

Office bearers

President: David Stickney
Secretary: Rose Mildenhall
Treasurer: Marja Bouman
Publicity Officer: Alix Williams
Magazine editor: Tamara Leitch
Conservation Coordinator: Irene Proebsting
Archivist: Marja Bouman

Contact

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc.
P.O. Box 1205
Morwell VIC 3840
info@lvfieldnats.org

Secretary – Rose Mildenhall:
0410 237 292

Bird Group – Joelle Champert: 0459 504 305

Botany Group – Marja Bouman: 0432 476 899

Website

www.lvfieldnats.org

General meetings

Held at 7:30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at the Moe Library, 1/29 George St, MOE Vic 3825 (also virtually on Zoom)



Helmeted Honeyeater photographed by David Stickney during the Club's excursion to Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve in April 2023.

Upcoming events

Botany Group: Saturday 13 January – Rushes and sedges (indoor session at Moe Library)

January general meeting: Friday 19 January – Summer Members' Night

January excursion: Saturday 20 January – Wonthaggi. Details TBC.

Club Summer Camp: Mt Hotham 2–6 February

Bird Group: Tuesday 6 February – twilight birding at Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve (Hickox St) from 5pm
Botany Group: Saturday 10 February – Looking at plants from Mt Hotham, at Jack & Marja's home

February general meeting: Friday 23 February – Snow daisies *Celmisia* spp. in Victoria – Holly Mlikota, Deakin Uni

February excursion: Saturday 24 February – Mt Saint Gwinear

Latrobe Trail, Baw Baw Village – Sunday afternoon

After enjoying an interesting morning learning and listing plants on Beech Trail, a group of us were keen to explore the Latrobe Trail at similar 'botany speed'. We accessed the trail via the Home Run and as we entered the Snow Gum woodland, we were greeted by a stunning display of bright purple and white blooms of Stately Violets *Viola eminens*. They stood tall among the low vegetation bordering the track. On close examination, we found that, as with fragile flowers of other species, some petals had suffered bruising by the battering of rain drops. We noticed that the bearded patches on the side petals of the Stately Violets held water from the morning's light showers.

From there, our interest turned to the thriving understorey of mixed shrubs that were packed between huge, often moss-covered boulders. Few shrubs displayed flowers or fruits, initially presenting challenges for those compiling plant lists. On past visits, it had been easy to separate the two common Beard-heaths by the position of the bright red berries. On this visit, with the season being later, we found only a very few green berries on Sub-alpine Beard-heath *Acrothamnus maccraei* and none on Drooping Beard-heath *Leucopogon gelidus*. We recognised *A. maccraei* by its ovate/almost triangular leaves, only 4–8 mm long and spaced in neat rows along the stems. Recognition of *L. gelidus* was assisted by the elliptic/oblanceolate leaves, 10–25 mm long and the light-green new shoots at the tips of branches.



Female (left) and male (right) flowers of Shining Coprosma
(Photos: Margaret Rowe)

A careful search among the glossy leaves of Shining Coprosma *Coprosma nitida* revealed inconspicuous flowers on separate male and female plants. The flowers were thoroughly wet by the early morning showers. The relatively large stamens of male flowers hung with their anthers held in bundles by the surface tension of droplets of water. Female flowers displayed a style with two relatively long branches, which were also held together by water; eventually, red berries would develop on the female plants.

Baw-Baw Berry *Wittsteinia vacciniacea*, with its broader leaves and their serrated margins, contrasted with the surrounding shrubs. It is listed as Vulnerable under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act). Scattered among the shrubs, Mueller's Bush-pea *Pultenaea muelleri* could be distinguished by its small, sharply-pointed leaves and Mountain Broom-heath *Monotoca oreophila* by its mucronate leaves with reflexed margins. The white flowers of Alpine Mint-bush and Mountain Baeckea, and the yellow 'bottle brushes' of Alpine Bottlebrush, meant that they would not be overlooked.

Many of the plants on this trail, including most groundcover plants, had been seen during the morning on the Beech Trail. Small Alpine Leek-orchids *Prasophyllum tadgellianum* in bloom were seen only on Latrobe Trail. No greenhoods, sun-orchids, Alpine Water-fern or Hard Water-fern were found in the less-sheltered habitat of the Latrobe Trail.



Baw-Baw Berry (Photo: Joëlle Champert)

Although it was getting towards the end of the afternoon, a few of us greeted enthusiastically the opportunity to explore the bog beside the trail (Nordic Bowl Protected Area). One side of the bog was fenced off, protecting an area dominated by Candle Heath *Dracophyllum* (previously *Richea continentis*). An arc of Snow Gum woodland ringed the remaining edge of the bog. On the higher ground were swathes of deep pink trigger-plants, and one raised spot supported several tufts of another herb, the Pretty Grass-flag *Libertia pulchella*, with its delicate white flowers.



Small Flower-rush (Photo: Margaret Rowe)

Plants typical of the bog were at the lower level. Snow Daisies *Celmisia* sp. and Blue Sun-orchids *Thelymitra cyanea* stood scattered above the carpet of tightly-packed plants, a mosaic of intertwined species adapted to life in the bog. These included pale pink sprays of Alpine Trachymene *Trachymene humilis*, patches of velvety leaves of Soft Cudweed *Argyrotegium fordianum* and clumps of silver and green leaves of Pineapple Grass *Astelia alpina*. The straw-coloured heads of the Small Flower-rush *Carpha alpina* were conspicuous, while patches of the tiny Alpine Tuft-rush *Oreobolus pumilio* were found by touch more readily than by sight. The tufts were stiff, and the upright, sharply-pointed scales that remained following seed drop could be felt by gently placing a hand over the tuft. The plant was identified to species level only when enlarged photographs revealed a few remaining rounded nuts held singly at the top of some 'stems'. This species is listed as Endangered under the FFG Act.

Mosses included *Sphagnum* sp. and *Polytrichadelphus magellanicus*. Unless the characteristic capsules are available, *P. magellanicus* could be confused with species of *Dawsonia Polytrichum*. When the leaf-blades were magnified, it could be seen that the slightly upturned margins were edged with evenly-spaced serrations along their entire length.

The following morning a few of us continued searching this bog, adding to the list Alpine Sedge *Carex blakei*, Sky Lily *Herpolirion novae-zelandiae* (its flowers a hint of ice-blue almost hidden by neighbouring plants), Mat Raspwort *Gonocarpus montanus*, the lobed leaves of Baw Baw Eyebright *Euphrasia gibbsiae* (another species listed as Endangered under the FFG Act), and Alpine Fan-flower *Scaevola hookeri* displaying its tiny mauve 'fans'.



Sky Lily (Photo: Margaret Rowe)

Margaret Rowe

Walking tracks north-east of the village – Monday

One of the programmed excursion options for Monday was a higher elevation, more extended walk up to the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT), led by Phil Rayment. Fourteen participants joined this walk in perfect weather, with a clear sky and bright sunshine being a marked contrast with the first two days of the camp.

From the Skiosk area, we climbed about half-way up the road under the Summit T-bar to join the section of the Village Trail (West) which passes the attractive Dam Valley protected area to reach the



Small Alpine Leek-orchid (Photo: Margaret Rowe)

Five-Ways junction. This route allowed us to view the Mauve Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum suttonii*, which some of us had seen on the previous day's Mt Baw Baw summit circuit. The good thing about that was that, later, Jack Weerts spotted a number of Small Alpine Leek-orchids *P. tadgellianum* at the Bloomfield Picnic Area, meaning that the day displayed in flower the two Leek-orchids documented in the Stricklands guide to the sub-alpine flora of the plateau. There were many Veined Sun-orchids *Thelymitra cyanea* near the Mauve Leek-orchid.

From Five-Ways we continued on the Village Trail to the start of the connecting track between the resort area and the AAWT, within the national park. This track displays varied ecosystems as it passes through swamp areas including the headwaters of the Western Tanjil River. A well-earned morning tea break was taken upon reaching the AAWT, after which we climbed to the summit of Mt St Phillack (1565m) and then walked on to our lunch spot, the Rock Shelter at the start of the track across to Mt St Gwinear. The well-known shelter is just one of the many rock formations along our route appreciated by group members.

The afternoon saw us return to Five-Ways via the same route, but from there we followed Muellers Trail back to the village, thereby completing a rewarding 11km walk in glorious weather. The Snow Gum woodlands, pockets of beautiful wildflowers and the sightings and sounds of birds including Flame Robins, Silveryeyes and an Olive Whistler enthralled us all. Increased insect activity including vast numbers of white butterflies (but few Macleay's Swallowtails) was noted as we progressed to higher elevations.

Phil Rayment

Tanjil Bren Tramway – Tuesday morning

Tanjil Bren Tramway Walk follows the route of an old timber tramway in a long circuit starting at the Tanjil Bren picnic shelter.

On our way home from the Mount Baw Baw summer camp, a few of us had a chance to look at the first section of the track which is a flat and easy walk through dense damp or wet forest in the Western Tyers River Valley between the Baw Baw and Toorongo Plateaus. Those of us who did do the walk experienced it sequentially rather than as a whole group.

To complete the circuit walk, and fulfill its promise of waterfall sightings, could involve an overnight hike carrying tents, etc. We only looked at the very first section. We used the road, rather than the foot track that is mapped above it to the north east, to walk and later drive 1.6 km to a locked gate. It may well be possible to access the other end of the circuit track via Saxtons Road...on the other hand, it may not. A fine weather recce trip could be well worthwhile for the adventure-driving enthusiasts in our midst.

The track shows up on Google Maps and the Vic Emergency map as well as at least one of the walking specific sites that are also sold as apps (keep in mind that there's no phone reception). A new 1:25,000 VicMaps Sheet of the area will be published in March 2023.



Varied Swordgrass Brown (Photo: Joëlle Champert)

The place was quite birdiferous, and better birdwatchers would have identified a few more than we did. Our list included Bassian Thrush, Brown Thornbill, Common Bronzewing, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Whipbird, Eastern Spinebill, Eastern Yellow Robin, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Grey Fantail, Grey Shrike-thrush, Olive Whistler, Superb Fairy-wren, Superb Lyrebird, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Joëlle managed a lovely photo of what we think is a Varied Sword Grass Brown *Tisiphone abeona*.

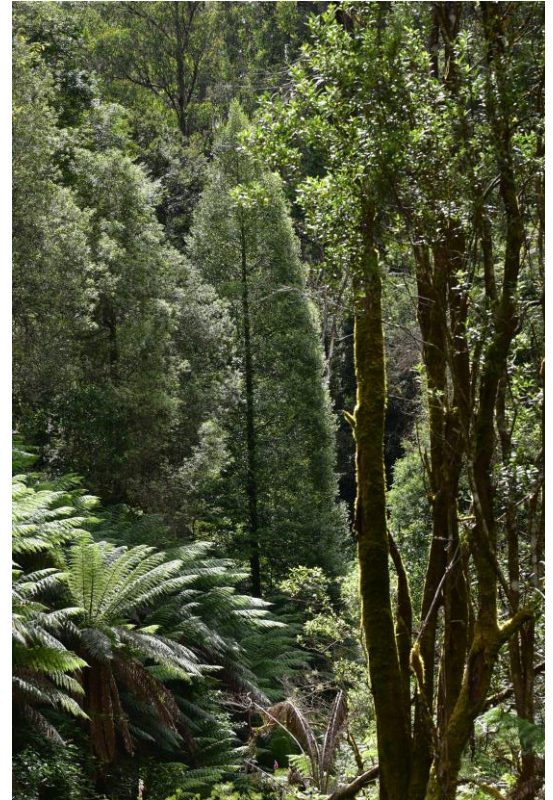
The vegetation was also very interesting, with many species of interest, and plenty of fun to be had by botanists. We were interested to see a lot of Banyalla, Mountain Ash, Mountain Correa, Mountain Pepper, Myrtle Beech, Muttonwood and a really large and prominent example of Southern Sassafras.

So, we think it's a spot that warrants further exploration. It is easy to access, and the track is well graded and seems well maintained at least as far as the gate. After that, the blackberries were encroaching, but the track was still wide, flat and clear. If anyone was planning to go up there, finding some blackberry rust to take with you would be a plan; the plants looked really healthy and any setback for them would be useful.

Tanjil Bren is about 14 slow and winding kilometres below Mt Baw Baw Village. The township itself is now very small. It's 65 km from Moe, 80 km from Traralgon and 70 km from Drouin. We'd like to recommend this spot to the Club as a wet forest destination that would easily keep everybody busy for at least one full day excursion.

Jay Duncan

A bird list for the Baw Baw summer camp is available in Appendix I of this Naturalist.



Southern Sassafras (Photo: Joëlle Champert)

Excursion to Glen Nayook 25.02.2023

A small group of just four members took part in the general excursion to Glen Nayook. It turned out to be a beautiful and relatively cool spot on a warm summer's day. I hadn't been in the Glen since the friends group ceased existence in August 2022 and I was happily surprised about the condition of the reserve. Three years of good rainfall had stimulated lots of growth. The vegetation looked dense and lush in most places. There was still some clear evidence of damage by deer, but not as widespread as several years ago. Let's hope Parks Victoria keeps their promise to look after the reserve and reduce the pressure of deer. Over the 15+ years Jack and I have been volunteering in the reserve, and via multiple visits by the Club, we have come to know the place well.

Due to the steep hills, the Glen was saved from clearing during settlement of the region. The landowner donated a 9 hectare area in early 1900 for public recreation. The majority of the vegetation seems to be regrowth from the 1939 wildfires, but some of the Mountain Ash trees

Eucalyptus regnans are estimated to be older than 200 years. There are also old specimens of Blanket-leaf *Bedfordia arborescens* and Shiny Cassinia *Cassinia longifolia* in the reserve. At the bottom of the main walking track are several Myrtle Beech trees *Nothofagus cunninghamii* and looking down over the gully from the walking track, you can spot a few Southern Sassafras trees *Atherosperma moschatum*. The Tarago River East Branch crosses the reserve, providing a constant flow of water and a calming sound year round.



Mountain Helmet-orchid in flower (Photo: Marja Bouman)

The Glen is home to an endangered species of orchid, the Mountain Helmet-orchid *Corybas grumulus*. It grows on the trunks

of Rough Treeferns *Cyathea australis*. It flowers in September, so the best we could do was to spot a few leaves. Two fairly uncommon ferns, also growing on trunks of the Rough Treefern, occur in the reserve: Long Forkfern *Tmesipteris obliqua* is only known to grow in one spot and is just hanging on in a fairly exposed site right next the track, and Leathery Shield-fern *Rumorha adiantiformis* can be found in multiple locations and is doing well. The most common ferns growing on treeferns in the reserve are the Bristle Fern *Polyphleblum venosum* and the Filmy-ferns *Hymenophyllum australe* and *H. flabellifolium*. I have never seen the Common Filmy-fern *H. cupressiforme* grow on treeferns; in the Glen it can be found on old branches of Cassinia. One more interesting plant growing on treeferns worth mentioning is Delicate Hook-sedge *Carex austrotenella*. It can be found in small dense tufts at the bottom of the trunk just before you cross the creek at the bottom of the walking track.



Delicate Hook-sedge (Photo: Marja Bouman)

Marja Bouman

Botany excursion to Charles Hall Road and Duck Point 04.03.2023



Thick-headed Glasswort (Photo: Lorraine Norden)

Sixteen of us gathered in breezy conditions at the end of Charles Hall Road to explore the coastal saltmarsh, including a few ring-in birdos who showed surprising interest in the vegetation! There is a good selection of saltmarsh species in a concentrated area, so it's great for honing identification skills.

As we headed out into the open area, we could see that the predominant species was Samphire or Beaded Glasswort *Salicornia quinqueflora*. We were soon able to compare it with the more unusual Thick-headed Glasswort *S. blackiana*. Further along the

track we saw the Shrubby Glasswort *Tecticornia arbuscula*. There were some endangered species among those we saw: Grey Mangrove *Avicennia marina* and Yellow Sea Lavender *Limonium australe*, as well as the critically endangered Gippsland Bog Gum *Eucalyptus kitsoniana* at the start of the track. We crossed a small tidal creek and headed to the beach, where the shore was lined with Coast Saltbush *Atriplex cinerea*. Among the grasses and sedges were distinctive male and female clumps of Coarse Twine-rush *Apodasmia brownii*, Tall Saw-sedge *Gahnia clarkei* and Coast Saw-sedge *G. trifida*. The grass tussocks were difficult to tell apart without flowerheads, mostly *Poa labillardierei* with fewer Coast Spear-grass *Austrostipa stipoides*. A most enjoyable morning.

We then headed a bit further along to Duck Point where we had lunch by the water. Rohan suggested an afternoon walk that started about a kilometre back up Foley Road and headed into the coastal shrubland to a lookout and on down to the coast again. The highlight was the critically endangered Crimson Berry or "Yanakie Berry" *Leptecophylla oxycedrus* showing off its fruit. Tree Broom-heath *Monotoca elliptica* lined the track and, without fruit or flowers to help, was distinguished from the similar Coast Beard-heath by the tiny point or mucro on the leaf apex. The far point of the walk was a granite outcrop on the coast where Kangaroo Fern *Microsorium pustulatum* was growing. At low tide it would be possible to walk along the beach back to Duck Point, but we returned to our cars after a very pleasant afternoon.



Crimson Berry (Photo: Lorraine Norden)

Lorraine Norden

Saving the Helmeted Honeyeater

The presentation for our April general meeting was on a single but significant bird species – the Helmeted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*. It is significant because it is a flagship bird for our healthy waterways, one of the few subspecies endemic to Victoria, it is a faunal emblem of Victoria and is critically endangered.

We were very fortunate to have two of the most informed and dedicated presenters for our presentation and the excursion on Saturday. Dr Bruce Quin is a senior scientist at DEECA and has spent more than 30 years on the Helmeted Honeyeater conservation program, and Eliza Lamb is the Environmental Co-ordinator of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater.

Eliza was the first presenter talking about the activities of the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater. I was particularly impressed with the extent of their involvement with their local community, particularly including the schools program. It is so important that that the local community and younger people are aware of the significance of their local environment and the birds that survive there. From the maps that Bruce displayed, the reserves are very fragmented in their area. I was also impressed by the importance placed on conservation of the whole ecology of the reserve to conserve the birds, which included insects, plants and reptiles.

The presentation by Bruce included descriptions of the honeyeater, its distribution and habitat, behaviour with breeding and feeding details, followed by its status and conservation programs. This

included the threats to its survival and the recovery plan.

The bird itself is a subspecies of the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater and is one of the most striking honeyeaters in Australia. It has a distinctive black mask between a yellow throat and yellow ear tufts. There are four subspecies of the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater and the Helmeted Honeyeater is the largest, with a 'helmet' on its forehead.



Honeyeater and feeding tray at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve (Photo: David Stickney)

The birds' nesting season is between August and March and they can lay between one and three eggs and have up to four breeding cycles per season. The incubation period is around 14 days, with 46 days before the birds fledge. The main threats to fledgling survival are Tiger Snakes, kookaburras, currawongs and Sugar Gliders. It has been a successful breeding season this year with 54 birds fledged, which is impressive with a total adult population of around 150 birds.

The honeyeaters feed mostly on insects, nectar and honeydew and can spend much of their time gleaning lerps from foliage. There is some supplementary feeding at Yellingbo, because of the endangered status of the birds, that occurs around every four days. The lifespan of the birds is around 15 years, although a captive bird has been recorded at 22 years.

The most interesting part of the talk was the strategy for the long-term conservation of the *cassidix* subspecies. Concern about inbreeding was raised about 10 years ago due to a critically low population of 50 birds, small distribution and low survival rates. Genetic studies were carried out and found that the closest relative was the Gippsland Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *ssp. gippslandicus*. Subsequently, the two subspecies were cross-bred in a five-year trial at Healesville Sanctuary aimed at improving the genetic health of *cassidix*. The results observed in captivity have so far been promising, with *cassidix-gippslandicus* offspring 'back-crossed' with *cassidix* offspring appearing almost identical to *cassidix* but more readily forming pairs, nest-building, raising more nestlings and having chicks that are less male-biased compared to *cassidix-cassidix* offspring. This strategy, together with the release of captive-bred *cassidix-cassidix* to supplement the wild population, has resulted in an increase in their number. Also, many birds have been transported to another site at O'Shannassy, east of Warburton, to establish a separate population and reduce the risk of extinction from bushfire.

The presentations were followed by an excursion to the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve that was well attended, and we were fortunate to have both Eliza and Bruce to act as our guides. We were very privileged to access the site because it is a gated park and the public are only allowed entry with a member of the Friends group. Following an introductory talk, we were taken to two of the feeding sites where we were able to observe the birds at close quarters. As with all birdwatching, one has to be patient, but our patience was rewarded with visits of several birds to the feeding trays. Bruce described the differences between the sexes and the immature birds which was helped by the colours of the leg bands.

We then went for a walk around the reserve to see other bird species and the habitat favoured by the honeyeaters. Several of our members then drove a short distance to Haining Farm in the Don Valley. Haining Farm was a previous pasture site that has been restored and will be used as a third location for

the introduction of Helmeted Honeyeaters.

We thank Bruce and Eliza for their detailed and informative talk and guidance at Yellingo, and their long-term commitment and dedication towards the conservation of this significant species.

David Stickney



The group who attended the excursion to Yellingbo (Photo: David Stickney)

SEANA Autumn Camp 2023 at Port Campbell

Just over one hundred people converged on Port Campbell for the Autumn state-wide gathering of field naturalists, held over the extended weekend of Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May. The event was hosted by the Timboon Field Naturalist Club, with Helen Langley and Sally Loveridge leading the organisation of the camp in fine style. It was great to see nine LVFNC members participating, perhaps encouraged to learn more about how SEANA camps work, given that our Club (jointly with Sale & District FNC) is to host the Spring gathering in Yarram in October this year. In all, there were thirteen SEANA clubs represented at the camp.

The base for evening presentations, meetings (AGM and a general meeting) and dinners was the Port Campbell Surf Club, a fine facility spectacularly located at the western end of the beach, at the head of the narrow cove beside which the town is located. The Port Campbell National Park extends along the coast in both directions, which has mercifully tightly limited any expansion of the residential area.

Timboon FNC has hosted several SEANA camps over the last thirty or so years, taking advantage of its proximity to the Otways, the Western Victorian volcanics and the south-west Victorian coast. At this camp, the focus was on the compact coastal region between Princetown and Peterborough, thereby minimising the amount of driving required.

In Chapter 21 of their recently published text *Stories Beneath our Feet*, Costermans and VandenBerg well describe the geomorphology of this region:

'All the coastal features (from Princetown to the Bay of Islands) are in the *Miocene Port Campbell Limestone*, which is made up of near-horizontal layers of clay and silt as well as calcarenites and sandy limestones, deposited on a marine continental shelf between about 16 and 8 million years ago. ... The whole formation is up to 150 metres thick, but only 20-50 metres is presently exposed in the cliffs.'

'The coastline is continuing to retreat in a very irregular way. Originally it was well seaward of the present stacks and islands which are merely remnants after erosion, while the bays, coves and caves indicate where the most active removal of rock material is presently occurring – intertidal shore platforms rarely form on this coastal sector.'

The authors go on to explain that the rock material, being relatively soft and having a substantial calcium carbonate component, is subject to solution, leading to the development of caves and sinkholes which often become the core of indentations in the coastline that we see today.

All excursions were of a half-day duration, from Saturday morning through to Monday morning, with the camp concluding after lunch. There were five alternatives available in each timeslot, with most being repeated for flexibility. My own selections were as follows:

Saturday morning: Walk to Halladale Point, the site of a shipwreck a short distance west of Peterborough.



The Razorback stack on the Loch Ard Geology Walk
(Photo: Phil Rayment)

'The four-masted barque *Falls of Halladale* was 102 days out from New York when it ran ashore at Peterborough at 3am on the morning of 14th November 1908. Within minutes, water poured into the holds and the crew safely disembarked and rowed for three hours until they beached at the Bay of Islands.' (Source: Wikipedia)

Saturday afternoon: Back Tracks Tour, led by Helen Langley

This excursion took in four coastal locations east of Port Campbell, starting with the signposted Geology Walk at Loch Ard Gorge and then heading west to three much quieter sites of geological and botanical interest.

Sunday morning: Loch Ard Gorge, again with Helen Langley

We first followed The Wreck of the Loch Ard Walk before taking a longer walk to Muttonbird Island (an important breeding site), Thunder Cave, Broken Head and Sherbrooke River. On Broken Head we enjoyed good sightings of the Singing Honeyeater, which is widely distributed across most of Australia, but not seen (to my knowledge) in our area.

Sunday afternoon: Discovery Walk at Port Campbell

This excursion followed the Discovery Walk which starts near the Surf Club, crosses Port Campbell Creek and climbs through highly diverse and attractive vegetation to heathland above Two Mile Bay.



Exposed stalactites at the head of Loch Ard Gorge
(Photo: Phil Rayment)

Monday morning: Coast Gully Thicket Walk, near the Port Campbell cemetery

We were introduced to a community project to eradicate weed infestations and extend the Discovery Walk mentioned above to create a longer circuit trail linking Port Campbell's coastal and bushland areas.



Singing Honeyeater (Photo: Phil Rayment)

The three evening talks spanned a wide range of subjects. On Friday evening, following the welcome to the camp, Marg O'Toole told the story of kelp, covering the recovery work on this remarkably fast-growing marine plant at sites off Port Campbell. Then, on Saturday, Deakin University research fellow Dr John Sherwood presented on "Megafauna and footprints to our amazing past". Finally, Timboon club member Stephen Mueller outlined his efforts to breed Australian River Blackfish and reintroduce the species to local waterways.

Sunday evening brought the happy event of the Timboon club's award of Life Membership to Helen Langley for her outstanding service and dedication over many years. Grateful thanks go to Helen and her team of club members for hosting

a really enjoyable camp in the convivial spirit for which SEANA is known. On top of that, the weather was perfect, not something that can be taken for granted in that part of Victoria!

Phil Rayment

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Club welcomes Jordan Gregory and family from Warragul, Alex Raymond from Tyers, Andy Johnson from Brunswick, and Kristy Waddell and family from Seaview. We wish you all a long and happy association with us.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to The LV Naturalist in 2023. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to all our members, their families and friends.

Latrobe Valley Naturalist is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc. The Club subscription includes the "Naturalist".

Brief contributions and short articles on any aspect of natural history are invited from members of all clubs. Articles, including those covering Club speakers and excursions, would typically be around one A4 side in length, should not exceed 1,000 words, and may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Photos should be sent as an attachment.

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this magazine rests with the author of the article.

Contributions should be addressed to:

Ms Tamara Leitch
The Editor
LVFNC Inc.
PO Box 839
TRARALGON VIC 3844

Phone: 0438 372 186

Email: tleitch@wideband.net.au

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Incorporation No. A0005323T
ISSN 1030-5084 ABN 86 752 280 972

The Naturalist is generously printed by the office of Melina Bath MLC, Member for Eastern Victoria

Deadline for articles to be considered for inclusion in the next issue (Jan-Feb): 31 January 2024

APPENDIX I – Bird list for Baw Baw Summer Camp, 4–7th February 2023

(D. Mules)

Wonga Pigeon
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Gang-gang Cockatoo
Crimson Rosella
White-throated Treecreeper
Superb Lyrebird
Eastern Spinebill
Red Wattlebird
Crescent Honeyeater
White-eared Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Striated Pardalote
White-browed Scrubwren
Brown Thornbill
Black-faced Cuckooshrike
Eastern Whipbird
Olive-backed Oriole
Grey Shrike-thrush
Olive Whistler
Golden Whistler
Pied Currawong
Grey Currawong
Grey Fantail
Little Raven
Satin Flycatcher
Flame Robin
Eastern Yellow Robin
Welcome Swallow
Silvereye
Bassian Thrush