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# Ringwood Field Naturalists Club Inc.



## 40 Years of History



September 1961 - September 2001



# Contents

1. Foreword
  - ✿ Executive Committee and Office Bearers 2000-01
2. History (an outline of four decades of activity)
  - ✿ Beginnings
  - ✿ The Sixties
  - ✿ The Seventies
  - ✿ The Eighties
  - ✿ The Nineties
  - ✿ A New Century
3. Members (Our greatest asset)
4. The Club Year - tradition and change
5. Excursions
  - ✿ Arranged by regions of Victoria with month and year
6. Camp-Outs
  - ✿ A scrapbook format of photographs, reports, anecdotes, memorabilia, etc.
7. Special Projects
8. Speakers and Topics
  - ✿ A summary of highlights
9. Significant Sightings
  - ✿ Incorporating members' reports on the rare and unusual
10. The Junior Club
11. Thoughts and Reflections
  - ✿ Responses to a questionnaire circulated previously to Life Members and others, seeking information on specific topics

## Appendices

- ✿ Cumulative list of all members (current financial members identified)
- ✿ Executive Committee 1961/62 - 2000/01

## Acknowledgements

Locality Map of Ringwood District (back cover)

# 1 Foreword



## CELEBRATION

September, 2001

This booklet marks the 40th Anniversary of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club. We, the current members of the Club, owe a debt of gratitude to its founders, whose vision and commitment were responsible for establishing a club where people with an interest in natural history and its fascinating diversity could share their experience and knowledge with each other.

Over the past forty years, members of the Club have participated in a wide-ranging program of meetings, excursions, camp-outs and other events which have contributed enormously to the expertise to be found within the Club and provided many great memories. We hope that some of your favourites are contained in the pages of this booklet.

Let's take this opportunity to celebrate our achievements and successes, and look forward to a future where we can continue to enjoy and learn about our wonderful natural environment.

### Executive Committee 2000-2001

<i>President :</i>	Judith Cooke
<i>I/P President :</i>	vacant
<i>Vice-President :</i>	Phil Daniell
<i>Secretary :</i>	Peter Rogers
<i>Treasurer :</i>	Ruth Christensen
<i>Committee :</i>	Doug Alkemade
	Joan Broadberry
	Geoff Christensen
	Marion King
	Jean Moy
<i>Committee and Librarian :</i>	Jean Neville

# Foreword

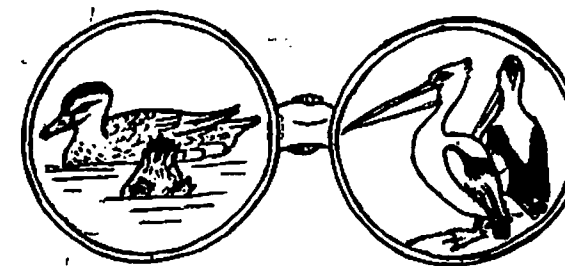
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## WHAT PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS HAVE SAID

Congratulations, Ringwood Nats., on reaching two score years. I owe you much for friendships formed, for the lessons of life I have learned and for the many memories I carry and value. *Ted Schurmann*

So congratulations R.F.N.C. on 40 years of active and pleasurable participation in the study of a wide range of subjects - a very happy mix of the serious with a lot of fun. Long may it continue so . . . *Joan Pearson*

Our compliments to the members of the 40 year reunion sub-committee for their work on the project and proposed celebration. We feel that everything is in good hands and can only offer our help if needed. *Doug and Ella Thomas*



## 2 Beginnings



### INVITATION TO A MEETING

25-7-61

Believing that there are sufficient people interested in natural history living in the area about Ringwood we feel that the formation of a field naturalists' club in the district is long overdue. To remedy this lack we are calling a public meeting to be held on Tuesday August 2nd in the fellowship block of the Ringwood Methodist Church (just opposite the railway station entrance, on the south side)\* to consider the formation of such a club.

We are aware that such clubs exist in Melbourne but feel that many people in this area who are quite interested are unable to attend their meetings because of the long distance travelling required. We believe that a Ringwood club would serve such people and could quite well co-operate with those clubs. Our proposal to form a club here has the blessing of the President of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and of the committee of the Bird Observers Club.

If you are interested we would be glad of your attendance and help at the meeting. We would also be grateful if you would pass on word of the meeting to anyone you know who might be interested.

If you wish to know more details, please ring us at W.U. 5858 or W.J. 3298.

We are

Yours sincerely,

Jack Hyett,  
Whitehorse Road,  
Croydon.

W. H. King,  
"Chalka",  
Warrandyte Road,  
Warrandyte South.

\*Cnr Bedford Road and Greenwood Avenue

## Beginnings

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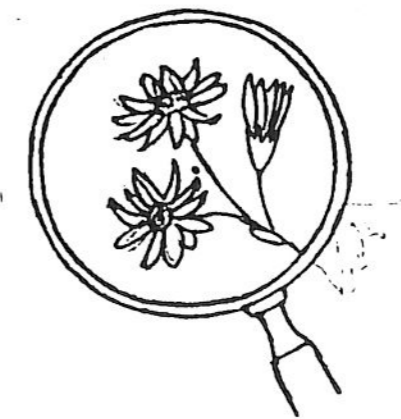
### AT THE MEETING

2-8-61

The authors of the invitation reprinted on the previous page would have arrived at the designated meeting place not knowing what the response would be. Imagine their surprise and delight when 27 people arrived, all eager to hear more. This group comprised the nucleus of foundation members of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club. A list of the Foundation Members (Senior and Junior) may be found in Section 3.

We do not have a report on this meeting, but in later years history was repeated at a meeting at Yea which established a Field Naturalists' Club there in 1972, and at which a group from Ringwood FNC participated. A copy of the article from the Yea Chronicle is reproduced below.

We do know that some of those present met each other for the first time, e.g. Bill King and Fred Rogers, Jack Hyett and the Schurmann family. Lifelong associations were thus formed from which the Club and Natural History in general benefited greatly. Paul and Marielies Fisch, who ran the Hawthorn Junior Field Naturalist Club gave a lot of help with the organisation of our Club.



The Yea Chronicle Wed. 3rd May 1972

**Field Naturalists' Club**

\*  
ENTHUSIASTIC YEA MEETING

Over 60 people attended the inaugural meeting of the Field Naturalists Club held in the Parish Hall on Friday Night.

As well as a good local representation, there were visitors from Alexandra and Mansfield and a party of seven from the Ringwood Field Naturalists' Club. All were welcomed by the convener of the meeting, Father A. Eames, whose interest is such that his annual holidays are generally spent on some nature tour of Central Australia.

President of the Ringwood Club is Mr F. C. Rogers, Principal of Knox Park School, who has written several books on "Australiana" subjects. He said the party was happy to come to Yea and assured those present that through a Field Naturalists' Club they would gain a wealth of knowledge about this wonderful Australia. The term, "Field Naturalist," covered a very wide ambit.

As projectionist for the evening Mr. Bill King confirmed this statement by showing a variety of slides picked at random. He said one companion, Jack Hyett, "was a bird man," but other F.N. interests covered geology, botany, the study of mammals (in which he himself was interested), flora, fauna, etc.

Another speaker was Mr. Gordon Coutts, who gave some advice on the administrative and constitutional set-up of a club - in fact one of the first essentials was the adopting of an appropriate constitution. He said the formation of a junior section over his way had been a great success.

When a motion suggesting the formation of a Field Naturalists' Club in Yea was asked for, such was moved by Mrs. L. Hatchell-Brown and Mr. J. Aberton and carried without opposition.

A steering committee of six was decided on to attend to a constitution and similar preliminary matters before the first regular meeting of the club on the first Friday in June. The committee will consist of Revs. Fr. Eames and T. H. Pickburn; Mrs. G. McPhee and Mrs. Hatchell-Brown, and Messrs. J. Comerford and J. Aberton.

Mr. J. Hyett, who is a Lecturer at Burwood Teachers' College, spoke briefly and promised that Ringwood would help Yea wherever possible, including the provision of guest speakers. He stressed that in these days of wanting to destroy everything, it was essential that the balance of nature be preserved.

As well as those mentioned, other visitors from Ringwood were Mr. J. Mulvaney, Mrs Coutts, and Miss Christine Gray, all keen F.N. members.

One of their best contributions was the "gallery" they set up prior to the meeting. This was a splendid collection of books, photos, glassed butterfly specimens, stones and other facets of an absorbing subject.

A signature book was handed round to all present, and a successful meeting concluded over a cup of tea.

*From the outset, reports of the Club and its activities appeared in the local press:*

**IN THE NEWS**

\* \* \*  
Heard about the Ringwood Field Naturalists' Club? Going great guns and result of mutual interest in natural history between well known naturalist and author, Jack Hyett, and Bill King, of South Warrandyte.

The beautiful nature photography in Jack Hyett's latest book, "A Bushman's Harvest," was done by Bill King and his wife, incidentally.

Other nature lovers indicating their interest, the two founders called a meeting in the Ringwood Methodist Fellowship Block in August, and with adequate support a steering committee got under way.

\* \* \*  
Meetings were arranged for every third Wednesday of the month at North Ringwood Methodist Hall and first meeting got off to a good start with Mark Gottsch (Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union) as guest speaker.

Office-bearers elected were: President, Jack Hyett; vice-president L Sebire; secretary, F. Flentje, treasurer, W. King; committee, F. Rogers and Mrs. E. Moore.

In October a constitution was adopted, an excursion was arranged at Kangaroo Ground and members rolled up their

sleeves, in conjunction with the Bird Observers' Club in preparation of their splendid exhibit at Lilydale Show.

The November excursion was at Wonga Park, and guest speaker at the November meeting was Dr. Geoff Christensen (Native Plants Preservation Society), who gave an outstanding talk.

No December meeting because of the Christmas rush, but January meeting as usual on third Wednesday at 8 p.m., Ringwood North Methodist Hall.

Idea behind the club is to supplement the work of old-established clubs like the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria and the Bird Observers' Club. Jack Hyett said many people interested in nature feel the night journey to Melbourne too far, or else they mistakenly feel they don't know enough to join forces with the experts.

For these people the Ringwood Field Naturalists' Club could well prove a stepping stone to a closer contact with nature, so necessary for the mental health of people who live in suburban areas, or those rapidly becoming urbanised.

"Without organisations like ours in suburban and outer suburban localities", Jack Hyett said, "there soon won't be much of nature left for that closer contact."

Interested? Well, ring W.J. 3298 for further information.

Here is a reproduction of an article in the local newspaper at the time the Club was established:

THE MAIL, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 1961

Page 9

## SHORT COMMENT

By 'LERWICK'

The recent formation of a Field Naturalists' Club in Ringwood district is a forward step as far as community enterprise is concerned. There should be plenty of scope for naturalists in our semi-rural areas.

The newly formed club started off on the 20th with an address by Mr. Marc Gottsch, of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. This is a particularly interesting field for study, for there is endless amusement and instruction in watching the individual and family habits of the birds around us.

In days of tension the study of nature can be helpful in the health of both body and mind. People are very prone to think that it is in the large and the spectacular that we find our inspirations, but there are many who know that this is not so.

I remember during the dark days which preceded World War II that the readers of the London "Times" were amazed to find a letter to the editor one morning which drew attention to an unusual bird which the writer of the letter had seen in St. James' Park during his morning stroll. The writer of the letter was Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who was (then) carrying an enormous burden of responsibility.

Those who read the edition of "The New York Times" which is available in Australia will have noted that each week the editorials conclude with commentary on nature which constitutes what could be called the march of the seasons. Although it is a little bit long I am quoting the one which appeared on September 3 in full, and in wishing the new club every success I trust that the "N.Y. Times" editorial will be a reminder that the matters which will concern the club members are matters of worldwide interest.

"Of all the autumn migrants perhaps the most remarkable are the Monarch butterflies, many of which are now emerging from the chrysalis stage on maturing milkweed plants. For a few more weeks we will see the black and orange beauty of their wings at our roadsides and over our meadows, colorful as day lilies. Then, as nights grow cooler, off they will go, southward.

"Incredible as it seems, these big, fragile insects are as successful at migration as most birds. Those from the Northeast go to Florida, those from the Midwest to the Mexican border, and those from the Pacific Northwest to California's Monterey Peninsula. Sometimes they

travel single file in streams that reach for miles. Sometimes they go in flocks like sunset-colored clouds. At night they rest in trees, chilled and almost dormant; when the next morning's sun has warmed and revived them, they are off again, southward.

"They winter in the sun, slowly fatten for the return trip, and when spring flows north again they come with it. Their wings faded and frayed, many of the males fail to complete the return, but most of the females survive, find milkweed plants, lay their eggs, and die, their cycle completed. And late summer brings a new generation of Monarchs, each with the urgency to migrate.

"Why they migrate is a persistent mystery. How they find their way is still unknown. But when we see them now, over our astered meadows, we are seeing one phase of one of the most colorful of the great, natural rhythms that mark the year's season."

Well, I've devoted the whole column to the new club, but if it will help a worthwhile venture then I think it is space well used. If any member of the public should want any further information, Mr. Hyett at W.U. 5858 will be glad to help.



## The Sixties



### THE CLUB IS ESTABLISHED

The Club's inaugural meeting was held on 20th September 1961. There were 32 members present, among them such familiar surnames as: Coutts, Cowling, Fisch, Flentje, Heddles, Hyett, King, Moore, Pridmore, Reid, Rogers, Schurmann, Sebire, and Walker.

It was down to business right from the start. Mr Hyett chaired the meeting and had arranged for Marc Gottsch to come along to give a talk and show slides of birds.

Next, office bearers and committee were appointed:-

President - Mr J. Hyett

Vice President - Mr L. Sebire

Secretary - Mr F. Flentje

Treasurer - Mr W. King

Committee members - Mrs E. Moore, Mr F. Rogers

Before the meeting was over, decisions had been made that had:-

1. Fixed subscriptions at £1-0-0 adults 5/- students
2. Arranged further meetings at the North Ringwood Methodist Hall
3. Arranged our first excursion to Henley Road

At its first meeting the Committee received letters of congratulation on the Club's formation from the Sunraysia Club (Mildura) and the Ouyen Club, both offering help if needed. The Committee didn't waste any time but made the ambitious decision to take part in the Lilydale Show in November with a display of (1) Lizards and Snakes, and (2) Wildflowers.

Another important initiative was the appointment of the Club's own Press Correspondent (Mr Hyett) who prepared reports for the local papers together with invitations to join the Club.

Next we turned our attention to a Constitution, having first obtained Constitutions from a number of other clubs. Our Constitution is based on the Bendigo Field Nats. Club and a copy of the original (1961) version is held in the Club's archives.

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

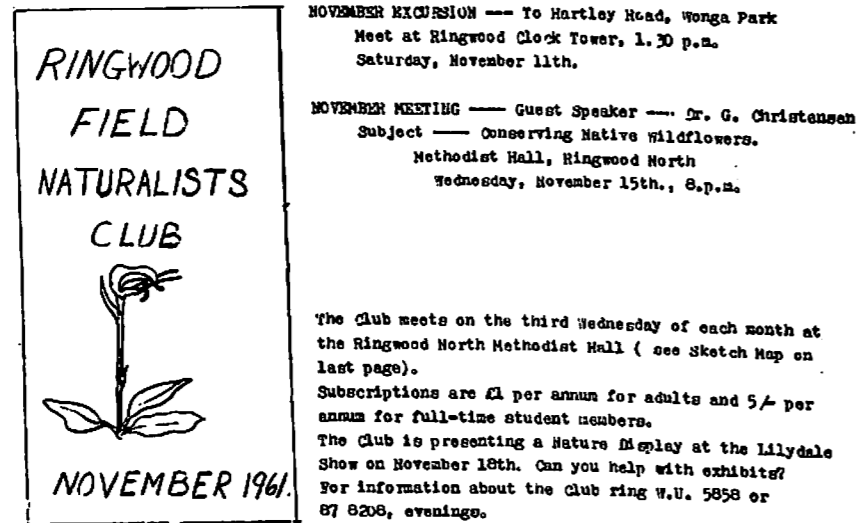
It is evident from the records that the Club's formation was well-planned and thoroughly executed by an experienced and competent Executive and those firm foundations have ensured its continued success.



## THE FIRST YEAR

The second meeting, held in October 1961, was a members' night when the Constitution was formalised.

At the third meeting the speaker was Dr. Geoff Christensen and his topic was the Preservation of Native Plants. A leaflet advertising this meeting survives.



So, right from the start, the Club was fortunate in acquiring the services of excellent Guest Speakers at meetings, some of them among the most eminent natural historians of the day. During the next few months speakers included: Norman Wakefield, Roy Wheeler, Ted Rotherham, Bob Warnecke and Jim Willis, to name just a few.

In January, 1962 the threat of bushfires caused the cancellation of the meeting. The February 1962 excursion to the Don Road had Lyrebirds and Swifts as the objective. Fred Flentje reported that "Lyrebirds mainly eluded us. They could be heard 'just there' but were not sighted where we had tea with the Swifts low overhead." A Swift survey was held in the Don Gap and the day concluded with the spotlight viewing of Glider Possums. This excursion is an early example of the Club's active part in expanding knowledge and understanding of natural history.

In April 1962 the Club lost one of its Foundation members with the death of Mr Paul Fisch from a heart attack. Mr Fisch, a distinguished naturalist, was also one of the earliest members of the Native Plants Preservation Society. His name is associated with a rare Greenhood Orchid (*Pterostylis fischii*). Only two months earlier, Mr Fisch had led an interesting meeting when he showed movie films of the family trip around Australia and illustrated how he took close ups of flowers with his movie camera. A feature of many of the early meetings was the large bowl of native flowers grown by Mrs Fisch in her delightful native garden. Mr Fisch, as well as being a keen Field Naturalist was a friend to all, and the Club perpetuated his memory by the award of the Paul Fisch Trophy at Photoflora.

As early as 1962, it was decided that name tags should be made available to assist members to get to know each other. This practice has continued on and off ever since. Also, it was considered important that the Club programme included special functions which gave members the opportunity to socialise and become better acquainted. One of the most popular has always been the Christmas meeting, which traditionally ends with a supper.

In September 1962 the Club held its first Annual General Meeting. The occasion was marked appropriately when the Club became affiliated with the Victorian Field Naturalist Club. The only change in Office Bearers was that Mr F. Rogers replaced Mr L. Sebire as Vice-President and Mrs Fisch joined the Committee. Mr Jack Hyett was re-elected for a second term as President and gave the first Presidential Address on the subject of "Hattah".

"Mr King then thanked Mr Hyett who two years ago started the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club with a small band of fifteen enthusiasts. In his many fields of lecturing Mr Hyett had never failed to recommend the Ringwood Field Nats club as a place of learning. The success of the club had undoubtedly been due to the work of Mr Hyett."

## SPREADING OUR WINGS

The expertise within the Club in natural history photography was demonstrated at Photoflora 1964. The Club had 24 acceptances in the 150 slides for Photoflora and members gained two awards. This impressive result was announced at the Club's first Camp-out to the Cathedral over the Labor Day long weekend. It is probably not surprising therefore that as far back as March 1964 the Club had a problem with the number of members' slides shown at meetings and a motion was passed limiting the number to six per member. The Club continued to be actively involved in Photoflora every two years until it was finally discontinued.

In February 1966, the Club's finances, together with the rest of the nation, underwent decimalisation and the annual subscription for an adult member changed from £1-0-0 to \$2.00; still excellent value in any currency!

When Jack Hyett completed his regulation two-year term as inaugural President, he was followed by Bill King (1963-65) and Fred Rogers (1965-67). The Club continued to flourish under their leadership.

Jack Hyett and Bill King were awarded the Club's first two Honorary Life Memberships at the Fifth AGM in September, 1966, well-deserved recognition of the significant part they had played in establishing the Club.

Throughout the Sixties, the Club voiced its opinion on a number of conservation issues, including expressing opposition to the proposal for a lake on Mt Buffalo.

As a consequence of its affiliation with the Victorian Field Naturalist Club, the Club became eligible to participate in the annual award of the prestigious Natural History Medallion, whose recipients represent a roll call of the finest natural historians Australia has produced. The Club has always taken a keen and active interest in this award. In 1966, Ros Garnet, a nominee of the Club, was awarded the Medallion.

For a number of years during the Sixties the Club ran its own Nature Shows. These were held in the lower hall of the old Ringwood Town Hall, situated on the north side of the Maroondah Highway, nearly opposite the railway station. Audio-visual presentations were used and live exhibits such as lizards were a popular attraction. The aim of the Shows was to promote the Club and raise awareness of Natural History in the wider community. The building was demolished in the late Sixties.

The Executive also decided to look into the possibility of contributing regular articles to the local press on natural history topics, which could also be used to advertise meetings. The Ringwood Mail agreed to publish articles illustrated with a photograph of 300-500 words on a monthly basis and Mrs Fisch wrote the first, on Cordyceps. Another initiative was the formation of work nights; small groups met to explore specific aspects of natural history in greater depth and to make recommendations to the Executive.

Such was the expertise and versatility of members that, on a few occasions when a guest speaker withdrew at short notice, one or other member of the Committee would step in with a back-up presentation.

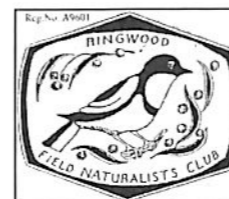
In April 1967, the Club held its first camp-out to the Upper Thomson area. Leadbeater's Possum was seen at the camp-out, as well as eight different berry-laden plant species.

In the same year the Junior Club was established and this required some changes to be made to the Club's Constitution which were ratified at the AGM in September, 1967. Membership of the Senior Club comprised parents with young families, as well as several teachers who taught in local schools. As a consequence, in the early years excursions were often cancelled during May and September when they coincided with school holidays. The formation of the Junior Club was well received, and in a very short time enrolments and attendances compared more than favourably with those of the Senior Club. Meetings were held on the last Wednesday in the month, during school term time.

Jack Hyett was again elected President at the AGM in September, 1967 but, due to pressures of work, did not seek re-election for a second year. Bill King was President from 1968-69 and then in September, 1969 Gordon Coutts became President as the Club saw out the close of a memorable decade.

## THE CLUB BADGE

The Club badge was introduced in September 1964. It had been decided to give consideration to a suitable badge for the Club as early as the first meeting. Preliminary correspondence from the manufacturers, Swann & Hudson, indicates that an early choice for the design included the Common Pink Heath (*Epacris impressa*).



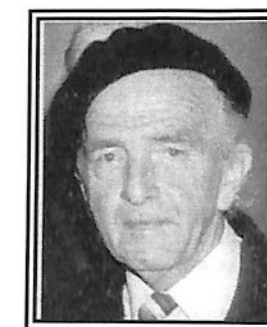
The final approved version displayed the male Golden Whistler and the Cinnamon Wattle (*Acacia leprosa*), which were common in Ringwood during the 1960s and still occur in local reserves.

A simple design with black lettering on a yellow background for use on car rear windows was also produced:



This was later replaced by a transfer which replicated the design of the Club badge.

The design of both the badge and car transfer were created by Mr Jack Truscott, a local artist and Foundation member. The badge was also used on the Club spoons and, from 1967 on, these have traditionally been presented to Guest Speakers at general meetings and, occasionally, used as gifts for members when they married.



Our emblem has been a credit to Jack Truscott and to the Club and has been proudly worn and displayed by members. It has provided an instant introduction to other naturalists when members have travelled, both within Australia and overseas.





# The Seventies



The Club was on a very firm footing by the time the Seventies arrived, and going from strength to strength. The Club's finances had attained the sum of \$130.30. The formula for the program of activities at meetings and field days set up at the beginning had proved highly successful and was followed with few changes.

In September, 1971 the Club marked the completion of its first decade of operation with the Tenth Annual General Meeting. The retiring President, Gordon Coutts, gave the President's Address on "Australia's First Conservationists". Also, Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to <sup>Jack Hyett</sup> Gordon Coutts and <sup>Bill King</sup> Fred Rogers in recognition of the enormous contribution they had made to the success of the Club. Up to this time, a relatively small number of members had served on the Committee and continued to share the burden of responsibility for running the Club. It was doubtless beginning to be an ever-present thought that new blood on the Executive would be welcome to help lighten the load. Always the optimist, in his Circular No.35 (Aug. 1971) Gordon inserted the following paragraph:

"Don't forget for the meeting on Wednesday to put your name on a piece of paper stating the position you hope to fill on the Committee then get someone to propose and second the nomination and hand the paper to the Secretary. This is important as the Club cannot function without a Committee."

How true!

Despite any misgivings, over the next few years the Executive Committee organised an ambitious program that included two camp-outs a year, one in January to the alpine region and one in Spring when the wildflowers were in bloom. These events were generally very well attended with upwards of 30 members present. The Club visited Baw Baw, Upper Thomson and the Grampians several times.

One of the notable features of the Club at this time was the astonishing amount of "cross fertilization" which took place with a wide range of other organisations, including field naturalists clubs, horticultural societies, nature preservation societies, photography clubs, nature study clubs, and so on. Club members were invited by different clubs to speak at their meetings and we were fortunate in having a series of speakers from other like-minded interest groups to give talks on a wide range of topics at our meetings. The result of this constant exchange of knowledge and expertise was the enrichment of experience in the study of nature for all concerned.

In 1972, the Club provided assistance when it was proposed to establish a Field Naturalists Club in Yea. Close contact was maintained between the two Clubs for many years afterward.

## The Seventies

The Club continued to be an active participant in the annual award of the prestigious Natural History Medallion presented by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. The Club was invited to nominate eminent natural historians. In 1970, the well-deserved recipient of the award was Miss Jean Galbraith. In 1971, Cliff Beauglehole, who was nominated by the Club, was presented with the Medallion.

In the early Seventies, there was some thought that the Club should publish its own magazine. The proposal was discussed in Committee, when some preliminary enquiries as to costs involved were initiated, then deferred at ensuing meetings in the absence of Jack Hyett. Club members were asked to contribute articles, but after that, the idea seems to have lapsed.

The Seventies saw some landmark decisions made at government level on nature conservation issues. For example, the Club was informed via Gordon's Circular No.33 that there had been an announcement in the press the previous Saturday that the Wedge-tailed Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Australian Goshawk were to be protected.

The Club continued to be closely involved with screenings in Ringwood of Photoflora: in 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976 and 1978. In 1976, the value of the Paul Fisch Trophy was increased from \$8 to \$20. Members were also successful in having slides selected for screening. A share of the profits from the Ringwood screenings helped to boost the Club's finances.

In 1974, the Club was presented with a shield by the Girl Guides' Association for the excellent work done, largely by Gordon Coutts, in giving inner city Guides and Brownies an opportunity to learn about nature. This activity was carried on over several years. A full report on this project is contained in the Silver Anniversary booklet.

The Junior Club was extremely active throughout the Seventies, under the expert guidance of Bruce Fuhrer and Christine Gray. Attendances often exceeded those of the Senior Club and topics addressed ranged from Nature in your Own Backyard to Birds' Beaks to Insects' Wings. Overnight Camp-outs were also arranged, (eg The Lerderderg Gorge 1974) with the juniors travelling in a chartered bus and the exemplary behaviour of the children was noted on more than one occasion. In 1976, the Club acknowledged the work done by <sup>Fred Rogers</sup> Bruce and <sup>Gordon Coutts</sup> Chris by awarding them both Honorary Life Membership.

In 1974, the Club suffered a severe setback when the 1970-74 Minute Book, together with the two earliest Minute Books (1961-1967) and other papers were lost in a satchel accidentally left on a train. While much of the formal business of the general meetings can be retrieved from other sources, the Committee meetings and much of the personal records: members' observations, reports, exhibits, slides, etc. cannot. Naturally, we would be very pleased to have anything that members past and present may have in their possession which could help to reconstruct those missing years.

In October 1975, the Committee discussed the effects of daylight saving and the need for blackout blinds in the Church hall. Bill King had put forward a proposal to the Church Trust and the Club offered to contribute \$150 towards the costs.

The Club held another camp-out to the alpine region in January, 1976. Forty-six members stayed at the Ski Lodge for the weekend at Mt Baw Baw. This outing was described as a complete success in every way.

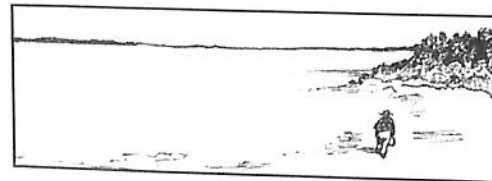
In 1976, the question of name tags again occupied the minds of Committee members, with a suggestion that they be colour-coded to identify members of the Committee. At the AGM in September, 1976, Bill King was re-elected as President for a second term.

In 1977, it was thought that the Club may not be able to engage outside guest speakers on an "out of pocket" expenses arrangement for very much longer. Around this time, the Club was fortunate in having a number of glass-topped display cases constructed, which were used regularly for displays, including the SGAP Winter Wildflower Shows.

The 1977 recipient of the Natural History Medallion was Jack Wheeler. Club member Ted Schurmann represented the Club on the Selection Committee.

The Club held its 200th general meeting on 12th April, 1978. This occasion was marked by talks by three of its Foundation members. Fred Flentje outlined the Club's early years; Jack Hyett combined Anthropology and Astronomy, two topics not previously covered; Bill King provided a nostalgic reminiscence of excursions from Shoreham Reef to the High Country and many places in between. At the annual general meeting in September, 1978, adult member subscriptions were raised for the first time from \$2 to \$3.

During 1979, a Five Minute Segment was introduced at some general meetings, allowing for brief presentations on specific topics. During the month of September, the Club supplied material for a display at the Ringwood Post Office to highlight the issue of six new bird stamps. At the 1979 Annual General in September, Gordon Coutts was again elected President, saying "I feel confident that with the Committee you also elected, we can carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us". In November, 1979 a camp-out was held in the Brisbane Range. The final meeting for the Seventies was the traditional Christmas meeting, with supper, and Miss Christine Gray provided the entertainment with a talk on "Orchids of Northern Australia".



The Club began this new decade with confidence. It had developed an enviable reputation and its members were active in a wide range of fields in natural history.

In 1980 Bill King was awarded the H. T. Reeves Trophy in Photoflora.

In October 1982 the Natural History Medallion was awarded posthumously to Howard Jarman, who had been a Guest Speaker on a couple of occasions. The following year (1983), the Club supported the nomination of its first President, Jack Hyett, for the Medallion. Jack's impressive dossier of books and other publications together long list of talks and other activities demonstrated his outstanding contribution to natural history. Jack received the award in 1985.

In the early eighties (1982), the Junior Club finally closed; letters of appreciation were sent to Bruce Fuhrer and Beryl McCarthy for their leadership of the Junior Club in its last few years.

In 1983, the projector underwent substantial repairs, and it was hoped that it could be stored permanently at the hall to prevent further damage by constant travelling. Eventually, a sturdy wooden case was made by Doug Thomas for the projector which afforded adequate protection. (A new projector was purchased in February 1984 by means of a fund set up to receive donations.)

At the February 1983 General Meeting Gordon Coutts introduced members to an unusual "plant" group which he named *Windmillacea*. He presented a set of slides that illustrated their evolution, growth habit, life cycle and, in particular, their peculiar relationship with woolly four-legged "cocoon" which depend on them for sustenance.

Like all Victorians, members were greatly affected by the devastating fires of February, 1983 Ash Wednesday. A proposed Camp-out to the Upper Thomson at Easter 1983 was cancelled because of the fire risk. An exhibit at the June 1983 General Meeting was a poster of the dust cloud enveloping Melbourne. In February, 1984 the scheduled excursion was cancelled because a Total Fire Ban was declared.

1983 was also the year when the establishment of an Alpine National Park was proposed. This was supported by the Club and individual members wrote to the Minister of Conservation emphasising the importance of protecting the habitat of *Burramys*, the Mountain Pygmy Possum. Earlier (1982), a submission had been prepared expressing concern at the proposed development at Dinner Plain.

At the September 1983 AGM, a proposal to amend the Constitution was put forward to provide for an additional Vice-President and one additional Committee member (two Vice-Presidents and four Committee members overall). The motion was carried.

For much of the Eighties, meetings of the Executive Committee were held in different members' homes, on a rotational basis. Name tags for members continued to be a matter of concern to the Executive, and a number of ideas were attempted, with varying degrees of success.

Innovations to the Club's programme were attempted. One of these was the introduction of Study Groups on specific topics, such as orchids. Another was the initiation of a project that assisted with the eradication of the environmental weed, *Smilax*, from the Warrandyte State Park. This became an annual event from the early Eighties, principally due to the efforts of Cecily Falkingham, and continues to the present day with one excursion to Jumping Creek scheduled during the winter months. This has been a highly successful activity, with the physical removal of plants and their masses of underground corms adopted by the Park Rangers as the most reliable method of eradication.

Another annual event was the Club's participation in the Wildflower Show run by SGAP at the Ringwood Civic Centre. For some years, this was an important source of additional funds for the Club, with the sale of tea-towels and other items.

### THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY

In 1986, the Club reached an important milestone in its history, being in operation for a quarter of a century. It was also the year when it became The Ringwood Field Naturalists Club, Inc., with the award of its Certificate of Incorporation dated 10th June, 1986. The question of the Club's incorporation had been first raised in 1984. The Executive Committee had discussed the matter and arranged a Special Meeting for all members held in March, 1985 at which it was agreed to proceed to incorporation. Over the ensuing months, work was carried out by the Executive on a set of rules and necessary amendments to the Constitution. During 1986 plans were put in place for a special celebration in September for the 25th AGM and a Silver Anniversary booklet was produced. The programme for the AGM included reminiscences by three Foundation members. A special cake had been made for the occasion and this was ceremonially cut by the Club's inaugural President, Jack Hyett.



Another important development in natural history was the Japan-Australia Agreement in 1984 designed to protect waders during migration.

In the same year, it was reported at a Club meeting that artist and Club member Ellie Pleasance had designed the motif on the Australian Olympic scarf.

In early 1985 the Dickson Crescent Uniting Church, where the Club had held its meetings since its establishment, commenced extensive renovations. Bushfires again caused devastation, particularly in the Anglesea area but, on a positive note, members were able to report on the remarkable recuperative powers of the bush and the spectacular regeneration, notably of orchids, which took place afterward.

At the AGM in September, 1985, Brenda Murlis became the Club's first woman President, and served a two year term.

Ron Norris presented the Club with a ceremonial gavel at the General Meeting on 11th December, 1985. The handle is made from a piece of turned Blackwood and the head is a Banksia cone. The gavel has been used by the President to call meetings to order ever since.

In November, 1985 the Club held its first outdoor meeting, at Sandy Bay in Warrandyte State Park. This proved to be a popular event, and thereafter became an annual fixture in the Club programme.

In March 1986 the Club received the first report of "hundreds" of flying foxes in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Also 1986 marked the long anticipated return of Halley's Comet. Club members, the Davisons, (November, 1985) had extended an invitation to members to view Halley's Comet at their property near Emerald. A Club excursion was arranged to visit the Planetarium to see a representation of this historic event and then on to the Botanic Gardens to see the flying foxes. It was reported that an event organised at Stane Brae to view the comet was expected to attract about 500 people. Over 2,000 turned up. Club members were involved in the struggle to save Stane Brae and to raise funds to purchase the property located adjacent to the Warrandyte State Park but unfortunately, these attempts were ultimately unsuccessful.

Another conservation issue which involved the Club was to do with a bushland reserve in Wandin North, opposite the Primary School. The Club conducted a survey on the reserve. A letter was sent to Lilydale Council advising on damage and dumping of rubbish in the reserve.

In July, 1986 the Club acquired its beautiful folding notice board, also built by Doug Thomas. This is another example of how the Club has benefited from the special skills and generosity of its members. The excursion scheduled for July 1986 was cancelled due to a petrol shortage.

With the Church renovations now well advanced, a letter was sent enquiring about the possibility of a cupboard to accommodate the Club's library. In January, 1988 the Club was advised that a cupboard would be made available in the new extension to the church, and by August, 1989 the Library once again became accessible to members.

During the latter part of the Eighties, the Club brochure was published for the first time. In 1987, it was considered that the showing of Members' slides would be enhanced if someone were given the responsibility for their collation and presentation. Arthur Farnworth undertook this task with great effect for a number of years. In December, 1987 Bill King reported that he had achieved a long held ambition to see a Glossy Ibis, thanks to the assistance of Ross Cowling.

In 1988 the cost for hire of the church hall increased from \$48.00 to \$60.00 per quarter, to correspond with an increase of 2 hrs to 2 1/2 hrs on meeting nights. At the meeting in August, 1988 Vice-President Bill King acting in the absence of the President, Gordon Coutts, advised that Gordon was attending a ceremony at which he would be invested as mayor of Croydon. During his term as mayor, Gordon was often heavily involved in Council business and unable to attend Club functions.

The final AGM for the Eighties arrived with Past President Brenda Murlis giving an address on her trip to Lake Eyre. Average attendances at meetings in 1989 had risen from just over 30 in the previous year to approximately 40, an indication of the Club's continuing viability.

Throughout the decade, Club members continued to take part in excursions to places scattered across the State and to attend up to two camp-outs a year. They continued to enjoy talks on a wide range of topics from those who were foremost in the field. These varied from Jim Willis' presentation covering the many offshore islands around Australia, to Ellen McCulloch's talk on Nature in your own Backyard, which she described as the "windows to nature" an appropriate starting point for anyone wishing to embark on the fascinating and absorbing pastime of natural history study.

In November 1989, the Club heard the good news that Honorary Life member, Bruce Fuhrer, had been awarded the Natural History Medallion.

During the past ten years, the Club recorded with regret the death of several members, including Foundation members, while others had been seriously ill, their progress and recovery duly noted in the Minutes. The decade of the Eighties ended with the traditional Christmas party at the December meeting. As always, there was opportunity for nostalgia and to draw inspiration, then forward planning for the January camp-out and the programme for the next twelve months.



The new decade commenced with further thinning in the ranks of the Club's Foundation members when the Club was informed of the death of Nell Arnott. As the Club was maturing, its membership was ageing. Members who had young families when the Club was started were now becoming grandparents. Reports were also received of members in hospital, seriously ill, particularly Fred Rogers with a heart attack.

The January, 1990 meeting included the ceremonial handing over of Club's Golden Whistler painting from past President Gordon Coutts to the current President, Bill King.

January, 1990 also saw the Club hold its first weekend at Mt Hotham, staying at the Aardvark Alpine Lodge, courtesy of Ron and Betty Norris. Ron showed slides at the January meeting to introduce members to the camp-out venue. Reports at the meeting following the camp-out announced that even the weather had been well organised, the next day it snowed! This popular venue was revisited in January 1991 and 1992. There was no January camp-out in 1993, however a successful camp-out was held at Inglewood in November of that year. One of the highlights of the camp-outs at Inglewood was Bill King's success at bringing owls close to the camp-site by playing tapes of their calls.

Club members continued to attend the VFNCA weekends and in March, 1990 Ken Ward reported on the weekend hosted by Geelong FNC.

The members of the Executive decided to promote the wearing of the Club Badge by wearing it themselves.

The award of the Natural History Medallion remained of considerable interest for the Club. In 1990 Ellen McCulloch, a past member of the Club, received the award. Life Member Fred Rogers was awarded the Medallion in 1991.

Throughout the Nineties, Club members roamed far and wide, returning with stories of their adventures and reports reflecting their range of interests and observations. Members were able to share in experiences of remote areas not otherwise possible. For example, Ron and Betty Norris had attended a ceremony when the "Dig" Tree was disinfested of termites where they were the sole representatives of the "general public" among a plethora of media, politicians, and other dignitaries.

One of the Club's Honorary Life members, Bruce Fuhrer, continued the tradition of producing books with the publication of 'Rainforest Fungi of Tasmania and SE Australia'. In addition, there was Noel Schleiger's book on "Roadside Geology" and Arthur Farnworth's insect photography and commentary were published in Geo magazine.

The 30th AGM took place (9/91) with little fanfare, a vote of thanks to all recorded in the Minutes. It was stated that this was a happy club, where enthusiasm was generated from the top, by the presence and continuing contributions of members like Bill King, who had shared their knowledge of how to be a good naturalist, which was appreciated by everyone. Pleasure was expressed in his recovery from illness.

The 1991 proposed camp-out to Inglewood was cancelled. The outdoor meeting that year was held at the Norris's property, Rubida Park, in November. Members welcomed the "Flora of Melbourne" which was launched in that month.

Throughout the Nineties, issues of conservation acquired an increased status, at the same time taking on a feeling of urgency. Locally, attention was focused on the last area of indigenous bushland in Ringwood. The Club received notification about the draft Environmental Policy for the City of Ringwood and shortly afterward the Conservation Strategy for Croydon. Of more widespread concern, attention was drawn to a list of endangered species which was published in "The Age".

The Club supported like-minded groups with donations, annual subscriptions and correspondence on a number of environmental issues, e.g. the proposal for redevelopment of O'Donohue's land at Anglesea, and the Chiltern Ironbark Forest. A \$30 donation was made for the Natual History Medallion, and a similar amount to the Possum Lady, to assist the work of her Boronia refuge for sick and injured wildlife.

Late in 1991 an investigation of Public Address equipment commenced, and the Club's PA system was purchased in March, 1992.

The 1992 Christmas meeting had an addition to the festivities with a visit from Father Christmas (Ken Clark) distributing gifts made by Mother Christmas (Elva Clark).

In the early Nineties, our stall at the SGAP Wildflower show was discontinued for a time. This represented a significant loss of revenue to the Club. In 1993, it was therefore found necessary to increase membership subscriptions for individuals to \$10.00. The Club participated in the Wildflower Show one more time in 1995, which was the final year it was held.

The Club received the news that Albert Law was ill, and a report on the death of Ted Harrison, Foundation member of the Benalla FNC and an early guest speaker. The Club was also informed of the nomination of Dr Jim Willis for the Order of Australia Medal.

The Club's 400th Meeting took place on 9/11/94 and was held outdoors at the Traills' property. Alistair spoke and showed slides and tapes of frogs. The evening culminated in supper with a cake made by Ruth Christensen to celebrate the occasion.

It was decided that the library display at meetings should coordinate with the forthcoming excursion in an attempt to encourage borrowing. Bird and Plant lists for excursions were introduced. Members who went on the excursion to Glen Nayook were able to observe Imperial White Butterflies emerging from their cocoons, a bonus after the walk through the beautiful fern gully.

The monthly meetings continued to provide members with a wealth of information on natural history. For example, there was Bill King's talk on the Wonders of Nature and Arthur Farnworth's on Life Through the Lens. John Seebeck made yet another return visit as Guest Speaker, collecting a 5th Club Spoon. Members' reports indicated changes in the environment over the years as well as new and unusual sightings, such as a visit to Wilson's Promontory by Loris Peggie where she saw the Aurora Australis.

At the June 1996 meeting, Bill and Marion King gave their final joint presentation to the Club, on Birds and Bird Calls. After a long period of steadily declining health, Bill died a few hours later.

In the Nineties, a new generation of members who had acquired much of their knowledge of natural history from those who had founded the Club was beginning to take a more active role in the running of the Club. In December, 1995 the first issue of the *Ringwood Field Naturalist* Newsletter was produced and this publication has continued twice a year ever since.

At the March, 1997 VFNCA Weekend at Falls Creek, the Club officially took on the job of becoming joint hosts for the March, 1998 weekend, together with Upper Goulburn FNC. A Working Group was set up and a venue found. After a year of careful organisation and hard work, a very successful programme was carried out. Over thirty of our own members attended and were involved as speakers, leaders of excursions, and many other important responsibilities. The weekend gave a welcome boost to the Club's finances, with a share in the profits.

After seeing the name tags worn by members of Upper Goulburn FNC at the VFNCA Weekend, yet another attempt was made to provide Club members with name tags, this time incorporating hand coloured reproductions of the Club badge.

The excursion to Edwards' Point in April, 1998 took the form of a structured shell study under the leadership of Noel Schleiger and Dorothy Mahler. A survey was carried out and a comprehensive report prepared of the day's findings.

As a result of the interest generated by this excursion, members were invited to the home of Geoff and Ruth Christensen in August, 1998 to view their extensive collection of shells. This event also provided members with an opportunity to identify shells in their own collections. This was an interesting and worthwhile event for all who attended.

In the early nineties, increased membership was reported, with around 40 people at meetings. As the decade progressed, there was a perceived reduction in attendance as some members moved away, or moved on to other phases of life. This emphasised a need for strategies to improve our viability. In 1999, with membership numbers continuing gradually to decline, the Committee decided to develop initiatives to promote the Club and try to gain new members. A Working Group was formed to manage this activity and planning commenced to mount displays in various local libraries: Croydon, Knox, and Ringwood in the following year. It was also agreed that the Club would participate in the 2000 Maroondah Festival with an information booth and display.

Towards the end of the Nineties, the Club once more honoured two of its members for their outstanding contributions by awarding Honorary Life Memberships, to Marion King at the September, 1998 AGM and to Doug Thomas at the September, 1999 AGM.

As the year 2000 approached, despite many dire warnings about the Millennium Bug and other disasters, Club members, along with millions of people across the world, took the opportunity to reflect on the past, to celebrate our achievements and to look forward with anticipation to the dawning of a new century. 1999 ended as usual at the December meeting, with the traditional Christmas programme followed by a time of fellowship around a table in the hall laden with a sumptuous supper.



## 2000-2001

Throughout its forty year history, the Club has successfully maintained its consistently high standards, enabling its members to extend their knowledge of natural history in all its diverse branches. As we look to the future, we may wonder what role the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club can play in the society of the twenty-first century. With numerous demands on our time, it is sometimes difficult to fit in recreational activities such as the exploration and study of natural history. As Ross Cowling said: "Life gets busier, we do not spare time to 'stand and stare' as we used to do. This is to be lamented."

Undoubtedly there will be challenges to meet. With soaring petrol prices and an ageing membership, it may become necessary to focus more on what there is of interest in the local area. We are extremely fortunate in having a wide choice of parks and bushland reserves conveniently situated within a short distance which we can use for this purpose. As pressures increase on natural habitats all over the country, our voice on conservation matters will become more important.

Many people find the rapid changes in technology, with its tendency for "information overload" hard to keep up with, but perhaps the Club can use the latest innovations to reach a wider audience. We may discover exciting new ways of getting our message across to the broader community. Computers may provide opportunities for different kinds of presentations. Perhaps we could set up our own web page on the internet.

Clearly, the Club is still attracting new members who are interested in learning about natural history. As they begin to make their own discoveries they too are filled with wonder at the extraordinary diversity to be found in the natural environment. This was evident in the response of some of our most recent members who experienced their first field excursion earlier this year. It was a timely reminder of the power of the natural world to enthral, astonish and delight.

Hopefully, there will be more cause for celebration as we move ahead. The Club will hold its 500th meeting in less than two years, and will reach its half century in 2011. It is appropriate that the final word should be that of our first President, Jack Hyett. Sadly, we lost Jack in this our fortieth year when he died on 21st July. At the conclusion of his talk on "Field Naturalists of the Ringwood District" delivered at the Silver Anniversary meeting, Jack expressed the hope that in another 25 years someone else will give such a talk. As the Club enters its fifth decade, perhaps we can plan to adopt this goal to ensure that Jack's wish is fulfilled.

*Judith V Cooke*

President 2000-2001

Ringwood Field Naturalists Club, Inc.



# 3 Members



## OUR GREATEST ASSET

From the outset, it was immediately apparent that the success of the Club was principally due to the people who became members. They brought with them a wealth of experience and enthusiasm which has continued to serve the best interests of the Club throughout its history. Listed below are those who joined in 1961:

### FOUNDATION MEMBERS

1	Aird, Jean	25	Martin, Muriel
2	Anderson, Shirley	26	Moore, Alan
3	Arnott, Nell	27	Moore, Ern
4	Clarke, Harry	28	Moore, Gwen
5	Clarke, Jean	29	Moore, Serene (Mrs E)
6	Collis, George	30	O'Connor, Mrs B
7	Couper, Murray	31	Pearson, Joan
8	Coutts, Gordon	32	Pridmore, Maisie
9	Cowling, Ross	33	Reed, Eira
10	Fisch, Marielies	34	Rogers, Fred
11	Fisch, Paul	35	Rogers, June
12	Flentje, Fred	36	Schurmann, Mrs (Snr)
13	Flentje, Mrs F	37	Schurmann, Mrs T
14	Gray, Christine	38	Schurmann, Ted
15	Gray, Mrs	39	Sebire, Lou
16	Haase, Hans	40	Sebire, Mrs L
17	Hall, Beth	41	Sheldon, A F
18	Heddles, Mark	42	Smith, Alan
19	Heddles, Mrs M	43	Truscott, Audrey
20	Herry, Peter	44	Truscott, Jack
21	Hyett, Jack	45	Walker, Mrs
22	King, Bill	46	Wilson, Esme*
23	King, Marion	47	Wright, Doris
24	Mackie, Mrs E		
Junior Members			
1	Clarke, Helen	7	Moore, Lindsay
2	Coutts, Tony	8	Pridmore, Peter
3	Cowling, Julie	9	Schurmann, Marion
4	King, Margaret	10	Schurmann, Richard
5	King, Robert	11	Schurmann, Susan
6	Martin, Stephen	12	Smith, Graham

\*Esme Wilson was a journalist on the local newspaper, writing articles under the pseudonym of "Space Monkey". Her membership of the Club ensured that its activities were well publicised during the early years.

- ◆ As far as has been possible, a cumulative list of all members has been produced and this is included in the Appendices.

# Members

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

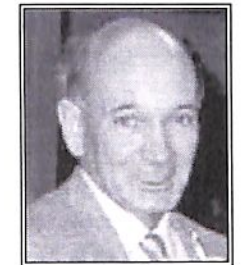
In its fifth year, the Club recognised the need to acknowledge the outstanding and sustained service given by some members and awarded the first two of its Honorary Life Memberships. There are now eight members who have received this accolade:



1966 Jack Hyett  
1971



1966 Bill King  
1971



1971 Gordon Coutts  
1976



1971 Fred Rogers  
1976



1976 Bruce Fuhrer  
1978



1976 Christine Gray  
1978



1998 Marion King



1999 Doug Thomas

As well as recognition of their work by the Club, three Life Members have been awarded the prestigious Natural History Medallion: Jack Hyett in 1985, Bruce Fuhrer in 1989, and Fred Rogers in 1991. On Australia Day, 1997 Jack Hyett received the OAM.

The character and reputation of the Club has been greatly influenced by these members, and virtually all members will have been introduced to the many wonders of nature, especially birds, mammals, plants, ferns, orchids, fungi, mosses and much more by them.

## SERVICE BY MEMBERS

- It is virtually impossible to provide a comprehensive list of all the very important and special contributions made by members over the years. Below are just a few:
  - ◆ Service on the Executive Committee (a complete list of members who have served on the Committee is included in the Appendices)
  - ◆ Leaders of excursions, camp-outs and other outings, such as the annual *Smilax* eradication project in Warrandyte State Park
  - ◆ Speakers: members have contributed significantly to the Club programme, with individual talks or short presentations on Members' Nights covering a phenomenal range of topics
  - ◆ Authors of books: members have authored, co-authored and photographed for books on natural history; others have had their work published in various periodicals
  - ◆ Library: members have held responsibility for purchasing, cataloguing, and making books available for borrowing at meetings
  - ◆ Programs; Newsletters; other publications: this material has accumulated to provide a valuable archive of the Club's history
  - ◆ Junior Club: without the sustained contributions from members of the Senior Club, this enterprise would not have been possible
  - ◆ Photography; Artwork: illustrations in Club publications and presentations at meetings have significantly enhanced members' appreciation of the beauty of our natural world
  - ◆ Press and Publicity Liaison; Networking: many members have actively promoted the Club in a variety of ways, while some have held specific responsibility for ensuring that news of the Club's activities have appeared in the local press
  - ◆ Setting up the hall for meetings, and clearing up afterwards: an essential and often unseen task performed by members
  - ◆ Storage and Use of Equipment (Projectors, PA System, display material)
  - ◆ Providing venues for outdoor meetings: a number of outdoor meetings have been held at members' homes, in a bush environment
  - ◆ Catering: Christmas suppers, and other special events would not be possible without the plates of eats provided by members
  - ◆ Auditing: each year prior to the AGM the Club's books require auditing, and this task has on a number of occasions been carried out by members
  - ◆ Reports, Exhibits, Study groups, Displays: members' own experiences, observations, interests, and collections have regularly formed an integral part of the Club's programme
  - ◆ Willingness to share knowledge in areas of interest/expertise with fellow members

We take this opportunity to thank each and every member who has so generously given their time and effort to making the Club what it is today.



## TRADITION AND CHANGE

### September

- ◆ The Annual General Meeting; the year's achievements are celebrated and the contributions of members acknowledged. The Presidential address.
- ◆ The newly elected Executive Committee meets to plan the program for the forthcoming year
- ◆ The Spring Camp-out, or

### October

- ◆ The Spring Camp-out, or
- ◆ Club members attend the VFNCA Spring-Time Get-Together, or

### November

- ◆ The Spring Camp-out
- ◆ The General Meeting is held at a venue outdoors, perhaps with a barbecue followed by a spotlighting walk

### December

- ◆ The Christmas meeting, when a "Members' Night" is generally organised and everyone gathers afterwards to socialise over a delicious supper
- ◆ No excursion is held

### January

- ◆ The first meeting of the New Year.
- ◆ An excursion (sometimes a weekend) often to the alpine region, to escape from the heat. (A day of Total Fire Ban, however, will cause the excursion to be cancelled.)

### February

- ◆ The Committee (sometimes a smaller Working Group) meets to address any particular projects during the year which require more detailed planning, e.g. Displays in Libraries or at Community events, Club milestones, joint ventures with other Clubs
- ◆ The excursion is often to the Point Wilson region, to see the waders before they commence their long migration to the Northern Hemisphere

### March

- ◆ Club members attend the VFNCA long weekend

### April

- ◆ Some Club fixtures may be rescheduled to avoid the Easter holidays.
- ◆ As a series of interesting speakers are invited, members may become inspired to learn more about a particular topic, and patronise the Club Library, which always has an appropriate collection of books on display at meetings

### May

- ◆ As the cold weather approaches, excursions are restricted to half a day at nearby venues, such as local bush parks, to reduce travelling time.

### June

- ◆ Attendances at meetings may drop off, as some members travel to warmer climes. A Members' Night may be held.

### July

- ◆ Nomination forms for Office Bearers and Committee are distributed at the meeting.

### August

- ◆ Nominations are received, the Club's books are audited, annual reports are prepared and the Club's business placed in readiness for the AGM.



# 5 Excursions



Full day or half-day excursions are arranged for the weekend following the monthly general meeting. An attempt is made to alternate Saturdays and Sundays so that as many members' needs are accommodated as possible. Over the years, the Club has explored a diverse range of habitats, from the mountains to the coast, across much of the State. Some areas have been visited only once, while we have returned to others repeatedly. A full list of the excursions, with dates and set out by region, is given in the tables below:

## GREATER MELBOURNE (EAST)

Locality	Visit 1 Visit 7 Visit 13 Visit 19	Visit 2 Visit 8 Visit 14 Visit 20	Visit 3 Visit 9 Visit 15 Visit 21	Visit 4 Visit 10 Visit 16	Visit 5 Visit 11 Visit 17	Visit 6 Visit 12 Visit 18
Beenak	Apr 64 Sep 72	Sep 65 Aug 73	Apr 66 Apr 76	May 68	Nov 69	May 71
Birdsland Res.	Mar 97	Apr 99				
Black Flat, Warrandyte	Oct 85					
Botanical Gardens, Melb	Jan 96	Apr 01				
Braeside MP	Mar 93	Oct 95				
Bungalook	Jun 98					
Cardinia Res.	Jul 89					
Churchill NP	Feb 73	Jul 79	Jan 89	Jun 94		
Coranderrk	Apr 62	Feb 83				
Currawong Bush Park	Jun 01					
Damper Creek Res.	Jul 97					
Dandenong Police Paddocks	Oct 00					
Dexter's Bush/Parker Res	May 00					
Doongalla	Mar 83	Oct 87	Jun 00			
Edithvale Wetlands	Dec 89	Apr 92				
Exeter Road Res.	Sep 82					
Ferntree Gully NP	Sep 80					
Fifth Hill Warrandyte	Nov 71	Oct 79				
Gembrook, Woori Yallock	Sep 64	Apr 72				
Hartley Rd, Wonga Pk	Oct 61	Sep 62				
Henley Rd, Kangaroo Gr	Sep 61	Jun 63				
Hundred Acres Res.	Oct 79	Jul 91				
Jell's Park	Jul 92					
Jumping Creek	Aug 64 Jul 81 Aug 89 Jun 99	Aug 67 Jul 84 Sep 90 Jul 00	Jun 68 Aug 85 Jun 91 Jul 01	Jul 71 Aug 86 Aug 92	Aug 72 Sep 87 May 93	Aug 80 Aug 88 Jul 94
Kawarra Garden	Mar 99					
Koomba MP	May 89	Jul 93	Feb 94			
Kurth's Kiln (see Shiprock)	Jun 79	Aug 82	Jun 87	Oct 99		

# Excursions

## GREATER MELBOURNE (EAST) cont

Locality	Visit 1 Visit 7	Visit 2 Visit 8	Visit 3 Visit 9	Visit 4 Visit 10	Visit 5 Visit 11	Visit 6 Visit 12
Lysterfield	Apr 65	Apr 81	Jun 83	Jul 85	Apr 88	
Lusatia Park Rd see Beenak	May 63					
Maranoa Gdns	Jul 69					
Mrs Fisch's Garden	Oct 62	Dec 65				
Mt Evelyn	Sep 67	Aug 71				
Mt Lofty, Warrandyte SP	May 98					
Murchison Falls	Nov 75	Nov 80				
Museum	Jun 71					
Olinda State Forest	Sep 83	Aug 84	Jun 96			
One Tree Hill	Nov 83					
Picnic Hill Res	Aug 98					
Planetarium	Mar 86					
Shepherd's Bush	Jun 93					
Sherbrooke Forest	May 65 May 76	Jul 68 May 77	Apr 70 Jun 78	May 72 May 80	Apr 73 May 01	May 75
Shiprock Falls see Kurth's K	Jul 75	May 86	Nov 96			
Silvan Dam	Feb 63					
Strathewan	Nov 63	Nov 64				
Studley Park	Jun 92	Apr 97				
Sugarloaf Res.	Aug 93					
Templestowe	Nov 72					
Wandin Nth	Apr 80					
Warrandyte NP Mining Res	Jul 73	Aug 74	Jul 01			
Warrandyte NP Pound Bend	Aug 78	Nov 99				
Yarran Dheran/Hillcrest	Jun 81	Jul 88	May 95			

## MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Locality	Visit 1 Visit 7	Visit 2 Visit 8	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
Baldry's Res.	Sep 84					
Baxter	Sep 70					
Briars, The	Dec 86	Dec 87	Jul 90	Jun 95	Feb 00	
Bushrangers Bay	Mar 85					
Cape Schanck	Apr 87					
Coolart	Jun 88	Apr 91	Feb 98			
Green's Bush (Flinders)	Nov 92	Jan 01				
Jack's Beach	Oct 83					
Langwarrin	Oct 86	Oct 91				
Port Phillip Bay	Feb 97					
Portsea	Jun 77					
Rickett's Point	Feb 89					
Shoreham (Reef)	Sep 63 Aug 94	Feb 65 Mar 96	Feb 71	Feb 77	Jul 82	Mar 88
Sorrento	Apr 84					
Stony Point	Oct 80					

**YARRA VALLEY**

Locality	Visit 1 Visit 7	Visit 2 Visit 8	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
Badger Weir	Aug 76	Feb 91	Jun 97			
Britannia Creek	May 66 Jan 87	Nov 68 Sep 89	Jun 69	Jun 70	Mar 72	Jun 76
Buttermans Track, Yarra Glen	Jul 64	Apr 75				
Cement Creek	Jul 96					
Cheviot (see Tunnel Hill)	Mar 91					
Chum Ck Rd	Oct 63	Oct 64	Feb 67	Jun 72	Jun 73	
Dixons Ck (Cutting)	Jul 62 Jun 75	Aug 62	July 63	Aug 69	Nov 73	May 74
DonRd Launching Place	Feb 62					
Glenburn	Feb 75					
Healesville Sanct.	May 64	Dec 69	Aug 97			
Jehosephat Valley	Apr 69					
Kalatha Saddle	Jun 67	Nov 70				
Killara/Seville	Jun 62	Aug 65				
Kinglake NP	Apr 96	May 99				
Kinglake NP/Toolangi	Dec 62	Jul 77	May 82	Jul 83	Jun 85	Jun 86
La La Falls	Apr 77					
Limestone	Sep 85					
Mt St Leonard	Mar 63	Mar 77	Feb 78	Apr 79	Jun 84	Aug 00
Murrindindi	Oct 68	Feb 92	Nov 95			
Paul's Range	Jul 66					
Seville Railway	Apr 95					
Siberia Rd	Nov 90					
Skyline Rd/Buttermans Tck	Nov 76					
Steel's Ck (Tarrawarra)	Apr 71					
Stockman's Reward	Jan 77					
Tarrawarra/Yering	Oct 67					
Toolangi	Mar 69	Mar 71	Jun 86			
Tunnel Hill	Nov 86	Apr 90		Jan 98		
Warburton	Mar 75	Jan 72				
Wilhelmina Falls	Aug 75	Jun 80				
Wombelano Falls Kinglake	Mar 66	Jul 00				
Yarra Glen	Aug 68					
Yellingbo	Mar 62	Dec 64	Jul 65			

**GIPPSLAND**

Locality	Visit 1 Visit 7 Visit 13	Visit 2 Visit 8	Visit 3 Visit 9	Visit 4 Visit 10	Visit 5 Visit 11	Visit 6 Visit 12
Cranbourne Bot. Gdns	May 83	May 85	Nov 89	Sep 95	Jul 99	
Gurdies, The	Aug 99					
Inverloch	Jul 74	Apr 86				
Labertouche	Oct 66 Oct 81 Oct 96	Oct 70 Nov 84	Sep 73 Oct 88	Nov 74 Oct 90	Nov 77 Oct 92	Aug 79 Sep 94
Mt Worth SP	Jul 87	Jun 89				
Phillip Island	Apr 78	Nov 00	Apr 93	Nov 97		
Powlett River	May 92	May 96				

**GIPPSLAND cont**

Locality	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
Tarwin, Lower	Jan 74					
Tooradin	May 70	Jul 95				
Walkerville	Jul 76	May 79				
Warneet	Sep 68	Sep 69	Aug 77	Aug 81	Aug 83	
Wilson Botanical Pk	Jul 98					
Wonthaggi	Oct 98					
Warrowitue Forest, Tooborac	Sep 76					

**VICTORIAN ALPS**

Locality	Visit 1 Visit 7 Visit 13	Visit 2 Visit 8	Visit 3 Visit 9	Visit 4 Visit 10	Visit 5 Visit 11	Visit 6 Visit 12
Ada Tree	Mar 94					
Barnswell Plains	Jan 85					
Baw Baw (Day)	Jan 99	Jan 00				
Ben Cairn	Mar 80	Apr 82	May 90			
Blue Range Rd	Mar 76					
Cathedral Range	May 84	May 87				
Donna Buang	Mar 70	Nov 82	Feb 96			
Fernshaw	Jul 72					
Gladysdale	Oct 72					
Glen Nayook	May 73 Jan 95	May 78	Mar 81	Apr 85	Feb 87	Feb 90
Lady Talbot Drive	May 97					
Lake Mountain	Jan 64 Jan 80 Jan 97	Jan 65 Jan 81	Jan 68 Jan 84	Mar 74 Jan 86	Jan 78 Jan 93	Jan 79 Jan 94
Mt Margaret	Jan 67	Feb 70	Jan 88			
Powelltown	Jan 82	Nov 91				
Starling's Gap	Jul 70	Jul 78	Mar 84	Nov 85	Dec 88	May 91
Thompson, Upper (Day)	Nov 65	Apr 00				

**NORTH-EAST**

Locality	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
Benalla	Oct 62					
Eildon SP	Dec 85					
McKenzie Res. (Alexandra)	Oct 97					
Yea (Highlands)	Aug 74					
Yea (Wildfowl Rookery)	Oct 78					

**GOLDFIELDS**

Locality	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
Elphinstone	Oct 74					
Heathcote	Sep 98					
Whipstick (Day)	Sep 77					

## GREATER MELBOURNE (WEST)

Locality	Visit 1 Visit 7	Visit 2 Visit 8	Visit 3 Visit 9	Visit 4 Visit 10	Visit 5 Visit 11	Visit 6 Visit 12
Altona (Saltworks)	Nov 66	Feb 74	Feb 76	Feb 79	Feb 81	Feb 95
Altona Saltwks & You Yangs	Nov 81					
Blackwood Ra	July 67					
Brisbane Range	Sep 66	Oct 71	Nov 78	Oct 93		
Cheetham Saltworks	Feb 82	Jan 83	Feb 99			
Cherry Lake	Feb 72					
Gellibrand Hill	Oct 94					
Long Forest Res	Sep 96					
Organ Pipes	Apr 89	Aug 96				
Point Wilson	Jan 70	Feb 93				
Serendip	Nov 87	Mar 92	Apr 94	Nov 98		
Spit, The - Werribee	Feb 80	Feb 86				
Werribee (Farm)	Mar 87	Feb 88	Mar 90	Dec 90		
You Yangs	Nov 67	Sep 79	Jul 80	May 81	Jul 86	Jun 90
Zoo (Melbourne)	May 94					

## BELLARINE PENINSULA

Locality	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
Breamlea	Feb 01					
Cape Patterson	Feb 66					
Edwards Point	Nov 88					
Pt Lonsdale	Mar 67					
St Leonard's (Corio)	Apr 98					

## THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Locality	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
Airey's Inlet	Sep 97					
Anglesea	Sep 88	Oct 89	Sep 92	Sep 93		



# 6 Camp-Outs



## FIELD NATURALISTS AROUND VICTORIA

One of the highlights of the Club's program every year is the overnight "Camp-out". Generally, camp-outs have been held over a normal weekend, but occasionally they have been extended for a public holiday long weekend or the Easter holiday. These events provide an unparalleled opportunity for Club members to become better acquainted and share their knowledge of Natural History in a more sustained manner than is possible at other times.

In the early days, tents and caravans were the rule, and later the use of bunk style facilities. But as time has gone on, it has become necessary to choose places where a selection of more comfortable accommodation is available.

Members have many vivid and happy memories of camp-outs they have attended. The first Club camp-out at Cathedral in 1964 was the favourite camp-out for one member. Others remember the first camp-out they attended (perhaps the Whipstick), or the one where they were able to see something new (the Gaines property near Wedderburn), or where the natural environment put on a spectacular display (the Brisbane Range, Mt Samaria, or the Grampians). Visits to the high country (Baw Baw and Mt Hotham) were always popular. For some camp-outs, eg the Black Range, Cowarr, Doone Res, few details are available.

These camp-outs have taken members to virtually all parts of the State, and enabled exploration of many different habitats. In this section, they have been grouped according to various regions as follows:



1961	JANUARY	F	MARCH	APRIL	M	J	J	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	D
1962												
1963												
1964			Cathedral									
1965			Doone Res									
1966			Baw Baw									
1967				Up Thomson								
1968												
1969			Baw Baw									
1970												
1971			Baw Baw									
1972			Baw Baw									
1973			Buller									
1974				Up Thomson								
1975			Baw Baw									
1976			Baw Baw	Warburton								
1977												
1978				Up Thomson								
1979				Black Ra SF								
1980												
1981				Up Thomson								
1982												
1983				Cathedral								
1984				cancelled								
1985				Warburton								
1986					Eidon SP							
1987												
1988												
1989					Up Thomson							
1990												
1991												
1992												
1993												
1994												
1995												
1996												
1997												
1998												
1999												
2000												
2001												

The next few pages are arranged in a scrapbook format comprising photographs, reports, anecdotes and memorabilia from some of these camp-outs.

THE GRAMPIANS AND OUT WEST  
The Grampians



October, 1969, 1975, 1976, 1977

~ Norval ~

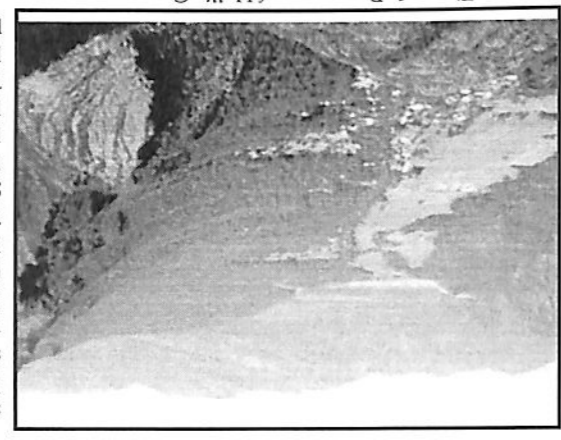


Figure 1 Panorama of Hall's Cap

Ringwood Field Naturalists Week-end at Hall's Cap Friday 17th Saturday 18th Sunday 19th October 1975.  
"Norval" is about 3/4 mile S of Hall's Cap township, and fronts the west side of the Dunkeld Road.  
Mattress, pillow, blankets, cutlery and crockery are supplied. You will need to supply sheets, vacuum flask for morning and afternoon teas and midday meal. Tea, or tea bags, coffee, sugar if or as required. Members are required for setting tables, waiting on tables, washing dishes. Duty Roster: Breakfast Sat - Smith (2) Neville (2) King (2) Rogers (2) Compton (2) Hocking Sharp  
Tea Sat - Smith (2) Hinton (2) Sinclair (2) Arnott Yates  
Brunskill Perkins  
Breakfast Sun - Carpenter (2) Le Rossignol (2) Wallbridge (2) Thomas (2) Sharp (2) Pridmore  
Before leaving, all rooms are to be swept and left clean.

October, 1995

~ Boreang ~



Figure 2 The Group and the Shelter

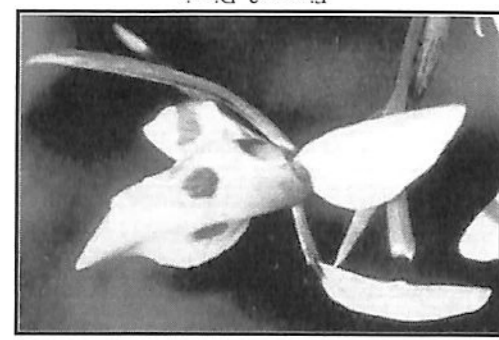


Figure 3 Dirts



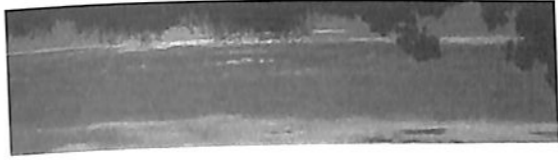
Figure 4 Two Stumpy Tailed Lizards having a territorial dispute



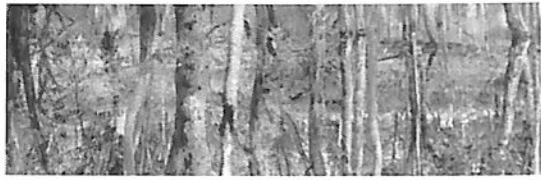
Figure 5 Grass Trees

The Little Desert

THE GRAMPIANS AND OUT WEST



THE GOLDFIELDS  
Inglewood  
(Brenanah)



September, 2000



Figure 1 The Group outside Whippey's Little Desert Lodge

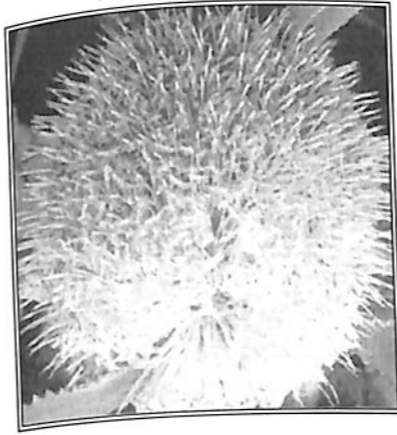


Figure 2 Banksia ornata



Figure 3 Blue Fairies

- Figure 4 Some Little Desert Orchids found
- Gnat Orchid
  - Mosquito Orchid
  - Pink Fingers
  - Blue Fairies
  - Daddy Long-Legs
  - Caladenia filamentosa var tentaculata
  - Caladenia toxochila
  - Caladenia tutelata
  - Calassodia maculata
  - Duris pardina syn maculata
  - Glossodia major
  - Lypcarranthus nigricans now Pyrorchia
  - Pterostylis dolichocheala
  - Pterostylis nana
  - Pterostylis plumosa
  - Thelymitra nuda

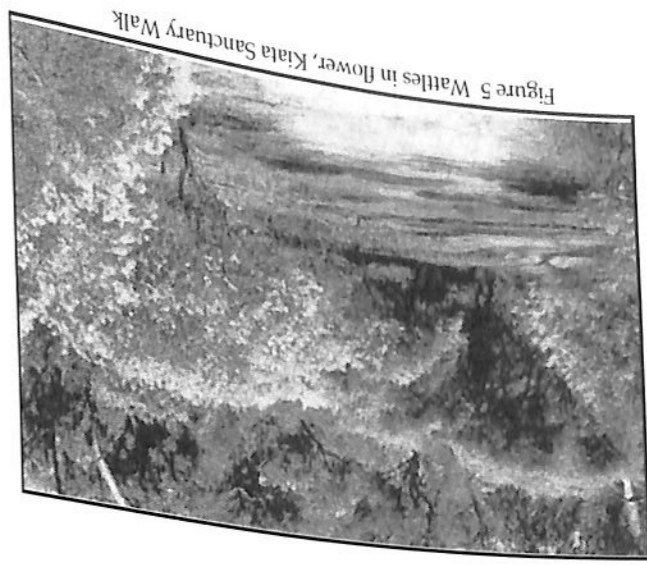


Figure 5 Wattle in flower, Kata Sanctuary Walk

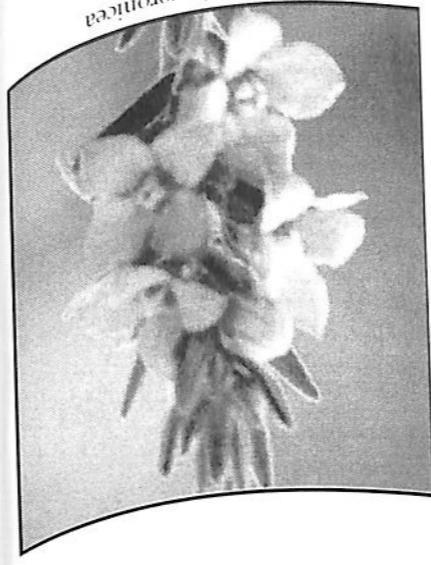


Figure 6 Zieria veronica

August 1970, October 1980, September 1987, 1989, 1990, November, 1993

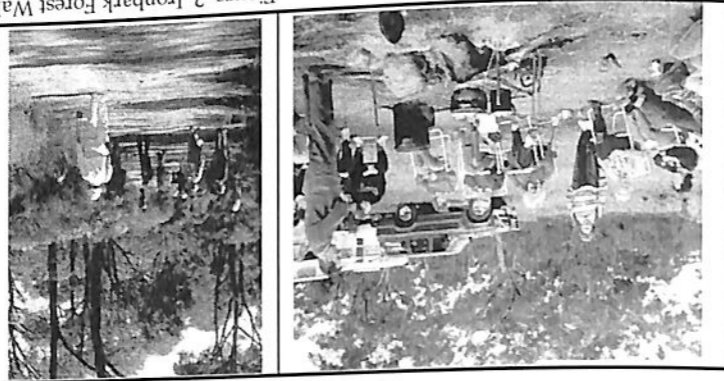


Figure 1 Ross telling a story



Figure 2 Ironbark Forest Walk

12th/13th/14th November 1993 (Fri., Sat., Sun.) Field Excursion Camp-out "Brenanah State Forest", Inglewood. Dry country wildflowers, orchids (including species of the Rufa group), birds, spotting for owls, possums, sugar-gliders and owl nightjars. Pleasant surroundings with ample room for caravans and tents.

Leaders: Bill & Marion King

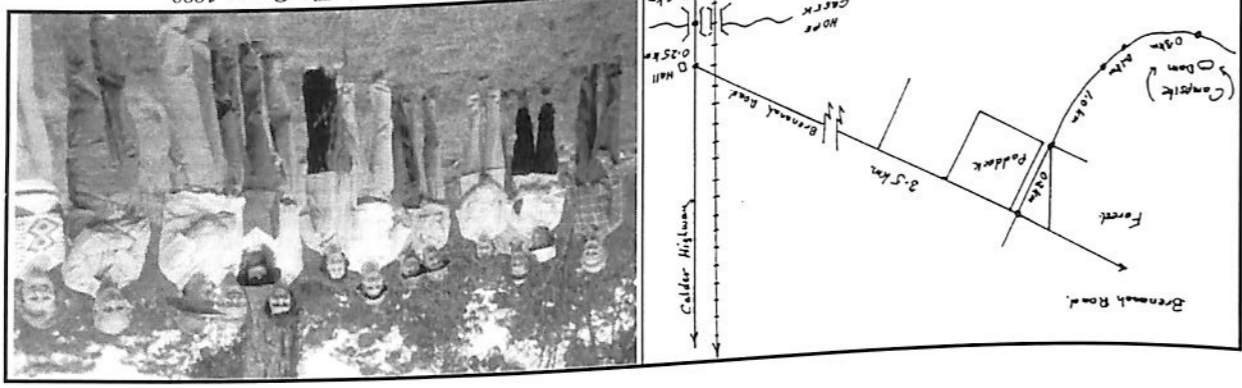


Figure 4 The Group, 1990

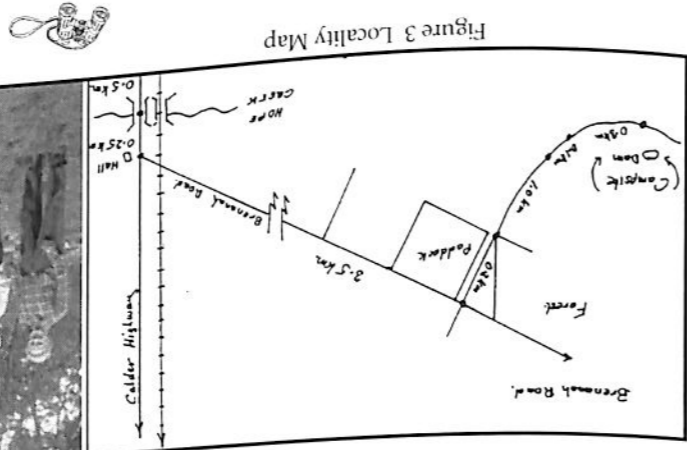


Figure 3 Locality Map



*P. curva*

As Ron Norris arrived at the camp with two volumes of Willis, plus microscope and tons of patience, it is expected he will have keyed out all the plants not already identified by the end of the weekend. Birds seen numbered nearly 70 species, some Honeyeaters that Marion found, and an Owllet Nightjar that Ron Norris spied. A flock of Cockatiel was an exciting find by Bill King. Also found by Bill was the beautiful Southern Scrub Robin, its tail almost half the total length of the bird's body. We had White-browed Wood-Swallows all around our camp-site and Masked Wood-Swallows were also seen. We saw Rufous Songlarks, Diamond Firetails, Peaceful Dove, Crested Pigeon, Hooded Robin, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, and Wedgetailed Eagles. Plant and Bird lists were collated and made available to interested members.

Report on Inglewood Campout 18-19 October, 1980 by Cecily Falkingham.

The camp was attended by 16 people, including day visitors.

We visited a Eucalyptus Distillery, a Wattle and Daub hut, and explored Mt Koyurah, part of the Melville Caves Forest Park. We visited a 100 year old homestead and were given a guided tour of the property, garden and dam. The hospitality extended to us was greatly appreciated, and provided us with a fascinating glimpse of the past.

About 50 species of flowering plants were identified, including nine orchid species. Flowers carpeted the ground to form a giant "patchwork quilt" of yellow, mauve and white, as far as the eye could see. *Melaleuca wilsonii* (Violet Honey-Myrtle) *Calytrix tetragona* (Common Fringe-Myrtle) *Prostanthera aspalathoides* (Scarlet Mint Bush) *Louisaia bellii* (Golden Pennants) and *Dichogon strictus* (Chocolate Lily) all contributed to the display.

Other Camp-Outs



The Bendigo Whipstick (September, 1968, 1971)

The Camp-out to the Whipstick Area north of Bendigo held at the end of September (1968) was attended by 49 people.

- Saturday - although windy it was quite warm and the people separated into small parties and explored the area, which was rich in patches of orchids, mainly *Glossodia major*, the plant count being in the vicinity of 50 species, whilst the bird count was approximately 30.  
- The President Bill King, organised a camp-fire meeting where Members were asked to relate the most impressionable nature event that they had seen or experienced.



*Glossodia major*

- Sunday morning was beautiful and sunny early, and for the early-riser the area was filled with birds. Later on the sky clouded over and it commenced to rain about 1 p.m.  
- If you haven't heard the story about Dave driving along in his T-model and being surprised at seeing a spare wheel overtaking him, ask Ron Filsell. The President located the only spare axle within a 50 mile radius of Bendigo, and soon had the car rolling again - on 4 wheels.  
- Don't be just a Naturalist - join us on the next Camp-out, and be a FIELD Naturalist.

- G. Coutts, Secretary

Rushworth/Whroo Forest (September-October 1978, October 1982)



Figure 1 The Camp-site

Rushworth 1982 - For the whole weekend we recorded 79 species of birds. The main sightings which made the weekend would have been the Black Honeyeater, the nesting Red-capped Robin with one of the Bronze Cuckoo eggs, the Spotted Quail Thrush, the Little Cuckoo Shrike (now known as the White-bellied Cuckoo Shrike) and the Diamond Firetail. Leader - Gary Cheers.  
- Charles Compton

Dunolly (September 1986)

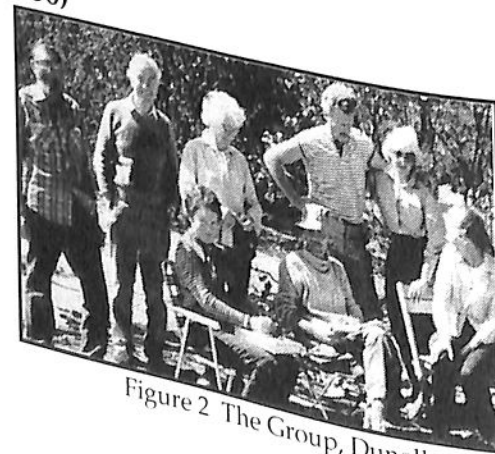


Figure 2 The Group, Dunolly

The Cathedral



(The first Camp-out - March 1964, March 1982, October 1984)

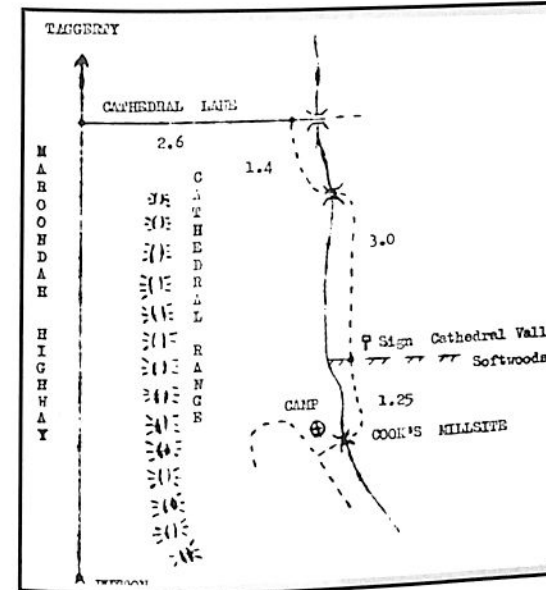


Figure 1 Locality Map

**FIELD NATURALISTS CAMP OUT**  
First Campout of Ringwood Field Naturalists Club was held on Labour Day weekend behind Cathedral Mountain, in the Buxton-Taggerty area. Nearly seventy members and children took part in it as well as two parties from Benalla Field Naturalists Club. The camp site was in a splendid stand of Viminalis and Peppermint gums and bounded by Little River with the rugged Cathedral mountain towering in the background. Weather was perfect and barbecues worked overtime. Excursions were a highlight of the Campout and the Fauna Group, led by Club President, Bill King in surveys of the neighbouring Blue Ranges, spotlighted numbers of Greater Gliders, wombats, wallabies, ringtail possums, an Owlet Nightjar and a Powerful Owl with a ringtail possum in its claws. Bird-watching walks were led by Mr. Jack Hyett, and bush walkers scaled Cathedral Mt. under the leadership of Mr. Gordon Coutts.

Greater Gliders were spotlighted feeding above the camp at night and by day the bees and butterflies (including Imperial Whites) rejoiced in the Manna Gums, in full bloom. A swamp rat colony also received its full share of attention from the campers, while jumper ants made their presence felt at times. An interesting presentation was made to the Ringwood Club on behalf of the Benalla Field Naturalists Club by its secretary, Mr. Ed Harrison, of Warrenbayne. It was a group of photographs of Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) and Tuans (Brush-tail Phascogales) feeding together on honey. The pictures were taken at Warrenbayne and Mr. Harrison explained that the Brush-tails and Sugar Gliders were popularly supposed to be deadly enemies. These unique pictures of them feeding together on the trunk of a peppermint gum were a complete refutation of that theory.  
"MAIL" Thurs. 12th March 1964



Figure 2 Cathedral camp-site, the first Club Camp-out

Bird List - The Cathedral

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. White-faced Heron            | 13. Grey Fantail               |
| 2. Straw-necked Ibis            | 14. Superb Fairy-wren          |
| 3. Masked Lapwing               | 15. White-browed Scrubwren     |
| 4. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo | 16. Brown Thornbill            |
| 5. Gang Gang Cockatoo           | 17. White-throated Treecreeper |
| 6. Crimson Rosella              | 18. Red Wattlebird             |
| 7. Laughing Kookaburra          | 19. Brown-headed Honeyeater    |
| 8. Superb Lyrebird              | 20. Eastern Spinebill          |
| 9. Blackbird                    | 21. Australian Magpie-lark     |
| 10. Scarlet Robin               | 22. Australian Magpie          |
| 11. Golden Whistler             | 23. Pied Currawong             |
| 12. Grey Shrike-thrush          | 24. Grey Currawong             |

Other Camp-Outs

Warburton (March, 1975, 1984)

Brief Report on Ringwood F.N.C's Campout to Warburton 9-12.3.84

Fourteen people attended our Labour Day weekend camp on the banks of the Yarra River at Warburton.

The area we camped on beside the river was an ideal place for bird-watching. Fifty species were seen and identified. The highlights being: many sightings of a family of Rose Robins, the noisy flocks of King Parrots up and down the river, Rufous Fantails seen daily on the track, flitting through the foliage above and feeding young, just behind our camp, Satin Flycatchers also feeding young, the Eastern Whipbird seen on two occasions and two Large-billed Scrub Wrens.

Places visited during the three days were: Big Pats Creek - fire re-generation area explored, Cement Creek - Beech forest walk - ferns and fungi, Mt Donna Buang, Ben Cairn (day-time visit and evening visit - spotlighting) and the Reefton Nature Trail at Camp Reefton.

All who visited the camp expressed their gratitude to the organisers, Ron Norris and Ken Clark who planned an interesting program for the members who attended. Special thanks to Charles Compton who came for a day but stayed on to take us spotlighting. Special thanks also to Ken who, in spite of a busy weekend and other commitments, found time to attend for a day equipped with butterfly net to share his expertise on the beasties.

In spite of one member intently whistling up a Golden Whistler whilst standing on a very active bullants nest (and who is now sporting a very swollen ankle) and another member slipping into an icy creek in search of an elusive Rose Robin, it was agreed that the camp was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Cecily Falkingham



Fraser National Park (March 1995, March 1996)

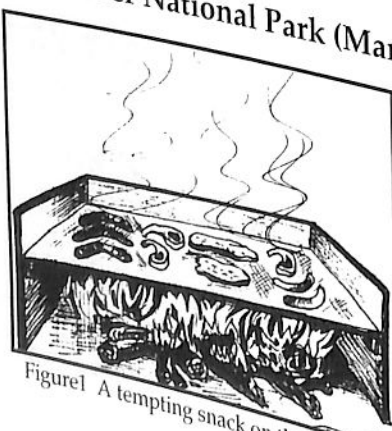


Figure 1 A tempting snack on the barbecue



Figure 2 Sleepy Koala

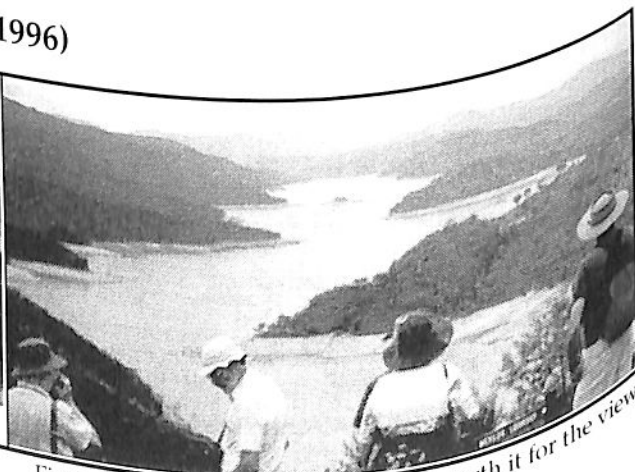


Figure 3 The walk up Blowhard was worth it for the view

Reef Hills / Mt Samaria



Reef Hills (September-October 1972)

From the Midland Highway turn left 3.1 miles before Benalla, then travel 1.8 mile along the Warrenbayne Rd. Campsite is 0.6 miles along Tower Rd at Wattle Rd corner.

Held together with members of Benalla, Yea, and Latrobe Valley FNC.

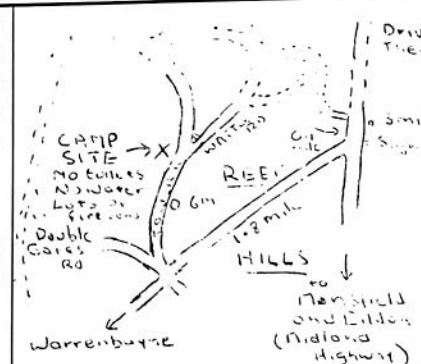


Figure 1 Locality Map

Suggested Program

Fri 29th Sept

- a) Early arrivals welcome at 11 Salisbury St
- b) Benalla FNC barbecue tea at campsite
- c) 8:30 Miss Jean Galbraith - Alpine Plants (in upstairs theatre, old building, High School - Barkly St)

Sat 30th Sept

- a) Until 11:00 am Reef Hills Ramble
- b) At 11:00 Excursion to Tiger Hill (East of Tatong) or, Mt Samaria - a rough steep road

Sun 1st Oct - To be arranged



Figure 2 Bushland near Camp-site

Mt Samaria (October 1999)

PROGRAMME

Saturday - am Drive to start of Back Creek Falls track. Walk to Falls (approx. 3 km return)  
 - pm Drive to start of one of the three walking tracks (about 1 km apart) from Mt Samaria Rd to the summit of Mt Samaria.  
 Sunday - am Drive, then walk, to Wild Dog Creek Falls and view point (about 3 km return).  
 Other varied bush walks leading nowhere in particular are possible from the camp.

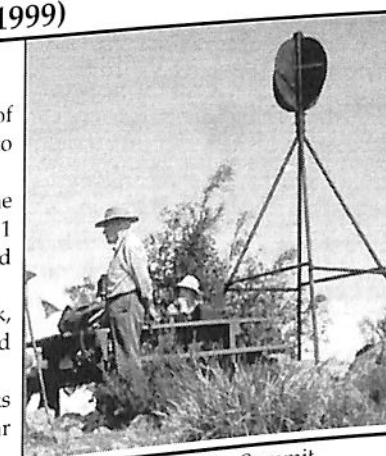


Figure 3 The Summit



Figure 4 Bird Orchids

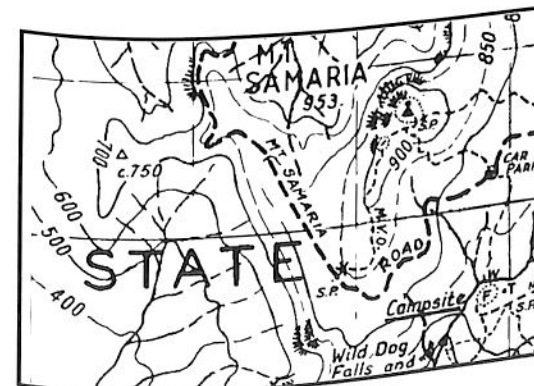


Figure 5 Locality Map

ORCHID LIST

- Caladenia carnea
- Caladenia concolor
- Caladenia gracilis
- Caladenia sp (more consultation needed for positive ID)
- Chiloglottis velida
- Corybas (leaves)
- Diuris partina
- Glossodia major
- Pterostylis longifolia
- Pterostylis monticola

Mt Baw Baw

January 1965, 1966, 1969, 1971, 1975, 1976

NATURALIST CLUBS MEET ON BAW BAW

On a weekend late in January this year [1965] several members of the Bairnsdale Field Naturalists' Club joined with members of the Latrobe Valley and Ringwood Clubs at the Ski Club Lodge on Mt. Baw Baw.

Journeying up on the Friday afternoon, much of interest was observed along the roadside between Moe and the mountain top. At the foot of the range the Christmas Bush (*Prostanthera lasianthos*) made a wonderful show with its flowers ranging from white through various shades of pink. Further up the hill the roadside was lined with magnificent tree ferns and myrtle beeches were beginning to show themselves.

Looking out from Tanjil Bren the white trunks of the dead Mountain Ash trees on the surrounding hills emphasised the devastation caused by the 1939 bush fires, but the glorious blue colour of the hydrangeas at this point aroused our admiration.

A member of the ski club became our guide here and led the way up the last few miles of the mountain—this part being a seasonal road only. After our arrival at the lodge we had only a few minutes to look around before being joined by some of the Latrobe Valley members who were the originators and organizers of the whole venture.

The dead white Snow Gums around the nearby slopes were spectrally impressive, bowed, as they were, by wind and snow and killed by fire.

In the morning those present walked down the road to meet the rest of the party now due and we were very pleased by the abundance of the showy Alpine Mint bush (*Prostanthera cuneata*). Pretty little *Veronica nivea* on the banks along the roadside were admired.

After lunch all sallied forth up the creek which flowed from the top of the mountain past the lodge where we slept. Under the experienced guidance of Miss Jean Galbraith much of interest was found and all plants were named for our enlightenment. There were numerous plants strange to us as they did not grow on our own mountain tops. Of particular interest was the Baw Baw Berry with its very attractive greenish red-yellow bell flower nearly always growing around the base of a dead Snow Gum. In open spaces the Sky Lily (*Herpilirion novae-zelandiae*) with its tiny prostrate flowers ranging from white to blue, was common and appealing. The Alpine Orites (*Orites lancifolia*), a grevillea-like flower was everywhere and *Richea* continentis was just coming into full bloom. The two just mentioned, the Rock Heath (*Epacris petrophila*) and the Baw Baw Heath (*E. paludosa*) gave an overall coverage of white to the terrain. The way in which the Snow Gums had regenerated from the bases of apparently dead butts was noteworthy.

The top was very open, with scattered bush over the moorland. The most conspicuous were the Alpine Bottle-brush (*Callistemon sieberi*), Mountain



Leek Orchid

Pepper (*Drimys xarophila*), the Fragrant Bush Pea (*Pultenaea muelleri*), Mountain Shaggy Pea (*Oxylobium alpestre*), Mountain Plum Pine (*Podocarpus laurerei*), Mountain Heath Myrtle (*Backea gunniana* var. *latifolia*), Shining Coprosma (*Coprosma nitida*), two shrubby everlastings (*Helichrysum hookeri* and *thyrsoidesum*) and the Daisy Bushes (*Olearia philogopappa* and *algida*).

Smaller plants noted were the Alpine Rice-flower (*Pimelea alpina*) and the Alpine Sundew (*Drosera arcturi*). The clumps of the pretty white-flowered *Onalis lacten* along the creeks made attractive camera studies but the abundance of ants thereabouts intimidated the writer.

*Dianella tasmanica* flourished in large clumps, the Perching Lily or pineapple grass (*Astelia alpina*) and the Dwarf Heath (*Pentachondra pumila*) with the Mountain woodruff (*Asperula gunnii*) made splashes of white with their flowers. We were apparently too late to see flowers of *Caltha intraloba* but plants were present.

A few Silver Daisies (*Celmisia longifolia*) were coming into flower and other daisies in full bloom were the Violet Flea-bane (*Erigeron pappochroma*), Billybuttons (*Craspedia uniflora*) and the Blue Bottle Daisy (*Lagenophora stipitata*).

Ferns were not very abundant but those seen were Common Shield Fern (*Polystichum proliferous*), Alpine fern (*Blechnum penna marina*) and the Necklace Fern (*Asplenium flabellifolium*).

Only one or two specimens of *Exocarpus nanus*, our quarry on the Cobberas trip, and the dwarf *Coprosma pumila* were found.

The orchid hunters were not very successful finding only two mountain Prasophyls (*suttonii* and *alpinum*) and the Green Bird Orchid (*Chiloglottis cornuta*) which, incidentally, was a new specimen for us.

A very pleasant evening was spent, firstly viewing a fine series of slides provided by the visitors, and secondly, travelling a few miles down the mountain to carry out a little spot-lighting under the leadership of Mr. Bill King and Mr. Fred Rogers. We were hoping to see Leadbeater's possum which has been located about 20 miles away at Noojee but though the young Mountain Ash and the wattle forest provided the right habitat all we found were ringtails.

Next morning we crossed over the mountains to a fascinating valley down which hurried a narrow but deep creek with beautiful rock pools and little water-falls. In this area was found the Mountain Caladenia (*Caladenia alpina*), the Veined Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra venosa*) and *Grevillea australis*.

From the summit above we had a fine view of Mt. Lake Mountain and Aberfeldy round to Mt. Wellington. We just left the mountain top in time to dodge the mist coming over and returned to the lodge to prepare for the homeward journey.

—V. Barton

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Other Camp-Outs



Mt Hotham (January, 1990, 1991, 1992)



Figure 1 Aardvark Alpine Lodge

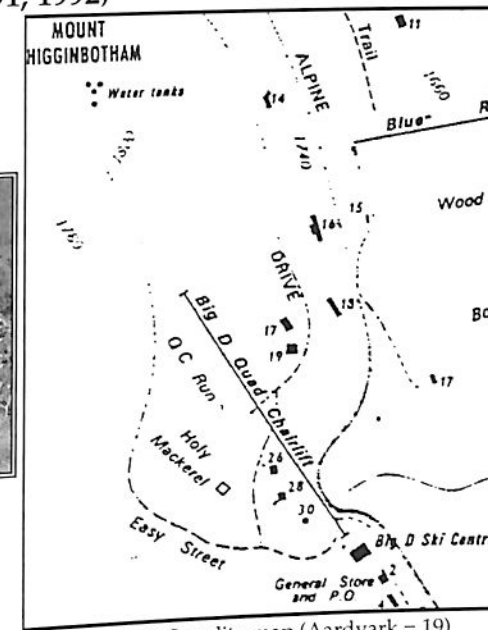


Figure 2 Locality map (Aardvark = 19)



Figure 3 Drumsticks



Upper Thomson (April 1967, March 1973, April 1974, March 1978, April 1980, 1988)



Figure 4 Campsite with snow



Figure 5 Ghost Fungus





# Holey Plains



September 1996

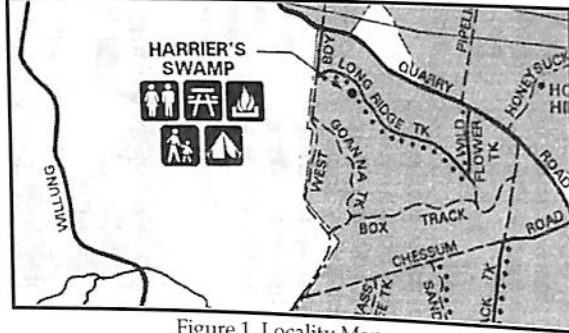


Figure 1 Locality Map



Figure 2 Green and Yellow Leeches



Holey Plains State Park covers an area of 10,000 hectares of mostly Banksia-Eucalypt open forest and woodlands growing on a series of low sandy ridges. The park, proclaimed in 1977, protects an extremely high diversity of native flora and abundant wildlife, while providing for bush-walking, pic-nicking, camping and other activities.

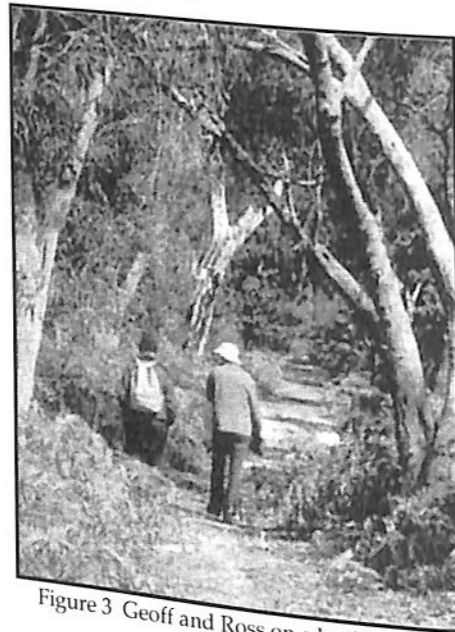


Figure 3 Geoff and Ross on a bush track

A short walking track (1km, 20 minutes) around Harrier's Swamp provides an interesting walk and a good opportunity to listen to frogs and observe life in the swamp.

The Long Swamp Walking Track (3.2 km 1.5 hrs return) starts near the tower and leads to the largest swamp in the park.



**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

Friday pm Set up camp. Explore the 1 km walking track round the swamp.

Saturday 9.00 am Leave camp via Long Ridge Track and Wildflower Track (totally misnamed) to Stradbroke Road, thence to Holey Hill with stops and deviations, for lunch. (No water here either.) pm Two walks are available. Banksia Forest loop, 1 km, 20 mins+, and Long Swamp return, 3.2 km total, 1.5 hrs. Return to camp.

Sunday 9.00 am Leave camp via Long Ridge and West Boundary Tracks, (the way we came in) to Stradbroke Road, thence to Chessum Road and a follow-the-leader route into Merrimans picnic area for birds(?) and lunch. pm Return to camp, pack up and leave for home. See you next time!

# Other Camp-Outs



Moondarra (September 1997)

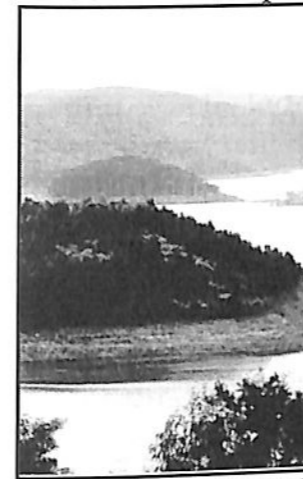


Figure 1 Thomson Reservoir

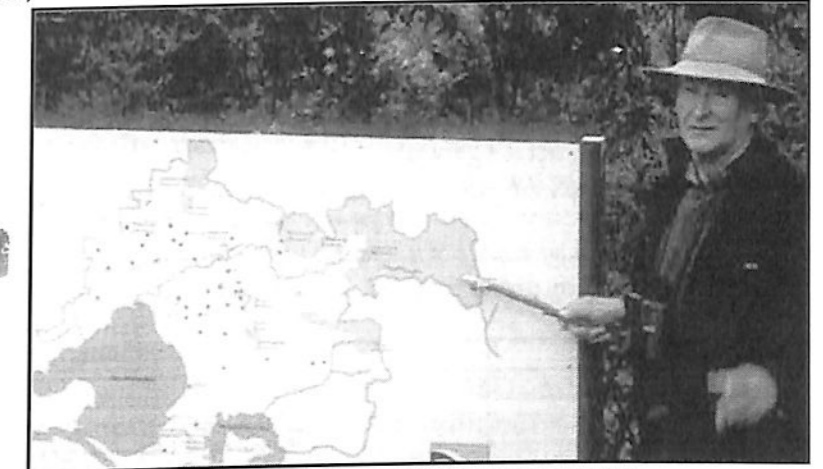


Figure 2 Russ explaining the construction



Figure 3 The Group

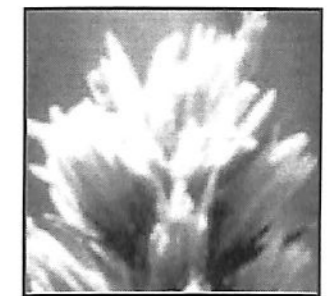


Figure 4 Sprengelia

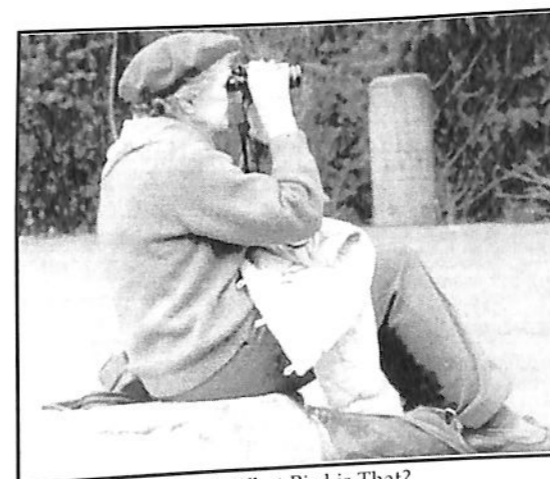


Figure 5 What Bird is That?



Figure 6 Walhalla



# 7 Special Projects



# Special Projects

Club members have taken part in a number of significant surveys of different areas over the years which have contributed to knowledge of the natural history of those areas, e.g.

- Faunal survey by members which extended the known range of Leadbeater's Possum, Powelltown area (1960s)
- Flora survey of Cheong Wildflower Sanctuary - the following list was produced:

Supplement to Circular No. 42 of Ringwood Field Naturalists Club.

List of Plants recorded by F.J.C. Rogers and R.L. Cowling at the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club survey of Cheong Wildflower Sanctuary on 17 October 1971.

FERNS		DICOTYLEDONS (cont)	
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	Common Maidenhair Fern	<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i>	Grey Parrot-pea
<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i>	Rock Fern	<i>Sphaerolobium vimineum</i>	Leafless Globe-pea
<i>Lindsaya linearis</i>	Screw Fern	<i>Daviesia virgata</i>	Twiggy Bitter-pea
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Common Bracken	<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Common Flat-pea
MONOCOTYLEDONS		<i>Platylobium formosum</i> *	Handsome Flat-pea
<i>Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea
<i>Tetrarrhena juncea</i>	Wire Grass	<i>Hovea heterophylla</i>	Common Hovea
<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i>	Small Grass-tree	<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Austral Indigo
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush	<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	Twining Glycine
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Long Mat-rush	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral-pea
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Spreading Flax-lily	<i>Kennedyia prostrata</i>	Running Postman
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily	<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa
<i>Anguillaria dioica</i>	Early Nancy	<i>Tetradlea ciliata</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids	<i>Comosperma volubile</i>	Love Creeper
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	Common Fringe-lily	<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	Creamy Stackhousia
<i>Chamaecilla corymbosa</i>	Blue Squill or Star	<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	Showy Guinea-flower
<i>Dichopogon strictus</i>	Chocolate Lily	<i>Hibbertia stricta</i>	Erect Guinea-flower
<i>Hypoxis glabella</i>	Yellow Star	<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaf Violet
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	Nodding Greenhood	<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Dwarf Rice-flower
<i>Pterostylis longifolia</i>	Tall Greenhood	<i>Pimelea flava</i>	Yellow Rice-flower
<i>Diuris maculata</i>	Leopard Orchid	<i>Eucalyptus goniacalyx</i>	Long-leaf Box
<i>Chiloglottis gunnii</i>	Common Bird-orchid	<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>	Silver-leaf Stringybark
<i>Glossodia major</i>	Waxlip Orchid	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate
DICOTYLEDONS		<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	Manuka
<i>Hakea nodosa</i>	Yellow Hakea	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Silky Tea-tree
<i>Hakea ulicina</i>	Furze Hakea	<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i>	Scented Paper-bark
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart	<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	Errienellam	<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Honey-pots
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	Common Apple-berry	<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Acacia armata</i>	Hedge Wattle	<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	Christmas Bush
<i>Acacia stricta</i>	Hop Wattle	<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Blue Pincushion
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	<i>Goodenia lanata</i>	Trailing Goodenia
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses	<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	Swamp Goodenia
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sallow Wattle	<i>Styliidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Trigger-plant
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Late Black Wattle	<i>Leptorhynchus tenuifolius</i>	Wiry Buttons
<i>Pultenaea gunnii</i>	Golden Bush-pea	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>	Yam
<i>Pultenaea scabra</i>	Rough Bush-pea	<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	Curling Everlasting
<i>Dillwynia floribunda</i>	Showy Parrot-pea	<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	Drooping Cassinia

\* This is possibly the first time that *Platylobium formosum* has been recorded so close to Ringwood. It will also be included in a list to be published on Ringwood. It is realized that this list has not been exhaustive, so it is up to you the members to record others. Perhaps in a few months we can publish an addendum.

- A survey of land occupying 8.5 hectares proposed for a bushland reserve in Wandin North.
- Signed: F.J.C. Rogers

Other projects undertaken by Club members include the following:

- Assisting Laburnum Girl Guides with community service by hosting inner city Guides and Brownies for Nature Days at Blackburn Lake. Gordon Coutts was principally responsible for this project, which continued for several years. A detailed report was included in the Club's Silver Anniversary booklet. The children who participated will now be young adults, perhaps with families of their own. We will probably never know if the experience they gained was recalled during their growing up and an interest in the Australian bush passed on to the next generation.
- Carrying on the tradition of support and assistance offered when our Club was established, by providing assistance to new Field Naturalists Clubs, e.g. The Yea and Benalla Field Naturalists Clubs.
- Involvement in the establishment of the Warrandyte State Park. An interim Committee of interested organisations was set up in 1968 following a meeting arranged by the Doncaster and Templestowe Tree Preservation Society. The Club's representative on that Committee was Mr W. Radden. The Club included information on the park in its display at the nature show at Camberwell Civic Centre in 1985.
- Smilax Eradication Project in Warrandyte State Park. This ongoing annual activity has significantly reduced the occurrence of this invasive weed species. As a consequence, Park Rangers hold the Club in high esteem, and members are welcome to use the Park and its facilities whenever they wish.
- Participating in community events, mounting displays, etc., eg. Lilydale Show (1960s), SGAP Wildflower Show (1970s, 1980s, 1990s), and the Maroondah Festival 2000 and 2001
- Organising study groups on specialist subjects, e.g. Sea Shells of Australia
- Hosting the VFNCA Spring-Time Get-Together in Ringwood (October 1984)
- Acting as joint host with Upper Goulburn FNC for the VFNCA Labor Day Weekend at Marysville. A working group was formed which met several times during the preceding twelve months, culminating in a high quality programme which was greatly appreciated by all who attended the weekend.

## Marysville (March, 1998) - VFNCA Weekend



Figure 1 Out for the day

Figure 2 Elkanah

Figure 3 Members at Buxton Gums Reserve

# 8 Speakers & Topics



The Club has always endeavoured to find speakers to present a wide range of topics. They have covered subjects which illustrate the extraordinary diversity to be found in nature.

From the outset, the Club was able to invite speakers representing the leading edge of Natural History study in Victoria. In May 1962, Mr Norman Wakefield gave an illustrated address on Australian fauna. He delighted everyone by displaying two live Feathertail possums and two pygmy possums. Other well-known naturalists included Roy Wheeler (7/62) on Australian bird life, Ros Garnet (6/63) National Parks of Victoria, Margaret Chattaway (11/63) on Eucalypts, Ron Jenz (2/64) on Marine Worms, Jim Willis (3/64) on Plant Ecology, and Helen Aston (3/66) on Aquatic Plants. Some of these speakers returned on more than one occasion.

The Guest Speaker in February, 1968 was Mr John Landy, whose topic was "Insect Camouflage".

Well over half of the talks to the Club have been given by members. They have included individual presentations, short talks at Members' nights, and Presidential addresses at Annual General Meetings. This is indicative of the wealth of knowledge in the Club, and the willingness of members to share that knowledge. Some members, especially our Honorary Life Members, have provided, on average, a talk on some topic at least once every two years.

Plant topics were always very popular, and some not already mentioned are Robert King (3/67) Algae in Southern Victoria, Ern Perkins (10/67) Eucalypts, Fred Rogers (1/69) Proteaceae of Victoria, Geoff Christensen (11/74) Plants, Roger Elliot (10/76) Flora of the Grampians, Dorothy and Ralph Keller (10/78) Rainforest, Gary Cheers (10/83) Native Botany, Doug Thomas (7/87) Ferns, Loris Pegg (8/90) Orchids, Flora Anderson (10/90) Tasmanian Flora, K Schwab (10/91) Mt Buller Botany, Bruce Fuhrer (4/95) WA Wildflowers and (7/96) Bryophytes, Cecily Falkingham (10/99) Valley Heathy Forest.

Perhaps one of the classic introductions to a member's talk on a favourite plant topic was that provided by Gordon Coutts (Circular No.58) when Fred Rogers delivered the 1973 Presidential Address in July of that year, before departing on long service leave:

"Wattle' Fred talk about? 'Acacia' can't guess, it has something to do with old 'Jumping Jack' from 'Snowy River'. Now his 'Sweet' 'Sunshine', 'Myrtle', has to 'Wait-a-While' until the 'Sticky' 'Varnish' on the 'Grey Mulga' 'Dagger' dries in the 'Ovens' before she can 'Rock' 'Hop' in a 'Manna' like a 'Black' 'Catkin'."

Signed: G (non-'Glandulicarpa') Coutts

# Speakers and Topics

Now, if all that means nothing to you, then Fred's book "A Field Guide to Victorian Wattles" is still available! By the way, Gordon strenuously denied that the reference to Jumping Jack had any connection whatsoever to a member of this Club.

Talks about Birds were equally as varied, such as Alan McEvey (6/65) Owls, Roy Cooper (4/69) Birds, Albert Law (4/70) Lyrebirds, Reg Johnson (4/71) Birds and Conservation, Keith and Beryl Richards (2/73) Songbirds of Melbourne, Howard Jarman (8/75) Parrots and Cockatoos and (5/79) Birds of Prey, Bob Swindley (11/77) Waders, Margaret Blakers (5/84) The Bird Atlas, Brenda Murlis (4/91) Whither the Wader, H Plowright (4/97) Preserving Bird Skins, Peter Menkhorst (5/97) Orange-bellied Parrot, Ellen McCulloch (2/98) Wetland Birds, Marlene Lyell (10/98) Birding in the Outback, Maurie Streeter (8/2000) Bird Families.

Mammals and Reptiles were discussed by a number of speakers and the occasional inclusion of live specimens was always a memorable highlight. Among this groups were Jack Hyett (3/62) Snakes, Patricia Wooley (4/68) Dasyuridae, Bob Warnecke (2/69) Seal Research, Norman Wakefield (7/71) Native Rodents, John Seebeck (7/74) Potoroos, Peter Pridmore (4/76) Egg-laying Mammals, Adam Gaines (2/77) Reptiles, Keith Every (10/87) Koalas, E Cowling, the Possum Lady, (4/93) Possums, Lindy Lumsden (7/98) Natural History of Bats.

Topics relating to Marine environments were covered by Bruce Fuhrer (4/84) Between the Tides, M Norman (1/92) Octopus, Clarrie Handreck (10/95) Marine Zoology and (4/98) Beachcombing for Molluscs.

Geology and Palaeontology were addressed by Judith Cooke (6/90), Noel Schleiger (2/93), Neil Archbold (6/00).

Some of the more unusual topics were Turtles and Tortoises (Jack Hyett, 6/64), Making Australian Films (Doug Dorward, 5/75), Colour in Gemstones (Bram Dawson, 7/75), The Aranda and their Art (Jack Montgomery, 10/77), Microscopics (P Genery, 2/83), Slugs (A Daniell, 10/84), Native Fish (Neil Armstrong 2/94), Bush Foods (C Burton, 7/97), Care of Endangered Species (Chris Banks, 6/98).

As members travelled the length and breadth of Australia, many of the topics reflected the places they had visited:

Mrs Dacy (5/72) took us on a "Cook's Tour of King Island". As Gordon Coutts noted, this was followed (6/72) by a "King's Tour of Cook's Island" when Bill King gave a talk entitled "Below Capricorn".

Bill King also told us about The Little Desert (9/64) and Wyperfeld (9/65), Jack Hyett (9/68) the Everard Range and (10/73) Cooper's Creek, Gordon Coutts (9/70) Central Australia, and (7/79) the Flinders Ranges, Bruce Fuhrer (6/80) The Big Desert, Pat Emery (8/85) and Doug Alkemade (3/98) The Kimberley, Margaret Travers (8/87) Safari to the Northern Territory, Phil Daniell (12/87) the Bungle Bungles, Arthur Farnworth (5/89) Kakadu, Bruce Burton (12/91) Western Queensland. Members who had travelled abroad, as well as Guest Speakers, presented talks on different regions overseas: Jack Hyett (11/76) Galapagos Islands, Jim Willis (3/72) A Trip to New Guinea, Gordon Coutts (9/89) The Orient, K Harris (1/91) Patagonia, Rod Mackenzie (2/96) Antarctica. Jack Hyett returned from his trip to South Africa and commenced a talk on his travels (4/75) by saying:

"East is East and West is West  
 Though this may not be relevant  
 No matter what you can do with a kangaroo  
 You can't muck around with an elephant."

In the questionnaire we circulated, members were asked to list their favourite topics. Several members recalled this one:

- A talk on sea invertebrates - Polychaetes (sand worms) at the Fisch home by Mrs Fisch's son with blackboard illustrations. An interesting subject new to most of us.
  - Other topics and speakers mentioned were:
    - Seaweed Words. Robert King - entertaining, interesting approach to aspects of Phycology
    - Ed McNabb - Owls; Jack Hyett; John Seebeck, Bill King (and Marion's photographs); Doug Thomas; Bruce Fuhrer; Zoo horticulture (J. Arnatt); Victorian Orchids (G. Backhouse); Insects (Tim New); Frogs (Gerry Marentelli) and so on!
- This list is far from exhaustive; a comprehensive list of speakers and their topics from September, 1961 to September, 2001 is held in the Club's archives.



# 9 Significant Sightings



For the purposes of this section, it was decided to utilise a selection of the many and varied reports and observations made by members at meetings, on excursions and at camp-outs. It is intended that this will form the basis of a more comprehensive database to ensure that any rare or unusual sightings are suitably preserved and accessible to members, and to see whether changes or trends can be detected over the years. Unusual observations for a particular locality have been included. Generally, it was necessary to focus on areas of natural history which have been of particular interest to the Club. Observations of birds comprise by far the largest group of members' reports. On some excursions, for example, coastal venues, although a bird list may have been produced, a list of other sightings, eg marine animals in rock pools, or comments on the geology may not.

*Researched and compiled by Cecily Falkingham*

## Birds

One of the earliest activities (2/62) was a Swift count carried out on the Club's excursion to Don Road. In responding to the questionnaire, Ted Schurmann gave the following account:

"The most memorable RFN outing for me was the early evening outing to the hills to count Swifts. It was an amazing exciting event. The birds came over in waves as Bill King promised. There must have been many thousands and we learned to count in blocks."

In January 1969, Ken Simpson (BOCA) asked for support from Club members for a Swift count in February and in that month Chris Gray reported Swifts drinking from a dam at Yarra Flats. Bill King reported large numbers of Fork-tailed Swifts in company with Spine-tailed Swifts over Warrandyte (2/70), Fork-tailed Swifts at South Warrandyte (3/77) and Sharp-tailed Needletails (2/94). Jack Hyett (3/70) described sightings of Swifts over the peninsula area made from aircraft at 2-3,000 feet altitude. More recently, there have been sightings of Swifts over Ringwood (Bruce Burton 2/97; Ella Thomas 3/97), Warrandyte (Marlene Lyell 1/98) and elsewhere (Dorothy Mahler 4/97). Flora Anderson reported (3/97) that Ken Simpson (BOCA) believed there had been a decline in numbers of Spine-tailed Swifts over recent years. There appear to have been few, if any, recent recorded sightings of Fork-tailed Swifts.

Another species which has been seen less frequently in the eastern suburbs is the Regent Honeyeater. This bird was recorded in Blackburn during the sixties, and it was reported by Bill King in Warrandyte in *Eucalyptus leucoxydon* in December 1974 and feeding young in Wonga Park in December 1985. One bird was seen recently in Manningham.

Other unusual honeyeater sightings include a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater in Lilydale (Chris Gray 8/77) and a Crescent Honeyeater in a garden in Mitcham (Cecily Falkingham 4/97). Farther afield, Gary Cheers reported male and female Black Honeyeaters at Rushworth (8/77).

Records of other species, however, eg Crested Pigeons, Rufous Fantails, Rainbow Lorikeets and Pied Currawongs seem to indicate that these birds are becoming more numerous in the eastern suburbs, perhaps due to artificial supplementation of their food supply, or because of destruction of their habitat elsewhere. Cecily Falkingham noted Pied Currawongs still in Mitcham (11/90). Peter Rogers reported the first sighting of Pied Currawongs in Wantirna (2/98) and Ellen McCulloch, the Guest Speaker for that evening said she had seen a pair feeding young on Christmas morning and commented that they appeared to be staying down from the mountains longer this year. There also appear to be more sightings of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos in the foothills, Warrandyte, and the eastern suburbs, eg Olinda (Margaret Griffin 1/87), Dandenong Creek (Ross Cowling 1/87), Ringwood (Doug Thomas 1/87) and Croydon (Pearl Greenhut 8/94). Carol Traill reported 12 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos at Wonga Park (11/98). Bill King said they use the Pines. They may be seen feeding on pine seed or stripping bark to get insect larvae from native plants. This could be loss of habitat driving them further into suburban bushland reserves and creek corridors.

Other interesting parrot sightings include: a pair of Blue-winged Parrots on top of a tree fern in Sherbrooke Forest (Jack Hyett 11/82), Long-billed Corellas at Kilsyth (Adam Gaines 8/85), a juvenile Orange-bellied Parrot at Queenscliff (Mick Murlis 1/86) normally in Tasmania in January, a Superb Parrot in Blackburn (Joan Broadberry 12/93), and Musk Lorikeets in his Croydon garden (Phil Daniel 2/95).

Numerous sightings of raptors have been reported by members over the years. In November 1982, Charles Compton reported a pair of Peregrine Falcons with young at Ferntree Gully and Cecily Falkingham saw a pair at the Nobbies, Phillip Island July 1990. The ability of these birds to survive in the inner city was supported by sightings at Clifton Hill (Judith Cooke 6/99) and in Clarendon Street, South Melbourne (Peter Rogers 6/99).

A Black Falcon was seen at Lilydale (Chris Gray 12/88) and a Black-shouldered Kite on Mullum Mullum Creek (Bruce Burton 3/95). Letter-wing Kites were reported following a mouse plague near Horsham (Bill King 7/93). Alistair Traill reported (4/96) a Wedge-tailed Eagle carrying a Ringtail Possum at Wonga Park and a White Goshawk (5/97) at Skeynes Creek. Ella Thomas reported (6/96) a Sea Eagle at Wilson's Prom.

Records of birds of the night in the eastern suburbs have included Powerful Owls in Warrandyte State Park (Cecily Falkingham 12/93), together with juveniles in Warrandyte (Marlene Lyell 2/95) and in the Mullum valley. Tawny Frogmouths were seen in gardens in North Ringwood (Judith Cooke 1/96) and Ringwood (Margaret Burton 1/96).

The fluctuating fortunes of Lyrebirds, particularly in Sherbrooke Forest, have also been noted. In December 1968, Margaret Dacy reported seeing 12 mounds for Lyrebirds at Black Mountain. At the May, 1977 excursion 6 Lyrebirds were seen in Sherbrooke Forest. In March, 1990 Ross Cowling had thought Lyrebirds were gone from Sherbrooke, but did eventually find signs to the contrary, also heaps of feathers and evidence of dogs, cats, foxes. Jean Neville sighted one at Sherbrooke Forest. In August, 1998 Margaret Yii reported 4 Lyrebirds singing and dancing at Badger Weir. Just recently, on two occasions up to a dozen birds were seen beyond Grant's Picnic area, Sherbrooke. There was an obvious decline in Lyrebird numbers in Sherbrooke in the 80's and 90's with numbers now just building up again in 2000-2001.

Bushland reserves and properties in the suburbs, especially those with a permanent water supply, have attracted birds and provided a variety of uncommon sightings. Here are just a few:

- Bill King saw a Dollar Bird (1/69) and Cicada Birds at South Warrandyte (3/77)
- Ellen McCulloch reported (12/74) White-winged Trillers at Donvale
- Bill King and Gordon Coutts reported (5/75) Yellow-billed Spoonbills in Croydon and South Warrandyte
- At Lysterfield, Charles Compton saw a Rufous Songlark, (11/82) and Gary Cheers a White-browed Woodswallow (4/83)
- Doug Thomas reported a Lewin's Water-Rail at the Croydon Civic Centre (8/84) and Alistair Traill a Buff-banded Rail on a dam in Wonga Park (3/92)
- In December 1995, Enid Haarhoff observed a Brown Quail in a backyard in Blackburn and Marlene Lyell a Button Quail at Warrandyte
- Rose Robins were seen at Yarran Dheran (Scott Baker 8/86) and in the Mullum Mullum valley, Mitcham (Cecily Falkingham 7/91)
- Farther afield, members contributed the following:
- Mr Creighton from Alexandra reported emus on the Woods Point road just past Reefton (5/67)
- On the excursion to Cheetham Saltworks (15/2/81, leader Jack Hyett), Wilson's Phalarope was observed
- Variegated Wrens at Dunolly (Gary Cheers 9/84)
- A Striated Field Wren, Cape Shanck (Bruce Burton 11/90)
- A Koel in an Apricot Tree, Healesville (Mick Murlis 11/90)
- Japanese Snipe at Whittlesea (Doug Thomas 12/93)
- Royal Penguin at Portland, a rare visitor (Paddy McGoldrick 9/95)
- Six Grey-tailed Tattlers at Queenscliff (Doug Thomas 12/95)

## Mammals

In the early days of the Club, several members did a lot of work on mammals, as the following reports indicate:

- December 1967 Bill King reported 17 Leadbeaters possums and a large colony of Yellow-bellied Gliders found in a recent survey - Upper Thomson
- 13 March 1968 Bill King reported Sugar Gliders in Tintern, East Ringwood
- 12 June 1968 Bill King reported a mammal survey at Warrandyte. *Smithopsis munina*, the common marsupial mouse, considered very rare, was found
- May 1978 Ross Cowling - a Pygmy Possum in a Eucalypt at Tidal River

In more recent times, the arrival of Flying Foxes in the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne was duly noted, followed by reports of them travelling into the eastern suburbs to feed:

- March 1986 Cecily Falkingham reported hundreds of Grey-headed Flying Foxes at the Botanic Gardens
- February 1994 Grey-headed Flying Foxes in Mitcham garden, Cecily Falkingham
- March 1996 Joan Broadberry - Flying Foxes feeding in ironbarks in garden, Doncaster
- November 1998 Sylvane Alkemade - fruit bats eating grapefruit at her daughter's home, Donvale

Numerous reports of some species, eg Koalas and Platypus, have recorded population movements occurring in the suburbs. Koalas are definitely broadening their range as are Platypus along suburban creek corridors.

- January 1995 Cecily Falkingham - report of Koala in Mitcham
- November 1995 Cecily Falkingham, Koala in Donvale
- March 1996 Cecily Falkingham - Koalas in Mullum Mullum Valley
- October 1996 John Robinson (visitor) Koala in Hillcrest
- October 1997 Charles Pobjoy - young Koala, Mullum Mullum
- February 1999 Joan Broadberry - Koalas along Candlebark Walk in Templestowe
- September 1999 Joan Broadberry - a neighbour had seen 12 koalas in Pound Bend Reserve
- March 1995 Cecily Falkingham - 5 Platypus discovered in Mullum Mullum Creek, Doncaster

Among the more unusual sightings of mammals were the following:  
 Alistair Traill found Tuans in Sugar Gliders' nesting boxes, Wonga Park (6/96)  
 Ross Cowling saw seven dead *Antechinus* on a bush track, Olinda (8/96). (This sighting is not necessarily evidence of a mass slaughter; all male *Antechinus* die following the rigours of the mating season.)

## Reptiles

Some members seem to have a knack of coming across large reptiles on excursions, illustrated by these two reports:

- Charles Compton reported three copperhead snakes and one tiger snake were seen on the excursion to Stockman's Reward (2/77)
- Margaret Travers reported a 4 ft goanna on an excursion to Kurth's Kiln, Shiprock area (11/86)

## Plants

Orchids form the major component of reports about plants and represent sightings across the State. Here are just a few examples:

- Report from Joan Pearson (5/77), rare fringed Hare Orchid in bloom - Grampians
- Report Charles Compton (1/83) Large Tongue Orchid - Morris Reserve, Wantirna
- Bill Doug Thomas (1/84) Sickie Greenhood (*Pterostylis falcata*) on roadside at Yea. Bill King, the same at Yellingbo
- Margaret Travers an orchid seen at Newstead (5/84) identified as *Pterostylis revoluta*, Autumn Greenhood
- Margaret Travers (8/91) *Pterostylis grandiflora*, Courtney's Rd Belgrave
- Cecily Falkingham (10/97) *Lyperanthus suaveolens* in Mullum Mullum valley
- Joan Broadberry (12/98) 10 blotched sun orchids in flower (where?)
- Marion King (12/98) Hyacinth orchids along Tortice Drive in North Ringwood
- Large carpets of veined sun orchid at Baw Baw excursion (1/99)

There are some reports that don't fit easily into the preceding categories, such as:

- March 1984 Ken Clark reported Macleays swallowtail butterfly at Lake Mountain. Marc Gottsch (Guest Speaker) reported this species has been found at Sherbrooke Forest
- October 1985 Pat Emery took her binoculars to be repaired; they contained a Redback Spider
- June 1997 Bruce Burton - Nautilus shells at Sorrento
- October 1997 *Nothofagus* log with barnacles, beach at Anglesea (drifted through the Southern Ocean from South America)

## Close Encounters

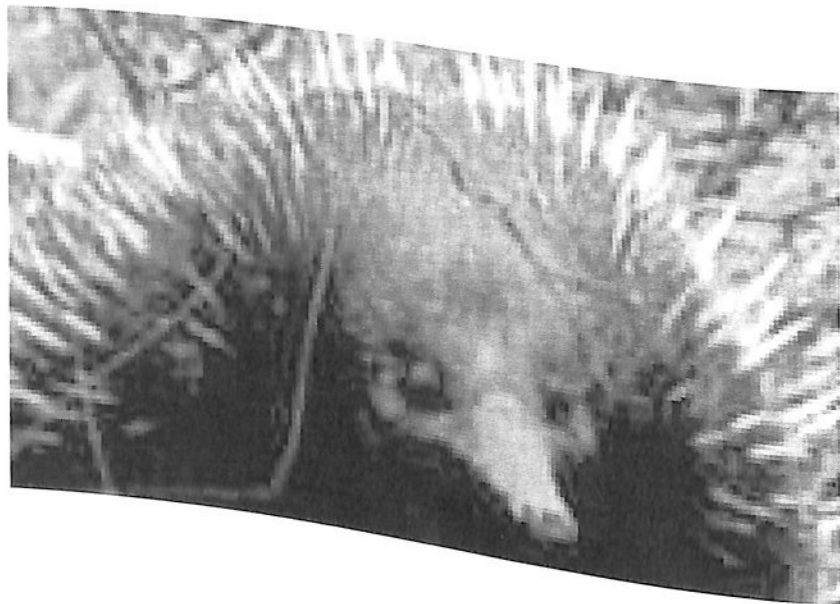
Finally, there are the stories which record perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime event, involving a more intimate contact with nature where naturalists are not only the observers, but even become a part of the report:

Ted Schurmann remembers clearly leaving a Club meeting and finding an injured Tawny Frogmouth flapping at the side of the road. He picked it up and returned to the hall with it, seeking assistance. It was recorded in the Minutes of the next meeting (3/76) that Charles Compton took charge of the bird and the only safe way to transport it was by placing it head first into a gum boot. He presented it to a Fisheries and Wildlife representative for special care and eventual release.

Phil Daniel saw a man grazing on Cherry Ballart in Dandenong Rd, Kilsyth (10/88)  
 A Lewin Honeyeater hand fed by Ella Thomas with apricot jam on bread, Mt Worth State Park (12/97)  
 Carol Traill (3/97) reported that a friend had an Echidna bathing in a bird bath  
 Sylvane Alkemade (2/99) found a Pied Cormorant on the end of her fishing line, competing for the fish she had caught  
 Brenda Murlis reported on a bird banding trip (11/86), one of the banders dressed in black lay down on a rock platform, and a seal came out of the water and lay beside her.

From this collection of records, it is evident that throughout the history of the Club, members have charted the ebb and flow of our wildlife and natural habitats and in so doing have accumulated a valuable database for future reference. Clearly, the information is not exhaustive, and this provides ample opportunity for all members, old and new, to make and record their own observations of nature to add to this body of knowledge. The message is that anyone can do it. As we find early records of value, naturalists in the future will gain from reports that we record today.

As a final comment, the wonderful sense of humour of many members and the willingness to share reports, observations and locations with fellow members is what makes belonging to this Club so special.



On Wednesday, 22nd February, 1967 the Ringwood Junior Field Naturalist Club was commenced - 34 Juniors and 12 adults all came to the inaugural meeting. In August a very successful excursion to Healesville Sanctuary was attended by 35 Juniors and 6 adults. Numbers continued to increase and in April 1968, it was reported that 54 Juniors and 10 adults had attended the previous meeting.

The Club is greatly indebted to those dedicated members who established the Junior Club and devoted so much time and effort to ensuring its success. A list by year of the principal Office Bearers is set out below.

1966-67		1967-68
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Maurie Streeter	Mrs Filsell
1968-69		1969-70
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Mrs Filsell	Mrs Filsell
1970-71		1971-72
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Christine Gray	Christine Gray
1972-73		1973-74
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Christine Gray	Christine Gray
1974-75		1975-76
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Christine Gray	Christine Gray
1976-77		1977-78
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Christine Gray	Christine Gray
Senior Club Rep.	Adam Gaines	Charles Compton
1978-79		1979-80
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Beryl McCarthy	Beryl McCarthy
Committee Rep.	Gary Cheers	Gary Cheers
1980-81		1981-82
Leader	Bruce Fuhrer	Bruce Fuhrer
Secretary	Beryl McCarthy	Beryl McCarthy
Committee Rep.	Gary Cheers	Gary Cheers

As Club President in 1967, Jack Hyett was also instrumental in the Junior Club's formation. Several Senior Club members regularly assisted as speakers at Junior Club meetings.

\*Other early reports (1963-64), originally reported in the 'Victorian Silver Anniversary booklet'

In responding to our questionnaire, both Bruce Fuhrer and Christine Gray made particular mention of the Junior Club and how much they had enjoyed running it:

"The Ringwood Junior F.N.C. was of special interest to me. Meetings were generally well attended with a maximum of 70 at one meeting. Senior Club members frequently assisted with interesting presentations. Day excursions and occasional camps were well attended. Some juniors pursued their Natural History interests into tertiary studies and subsequent vocations in science and conservation."

*Bruce Fuhrer*

"The time spent setting up the Junior Club with Bruce Fuhrer was very special; and then running the meetings, excursions and camps. All very special at the time and as the years have gone by to see so many entering into some form of Natural History, Ecology, and Environment as their life work or special interest."

*Christine Gray*

The Juniors in return greatly appreciated the expertise provided to them by their Leaders, and not always in the area of Natural History. Christine Gray recalls one incident: "I do remember after a weekend Bruce and I spent at a beach camp with Juniors being approached by one mum with a request for the recipe of the sweets I had prepared because her son had demanded she make 'green rice like Miss Gray'! It was rice put into a lime jelly which had been beaten to a stiff mousse." By all accounts, excursions were very lively affairs, with the leaders fielding numerous questions from the Juniors, generally along the lines of "What's this, Mr Fury?". The meetings were always stimulating, with Juniors tackling various projects with confidence, such as learning to identify local Acacias by means of a key provided by Miss Gray.

The Junior Club finally closed in 1982 after many successful years. However, this was not the end of the story. Bruce Fuhrer relates the final chapter: "Club members from The Basin expressed great disappointment at the closure, resulting in my forming The Basin Junior FNC with the help of Jan and Ray Brown. Meetings were held in The Basin Primary School library. The club has been renamed The Wildlife Observers Club Inc. and is now meeting in Ferntree Gully."

Together with Bruce, Christine and all who were involved with the Junior Club, we can be immensely proud of it and of the enthusiastic young people whose imagination was fired by the experience, and the many who went on to develop a lifelong interest in the study of Natural History.



# 11 Thoughts and Reflections



As part of the preparation for our 40th Anniversary celebrations, the Executive Committee sought the views of Life Members and some others by means of a questionnaire circulated early in 2001.

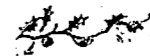
While some questions elicited a variety of responses, there was virtually total unanimity on the question of what members have gained from their membership of the Club; lifelong friendships with "kindred spirits" and opportunities to gain new knowledge of the natural world in a friendly and supportive learning environment.

Here then, is a selection of those responses:

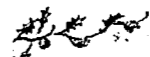
From the Baw Baws and Mt Hotham to Inglewood and the sea, it was always exciting to be with such very good men as Bill King, Jack Hyett, and Fred Rogers, not to under-estimate the ladies past and present who have made such a steady and valuable contribution in the field. When you walked in the bush with Bill King, there was always an air of expectation and excitement; something new would be learned. Mrs Fisch and husband Paul are remembered at the meetings but they were active in the field too. Likewise Chris Gray. Knowledge of Natural History otherwise unobtainable, even to professionals. I am still learning, and so are the experts!! *Ross Cowling*



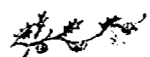
Knowledge, understanding of ecology and the environment, in particular flora and fauna. Outstanding leaders, encouragement and support to all who join. The club offers support and friendship to people like myself who on the whole find the vast majority of the community (neighbours, friends and even family members) have little or no knowledge of the world we live in (or merely a superficial interest). It is almost a taboo subject, bound to bring a conversation to a standstill. This can be very isolating even though many other interests may link us with our friends and families. *Cecily Falkingham*



The main benefits we received from RFNC was meeting people we would never have encountered otherwise. This resulted in some wonderful friendships with folk of similar interests. Of course we also gained knowledge of places visited, and the many topics covered by excellent speakers. One excursion I'll always remember was to the Olinda State Forest in 1996. Because of Ron's poor health, it was quite a while since we had attended meetings or excursions. On this particular day I was able to attend, and the welcome I received was overwhelming and never to be forgotten. *Betty Norris*



Learning from members who have special knowledge of various subjects like: bird calls, native orchids, geology, plant identification and growing, the range is endless; this leaves room for all comers to do their thing! Although individuals may take sides in environmental debates outside, the fact that the club doesn't, shows up in the regular good attendance at meetings. Polarization often spells the end of small well-meaning clubs. My only regret is that I didn't join the Field Nats earlier. *Phil Daniell*



If you find that, as Joyce Cowling put it: "The Past is a bit of a blur", we hope that this booklet has allowed you to wander for a time down memory lane and that it will continue to be a useful reference in the years to come.



# Appendices

## MEMBERSHIP

F = Foundation member, L = Hon. Life Member, C = Current member, J = Junior Member

	Adams, G Mrs	C	Broadberry, Joan
F	Aird Mrs Jean	C	Brodie, Elizabeth
	Airey, Joan		Brunskill, Nanette
C	Alkemade, David		Buchan, E
C	Alkemade, Doug	C	Burns, Barbara
	Alkemade, Sylvane	C	Burton, Bruce
	Amos, Karen	C	Burton, Margaret
C	Anderson, Flora		Buxton, Dorothy
F	Anderson, Shirley	J	Byrne, Lee
F	Arnott, Nell	J	Byrne, Shane
C	Bailey, Ian		Capi, Mrs N
C	Bailey, Christine	J	Carman, Kath
J	Baker, Rae	J	Chapple, Miss
	Baker, Ruth		Chapple, Mr A S
	Baldwin, Cec		Chapple, Mrs A S
	Baldwin, M J (Mrs C)?	J	Chapple, Peter
J	Baldwin, Master		Cheers, Gary
	Banks, T L (2 + 2)		Chismon, Graham
C	Barkley, David		Chismon, Joyce (Mrs G)
C	Barkley, Joyce (Mrs D)	C	Christensen, Geoff
	Barkley, Norma (Mrs H)	C	Christensen, Ruth
	Barkley, Harry	C	Clark, Elva
	Baulch, Chris J	F	Clark, Harry
	Beckerton, M	F J	Clark, Helen (Miss)
C	Beckmann, Kevin	F	Clark, Jean (Mrs H)
C	Beckmann, Veronica	C	Clark, Ken
	Beeley,	F	Clarke, Margaret (nee King)
	Beeley,		Clarke, Vivien
	Bell, Florence	C	Cleave, Lorna
	Bennett, Ian		Clisby, Win
	Bennett, Win (Mrs I)	J	Cochrane, Kim Anne
	Berenyi, Mira		Cole, Greta
	Beste, Hans	J	Cole, Jennie
	Beste, Kay (Mrs H)	C	Collett, Charles
	Beste, Judy (Mrs H)		Collins, Margaret
	Bickerton, Mrs	F	Collis, George
	Blackmore, Evan		Compton, Charles
	Blott, Stan	C	Cooke, Judith V
	Blott, Mrs S	C	Cooke, Sheila
J	Bolto?, Stephen 9/68		Coonerty?, Gwen
	Bond, Kay		Cooper, M Miss
	Bond, William	J	Coto, Tui
	Braude, Mr A W	F	Couper, James
	Braude, Mrs A W		Couper, Murray
	Brain, Mr A	J	Couper, Sue (Mrs M)
	Brain, Sheila		Couper, Anna
	Brewster, Alan W	F L C	Coutts, Gordon
	Brewster, Joan (Mrs A W)	J	Coutts, Julie

	Coutts, May (Mrs G)	F J	Flentje, Adrienne
F J	Coutts, Tony	F	Flentje, Fred
C	Cowling, Joyce (Mrs R L)	F	Flentje, Marybell (Mrs F)
F J	Cowling, Julie	F J	Flentje, Wendell
F C	Cowling, Ross L	J	Fletcher, Joyce
	Crawford, Ian		Foster, Harry G
	Crawford, Manda?		Foster, Mrs H G
	Crichton, George A )		Fox, A N
	Crichton, Mr )		Fox, Dorothy (Mrs A N)
	Crichton, Mrs )		Fox, W
C	Curtis, Brad		French, Bob
	Dacy, Harold		French, Pam
	Dacy, Margaret		Frew, E S (Dr)
J	Dacy, Francis		Frew, (Mrs E S)
J	Dacy, ?	LC	Fuhrer, Bruce
	Dance, G		Fuhrer, Irene (Mrs B)
	Dance, R		Gaines, Adam
C	Daniell, Jenny	C	Galliot, Jean
C	Daniell, Phil		Garney, Mrs
J	Daniels, J		Garrett, Barbara (?Mrs W G)
	Davison, Mr		Garrett, William G
	Davison, Mrs		Gaskill, Phil
	Delacca, Len J		Gasking,
	Dickson, June	C	Gawler, David
	Dickson, Wes	C	Gawler, Sheila
	Dinsmore, William	J	Gibson, Robert
	Dinsmore, Naomi (Mrs W)	J	Gill,
J	Dinsmore, John	J	Gill, Margaret
J	Dinsmore, Peter	J	Gill, May (Mrs R O)
C	Dowling, Barry	J	Gill, Ray O
J	Dwyer, Val		Gillham, Muriel
	Dyall, Jim		Gillham, N
	Williams, Joan		Gosbell, Ken
	Eagles, Beth (nee Hall) (Mrs R)		Gouge, Christa (Mrs R)
	Eagles, Ron		Gouge, Roger
	Eames, Father	FLC	Grant, W
	Earney, Mrs	F	Gray, Christine
	Edge, R H	J	Gray, E M (Mrs)
	Edwards, Ron A	J	Gregory,
C	Every, Dorothy (Mrs K)		Grieg, Terri-Lou
C	Every, Keith		Griffin, Margaret
C	Falkingham, Cecily		Gross, Dudley
C	Falkingham, Reg	C	Gross, D Mrs
C	Faragher, Pam	C	Haarhof, Enid
J	Farley, Joyslyn	F	Haarhof, Felix
J	Farley, Jacklyn	F	Haase, Hans
J	Farley, Paul	J	Haines, Russell
C	Farnworth, Arthur	F	Hall, Beth
C	Farnworth, Enid		Hallam, Jas?
J	Feenstra, Kaiena		Hallam, Theima
	Filsell, Ron	J	Hanson, Charlie
	Filsell, Joyce (Mrs R)		Hanson, Glenn
J	Filsell, Reuben		Harvey, Lois
F	Fisch, Marielies (Mrs P)		Harwoode, G M (Mr)
F	Fisch, Paul		Heatley, Jack (and family)
J	Fisch, Rosemary		Heatley, Margaret
J	Fisher, Wayne	F	Heatley, Norma
	Fitzgerald, Mrs B?+1	F	Heddles, Mark
	Fitzgerald, Val Mrs		Heddles, Mrs M

J	Heddles, P	J	Lumsden, Nancy
	Heinze,	C	Lyell, Marlene
	Hepburn, Anne		Lye, J
F	Herry, Peter		Lye, J (Mrs?) (and Richard)
C	Hill, Jenny (nee King)	J	Mackay, K J
C	Hill, Jessica	J	Mackie, Ian
C	Hill, Tim	F	Mackie, Mrs E
	Hocking, Laurie		Maginness,
J	Hoff, Paul	C	Mahler, Dorothy
J	Hogg, Russell		Malone, Allen
	Holdcraft, S		Marke, J
	Holman, P		Marriott, Neil
	Horne, George	C	Martin, Barbara
	Horne, Melva (Mrs G)		Martin, Lorna
	Hulbert, Ailsa	F	Martin, Muriel (Mrs V)
	Hunter, B D	F J	Martin, Stephen
	Hunter, L R		Martin, Vic
F LC	Hyett, Jack	J	Mathews, Erica
	Inglis, John	J	Mathews, Janet
	Irwin, Denis		Mayers, Ken
	Irwin, Mrs D		McAlpin, Raney
	Jackson,		McCarthy, Beryl
	Jentz, Ron		McCulloch, Ellen
	Jentz, Verana (Mrs R)	C	McPherson, Ray
C	Jordan, Jan	C	McGoldrick, Dorothy
	Kasper, ?	C	McGoldrick, Paddy
	Keeler, Mr M		McKenzie, W
	Kenna, Mrs		McMinn, James
J	Kenna, Rosemary		Mellor, Margaret
FL	King, Bill H		Methven, E Miss
	King, Janice		Miller, J G (Mr)
F LC	King, Marion (Mrs B)	J	Miller, Ian
F J	King, Robert		Millsom, Joyce Miss
	King-Smith, Mrs R	C	Minty, Moira
J	King-Smith, Miss		Moody, H S
C	Knight, Len		Moody, P S
	Kramer, Emil		Moody, S
	Kramer, Mrs	F C	Moore, Alan S?
	Law, Albert	C	Moore, Cath (Mrs R)
	Le Rossignol, Albert	F	Moore, Ern L
	Le Rossignol, Mrs A	F C	Moore, Gwen (Mrs A S)
	Leevers?, June		Moore, Lindsay
	Legg, Allan	C	Moore, Rod
	Legg, Frieda	F	Moore, Serene (Mrs E)
	Lewellin, D	C	Morris, Gwen
J	Lewellin, Geoffrey		Moy, Jean
J	Lewellin, Ian		Muir, Ken 2 + 2
J	Lewellin, Margaret	J	Muir, Mrs K
	Lewis,		Muir, G Miss
	Leydin, Mrs F C		Muir, Miss
	Linard, Miss M		Mulvany, John
J	Lind, Kristian		Mulvany, Thelma
J	Lines, Andrew	C	Murlis, Brenda
J	Lines, Stephen		Murlis, Mick
J	Lloyd, Christopher		Myhill, Victor
	Lloyd, J D (onald)		Neville, Jean
	Lloyd, Mrs J D		Neville, Ray
J	Lloyd, Stewart	C	Nicholls, George
	Long, Isobel		Nicholls, Ruth

J	Nightingale, Fiona	C	Schleiger, Noel
J	Nightingale, Sandra		Schofield,
J	Nightingale, Simon	F J?	Schurmann, Marion
	Noelker, Mr F	F	Schurmann, Mrs (Snr)
C	Norris, Betty (Mrs R)	F J	Schurmann, Richard
	Norris, Ron	F J	Schurmann, Susan
F	O'Connor, Mrs B	F	Schurmann, Ted
J	O'Halloran, David	F	Schurmann, Vicki (Mrs T)
	Oxlee, Thomas R		Schuster, K B
	Payton, Mr R		Schuster, Mrs K B
	Payton, Mrs R	C	Schwab, Karin
J	Payton, Brendan		Seebeck, John
	Payens, Peter	F	Sebire, A Lou
	Payens, Dora (Mrs P)	F	Sebire, Mrs A
	Pearce, Eunice		Sharland,
F	Pearson, Joan		Sharp, Doug
C	Peggie, Loris		Shaw, Olga
	Perkins, Ern	F	Sheldon, A F (Mr)
	Petrie, Helen		Silberbauer, George B
	Pleasance, Doug		Silberbauer, Mrs G B
	Pleasance, Ellie		Sinclair, Percy V
C	Pobjoy, Charles		Sinclair, Averil (Mrs P V)
C	Pobjoy, Flora		Skinner, Mavis
J	Pope, David	J	Slapjums, Valdis
J	Powell, Stephen	F	Smith, Alan S
	Price?,		Smith, Betty
F	Pridmore, Maisie (Mrs)	F J	Smith, Graham
F J	Pridmore, Peter	J	Smith, Heather
	Proeger, Merryl		Smith, Helen
J	Pye, Maria P		Smith, Joyce
	Radden, Mavis (Mrs W)		Smith, L W
	Radden, William Mr		Smith, (Mrs L W)
C	Read, Russ	J	Smith, H M
C	Read, Wendy	J	Smith, M?
F	Reed, Eira	C	Smith, Lynn
	Reigel, Daphne		Sparks, Mrs E
	Richards, Edna (Mrs N)	J	Stedding, Brian
	Richards, Norm		Stephens, Reg
	Richards, Mrs L		Stevenson, Bob
C	Richardson, Elizabeth		Stevenson, Jean
	Robinson, Alf	C	Streeter, Maurie
	Robinson, Dawn (Mrs A)		Streeter, (Mrs M)
J	Robinson, Master		Talbot, Alice
	Rodda, Thelma	LC	Thomas, Doug
	Rodda, Jim	C	Thomas, Ella
C	Rogers, Alison (nee King) (Mrs P)	C	Thomas, Graham
J	Rogers, Emily	C	Thomson, Geoff
F	Rogers, Frederick J C	C	Thomson, Helen
J	Rogers, James	C	Townsend, Mrs P A
F	Rogers, L June (Mrs F J C)		Trail, Alistair
J	Rogers, Patricia	C	Trail, Carol
C	Rogers, Peter		Travers, Geoff
J	Rogers, Susanne	C	Travers, Chris
	Rolfe, Darrell		Travers, Margaret (Mrs G)
	Rolfe, Jill		Travis, Laura (nee Hood)
	Routley, L	F	Truscott, Jack
C	Rouse, Helen	F	Truscott, Audrey (Mrs J)
	Rowe, D H	F J	Truscott, Roger
	Rowe, Doris	J	Upton, Paul



1971-72		1972-73	
President	Fred Rogers		Fred Rogers
I/P President	Gordon Coutts		Gordon Coutts
Vice-President	Bill King		Bill King
Secretary	Albert Le Rossignol		Albert Le Rossignol
Treasurer	John Mulvany		Ken Gosbell
Committee	Adam Gaines Christine Gray Jack Hyett		Christine Gray Jack Hyett Graham Marshall

1973-74		1974-75	
President	Gordon Coutts		Jack Hyett
I/P President	Fred Rogers		Gordon Coutts
Vice-President	Graham Marshall		Bill King
Secretary	Albert Le Rossignol		Fred Rogers
Treasurer	Ken Gosbell		Doug Thomas
Committee	Christine Gray Jack Hyett Bill King		Ken Gosbell Christine Gray Albert Le Rossignol Alf Wallbridge

1975-76		1976-77	
President	Bill King		Bill King
I/P President	Jack Hyett		Jack Hyett
Vice-President	Ted Schurmann		Ted Schurmann
Secretary	Doug Thomas		Doug Thomas
Treasurer	Alf Wallbridge		Alf Wallbridge
Committee	Charles Compton Gordon Coutts Christine Gray Adam Gaines		Gordon Coutts Bob French Christine Gray Adam Gaines

1977-78		1978-79	
President	Doug Thomas		Doug Thomas
I/P President	Bill King		Bill King
Vice-President	Ted Schurmann		Ted Schurmann
Secretary	Judith Cooke		Judith Cooke
Treasurer	Marie Wallbridge		Marie Wallbridge
Committee	Charles Compton Gordon Coutts Adam Gaines Christine Gray		Ken Clark Gordon Coutts Adam Gaines

1979-80		1980-81	
President	Gordon Coutts		Gordon Coutts
I/P President	Doug Thomas		Doug Thomas
Vice-President	Bill King		Bill King
Secretary	Brenda Murlis		Brenda Murlis
Treasurer	June Dickson		June Dickson
Committee	Gary Cheers Charles Compton Adam Gaines		Gary Cheers Charles Compton Adam Gaines

1981-82		1982-83	
President	Gary Cheers		Gary Cheers
I/P President	Gordon Coutts		Gordon Coutts
Vice-President	Bill King		Ron Norris
Secretary	Gordon Coutts		Judith Cooke
Treasurer	June Dickson		June Dickson
Committee	Cecily Falkingham Jim Rodda Doug Thomas		Ken Clark Charles Compton Cecily Falkingham

1983-84		1984-85	
President	Ron Norris		Ron Norris
I/P President	Gary Cheers		Gary Cheers
Vice-President(s)	Ken Clark/Gordon Coutts		Ken Clark/Gordon Coutts
Secretary	Judith Cooke		Phil Daniel
Treasurer	June Dickson		Brenda Murlis
Committee	Charles Compton Phil Daniell Cecily Falkingham Bill King		Sylvane Alkemade Bill King Elly Pleasance Mike Westwood

1985-86		1986-87	
President	Brenda Murlis		Brenda Murlis
I/P President	Ron Norris		Ron Norris
Vice-President(s)	Gordon Coutts/Bill King		Gordon Coutts/Bill King
Secretary	Phil Daniel		Phil Daniel
Treasurer	Mick Murlis		Mick Murlis
Committee	Sylvane Alkemade Elly Pleasance Ken Ward Mike Westwood		Sylvane Alkemade Elly Pleasance Ken Ward Mike Westwood

1987-88		1988-89	
President	Gordon Coutts		Gordon Coutts
I/P President	Brenda Murlis		Brenda Murlis
Vice-President(s)	Sylvane Alkemade/Bill King		Sylvane Alkemade/Bill King
Secretary	Phil Daniell		Phil Daniell
Treasurer	Mick Murlis		Margaret Griffin
Committee	Margaret Griffin Marion King Marlene Lyell Ken Ward		Marion King Marlene Lyell Mick Murlis Ken Ward

1989-90		1990-91	
President	Bill King		Bill King
I/P President	Gordon Coutts		Gordon Coutts
Vice-President(s)	Sylvane Alkemade/Bruce Burton		Sylvane Alkemade/Bruce Burton
Secretary	Phil Daniell		Phil Daniell
Treasurer	Mick Murlis		Mick Murlis
Committee	Margaret Burton Marion King Brenda Murlis Ken Ward		Doug Alkemade Margaret Burton Arthur Farnworth Marion King Brenda Murlis

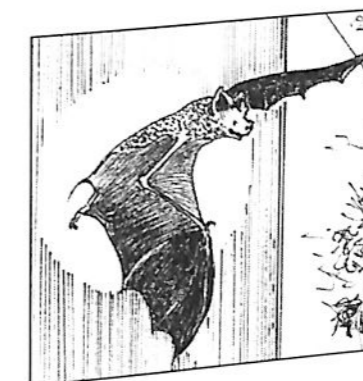
1991-92		1992-93	
President	Doug Thomas		Doug Thomas
I/F President	Bill King		Bill King
Vice-President(s)	Sylvane Alkemade/Bruce Burton		Sylvane Alkemade/Bruce Burton
Secretary	Doug Alkemade		Doug Alkemade
Treasurer	Margaret Burton		Margaret Burton
Committee	Gordon Coutts Phil Daniell Arthur Farnworth Marion King		Gordon Coutts Phil Daniell Arthur Farnworth Marion King

1993-94		1994-95	
President	Phil Daniell		Phil Daniell
I/P President	Doug Thomas		Doug Thomas
Vice-President(s)	Sylvane Alkemade/Bruce Burton		vacant
Secretary	Doug Alkemade		Doug Alkemade
Treasurer	Margaret Burton		Margaret Burton
Committee	Gordon Coutts Arthur Farnworth Bill King Marion King		Bruce Burton Geoff Christensen Ruth Christensen Gordon Coutts Bill King Marion King Judith Cooke
Librarian (Co-opted)			

1995-96		1996-97	
President	Geoff Christensen		Geoff Christensen
I/P President	Phil Daniell		Phil Daniell
Vice-President(s)	vacant		Margaret Burton/Judith Cooke
Secretary	Ruth Christensen		Ruth Christensen
Treasurer	Doug Alkemade		Doug Alkemade
Committee	Bruce Burton Margaret Burton Gordon Coutts Jenny Daniell Marion King Judith Cooke		Bruce Burton Marion King Peter Rogers Mike Westwood
and Librarian			

1997-98		1998-99	
President	Judith Cooke		Judith Cooke
I/P President	Geoff Christensen		Geoff Christensen
Vice-President	vacant		vacant
Secretary	Peter Rogers		Peter Rogers
Treasurer	Ruth Christensen		Ruth Christensen
Committee	Doug Alkemade Joan Broadberry Phil Daniell Marion King Jean Moy Jean Neville		Doug Alkemade Joan Broadberry Phil Daniell Marion King Jean Moy Jean Neville
and Librarian			

1999-2000		2000-01	
President	vacant		Judith Cooke
I/P President	Judith Cooke		vacant
Vice-President	Phil Daniell		Phil Daniell
Secretary	Peter Rogers		Peter Rogers
Treasurer	Ruth Christensen		Ruth Christensen
Committee	Joan Broadberry Geoff Christensen Marion King Jean Moy		Doug Alkemade Joan Broadberry Geoff Christensen Marion King Jean Moy Jean Neville
and Librarian	Jean Neville		



# Acknowledgements

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Locality Map of Ringwood District

