



The Whistler

Newsletter of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club Inc.

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From the Editor

Here we are, October again. It's springtime and the flowers are doing their best to put on a show, but it feels like they're up against it this year.

We've had a dry winter across Melbourne (and most of Victoria), which has continued into September, with the lowest rainfall across the state on record for the month (per the BOM website). Coupled to that, we've seen above average temperatures - the local bushland reserves feel very dry and native orchids were hard to find on our recent excursion in Warrandyte. Hopefully the rain we've had last week has helped. And fingers crossed for summer with the BOM predicting one of the strongest El Nino events of the last 20 years – meaning hotter and dryer weather.

October also means that we've just had our AGM and elections for our RFNC Committee. This year we welcome a new face to the Committee – Jennifer Grant joins as a regular Committee member. We've also seen the departure of our President, Jack Airey, after serving his 2-year term. And we've got a new *first-time* President – Shirley Smith. Congratulations to Jennifer and Shirley for their new roles in the Club.

This month, we've got our Club weekend away to Castlemaine which is a lovely town and area to visit, and then a SEANA weekend away to Yarram, so while we don't have a regular excursion, there's always plenty to see and do.

Jack Airey
Editor



Bruce Fuhrer leading our Club on an excursion to Wirrawilla, one of his favourite spots for fungi.

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"... to further the study of Natural History in all its branches"

Member News

Welcome to our new members – Adela Harvey, Robert Harvey, Janet Shaddick, Kaye Pryor.

President's Report

It feels like it's been a successful year for the Club with good attendance at meetings and events, quite a number of visitors at meetings, and new members joining up, which is wonderful to see. We sadly marked the deaths of two legends of the Club: Marion King in October last year – a Foundation and Life Member – and Bruce Fuhrer in March this year – a Life Member. The legacy of Marion and Bruce will live on with the Club.

The Club has continued to host a diverse and entertaining range of speakers at meetings including Ian Moodie, Graham Patterson, and Max Campbell. We had John Thompson talk about the early botanical history of Australia which was fascinating, Bill Aitchison taking us through the incredible wattle family, the recent talk on Powerful Owls, and a crowd favourite – Alex Maisey on Lyrebirds. We also had several members giving short and long talks which is always excellent and much appreciated.

Excursions have been going strong with mostly clear skies. We've visited Corinella, Mt Baw Baw, Point Cook, Braeside Park, Upper Yarra Dam, Melbourne Museum and Yan Yean/Ironbark Rd. We also visited Mt Rothwell for a night tour which was a new venture for our Club and well received. The outdoor meeting in January was to Jells Park where we had a walk after dinner and this worked well. Both weekends away were successful for the Club, even with the fire danger challenges for Marysville. Thanks to the members who organise and lead our events. Huge thanks to Alison Rogers for her continued work as our Program Manager and organising our speakers and events.

I'd like to thank our Exec and Committee - Hazel Veevers as Vice President, particularly for filling in for me at the July meeting. Thank you to Ray Wall as Treasurer for managing the Club finances in his usual outstanding fashion, and to Loris Peggie for her work auditing the accounts at EOFY. Thank you to Eleanor Dilley our super Secretary. And thanks to our Committee members – Alison Rogers, David Hewitt, Inta Needham, Lynn Smith, Peter Rogers and Shirley Smith.

Last of all I'd like to say a thank you to our members whose participation and contribution to the Club make it what it is – a friendly and inclusive environment where all are welcome.

Jack Airey
President 2022-23



"... to further the study of Natural History in all its branches"

Vale – Bruce Fuhrer

31st December 1930 - 31st March 2023

Bruce passed away on 31st March this year at the age of 93.

Bruce, in his early 20's, met botanists on a trip to Portland and so began his love of plants and nature particularly through the lens of a camera. Later, living in Portland, he had a business as a professional photographer and soon after joined the Portland Field Naturalists Club.

Several people were instrumental in his continual interest in natural history: J. Willis (plants), P. Finke (fungi), M. Streeter (birds), O. Lightbody (plants), N. Learmonth (birds), F. Melblom (orchids), C. Beaglehole (general knowledge on everything).

When he returned to Melbourne to live, Bruce joined the Victorian Field Naturalists Club. In 1966 he joined the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club which was close to where he lived.

Highlights of his time at Ringwood were the campouts at Upper Thomson with memories of Leadbeater's possums and mountain berries, Traralgon finding *Pterostylis fischii* and Mount Worth looking at fungi and ferns, Bendigo - Whipstick campout and to Yea wetlands looking at aquatic plants and masses of floating liverworts.



1996 Cement Creek (above), 1997 Marysville (right)



Friends at the Club who imparted knowledge to him were Jack Hyett and Bill King. He appreciated Marion King for her photography, Gordon Coutts for his friendliness, Doug and Ella Thomas for their interest in ferns, Fred Rogers for his wattle book contribution, the Fisch family. He also enjoyed memorable and stimulating speakers like Ron Jenz who spoke on Polychaetes.



"... to further the study of Natural History in all its branches"

Bruce said that most Field Naturalist Clubs, in general, are made up of members who are over 50. It would be good to appeal and attract younger members. In saying this, he was involved in starting our Junior Club. He was Leader of the RFNC Juniors for 16 Terms from 1966 -1982.

Bruce gave us numerous talks at Ringwood and to other Field Naturalist Clubs. He kept us all entertained with his knowledge, superb photography, but we also enjoyed his wicked sense of humour.

He gave us presentations on many subjects including:

- Alpine flora
- Liverworts
- Grampians wildflowers
- Nature around Portland
- Tropical Fungi
- Local Fungi
- Bryophytes

He was leader of numerous excursions and campouts for the Club imparting much information on many topics.

Excursions included:

- Jumping Creek Reserve
- Toolangi
- Wirrawilla (many times)
- Upper Thomson

Bruce was awarded Life Membership to Ringwood Field Naturalists Club in 1978. He was also awarded the prestigious History medallion in 1989. In 2011, Bruce was awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, an OAM, Medal of the Order of Australia, for services to conservation and the environment as an amateur naturalist and botanical photographer.

On a personal note, Bruce and his wife Irene were close family friends. Peter and I even met him twice on trips to Western Australia. On our recent 10-week trip to WA, we remembered places we met him and checked regularly in the wonderful wildflower books that he wrote. Many of you would have these books or his fungi book. He will never be forgotten while we use these.

Natural History was a major part of his life right to the end.

By Alison Rogers



2000 Upper Thomson





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Out and About

Braeside Park

Sunday 16th April 2023

Leaders: Eleanor and Warwick Dilley

Thirteen members braved the weather to assemble at the southern end of Braeside Park. Their reward was to have the rain stop at 10.00 am when we set off, and in due course to have large patches of blue sky and even some sunshine.

We started off by doing a circuit of the wetlands, a walk of about four kilometres. While we didn't see any unusual wetlands birds, we got good sightings of quite a variety of birds including Black Swans, some Freckled Ducks, Hardheads, Australasian Shovelers, both Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Great, Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants, and an elegant Great Egret.



Little Pied Cormorant, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Australian Shoveler



Great Egret

We spotted a Black-shouldered Kite hunting, and had distant views of a Brown Falcon, a Whistling Kite, and what turned out to be the bird of the day: a dark morph Little Eagle.



Black-shouldered Kite



Little Eagle (dark phase)

By lunchtime we had a total of 61 birds. We moved to the northern end of the park for lunch, followed by a shorter walk. We increased the list to 63 with the addition of a Tawny Frogmouth and a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike during this walk.



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Hoary-headed Grebe (l) & Australasian Grebe (r)

It was when we were on the home stretch of the afternoon walk that we got much closer views of the Little Eagle. At the time we were uncertain of what we were seeing, but subsequent consultation of Field Guides confirmed its identity.

All told, a very satisfactory excursion in a park which never disappoints.



Crested Pigeon



Tawny Frogmouth

By Eleanor and Warwick Dilley

Mt. Rothwell

Saturday 13th May 2023

Leader: Shirley Smith

The Mt. Rothwell Excursion on 13th May worked out well. Twenty people made the trek^{Text} over the Westgate Bridge to get there. Members were quite creative in how/when they got to the start of the excursion. Some started out earlier in the day and visited Werribee Treatment Plant or the You Yangs before going to Mt. Rothwell as it was an early evening start. Others got to Mt. Rothwell late afternoon and enjoyed relaxing in the beautiful autumn weather.

Our young guide had an inadequate spotlight for the size of the group, but we saw quite a few Brush-tailed Rock wallabies and bandicoots (Eastern and Southern brown) as well as a number of Rufous bettongs and long-nosed potoroo.

The view of Melbourne and Geelong from the top of Mt. Rothwell was amazing as was the great starry sky that night.

Shirley Smith



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Upper Yarra Dam

Saturday 17th June 2023

Leader: Lynn Smith

On a cold and cloudy winter day 22 members attended the RFNC excursion to the Upper Yarra Dam. We met at McVeigh's Water Wheel at 10.30am and walked to view the Water Wheel and down to the river. Both Pink and White heath were in flower and several species of fungi were seen.

Next, we drove to Camping ground carpark near toilets and the old mess hall. Neal had prepared notes about history of the Upper Yarra Dam which I read to everyone.



McVeigh's Water Wheel

Work started on the Upper Yarra Dam

in 1948 and was completed in 1957. It is an earth and rock wall dam and associated spillway, pipeline and aqueduct. Water from the Dam flows by an open aqueduct and 88 inch (2.235m) pipeline carries the water to Silvan dam. Capacity of the Upper Yarra dam is 200,000 ML (Megalitre), compared with Cardinia dam (286,000 ML) and Thomson dam (1,068,000 ML), making it the third largest in Victoria.



Looking out over the dam

Main source of water is the Yarra River with headwaters on the Baw Baw Plateau and it flows out into Port Phillip Bay. This is 242km. Yarra means flowing water but the local Wurundjeri people call it Birranung.

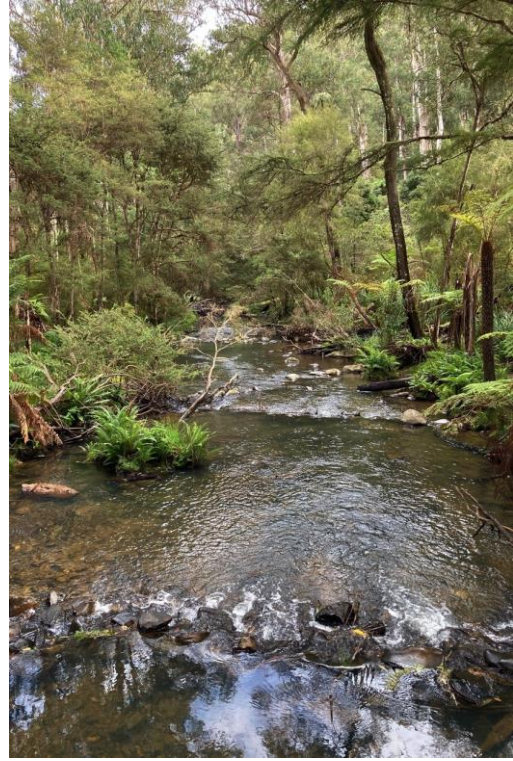


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Whilst the Dam was being built, workers and their families lived on site. There were quarters for single men and houses for families and management. Kitchens, laundries, mess hall, canteen, Co-op store and a school were built. There was a CWA, Scout and Guide group, cricket/football field and tennis court. The mess room still stands today but not in use.



White-throated Treecreeper



The Yarra River

We walked from this carpark downhill and across the river to the Fern Gully walk. Along this 1km loop track there were many species of fungi, 10 types of ferns (thanks to Graham Thomas for his fern knowledge) and some of the plants have identification sign on them. It was a bit muddy and slippery in places especially on the downward path due to recent rains. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were making a racket and good viewing of them along this track.

We then headed along the track to the bottom of the dam wall and returned to carpark for lunch. Sightings of Eastern Yellow Robins and Superb Fairy-wrens in this area and a Lyrebird was singing.

After lunch we drove over the aqueduct to the outlet or Brimbonga walk. More fungi sighted and near the outlet sawfly caterpillars were seen. At the end of this short walk the water was flowing through the outlet and along the open aqueduct. Then we drove uphill to the top of the Dam wall. We walked across the spillway and on to dam wall. It was very windy walking across the spillway and colder. We did see a Wedge-tailed Eagle flying overhead. Thanks to Jack's talk on identifying raptors, we were confident that the Eagle was correctly identified.

By Lynn Smith
(Photos by Eleanor Dilley)



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Melbourne Museum

Sunday 16th July 2023

Leaders: Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Twelve members met in the Museum for an afternoon visit. An indoor activity had been planned for July because the weather can be somewhat challenging. It turned out to be a sunny afternoon, though rather chilly.

The good weather was an advantage during our time spent in the Forest Gallery, as the sunshine had the birds that live there calling and flying around among the trees and bushes. It was a chance to see birds such as Buff-banded Rails, Dusky Woodswallows and Satin Bowerbirds quite near to us. The forest was looking very good indeed.



Buff-banded Rail and Satin Bowerbird in the Forest Gallery

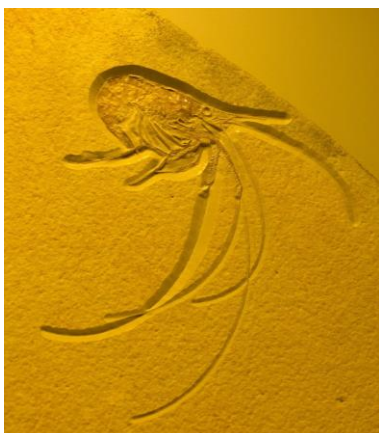
We then moved on to the Science and Life Gallery, where members spent time in the various sections there, including Dynamic Earth, Bugs Alive!, 600 Million Years and the Research Institute Gallery.

The third and final gallery we visited was the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, which included an exhibition about scar trees and their significance for our First Nations, displays of various tools and possum skin cloaks, and a telling of the Bunjil creation story. The Centre is described by the Museum as a celebration of the history, culture, achievements, and survival of Victoria's Aboriginal people.



Archaeopteryx, the missing link between the dinosaurs and birds

By Eleanor & Warwick Dilley



Prawn fossil, which the label says lived 150 million years ago in a warm shallow sea



Blue Whale



Yan Yean Reservoir & Ironbark Rd Reserve

Saturday 12th August 2023

Leaders: Hazel & Alan Veevers

The early morning rain did not dampen the spirits of the 23 members gathered at the reservoir. A flock of Gang-gang Cockatoos, a White-faced Heron on a nest, a Grey Butcherbird and Musk Lorikeets were all seen from the carpark! Looking over the reservoir from the top of the dam there were very few birds to be seen, apart from Eurasian Coots in the far distance.

At the wetlands below the dam, however, there were lots of Dusky Moorhens and Purple Swamphens with a few Grey and Chestnut Teal. Across the road, on the larger fenced ponds, was a large flock of Hardheads with a few Australasian Grebes. On the return walk there was a welcome "hotspot" where a pair of Golden Whistlers, Superb Fairywrens, Grey Fantails and Brown Thornbills all offered great views.



Golden Whistler



Red-rumped Parrot



Australian King Parrot

Lunch was eaten in the sunshine at the top of the hill, beneath the famous Nankeen Night-herons' tree, with everyone enjoying the glorious views across the water. After birdcall, a short walk was taken to the boundary fence where White-winged Choughs could be seen in the distance and Australian King Parrots flew into nearby trees. Back near the cars, two pairs of Red-rumped Parrots allowed close views as they fed on seed on the grass.



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Members then drove in convoy to Ironbark Road Reserve which provided a lot of botanical interest. Many spring flowers, such as *Hovea* and *Hardenbergia*, were already putting on a colourful display, but the highlight for most members were the 7 different species of Orchids that were found. Slaty Helmet Orchids and Blue Fingers were particularly appreciated. Rain began to fall as we left the reserve but, despite that, we all felt fortunate to have completed the outing without a soaking!



Maroonhood – *Pterostylis pedunculata*



Blue Fingers – *Cyanicula (Caladenia) caerulea*

Everyone enjoyed the excursion, especially those for whom it had been their first visit to both venues.

By Hazel & Alan Veevers (photos by Eleanor Dilley)



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Warrandyte

Sunday 17th September 2023

Leader: Jack Airey

In beautiful spring weather, 22 members met at a small reserve in Warranwood called Yanggai Barring. This is a little-known reserve with a mixture of remnant and revegetated bushland surrounding a lake. The lake is fed by stormwater drainage and provides a constant water supply to birds and other fauna, eventually feeding into Andersons Creek. After a quick inspection of some roadside hard garbage at the meeting point, we did the loop trail around the reserve. We saw 20 bird species in the reserve, including 4 nests – Pied Currawong, Magpie Lark, Rainbow Lorikeet and one unconfirmed nest, potentially Grey Butcherbird.



Magpie Lark with nest



Kookaburra with attending Noisy Miners

We then headed to Colman Reserve for a walk before lunch. The birdlife in Colman Reserve was quite active, recording 19 species in a short time, with the highlights of hearing a Fan-tailed Cuckoo and getting good views of an Olive-backed Oriole. We found many flowering triggerplants (*Stylidium* sp.) and numerous bulbine lilies (*Bulbine bulbosa*), which were either flowering or very close to. We managed to find a couple of orchids – Leopard orchid (*Diuris pardina*), *Microtis* leaves, *Thelymitra* leaves, one Slender Sun orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*) and one open Spotted Sun orchid (*Thelymitra ixioides*), which caused much excitement.



Spotted Sun Orchid – *Thelymitra ixioides*



Bulbine lily – *Bulbine bulbosa*

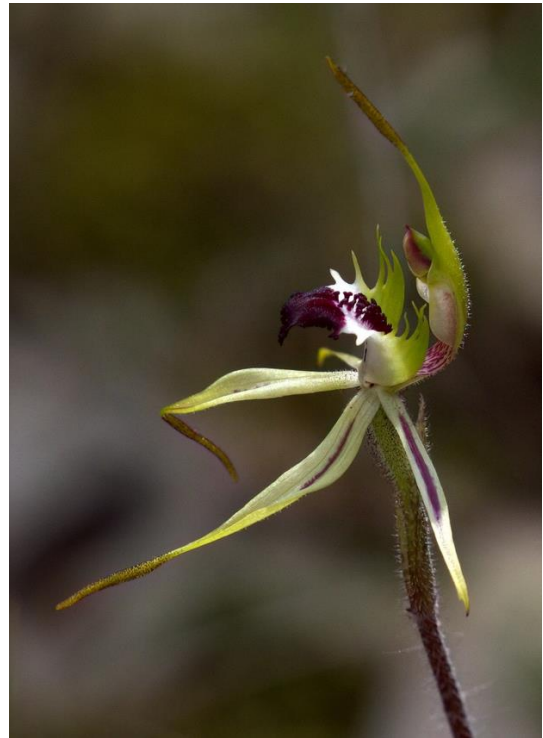


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After lunch we drove to Tindals Wildflower Reserve where we walked the main reserve track and also had a look over the road in the triangle reserve. We again struggled to find many flowering orchids, but we did manage to find some lovely Donkey/Wallflower orchids (*Diuris orientis*) and a couple of Small Spider orchids (*Caladenia parva*). We also found Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*) leaves and Sun orchid (*Thelymitra* sp.) leaves that we couldn't identify due to the lack of a flower. We also found a couple of old Tall Greenhoods (*Pterostylis melagramma*) and Leopard orchids (*Diuris pardina*). The group dispersed at the conclusion of the walk. A few members re-walked the loop trail after the group had left and managed to find a single Slender Sun orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*).



Slender Sun Orchid – *Thelymitra pauciflora*



Small Spider Orchid – *Caladenia parva*

By Jack Airey (photos by Eleanor Dilley)



Yanggai Barrage from the viewing platform (JA)



Member's Articles

A 2023 Rasp Fern Mystery

Earlier this year I came across a brief report by the now late Ella Thomas, regarding a R.F.N.C. excursion to the Warburton rail trail at Seville in 1995. Ella had recorded seeing 22 species of birds, and six species of ferns. All of the ferns were locally common, except for the puzzling listing of Rasp Fern. Victoria has three species of Rasp ferns, these being *Doodia aspera*, *Doodia caudata*, and *Doodia media*. I was interested in the report because I had never found Rasp ferns, and I was unaware that any could be found close to Melbourne. Unfortunately, finding and identifying these mystery Rasp ferns in 2023, was never going to be easy. There was nothing in Ella's brief report about where the Rasp ferns were growing, or anything about where, or how far the members had walked on the day.

I mentioned the mystery Rasp ferns to my sister Alison Freeman. Alison and her husband Doug had been walking sections of the Warburton rail trail, and they expressed an interest in finding Rasp ferns. In early April, while I was still thinking about going to Seville, Alison contacted me with the news that she and Doug had gone to Seville for a walk on the rail trail. After walking in an easterly direction towards Killara station, they had come across a bridge over a small stream approximately 0.8km from Seville. There were quite a lot of ferns in the area, and Alison had thought that this was likely to have been where the Rasp ferns had been found. Shortly afterwards, I went with Alison and Doug to the stream crossing. We found all five of the common ferns listed in Ella's report, plus Mother Shield Fern, but no sign of any Rasp ferns.



Warburton rail trail bridge on downside of Seville

A breakthrough unexpectedly came at the beginning of May. Alison and Doug had again taken the initiative, by walking along the rail trail from Killara back towards Seville. Approximately half-way to Seville, Alison had found Rasp ferns growing on the nearby banks of the Wandin Yallock Creek. Two days after receiving this news, I was able to confirm that the species of Rasp fern she had found was *Doodia media* - Common Rasp Fern. The creek banks were inaccessible, but fortunately I was able to examine a few Rasp ferns that were growing in a side watercourse.

Wandin Yallock Creek downstream
from Seville





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A belated check of Ella's old Fern book, disclosed evidence of her having found all three species of Rasp ferns long before the Seville excursion. Rasp Fern would have been the alternative common name she used for *Doodia media*. Ella would have known *Doodia aspera* as Prickly Rasp Fern, and *Doodia caudata* as Small Rasp Fern.



By Graham Thomas

Common Rasp Ferns growing along the Wandin Yallock Creek

Reference: Australian Ferns and Fern Allies - Jones / Clemesha 1976.



Centre of photo - A fertile frond of Common Rasp Fern

National Emergency Medal presented to Neal Smith

Neal Smith received the National Emergency Medal for his efforts during the Black Summer bushfires, presented at a ceremony in July, along with other CFA volunteers from brigades across Maroondah and the Yarra Valley. Article provided by Lynn Smith. Congratulations Neal!

AUGUST 2023

Warrandyte Diary 13

Local firefighters receive National Emergency Medals

By **SUSAN FOREMAN**

MEMBERS of South Warrandyte, Warrandyte and Wonga Park CFA received National Emergency Medals for their efforts during the Black Summer bushfire at a ceremony in late July.

In October 2019, members from South Warrandyte, Warrandyte and Wonga Park brigades were deployed to Northern New South Wales, where members assisted their counterparts from NSW, Queensland, and international firefighters, fighting bushfires from Sydney to the Queensland border.

Fires then also started in Victoria, and, without a break, local CFA members joined a deployment to protect communities and fight bushfires in the east of the state, a fight which lasted 98 days.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan and CFA Board Member Peter Shaw AFSM have been meeting with brigade members across the Fire District

who participated in the 2019/20 deployments and recognising their efforts with the presentation of the National Emergency Medal.

CFA Board Member Peter Shaw AFSM has been presenting the medals and said they were an important recognition of the valiant efforts of CFA members.

"The National Emergency Medal is a formal recognition that Australia appreciates the efforts and contributions of CFA members during the 2019/20 bushfire crisis.

"It is a great honour to receive this medal, and I hope it goes a small way to thanking our members for their service," he said.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said he was proud of CFA members' efforts.

"The 2019/2020 fires devastated East Gippsland and northeast Victoria.

"But, from that crisis arose the most remarkable human spirit of generosity and 'lending a hand'.

"Our medal recipients have exemplified that spirit, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

"Whether they joined a firefighting strike team, worked in an Incident Control Centre or provided other assistance to affected communities — every contribution made a real difference," CO Heffernan said.

Cameron Mackay, Captain of South Warrandyte, said, "I'm extremely proud of all the members receiving their medals, but not to forget the members that stayed behind to look after our local communities."

He went on to say, "Without the support from our family and employers, we wouldn't be able to do what we do."

Members from South Warrandyte CFA were among 106 volunteers from brigades across Maroondah and the Yarra Valley who attended the Yarra Valley Lodge, Chirnside Park, on July 23 to receive their National Emergency Medal.



Members of South Warrandyte CFA with CO Heffernan and Peter Shaw



Members of Wonga Park CFA



Members of Warrandyte CFA



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A new book from the Entomological Society of Victoria

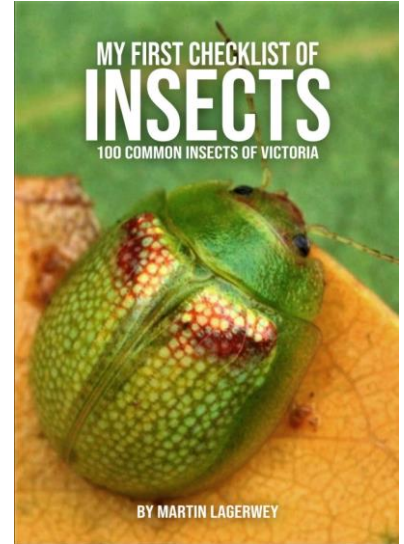
The Club received an email from the ESV regarding a new book they have published aimed at younger readers, to encourage their interest in insects.

The Entomological Society of Victoria is thrilled to announce the publication of its newest book, "My First Checklist of Insects: 100 Common Insects of Victoria".

While a book which adults will appreciate for identification, this is the first book published by the Society that has children in mind, with text appropriate for 7+ years to read alone.

The book is a great resource that will spark the curiosity of young minds with the world of insects and will introduce them to the diverse insect world found in the beautiful state of Victoria.

The book has 100 amazing insect photographs that have been contributed by more than 40 citizen scientists and members of the Entomological Society of Victoria.



The book is now available for purchase at our online store (<https://www.entsocvic.org.au/store/p/my-first-checklist-of-insects>).


Best wishes,

Anthony Kurek
Secretary, Entomological Society of Victoria

Screenshots below taken from the ESV website.

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Beetles (Coleoptera)	
 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Variable Leaf Beetle Feet and antennae are black Notes.....	 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Speckled Leaf Beetle Found on gum leaves Notes.....
 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Large Spotted Ladybird Often seen on wattles Notes.....	 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Fungus Eating Ladybird Usually on your roses Notes.....
 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Golden Stag Beetle This is a hard one to find Notes.....	 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Wattle Longicorn These are found on wattles Notes.....

Ants (Hymenoptera, Ants, Bees, Wasps)	
 <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Red Bull Ant Do not touch! Ouch! Notes.....	 <input type="checkbox"/> 32 Banded Sugar Ant Sugar ants do not sting Notes.....
 <input type="checkbox"/> 33 Green-headed Ant Only found in Australia Notes.....	 <input type="checkbox"/> 34 Black Jumper Ant It has yellow mandibles Notes.....
 <input type="checkbox"/> 35 Meat Ant Meat ants farm aphids Notes.....	 <input type="checkbox"/> 36 Acrobat Ant Heart shaped abdomen. Notes.....



Appendix

Braeside Park bird list – 63 species

Compiled by Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Black Swan	Whistling Kite	White-browed Scrubwren
Musk Duck	Little Eagle (dark morph)	Brown Thornbill
Australian Wood Duck	Black-shouldered Kite	Red Wattlebird
Pink-eared Duck	Brown Falcon	Noisy Miner
Grey Teal	Dusky Moorhen	White-plumed Honeyeater
Chestnut Teal	Australasian Swamphen	Grey Shrike-thrush
Freckled Duck	Eurasian Coot	Grey Fantail
Hardhead	Masked Lapwing	Willie Wagtail
Pacific Black Duck	Silver Gull	Magpie-lark
Australasian Shoveler	Crested Pigeon	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australasian Grebe	Common Bronzewing	Grey Butcherbird
Hoary-headed Grebe	Little Corella	Australian Magpie
Australasian Darter	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Pied Currawong
Great Cormorant	Galah	Little Raven
Little Black Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Red-browed Finch
Little Pied Cormorant	Eastern Rosella	European Goldfinch
Great Egret	Red-rumped Parrot	Welcome Swallow
Cattle Egret	Tawny Frogmouth	Golden-headed Cisticola
White-faced Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Silvereye
Royal Spoonbill	Superb Fairy-wren	Common Myna
Australian White Ibis	Spotted Pardalote	Common Blackbird

Upper Yarra Dam bird list – 17 species

Compiled by Lynn Smith

Australian Wood Duck	White-throated Treecreeper	Brown Thornbill
Masked Lapwing	Superb Fairy-wren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Crimson Rosella	Pied Currawong	Grey Butcherbird
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Australian Magpie	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Australian King Parrot	Little Raven	Superb Lyrebird
Laughing Kookaburra	Magpie Lark	



Yan Yean Reservoir bird list – 42 species

Compiled by Hazel & Alan Veevers

Hardhead	Australasian Darter	Noisy Miner
Pacific Black Duck	Laughing Kookaburra	Spotted Pardalote
Grey Teal	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Striated Pardalote
Chestnut Teal	Galah	Brown Thornbill
Australasian Grebe	Little Corella	Golden Whistler
Crested Pigeon	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Pied Currawong
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Australian King-Parrot	Australian Magpie
Purple Swamphen	Red-rumped Parrot	Grey Butcherbird
Dusky Moorhen	Crimson Rosella	Grey Fantail
Eurasian Coot	Eastern Rosella	Little Raven
Silver Gull	Musk Lorikeet	Magpie-lark
Nankeen Night-Heron	Rainbow Lorikeet	White-winged Chough
White-faced Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Welcome Swallow
Little Pied Cormorant	Red Wattlebird	Common Mynah

Ironbark Road orchid list – 7 species

Compiled by Hazel & Alan Veevers

Slaty Helmet-orchid	<i>Corybas incurvus</i>
Small Mosquito Orchid	<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>
Blue Fingers	<i>Cyanicula caerulea</i>
Nodding Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>
Maroon Hood	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>
Tall Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis melagramma</i>
Leopard Orchid	<i>Diuris pardina</i>

Warrandyte (Yanggai Barring and Tindals Wildflower Reserve) bird list – 30 species

Compiled by Jack Airey

Australian Wood Duck	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Noisy Miner
Pacific Black Duck	Galah	Grey Fantail
Australasian Grebe	Rainbow Lorikeet	Magpie Lark
Australian White Ibis	Australian King Parrot	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Dusky Moorhen	Eastern Rosella	Olive-backed Oriole
Crested Pigeon	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Butcherbird
Common Bronzewing	Laughing Kookaburra	Australian Magpie
Spotted Dove	Superb Fairy-wren	Pied Currawong
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Little Raven
Long-billed Corella	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow



"... to further the study of Natural History in all its branches"

Colman Reserve and Tindals Wildflower Reserve orchid list – 9 species

Compiled by Jack Airey

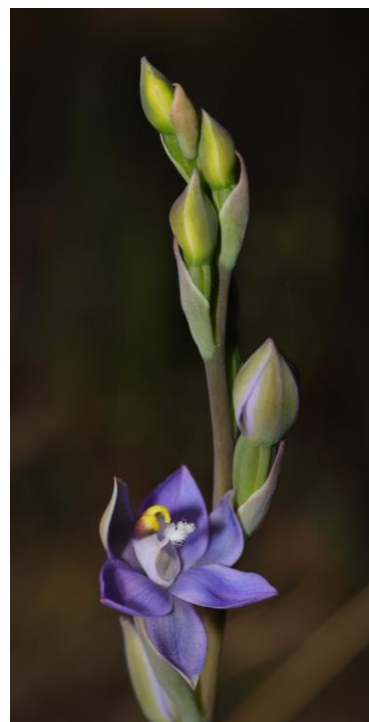
Small Spider Orchid	<i>Caladenia parva</i>
Leopard Orchid	<i>Diuris pardina</i>
Donkey/Wallflower Orchid	<i>Diuris orientis</i>
Onion Orchid	<i>Microtis</i> species (leaves only)
Tall Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis melagramma</i>
Nodding Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i> (leaves only)
Spotted Sun Orchid	<i>Thelymitra ixioides</i>
Slender Sun Orchid	<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>
Sun orchids	<i>Thelymitra</i> species (leaves only)



3 Hardheads arrived on the lake at Yanggai Barring in October (highly uncommon)



Thelymitra ixioides at Colman later in the month



Thelymitra peniculata at Tindals later in the month