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General meetings

Held at 7:30 pm on the
fourth Friday of each month
at the Newborough Uniting
Church, Old Sale Road
Newborough VIC 3825



A Large-billed Scrubwren was seen at Budgeree Reserve during the Club's Bird Group outing in May 2017 (Photo: David Stickney).

Upcoming events

September general meeting: Friday 22 September – Native Bees – Linda Rogan
Excursion: Saturday 23 September – Mullungdung SP. Meet 10am Gormandale Hall.

Club Spring Camp: Friday 29 September – Monday 2 October at Chiltern.

Bird Group: Tuesday 3 October – *cancelled due to close proximity to Spring Camp.*

Botany Group: Saturday 7 October – Mt Cannibal FFR & Bunyip SP. Meet 10am at reserve carpark, or carpool from Yarragon Railway Station at 9.15am.

October general meeting: Friday 27 October – DELWP Planned Burns – Jean-Marc Porineaux & Kate Hill

Excursion: Saturday 28 October – Tyers Park plant ID with Friends group. Meet 10am at junction of W2 Track and Tyers-Walhalla Rd to walk to Peterson's Lookout.

Botany Group: Saturday 4 November – Sweetwater Creek area. Details TBC.

Bird Group: Tuesday 14 November – Neerim area. Meet 8.30am at the CFA shed carpark on NE corner of Bloomfield and Old Sale Rds.

Phillip Island excursion 25.02.2017

The elevated panoramic view from The Nobbies boardwalk on the extreme south western tip of Phillip Island really is spectacular. There were many contrasting colours from the vibrant green of a native spinach *Tetragonia* sp. on the hillside to the subtle blues of ocean, bay and sky, to the dazzling white of pounding ocean surf, to the black and browns of numerous Older Volcanic eruptions. There are several contrasting landforms from the high headland to the impressively rugged ocean coastline in the east, to the seashore rock platform below with its two residual rock stacks of The Nobbies, to the small archways formed by erosion of tuff. To the west is the outlier of Seal Rocks and beyond the western entrance to Westernport on the distant horizon is the uplifted block of the Mornington Peninsula.

At The Nobbies there were fewer of the Little Penguins and Cape Barren Geese than I would have expected, so we had to be content with a distant view of ubiquitous Silver Gulls and remnants of the Crested Tern nesting colony on the platform below, and discussion on the subtle differences between Kelp and Pacific Gulls. Comparative identification based on bill depth was appropriate as both species were present, including a couple of circling immature Kelp Gulls.



Birdwatching at The Nobbies (Photo: Graeme Rowe)

From a lookout on the ocean track back to the Penguin Parade Visitors' Centre, another Kelp Gull, a Gannet, a hovering Kestrel and a couple of Cape Barren Geese were seen.

The walking track into Swan Lake just east of the Visitors' Centre exhibited a lot of plant diversity, although in places it was quite degraded. Common Brown butterflies favoured the shade cast by the many trees. The waters of Swan Lake are constrained in the swale behind a large dune on the ocean side and, while not at capacity, the lake did

have large areas of free water and dry lake bed perimeter. As a designated bird excursion, Swan Lake was the most rewarding, with two bird hides overlooking different arms of the lake. There were Cape Barren Geese again, swans, coots, ibis of both persuasions, Masked Lapwings replete with piercing cry, and various ducks including Chestnut Teal. A juvenile gull was seen by some to regurgitate a mass of black wing feathers, only to recycle them back down again! There were sections where yellow-fruited Large Kangaroo-apple *Solanum laciniatum* was the only vegetation, and despite burrows and numerous footprints in the sand, no penguins were visible.

The panorama from the Rhyll lookout is also notable for it encompasses French Island, the waters of Westernport and, in the north east distance, the Corinella cliffs and South Gippsland Hills. Immediately below lay a rocky islet in the entrance to Rhyll inlet which was flanked to its north by Observation Point with its long spit extending eastwards. Sometimes this area hosts large numbers of numerous species of migratory waders, but while we were there we saw swans, Masked Lapwings, White-faced Herons and, on the distant spit presumably, Pied Oystercatchers and Crested Terns. From the Rhyll Historical Walk, Grey Teal were visible on the basalt shoreline in

the distance.

Graeme Rowe

A bird list for the excursion is available in the electronic version of this Naturalist.

Drouin Significant Trees Register

Peter Ware and Judy Farmer from Drouin spoke at the March club night. The next day we visited Drouin. Peter and Judy met us there, and they guided us through parks and along avenues. They told us a fascinating story of passion and persistence. They talked a bit about the botanical aspects of the trees, but more about the trees' social, historical, and environmental values.

Drouin started life as a timber dependent town. Peter said it was one of the last districts in Victoria to be settled by white people, because of the swamps in and around the forest. Even today, Peter said, there are ten wetland areas in the town. Settlement happened around 1870 and timber getting was the first main industry.

Drouin remained a small town until fairly recently. It is now caught up in the ever-expanding growth of Melbourne and has been earmarked for rapid change, with the current population of 11,000 projected to rise to 30,000 in the next few years. Fortunately there were people from the outset who realised that finding room for all the extra people and houses would cost Drouin its trees and green areas unless town planners ensured there were protections in place. So a group was formed – the Friends of Drouin's Trees – and in 2015, group members met every week for six months to visit trees.

A key aspect of Drouin is that it has very many trees to visit. From early times the townspeople retained a number of big, old trees that pre-dated settlement. Later, a shire man who was responsible for parks and gardens was a fan of tree planting, and his influence can be seen everywhere in the older parts of town, in tree-lined streets and tree-filled parks. In 1936, schoolchildren planted 60 *Corymbia ficifolia* seedlings along one of the town's main streets. So well did they survive and go on to flowering fame that there is now an annual Ficifolia Festival in the town. Judy said she has met elderly people who were schoolchildren in 1936 and can point out the tree they planted. Judy also showed us an avenue of Spotted Gums that were thought to be *ficifolia* when they were planted, but turned out to be otherwise.

The Friends of Drouin's Trees therefore had so many trees to visit that they split into teams – one to do the north side and one to do the west side. They had to learn a lot about the trees around them. Not just trees in general (botanical names, growth habits, places of origin, etc), which is plenty to learn, but about particular trees (What is it? Who planted it? What are its GPS coordinates, its girth measurement, its bird and animal inhabitants?)

Peter said that Greg Hollis from the Baw Baw Shire suggested a Significant Tree Register as a means of establishing the importance of particular trees to the township, leading hopefully to their classification as assets, deserving of maintenance and protection. The group developed a system to identify and classify Drouin's significant trees, based on the criteria used by the National Trust of Australia. They decided that indigenous trees with a girth greater than 900 mm at 1.3 m above ground could be assumed to be growing pre-settlement and therefore qualified as significant. A total of 192 remnant trees were endorsed as significant in this way by 2016, including 120 'giants' of over four metres girth, and 22 measured at a whopping girth of six metres or more.

Sometimes patches of trees, rather than one particular tree, are of significance. Judy called these



Bhutan Cypresses along McNeilly Road (Photo: Peter Ware)

patches polygons, using mapping parlance. She and other group members had to learn about mapping. They used a GPS and had to create and fill out complicated spreadsheets for the data. Judy said they spent hours and hours logging tree coordinates, only to find the GPS they were using had not been calibrated correctly and all the measurements were out. Luckily, a clever engineer at the Shire knew how to tweak the figures in the spreadsheet so they didn't have to revisit all those trees and polygons.

Group members found their love of Drouin trees led them into a world of technical information as well as data collection. Trees are assets when planted along asphalt roads, they discovered, because their shade reduces the temperature so the solvents in the bitumen evaporate less quickly, which means the life of a shaded road can be 30% longer than an unshaded road. Think of the savings.

This is true for buildings and yards too. Trees in a yard drop the ambient temperature by an average of 8°C and this means air-conditioners don't have to work so hard, reducing energy usage by 12-15%. In Melbourne this equates to \$14 million every year. If this sounds too abstract, think of the price of housing. Studies in Brisbane and Perth found that homeowners with a mature tree in their yard can add thousands of dollars to their selling price compared to their treeless neighbours.

On top of learning about technical issues like mapping and data collection, and quantifying the qualities of trees into dollar values, group members found themselves immersed in the social history of their town. Peter and Judy took us to an avenue of Bhutan cypresses, so tall and wide they made a quiet tunnel. They were planted in the 1950s along each side of the McNeilly driveway in what was then farmland. Town housing now surrounds the driveway and the developer would have bulldozed the avenue for housing as well, but the Friends of Drouin's Trees were instrumental in making sure this was prevented.

We visited a park with an enormous eucalypt – a Mountain Grey Gum *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*, I think. Its girth is 12.5 m and Peter said five different bird species live in the canopy. The tree used to be part of a forest and was left while all around were cut down. An abattoir was built nearby and the tree shaded the waiting cattle. Judy interviewed a very elderly man who was the butcher's son. He used to shimmy up the tree with his rifle as a twelve year old, to shoot wild dogs coming around the meatworks. Today there is a little park on the site with a set of swings in the shade of the tree.

Judy said that mature trees are often the last living link between us and people from history. She pointed out four old English elms in the town centre, next to the war memorial. They were planted in perhaps 1894, certainly by the early 1900s, and are all that remain of a larger group. Drouin holds its Anzac Day ceremony in the park beside the elms. The elms have been present at all the memorials and Anzac Day services since such gatherings began.

The group are gradually naming each giant tree – to help to identify each tree, but more than that, they bind the tree to the town and its people. A tree that is named makes it that much harder for a developer or town planner to cut down. Bill Kraft of the Drouin Butter Factory has one named after him. Another is called Jack's Giant. Peter said a woman called Jessie came out of her house and saw

them admiring and measuring a Blue Gum on her nature strip, and moaned about how much she hated it (all the dropped leaves, etc). He said they pointed out all the species of birds and animals busy in the canopy, and gave a spiel about all the other good things the tree was doing. Now they call it Jessie's Gum and apparently she isn't so cross with it any more.

About 140 years ago an Austrian man settled in Drouin and made wooden chairs. All the frame components were wooden. Antonio Debortolis used no nails, no glue, and no screws – just wooden pegs and dowel pins – and wove seats from rushes and sedges. His home was in a swamp area where he gleaned the materials for his chairs. Giant trees, including *Eucalyptus strzeleckii*, remain in the area near his house site. One has a girth of over eight metres. The congregation of the Anglican church in Drouin heard about 'the Chairmaker of Drouin' as he became known, through the Friends of Drouin's Trees, and then realised they have in their possession three chairs made by him.

Group members have secured funding for a booklet about the town's trees, including a self-guided tour, to be produced. The text has been written and a graphics person is lined up. They are awaiting the Council engineering department's approval. There are concerns around directing people along unformed paths – for example, what if someone slips on the grass? When these are resolved, the booklet will be published. It is hoped that signs for the bases of significant trees will come next.

The National Trust has asked the group to submit 90 trees for consideration to be included on a Nationally Significant Tree Register. This will be a tough job for the group as there are potentially 2,000 trees to be added to the Drouin register.

Peter said the group's greatest achievement has been to turn around the attitude of locals and Shire workers toward trees. Now the Shire workers contact the group if a tree is to be condemned. They convert condemned trees to habitat trees sometimes, which never used to happen. A habitat tree, in this sense, means a dead tree left unfelled but with limbs trimmed back close to the trunk. Judy and Peter showed us a tree that was suspected to have been poisoned by people wanting to open up a view. It still stands, full of hollows and perching places, thanks to the collaboration between the group and the Shire.

Our expedition to Drouin was unusual because it was more about people, a township and non-native species than Australian flora and fauna. However, we did look at birds and insects and other non-tree plants as we went around. Peter said 90 species of birds live in the town and do so all year long because there are always eucalypts flowering somewhere in the township.

My lasting memory of Peter's talk and our walk through Drouin is the sheer scale of the group members' commitment and effort – weekly meetings for six months, poring over botanical textbooks, mapping, spreadsheets, historical records, interviews, and a lot of writing. They maintain a blog (drouinstrees.blogspot.com.au) and Judy said the group had given 15 talks in the last 12 months. That takes dedication. Drouin is lucky to have trees and the people who have become their Friends.

Rose Mildenhall

Bogs in the High Country

It was appropriate that our speaker in April on the 'Bogs of the High Country' – Conor Wilson – was originally from Ireland. Ireland is well known for its peat bogs, which are wetlands that accumulate peat. Peat is a deposit of dead plant material, often mosses (in most cases, sphagnum moss) and forms when plant material does not fully decay in acidic and anaerobic conditions.

Conor is a Parks Victoria ranger who manages environmental projects in the Alpine National Park. His role is to undertake the field work, find out what is wrong and recommend solutions. His territory covers Licola to Mt Hotham and down to Dargo, and incorporates the highest habitat

managed by Parks Victoria with a land area of some 300,000 ha. In tonight's talk Conor discussed the organisation's ongoing efforts to conserve these peatland areas, tackling issues such as poorly situated tracks, off-road driving and invasive species.



Peat bog on Lankey Plain (Photo: Tamara Leitch)

One of the characteristics of alpine peat bogs is that they form stagnant pools surrounded by sphagnum moss. These peat bogs play an important part in our environment by providing a filtration system through which water passes. The plants in the system remove many of the salts and nutrients so the water downstream is much purer than the spring water. They also provide historical archives, sequester CO₂ that would otherwise be in the atmosphere, and provide habitat for many rare and threatened plants and animals.

Some of the endangered animals that can be found in these habitats include the Baw Baw Frog, Mountain Pygmy Possum, Mountain Katydid (not necessarily restricted to mountains, according to Ken), Guthega Skink, Alpine Water Skink and an interesting Stone Fly. One of Conor's slides showed *Hakea macrocarpa*, which is unusual because it opens its seedpods and sheds its seeds without the influence of fire, while most of the hakeas keep their seed pods closed until there is a fire, and the fire often kills the seed-bearing plant.

Although alpine peat bogs are not restricted to National Parks, they are all protected under the EPBC Act. There are many groups involved in the protection of these peat bogs. There is a five-year program funded by the National Landcare Programme, WGCMA, EGCMA, NECMA and Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria carries out this work on behalf of all the stakeholders. The program has micro targets each year which are reviewed by the various stakeholders to ensure that the funding is continuous. The five-year program finishes at the end of the next financial year.



Damage caused by Sambar (Photo: Tamara Leitch)

The health of the bogs has improved since the removal of cattle but the key threats now include deer. Conor is involved in a deer control program, mostly involving ground shooting by volunteers, that is currently being trialled in the Southern Alps. The threat from deer involves grazing and wallowing and Conor showed some rather graphic video footage of a Sambar deer wallowing in a bog. Other threats include willows and blackberries, which have a more intense water regime than the native shrubs – enough to alter the hydrology. Other species that can quickly become established and create a monoculture and exclude other plants include thistles, rush species and water forget-me-nots.

Fire is a natural part of the landscape in Australia but its frequency and intensity is increasing across the alpine environment. If a fire burns too intensely it can make the peat hydrophobic. A recent fire in the Otway National Park burnt approximately 3000 ha. There is less concern about the fire itself because the plants can recover quickly after a fire but the major damage can be caused by

bulldozers driving through an alpine peat bog while attempting to control the fire. There are, however, standard operating instructions for managing fire around peatlands.

Another threat is from humans purposefully or accidentally damaging these areas by creating walking tracks or vehicle tracks through the bogs.

All of these issues are being managed through the alpine protection program that is both strategic and on-ground. Damage is prevented by constructing walkways, platforms and interpretative signs to limit the impact of recreational activity, and in some cases by blocking access to allow the bogs to recover. Restoration work is occurring on Mount Buffalo using a reed bed system and physical formwork to recreate the hydrological processes.

It was pleasing to see an Irishman taking an interest in our alpine peat bogs as Conor made the point that peat has two uses in Ireland – burning on an open fire and flavouring their whisky. When I visited Ireland last year, I enjoyed both these properties of peat.

David Stickney

Morwell National Park excursion 29.04.2017

It was a grey, showery morning for the walk into the Billys Creek area of Morwell National Park. Our walk began at the main entrance on Junction Road where most of the vehicles were parked.

As we walked into the park, a number of birds were heard and soon seen including Magpie, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Yellow Robin and Little Raven. Two koalas were also spotted high up in a Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*. Lewin's Honeyeaters could also be heard, but not easily seen.

As we walked along, Ken pointed out some of the features of the vegetation. These included Swamp Gum *Eucalyptus ovata*, which can easily be identified because the bark of this tree peels off in a very characteristic way. The native species of nettle *Urtica incisa* is also prevalent in the park. Ken informed us the Yellow Admiral butterfly *Vanessa itea* and Black and White Tiger Moth *Spilosoma glatignyi* breed exclusively on these. Another plant common in the park is Musk Daisy-bush *Olearia argophylla*, which has successfully been grown here from seed gathered in the park, as has Muttonwood *Myrsine howittiana*. Mountain Clematis *Clematis aristata*, Kangaroo Apple *Solanum aviculare* and Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata* also thrive here. Other native plants Ken pointed out included Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera*, Prickly Currant Bush *Coprosma quadrifida*, Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana*, Hemp bush *Gynatrix pulchella* (which has lovely, scented white flowers in spring), and Forest Hound's-tongue *Austrocynoglossum latifolium*.



Healthy Muttonwood sapling
(Photo: Wendy McDonald)

Weeds in the park included Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*, English Ivy *Hedera helix*, a species of nightshade *Solanum douglasii* (Ken informed us this is not "Deadly Nightshade" as some people think) and Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. One of the worst weeds in the park, which is prevalent on the banks of Billys Creek, is Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum*.

Water plants growing in the creek included a Water Cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (which apparently is good in sandwiches!), Water Pepper *Persicaria hydropiper* (also has tasty leaves) and Slender Knotweed *Persicaria decipiens* which was in flower, having a delicate raceme of pink flowers.

Some birds that were easily seen as we walked along Billys Creek Track included Grey Fantail, Striated Thornbill, Superb Fairy-wren and Crimson Rosellas, including some sub-adult ones. There were Eastern Grey Kangaroos on both sides of the track at one point, and a Swamp Wallaby hopped away into the undergrowth when we disturbed it.

We saw some Rainbow Lorikeets feeding in a flowering bush behind the chimney of one of the houses which bounds the park. We didn't think we would be able to include this in the bird list for the day, but then one flew towards us, soared over our heads, and landed in a tree – so then it was definitely in the park!

Another attractive plant, which showed evidence of earlier flowering, included Leafy Flat-sedge *Cyperus lucidus*. Tall Sword Sedge *Lepidosperma elatius* was also identified.

It was nice to hear the ripples of water, as the flow in Billys Creek has increased with recent rains. The bush gave off a fragrant scent after a brief shower, which was also delightful.

Birds which were heard more than seen near Potato Flat included Eastern Whipbird and White-browed Scrubwren. The "Bird of the day" was seen here, and depending which group you were in, was either the two Superb Lyrebirds spotted by Ken and others a little way off the track, or the immature male Flame Robin that hopped onto the middle of the track right in front of us. We didn't see the adult robins. A large Eastern Grey Kangaroo hopped out onto the track behind us twice, as if following us, or perhaps indicating he wanted to go where we were going, but then hopped away.

Numerous types of fungi were also apparent in the park and Eileen was able to identify these using her Tasmanian Fungi field guide, as many of the species described in its pages are also found in southern Victoria. Fungi species identified included an orange *Gymnopilus*, a big brown-edged *Ganoderma* and two different types of *Mycena* – one brown and slimy, the other a tawny colour.

Ferns in the park include Rough Tree -fern *Cyathea australis*. Ken was also excited to find a healthy Sickie Fern *Pellaea falcata* growing out of the rock wall on the edge of the track, which may possibly be the first sighting of this fern in the Billys Creek area of Morwell National Park.

The group enjoyed lunch at the picnic tables at the Weir, where the sun came out briefly, but only for a moment. This encouraged us to consider going a bit further to see the Austral Mulberry *Hedycarya angustifolia*, a tallish shrub with yellow fruit when in season, but it clouded over suddenly, so we began the walk out.

We went along Pipeline Track so those who were tiring were able to be driven out to the Braniffs Road gate in Ken's car, which had handily been driven in earlier.

Those of us who were walking continued along and on the way Eileen spotted a *Scleroderma* fungus beside the track. Wendy's car was at the Braniff's Road gate, so the remaining four were able to be transported back to their vehicles at Junction Road. Our ramble ended just before 2 pm. Thanks to Ken Harris (and others more knowledgeable than me) for a most interesting day.



Sickie Fern (Photo: Wendy McDonald)

Wendy McDonald

Bird Group outing to Boolarra & Budgeree area 02.05.2017

Ten intrepid birders set off from Boolarra on a wintry day to stalk some birds. The group travelled along the Morwell River Road to Apex Park. We spent an hour poking around the river bank to the "camping area" which is used frequently by people. We noticed some new revegetation on the river bank, a project undertaken by the Friends of the Upper Morwell River (we think). The park is somewhat exposed these days as the plantation plot across the road has recently been clear-felled.

From Apex Park we headed back along the river, then cut across country to the Budgeree Reserve at the corner of The Mill Road and Whitelaws Track. This little reserve is looked after by the local Landcare group and, some years ago, Ken surveyed it on behalf of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' botany group. The reserve is bordered on its south side by Bellbrook Creek. We first took a walk along the southern side of the creek along a forest track (HVP has plantation timber on that side of the creek) and were welcomed with a seriously harmonic chorus. We managed to identify a number of LBBs. We also took a quick look around the top of the reserve where there was minimal activity from our feathered friends. This little reserve is abundant with orchids in spring and, in a wet autumn, rich in fungi.

We left the reserve and proceeded westward along Whitelaws Track to Colleys Road Reserve where a few weeks prior Jay and I had sighted a Flame Robin, Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler and Crested Shrike-tit and heard a treecreeper, all in a few minutes of an evening. Alas, on our excursion day, the birds were not as active. David, Phil and I were treated by a Cuckoo-shrike who posed for us...of course we did not have a camera between us as this was a quick stop before returning to Boolarra for lunch.

Lunch was a quick affair as the weather was getting pretty ordinary. We took time to argue the case for the bird of the day. The Large-billed Scrubwren seen at the bridge on The Mill Road got the majority of votes for being an uncommon sighting, whilst David S, Phil and I voted for the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike for its splendourous display.

Joelle Champert

A bird list for the excursion is available in the electronic version of this Naturalist.

WANTED: Suggestions for the 2018 program

Any ideas about topics, speakers, excursions and camps are welcome. If you know of a possible guest speaker, please supply contact details, and if possible make contact to sound them out.

The Program Planning meeting will be held from 6 – 9 pm on Wednesday 25th October at David and Jacqui Mules' place, 408 Connection Rd, Narracan (opposite the Narracan Hall).

Everyone is welcome to come along. Bring food to share for a meal, as we have tea first and supper afterwards. It is a very pleasant social evening, and the more the merrier.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The club welcomes three new members from Traralgon – Rhonda O'Dea, Rhonda Fitch and Jenny Horner. We wish you all a long and happy association with us.

REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING 12.08.2017

Finance

No finance report available due to absence of Treasurer.

Business Arising, Correspondence & General Business

- Nature of Latrobe booklet: have about 200 copies left, will continue to sell at same price of \$7.50. Need to put them in places to sell, consider an update if we print more.
- Spending of club funds: Regarding request from Mathieson Park for revegetation, Latrobe City is seeking funding for revegetating parks including Mathieson Park, so will wait until outcome of this has been decided.
- Digitising LVFNC and Bon & Ollie Thompson's plant lists: will not take up Sean Smith's offer as it is a very big job and would be unreasonable to expect him to do it. Will contact the Centre for Gippsland Studies to seek advice on the process, funding opportunities and lodging the original lists with them.
- ANN Get-together 29 Sept – 8 Oct 2018: Grampians and Surf Coast. Had 65 EOIs by late July.
- RHSV insurance: Received a reminder that premium had not been paid for 2017. Rose scanned and emailed paperwork and Wendy sent cheque for \$310 based on membership of 130.
- Club spring camp at Chiltern 29 Sept – 2 Oct: Draft program has been prepared. Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP will join us on Sunday. Have booked Ironbark Tavern for Saturday night dinner. Twenty seven people have booked to attend camp.
- Annual Statement: was due end of August, has been lodged with Consumer Affairs.
- National Library of Australia e-deposit for our magazine: Have set up an account and found we needed an ISSN for the Latrobe Valley Naturalist. Have been issued the following ISSNs: 2208-4363 (print), 2208-4371 (online).
- CSIRO survey invitation passed onto members of SEANA: CSIRO is looking at how Australia's biodiversity has changed and if it is linked to increased temperatures. Wants input from interested people so will send details in monthly activities email.
- Lowanna College nestbox project: request for assistance from Judy Stewart, AgHort teacher and Farm Manager at the college, for advice and assistance installing and monitoring nest boxes which are currently being built to target the Southern Boobook owl. Have received advice from Alison Taylor and Nola Anderson from Resource Smart Schools. Would like ongoing support, and may be able to pay someone to put the boxes up. Will suggest she contact Ken Harris and Rolf Willig.
- Mary Austin's past copies of The LV Naturalist: these have been offered to the club and are available from Tom Smallman at Berwick 0418 368 551.
- Wonyip Landcare Group request for photographs for use in a Field Guide and Conservation Trail in the Wonyip Forest: Ken Harris has supplied many of the photos, and David Stickney has some others.

Conservation matters

- The Platypus Conservancy believes that the time has come to prohibit use of enclosed yabby traps in private and public freshwater habitats across Australia and would like a letter of support from our Club: We will support this.
- Continuation of Regional Forest Agreements: Jill Redwood sent BBSN a request to support a letter to Lily D'Ambrosio to not continue the Regional Forest Agreements. We agree with the letter and will offer to have the Club's support added.

Guest speaker for September

Linda Rogan

Linda is a member of the Entomological Society of Victoria with a special interest in native bees. She has travelled extensively in Australia, photographing and documenting the life cycles of many species, with a focus on their ecological roles as pollinators and the plants they visit. She has recorded 13 species in her own native garden.



Guest speakers for October

Jean-Marc Porineaux & Kate Hill

Jean-Marc Porineaux and Kate Hill from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will speak about the processes involved in preparing and undertaking planned burns for fuel reduction and ecological restoration, and how the community can get involved.



Latrobe Valley Naturalist is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist 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 and be a maximum of 1 megabyte in size.

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

Contributions should be addressed to:

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Deadline for articles to be considered for inclusion in the next issue (Nov/Dec): 6 Nov 2017

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APPENDIX I – Bird list for Phillip Island excursion 25.02.2017 (D. Stickney)

Australasian Grebe	Crested Tern	Magpie-lark	Spotted Pardalote
Australian Gannet	Eurasian Coot	Masked Lapwing	Spotted Turtle-dove
Australian Magpie	Galah	Nankeen Kestrel	Straw-necked Ibis
Australian Shelduck	Great Cormorant	New Holland Honeyeater	Superb Fairy-wren
Australian White Ibis	Grey Currawong	Noisy Miner	Swamp Harrier
Australian Wood Duck	Grey Fantail	Pacific Black Duck	Welcome Swallow
Black Swan	Grey Shrike-thrush	Pacific Gull	White-browed Scrubwren
Black-fronted Dotterel	House Sparrow	Peregrine Falcon	White-faced Heron
Cape Barren Goose	Kelp Gull	Pied Oystercatcher	White-fronted Chat
Chestnut Teal	Laughing Kookaburra	Purple Swamphen	White-necked Heron
Common Blackbird	Little Penguin	Silver Gull	Willie Wagtail
Common Myna	Little Raven	Silvereye	
Common Starling	Little Wattlebird	Sooty Oystercatcher	

APPENDIX II – Bird list for Boolarra-Budgerec excursion 02.05.2017 (J. Champert)

Australian Magpie	Crimson Rosella	Large-billed Scrubwren	Superb Fairy-wren
Australian Raven	Eastern Yellow Robin	Lewin's Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Australian Wood Duck	Galah	Magpie-lark	White-browed Scrubwren
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Butcherbird	Masked Lapwing	White-faced Heron
Brown Gerygone	Grey Fantail	Noisy Miner	White-throated Treecreeper
Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Pied Currawong	Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo
Common Bronzewing	Laughing Kookaburra	Red-browed Finch	