, roosting places and nesting lo-

cations. Eg. Ringtail Possums commonly use mistletoe to build their dreys. About 245 bird species have been recorded nesting in mistletoe clumps.

c. Influence on biodiversity

Recent research has discovered that mistletoes are a 'keystone' species. An experiment conducted to prove this, was to remove all mistletoes from the trees in 17 field sites and monitor the changes that occurred. The results were compared with 11 control sites where mistletoe was still intact. By taking out this single plant, a third of the woodland bird species were lost within three years. The birds most affected were not

those that fed or nested in the mistletoes, but those that fed on insects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

a. Why has mistletoe increased?

Mistletoes have become noticeably more abundant in many parts of southern Australia. Some like *Amyema miquelli* (Box mistletoe) and *Amyema pendulum* (Drooping mistletoe) appear to have thrived more than others.

Compared with continuous forests and woodlands, mistletoes have become far more abundant in paddock trees, shelter belts, roadsides and other woodland and forest edges in many regions. This targeting of such visible habitats has made mistletoe more obvious to us.

Reduction in the numbers of common Brushtail Possums and Koalas, both natural mistletoe predators.

High-intensity fires kill all mistletoes. Low-intensity fires may kill mistletoes or contain them due to their slow recovery. The intensity and frequency of fires has changed dramatically, with fewer fires occurring in many regions as fires are actively extinguished. Mistletoe, once killed, will not regenerate without new seeds being deposited on a suitable branch.

Mistletoes favour isolated paddock
(*Continued on page 7*)

(Continued from page 6)

trees due a combination of fac-

c. Mistletoe management

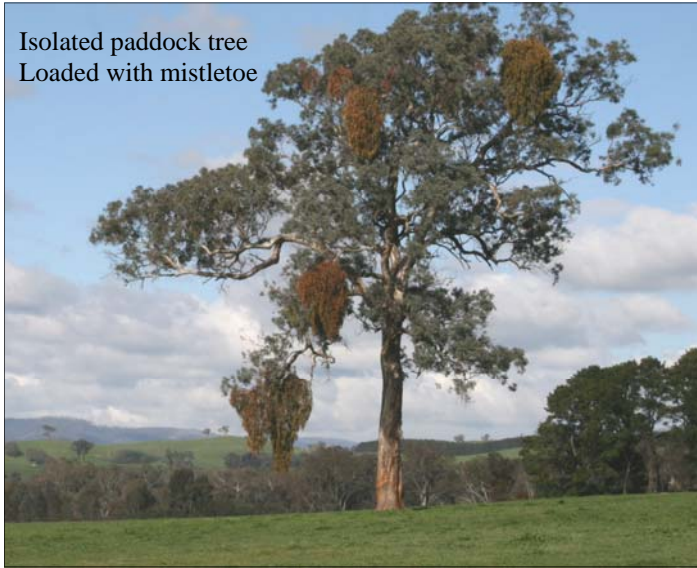
Mistletoes can be managed by man via pruning, herbicide application, thinning or the use of fire. Natural controls are through predation by browsers, natural fires and environmental stresses such as prolonged drought.

A good way to control mistletoe infestation is by addressing the underlying causes. egs. By putting up nesting boxes to encourage

possums and gliders, by control burning to kill excess mistletoe and by encouraging regeneration of native plants. One place that did this recently was in the Clare Valley in South Australia where local residents were concerned about mistletoe infestations in local blue gums. They made it their business to learn more about the biology of mistletoes. Although some of the bigger infestations were manually removed, natural animal predators were also encouraged back by fencing off areas and planting trees.

Editor: Peter has been studying mistletoes for many years and his knowledge is prodigious. He very kindly lent me his notes and I have attempted to summarise his very comprehensive talk. Space has decreed that some of his work has had to be omitted. Also missing are most of Peter's photographs, taken in the field and so perfectly illustrating virtually every point he made. On behalf of the Day Group, I would once again like to thank him for a absolutely first class presentation .

Isolated paddock tree
Loaded with mistletoe



tors. For example, increased access to light, increased access by these trees to water through runoff, increased nutrients from stock seeking shade beneath them, decreased visitation by possums and a low likelihood of being affected by fires.

b. Do mistletoes kill trees?

As mistletoes depend on a single host for all their water and nutritional needs, it is in their direct interest to have a negligible effect on their host plants. Nevertheless, if a tree or shrub is infected by a large number of mistletoe plants, host vigour and even survival can be compromised, leading to the death of the host and mistletoe. 'Tree Decline' is defined as the progressive decline in the health and number of trees. It is currently one of the major conservation issues across Australia and mistletoe has been implicated. Mistletoes are not regarded as a major cause, but may be significant on a local scale where there is heavy occurrence on host trees already under difficult environmental conditions such as drought. 'Tree death' generally occurs when the mistletoe forms the majority of the crown biomass, although the tree may survive for some years before it succumbs. Research in NSW has shown that heavy mistletoe infestation can significantly reduce eucalypt growth rates as well as lead to tree mortality. On the other hand, evidence exists that light mistletoe infestation can actually improve the overall health of the bush. The mistletoe has the effect of increasing the number of bird species that forage through the trees feeding on insect pests and as well as in the ground litter.



Library News

Recent advances in Library accessibility

Thanks to the data-basing work of Library staff and the development of the Club's website by Jurrie Hubregtse, we can now provide the facility for anybody to access all of the Library's lists of holdings. If you are interested in whether or not the Library has a copy of a particular book, or holds a particular volume of a journal, this can be ascertained by searching the relevant database on-line. Go to the FNCV Website, click on the 'Library' button (under the 'About us' tab), and click on the relevant link — books, periodicals, photos or maps. Each of the databases is presented in PDF and can be searched using keywords. Happy hunting.

Recent periodicals:

Queensland Naturalist 52(1-3) is devoted to the Krombit Tops, a fascinating National Park inland from Gladstone. It describes the landscape and climate and has detailed lists of fauna and flora.

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.

**Gary Presland
Honorary Librarian**

Thanks to those who helped collate and label FNN 245

- Keith Marshall
- Andrew Brentnall
- Hazel Brentnall
- Edward Brentnall
- Joan Broadberry
- Sheina Nicholls
- Pieter Boschma
- Cecily Falkingham
- Margaret Brewster
- Ray Power
- Margaret Corrick
- Sally Bewsher

Thanks to the editorial and layout team who put together FNN 246

- Joan Broadberry
- Wendy Gare
- Sally Bewsher



Fungi Group

FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY
4th May 2014

Toorong Falls

Wet Sclerophyll Forest with small patches of Myrtle Beech & Tree Ferns

Recent rain had swollen the Toorong River which was rushing over the falls and made for damp and muddy tracks. Rain falling off and on didn't help with our observations and fungi were scarce, scattered and either too young or too old!

The Ghost Fungus *Omphalotus nidiformis* (Fungimap Target Species) was common throughout the foray on Eucalypts - some were quite young, but others had fallen to mush. On the bark of a Manna Gum *E. viminalis* was troop of the Little Stinker *Marasmiellus affixus*. A second look showed it was also on hanging branches and strips of shed bark on the same tree. Strangely, not all group members could detect the foul smell. Tangled in the litter were copious amounts of the sterile stipites of *Mycena cystidiosa*, although the fruit-bodies were wide spread, but in small scattered groups. One group of Austral Dripping Bonnet *Mycena austrororida*, (Fungimap Target Species) were found near the bridge over the Toorong River.

We saw numerous tiny *Lichenomphalia*-like fungi in moss and lichens, all on granite rocks. These were also seen at Bunyip on a granite rock. Virgil collected a sample and made macroscopic and microscopic examination. Ed Grey did the



Lichenomphalia umbellifera Photo: Ed Grey

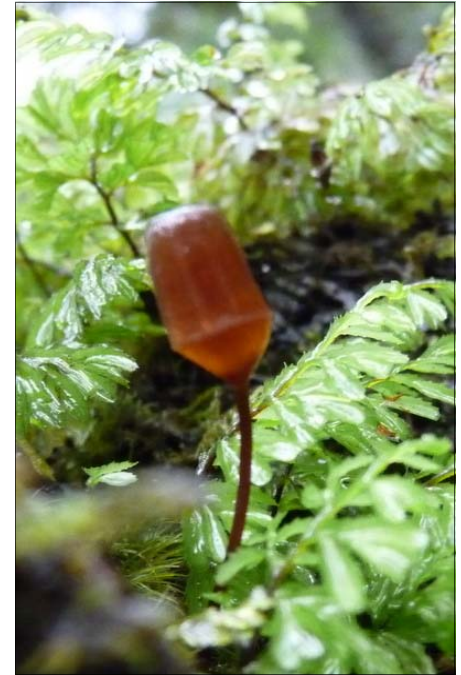
same for a sample from Bunyip (photo below left). With all the information, both identified it as *Lichenomphalia umbellifera*. See Bruce Fuhrer no. 223 (*A field guide to Australian fungi*, 2011) and Gates and Ratkowsky p 111 (*A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi*, 2014 by G. and D Ratkowsky), but neither mention that the substrate can be granite boulders.

Small groups of the Yellow Tongue and Red Flame Fungi (*Clavaria amoena* and *C. miniata*) were seen, but these corals were very small and only just developing. *Clavaria miniata* did not have the distinct change of colour that distinguishes it from *C. corallinorosea* - the lower part of the branch is red/pink and upper portion bright pink covered with a pale bloom of spores. A small, pale fawn *Ramariopsis* sp. on a tree-fern stem, and a buff *Artomyces colensoi* on a fallen log, were found along the upper track. It is interesting that while *A. colensoi* is smaller than the similar-looking *A. austropiperatus*, microscopically there is very little difference - *A. colensoi* has ellipsoidal spores and *A. austropiperatus* broadly ellipsoid spores.

It was exciting to find *Marasmius cylindraceocampanulatus* (top right) (could there have been a longer name for this tiny but distinctive fungus?). Wendy Fortington discovered it growing on the truncated stem of a tree-fern. The pale brown cap is cylindrical, about 3 mm diameter and 5 mm deep, with a truncated top. See Gates and Ratkowsky p 115 (*A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi*, 2014 by G. and D Ratkowsky).

Sadly, we did not find any *Clausenomyces australis*, the glutinous green discs on a fallen log, that last year were identified by Pam Catchside from the SA Herbarium.

These green discs are jelly-like, fused caespitose at base and have a flat top with stems leading down to a jelly-like mass which is light green (young), dark green (mature), or brown/black (old). Paul George did find a small rosette of *Grifola colensoi* with a few brown rubbery



Marasmius cylindraceocampanulatus
Photo: Wendy Fortington

infundibuliform caps arising from a common base and decurrent pale pores. This year they were much smaller than those seen at previous forays, and found higher up the bank almost hidden in the undergrowth.

Richard Hartland found a tiny white fungus growing on moss - either a *Rimbachia* sp. or *Arrhenia* sp. Further work revealed that *Arrhenia* spp. always have some darker colouring - grey or brown - so this pure white fungus is closest to a *Rimbachia* sp., see G Gates and D Ratkowsky p 141 (*A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi*, 2014), and parasitic on the moss.

We have listed 67 species found along the circuit track going past Toorong Falls, which included 12 Fungimap Target species. Thanks to all the photographers (Wendy Fortington, Ed Grey, Richard Hartland) who supplied photos for the report and species list.

Ed and Pat Grey

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



FNCV FUNGI GROUP FORAY 8 JUNE 2014

Mt. Worth State Park

Beautiful place, beautiful day. Mount Worth State Park protects a remnant of the forests that once covered the western Strzelecki Ranges. Tall wet forests of Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gum and Blackwood grow on the hills and slopes. Soft Tree-ferns *Dicksonia antarctica* and Rough Tree-ferns *Cyathea australis* flourish within the sheltered gullies. The cool moist conditions support a number of rare plants including Nettle Brake, Slender Tree-fern and Skirted Tree-fern. Our foray mostly passed through the sheltered gullies with numerous tree-ferns that supported a number of interesting fungi.

Reiner Richter found the first example of the *Mycena* sp. 'tiny blue lights' on a dead frond stem of the Smooth Tree-fern. These minute (about 1mm cap) fungi have a blue stem with a white cap, and the young are blue knobs. In the car park, on a dead frond stem of the Rough Tree-fern, Richard Hartland found the minute (caps to 1mm) pale yellow stalked hairy discs *Lachnum pteridophyllum*. Both these species are restricted to their substrate and were found again throughout the foray.



Hydropus sp. Photo: Reiner Richter

On the stems of many Soft Tree-ferns, a delicate cream to pale ochre coral grew. It was white towards the branch tips which were pointed, while the axils were rounded. Its form and delicateness suggested it might be a white *Ramariopsis* sp., like the yellow one, *R. crocea*, that we found at Bunyip State Park, but at home the specimen dropped yellow-brown spores, not white, which meant that it was a *Ramaria*. Further research by Ed Grey found that it could be one of two species: 'Work with the keys and interim data sheets from the Qld Mycological Society pointed to two possible species *Ramaria filicicola* and *R. ochracea*. The use of photos to determine these species in the field (which was suggested) is difficult. As I could find no written descriptive details an email with specimen details and photos was sent to Dr Tony Young and Nigel Fechner asking for their help with identification and for other information on these species.'

In addition, Richard Hartland took a photo of what was thought might be *Ramariopsis crocea*, but looking at this photo and the one taken by Carol Page at Toorong Falls, suggests that the one at Mt Worth maybe *Calocera viscosa*, which is greasy and therefore, in texture, unlike the true coral fungi. Also its colour is more orange. Can anyone determine from these photos whether it was *Calocera viscosa* or *Ramariopsis crocea*?

On an old tree-fern frond, was a resupinate long-spined fungus with a brown spore print. At first its long teeth reminded us of an *Auriscalpium* sp. but this has a white spore print. Jurrie Hubregtse noted that fungi growing on tree-fern fronds often become deformed and this led to the possibility that our specimen was a malformed *Beenakia dacostae*. The pale brown spore print and spore size matched those for *B. dacostae* as given in the *The Fungi CD: Fungi in Australia* (CD-ROM] 3rd edition). Another species on the stem of one Soft Tree-fern was lobed (like a leaf), pale apricot and smooth, like kid leather, the underside was wrinkled like large leaf-like veins. Jurrie Hubregtse made a collection of this unusual-looking species and found that

the microscopical details matched the Pagoda Fungus *Podoserpula pusio* (Fungimap Target species). In contrast to the malformed type there were also frequent groups of the more 'typical' Pagoda Fungus growing around the base of numerous trees. The apricot to pink fruit-bodies resemble a pagoda with tiers of smooth, kidney-shaped caps forming around a common stem. Under the cap, undulating folds run down the stem



Hericium coralloides Photo: Reiner Richter

Deep in the Giant's Circuit, a small group of the Brown-headed Pin *Vibrissea dura* was found on rotting wood. It is small, slimy, tough and gelatinous, with a light brown head and pale yellow stem. In 2012 a large group of these rare species was found here. Unlike other Pins, it has no trace of green colouring. On fallen logs was the *Hymenoscyphus* 'white disc bruising orange' (*A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi* (2014) by Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky p225. It is what we used to call 'Mollisea yellow stainer'). When rubbed, one turned a deep orange colour almost immediately. Jurrie Hubregtse has worked with this species from Bunyip, and found that although some turn pale yellow fairly slowly and others turn orange rapidly, they are both the same species. To build up information on this species so that it can be officially described, Jurrie Hubregtse made a collection. Masses of *Leucogloea compressa* (the 'Not *Sirobasidium brefeldianum*') -

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

hard white, globose, short columns of jelly – were spread along the top of a large fallen wet log.

Paul George pointed out a *Hydropus* sp. (photo previous page lower left) – a genus I had not come across before. The following characteristics are noted by Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky in *A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi* 2014 p 88: ‘They are *Mycena*-like on account of their slender stature and white spore print. They grow on wood, soil and litter, have a slender pale dry stipe which often blackens and are drab grey or dark grey in colour.’ This is a rare species and Dr Tom May (Senior Mycologist at the Melbourne Herbarium) wanted collections of this species, so Jurrie Hubregtse obliged.

Some forayers venturing along the Gardiners Mill Track saw young specimens of the very striking Coral Tooth *Hericium coralloides* (Fungimap Target species, photo previous page, right). The delicate, long, white hanging spines of this multi-branched coral-like fruit-body appear to come from all over, but are, in fact, situated on branches originating from a common stem.

In the afternoon we went a short way along Moonlight Creek Track. Margaret Rowe found a couple of *Entoloma aromaticum* and we all sniffed it for the bubblegum smell. In the cold weather we had to first warm it up in our hands before we could smell anything.

On the end of one fallen log and along the side of another, were groups of shell-shaped *Pleurotus purpureo-olivaceus*. The ones on the log end looked very much like those illustrated by Bruce Fuhner no 240 (*A field guide to Australian fungi*, 2011) with khaki-brown wavy caps and greyish gills, but the ones on the side of the other log were completely yellow and disintegrating. Further into the dell, I saw the largest Toothed Jelly *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum* (Fungimap Target species) I have ever seen. They were growing up the trunk of a large tree. Most of them had lost their ‘teeth’ and were disintegrating to become a mass of jelly.

Thanks to the photographers: Ed Grey, Richard Hartland, Virgil Hubregtse, Carol Page and Reiner Richter.

Pat Grey

Vale Joan Forster

1 December 1916 – 29 July 2014

Joan Forster, an honorary member of FNCV has died aged 97. She joined the club on 9 April 1945 and maintained that membership for just over 69 years. She was made an honorary member of the club in 1985.

Joan was schooled at Methodist Ladies College and for 34 years (1943–1977) was Headmistress of the MLC Junior School. Her interests in natural history were of a general nature and she regularly took groups of students on field trips to many parts of Victoria.

During the 1960s and 70s Joan took part in FNCV excursions, and on a number of occasions later reported on various aspects at general meetings. She spoke with knowledge on a wide range of subjects, including birds, topography and vegetation. Joan was also a keen nature photographer, on occasion exhibiting slides at Botany Group meetings. In October 1972, she lectured to the Hawthorn Junior FNC on the subject of ‘water birds’.

Joan was also the author or co-author of four articles published in *The Victorian Naturalist* between 1964 and 1978. Three of these pieces detailed club field trips to different parts of Victoria – Mount Buffalo (1963), the north east region of Victoria (1966), and Mount Buffalo (1978); her fourth and final article in *The Vic Nat* was in 1970 and related to a plague of crickets.

Gary Presland

From the Office



We have some very worthwhile items on our ‘For Sale’ table in the hall. There is a small paper shredder which is ideal for home use, and an excess computer screen. These items are there for anyone who wants them for just a few dollars – as always, it’s up to you to decide what you think they’re worth and put the money in the tin on the table.

We also have some Christmas card packs, and a pack of wrapping paper, which someone has kindly donated. You don’t have to pay the full recommended retail price for them, but as they are in perfect condition, please make a reasonable donation. You are also welcome to take issues of excess vintage Vic Nats from the table – there’s still some good reading there!

IMPORTANT

I will be overseas (in Paris and London) from 24th September and back in the office on 13th October. Emails, post and phone messages will be checked for anything urgent, but otherwise things will have to wait until I return

Wendy Gare

FUND –RAISING CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Those who have attended recent FNCV Christmas parties will know that we hold a raffle with prizes donated from members. This has always been tremendous fun and a great success. This year we want to make our raffle bigger and better and extend it to all members. Hopefully we can also raise some money for the Club.



We are hoping our generous members will donate suitable items for prizes. Such prizes are likely to take the form of a ‘basket’ of goodies e.g. non-perishable food, wine, books, gift cards, vouchers, equipment, toys etc. We also anticipate being able to source prizes from organisations we have worked with during the year.

We are asking everyone to sell (or buy) a few (many) tickets. Small booklets of tickets will be available from the FNCV office in late October. Tickets will be \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. The raffle will be drawn during the end of the year Christmas party on Saturday evening, December 13th. Of course the winners do not need to be present at the draw but will have to collect their prize.

Some of the donated prize items will be used in a separate ‘fun raffle’ for those at the party, carrying on the tradition of previous years.



Donations for prizes will be accepted during office hours from now on. However, note the office may be unattended during Wendy’s holidays. (See ‘from the office’ above).

More details in the next newsletter.



Marine Research Group News

Report on MRG meeting Monday 12 May, 2014: Fieldwork summary

This was essentially a members' night to reflect upon the 2014 fieldwork and to present some of the photo highlights.

Leon Altoff presented images showing the topography of the various regions visited and the wide variety of marine invertebrates recorded within each. The images included many sorts of delicate hydroids, anemones, polychaete worms, flatworms, nemerteans, echinoderms, crustaceans and molluscs.



Epiactis austaliensis (above) and an isopod (of the genus *Zuzara*?) shown below, both at Point Lillias, Port Phillip Bay, 5/4/2014. Photos: Leon Altoff



John Eichler showed images including the gastropod *Haustrum baileyannum* from Shoreham, the pink nudibranch *Verconia verconis* from Aireys Inlet, and the spectacular stony coral *Plesiastrea versipora*.



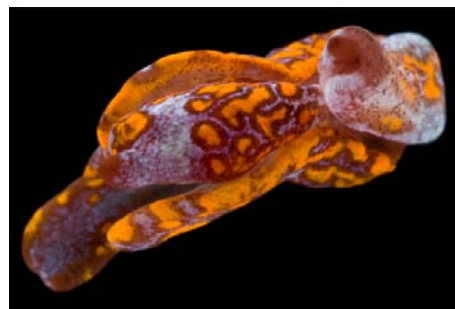
Plesiastrea versipora at Pt. Lillias, Port Phillip Bay 5/4/2014. Photo: John Eichler

This stony coral occurs around Australia, is widespread in the Indo-west Pacific

region, and is the commonest stony coral in southern Australia (Edgar, 2008).

Report on the MRG meeting Monday 14 July, 2014: Leon Altoff reported on recent marine invertebrate survey work in South Australia with the South Australian Conservation and Research Divers (SACReD).

In early 2013 Leon Altoff, Audrey Falconer and Robert Burn went to South Australia to participate in invertebrate marine surveys largely on the Spencer Gulf side of the Yorke Peninsula in what proved to be a very interesting trip (see MRG page in FNN 231). In April this year they had a chance to undertake a second round of work with the South Australian group, again on the Yorke Peninsula, but this time focusing mainly on the St. Vincent Gulf side. Snorkellers and SCUBA divers provided valuable subtidal algal, seagrass and sponge samples and together with material collected from the intertidal zone, numerous and varied nemerteans, polychaetes, stauromedusae and echinoderms were found, keeping Audrey and Leon quite busy. Robert Burn likewise was busy with a range of 'opisthobranch' mollusca, some of the more interesting (shown below) being minute members of the Gastropteridae.



Siphopteron sp, Mozzie Flat, off intertidal / subtidal algae, 17/4/2014. Photo: Leon Altoff.



Siphopteron sp, Pt. Gilbert, from sublittoral algal samples, 16/4/2014. Photo: Leon Altoff.

Some notable vetigastropods were also recorded, including the scissurellids *Incisura remota*, *Incisura auriformis* and *Scissurella cyprina*, and the phasianellids *Gabrielona nepeanensis* and *Gabrielona pisinna*, together with some unusual *pisinna*-like snails which lacked the typical pink pigment in the shell and had dark animals.

Several new records were provided for South Australia, many representing new range extensions of animals known from Victoria. Again, it proved to be a most interesting and productive trip.

Report on the MRG meeting Monday 11 August, 2014: The naturalists Peter and Carol Bathie reported on their diving trip to Papua New Guinea.

Peter and Carol had the opportunity in 2007 to be part of a diving excursion to the Milne Bay region of Papua New Guinea (which included Roger Steene and the late Neville Coleman) and shared their fantastic images and underwater videos with us. The areas focused on were the peninsula forming the northern aspect of Milne Bay and Nuakata and Biorama Islands to its east.



In conditions of astonishing underwater visibility (30 - 50 metres!) and sprinkled with interesting stories along the way, a tropical underwater paradise was shown, with myriads of fish varieties and a wealth of invertebrates amongst a variety of coral reef habitats.

We thank Peter and Carol for their beautiful presentation—it was a very therapeutic visual feast!

Further reading:

Edgar GJ (2008). Australian marine life: the plants and animals of temperate waters. 2nd edition. New Holland Publishers, Sydney, 2008.

Platon Vafiadis



The President and Council of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
have pleasure in inviting you to the presentation of the
2014 Australian Natural History Medallion

Awarded to

Dr Tom May
for his contribution to mycology

The medallion will be presented by Dr W.D. Birch AM,
President, Royal Society of Victoria

Monday 10th November 2014
1 Gardenia Street Blackburn 3103

Reception, with two-course buffet, 6.30 pm. Cost \$20 Please book—see below

Presentation of the Medallion – 8 pm.

Free & no need to book if attending presentation only

Speaker: Dr. Tom May
'A Journey Among Fungi'

RSVP for buffet by 3rd November to
Wendy (03) 9877 9860. email: admin@fncv.org.au



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