



# Latrobe Valley Naturalist

March – April 2019

Issue No. 601

Print ISSN 2208-4363  
Online ISSN 2208-4371

## Office bearers

President: David Stickney  
Secretary: Rose Mildenhall  
Treasurer: David Mules  
Publicity Officer: Alix Williams  
Magazine editor: Tamara Leitch  
Conservation Coordinator: Denis Nagle  
Archivist: Marja Bouman  
Webmaster: John Sunderland

## Contact

The Secretary  
Latrobe Valley Field  
Naturalists Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 1205  
Morwell VIC 3840  
info@lvfieldnats.org  
0428 422 461

## Website

www.lvfieldnats.org

## 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 lava flow site in the Harman Valley, western Victoria, visited during the ANN Get-together in September 2018 (Photo: Phil Rayment).

## **Upcoming events**

March general meeting: Friday 22 March

Reptiles of West Gippsland – Craig Boase

March excursion: Saturday 23 March – Witts Gully, Hernes Oak

Botany Group: Saturday 30 March – Rokeby Reserve plant survey.

Details TBC.

Bird Group: Tuesday 2 April – Moondarra State Park. Meet at Seninis Track picnic area 8.30am.

April general meeting: Friday 26 April

Fifty years of fauna surveys – Peter Homan

April excursion – details TBC at the Club's March business meeting.

Botany Group: Saturday 4 May – Tarra Bulga NP ferns. Details TBC.

Bird Group: Tuesday 7 May – Tarra Bulga NP. Meet at Bulga Visitor Centre carpark 9.30am.

Bird Group: Thursday 23 May – EA Wetland survey. Meet at Morwell Bridge gate 9.30am.

## Orchid Excursion to Traralgon South 22.09.2018

At least 28 people attended this excursion, including two gentlemen from the Czech Republic touring Australia looking at native orchids, Julie Chapman from the Native Orchid Society, and Mitch Smith, who was our guest speaker from the previous night.

We visited two sites: first the Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve, focusing on the carpark area off Callignee South Road, and then an area on Whitelaws Track nearby. The bush was very dry. Estelle told us the Whitelaws Track site had not been burnt by bushfires since 1944. Mitch stated that this is significant because although some orchids are prolific immediately after fire, they usually decline shortly after, and most orchids do better in the long run without fire.

Orchids seen at both sites were the Mayfly Orchid *Acianthus caudatus* and Mosquito Orchid *A. pusillus*, which are fertilised by fungus gnats. Only the leaves and buds of Spider-orchids *Caladenia sp.* were seen. We also saw the Dainty Bird-orchid *Chiloglottis trapeziformis* and the Common Bird-orchid *C. valida*, both of which are fertilised by flower wasps. These two orchids are the parents of a hybrid orchid *C. x pescotiana*, which we also saw. We observed the leaves only of a Donkey-orchid *Diuris sp.* and the Slaty Helmet-orchid *Corybas incurvus*, and Julie told us the latter are usually the first flowering orchids for the season, appearing in June, and that they tend to grow near fallen trees that have been down for approximately five years or more. We saw one Waxlip Orchid *Glossodia major*, as well as multiple Blunt Greenhoods *Pterostylis curta*, Tall Greenhoods *P. melagramma*, Nodding Greenhoods *P. nutans* and Maroonhoods *P. pedunculata* (including the green form of this species). An interesting day was had by all.



Maroonhood (Photo: Tamara Leitch).

Rhonda Fitch

## CLUB SPRING CAMP 2018

*This year's spring camp was held from 20-22<sup>nd</sup> October, with participants staying at Crystal Brook Tourist Park in Doncaster East and having bus transport for the weekend's excursions kindly taken care of by Jack Weerts. The first morning we were joined by several members of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club on a walk through Boomers Reserve at Panton Hill, and after rain cut short our planned route, we headed for Jumping Creek Reserve closer to Warrandyte. The afternoon was spent exploring the historical areas at Whipstick Gully and Pound Bend, and the following day we enjoyed a lovely morning at the Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn before heading to Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve in Croydon. On Monday morning we wandered along Mullum Mullum Creek at the Schwerkolt Cottage Reserve in Mitcham before heading home.*

### Boomers Reserve & Jumping Creek Reserve - Saturday morning

The first destination of our 2018 Spring Camp was Boomers Nature Conservation Reserve just north of the township of Panton Hill. This 90 ha reserve is managed by Parks Victoria and is the jewel in the crown of Warrandyte State Park. It is home to some rare spider-orchids and large parts of the reserve

are fenced off in an effort to protect plants - initially from rabbits, but now from deer as well. We were too late to catch these rare orchids; the best time to visit the reserve is early September. We were told that orchid numbers have been down across the area for some years. Dry conditions were noticeable in all areas we visited during the camp.

There are old gold mining shafts scattered across the reserve dating back to the gold rush of the 1850s, however we didn't see any of these shafts on the day. By the time we arrived at the reserve, it was raining steadily and the four members of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club, who were our guides for the day, decided to reduce our trip to a short circuit. It was too wet to take books. Soon enough my notepad became unusable. Margaret, Jack and myself did a mind dump at the end of the day to compile a plant list. Interesting plants to note were:

*Eucalyptus melliodora* – Yellow Box

*Eucalyptus tricarpa* – Ironbark

*Caladenia gracilis* – Musky Caladenia

*Dillwynia cinerascens* – Grey Parrot-pea

*Arthropodium strictum* – Chocolate Lily

*Linum marginale* – Native Flax

*Eucalyptus polyanthemos* – Red Box

*Dampiera stricta* – Blue Dampiera

*Cassinia arcuata* – Drooping Cassinia

*Daviesia leptophylla* – Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea

*Goodenia lanata* – Trailing Goodenia



Chocolate Lily (Photo: Margaret Rowe)

Due to the rain, the plans for the day were altered. From Boomers Reserve we headed to Jumping Creek on the Yarra River in Warrandyte, which is home to the largest shelter in the park. Fortunately, it was unoccupied and we were able to dry and warm ourselves slowly during morning tea. In the meantime, the rain eased and we walked a short distance along the Blue Tongue Bend Walk. Jumping Creek was advertised in the Park Notes as an interesting area for wildflowers, but one of our guides, Hazel, said she would not take anyone there for that reason. In any case, we weren't disappointed. A rocky track dotted with Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum aethiopicum*, Bulbine Lily *Bulbine bulbosa* and Chocolate Lily *Arthropodium strictum* brought us to a high point with beautiful views over the Yarra River. Fergus, another member of the Ringwood Field Nats, spotted a platypus. To our surprise we saw several Muttonwood trees *Myrsine howittiana*. Specimens and photos were taken of Pomaderris plants, which were later identified as *Pomaderris prunifolia* and *P. racemosa*.

Marja Bouman

### Whipstick Gully & Pound Bend - Saturday afternoon

After lunch we drove to Whipstick Gully, which has many relics of the gold mining era and an excellent information board about the gold mining days. As is common in these areas, there were lots of weeds, but the Angled Onion looked quite pretty growing on top of the structure around the entrance to the old Victory Mine, which operated in the 1890s.

---

Pound Bend is one of the most popular areas in the park due to the Pound Bend Tunnel which was constructed in 1870 by the Evelyn Bend Mining Company. It diverted the water of the Yarra River from a large bend where the river curved around to almost meet itself. This exposed 5 km of the river for alluvial mining. The tunnel is only 145 m long and, when looking from the rocks below the tunnel, you can easily see right through to the entrance. The name comes from it being used as a pound to hold cattle within the bend. We walked quite some distance along a track beside the Yarra inside the bend. An Eastern Yellow Robin was seen building its nest, flying in with material then circling around within the nest to create it.

Four different species of *Pomaderris* were found, most within the carpark. *Pomaderris racemosa* and *P. vacciniifolia* both had fairly small oval leaves, but the latter's were quite smooth and shiny on top. In contrast, *P. prunifolia* had much larger leaves, and *P. aspera* was beside the river.

Thanks to Jack Weerts for helping me with the eucalypts:

"The understory vegetation was depleted but a nice variety of overstrata in the form of eucalypts was still evident with a lot of magnificent mature trees. Close to the river were the Manna Gums *E. viminalis subsp. viminalis*. Not far off were Yellow Box *E. melliodora* which often form beautiful-shaped trees, used for park or even roadside planting, and are valued for their honey too. A few nice examples of Narrow-leaved Peppermint *E. radiata* were also seen.

Most of us would have missed the Candlebark *E. rubida*, which is very similar to Manna Gum but has less ribbony bark and generally a more crooked growth form – and you should see its bark when wet and in the right sunlight, especially when partly shed! Well known to us all of course was the Messmate *E. obliqua*, but maybe less familiar, though very widespread north and west of the great divide, was the Long-leaved Bundy *E. goniocalyx*."

Wendy Savage

### **Maranoa Gardens – Sunday morning**

The main entrance to Maranoa Gardens is via Parring Road, off Whitehorse Road, in Balwyn.

The visit was immensely enjoyed and highly recommended by those attending as an ideal place to see and appreciate an extensive, well-designed native garden.

John Watson purchased 3.5 acres (1.4 ha) in 1901 and commenced planting Australian native trees and shrubs – a most uncommon practice at that time. In 1920 the local council purchased the property and continued to plant Australian natives while gradually removing all non-native plants. The gardens were formally opened to the public in 1926 and are continually being developed by the Boroondarra City Council's parks and gardens staff.

Known world-wide and forming one of the largest displays of Australian plants in Victoria, this easily accessible area enables visitors to acquaint themselves with an extensive native botanic collection from all regions of Australia.

The garden is designed around a circular path through a number of zones, with each zone representing communities of plants associated with a particular combination of geology, land forms,

soil and climate. A variety of soil types, mulches, irrigation and existing tree canopy are used to create microclimates. The zones represent Tropical Woodland, Arid Rockery, Dry Sclerophyll Forest, and Rainforest of four types: Littoral, Dry, Warm Temperate and Sub-tropical. A brief description of each zone is provided and within each zone the majority of species are labelled, making it ideal for a quick overview or more thorough study. It was beautifully landscaped with many magnificent mature trees in a conveniently small area to explore, and we had a delightful time (we allowed ourselves 1½ hours). In one specific section displaying local plants, we saw many that we had found on our other camp excursions.

Adjacent to the Maranoa Gardens carpark is Beckett Park, which has an extensive grassed area, playground, and a large area of natural woodland, as well as space age toilets.

It is well worth a visit with family, including older relatives, friends and overseas visitors.

Alix Williams

### Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve – Sunday afternoon

This 18.6 hectare site, on a hill in Croydon North, and now within a built-up area, was reserved in the mid-1980s to conserve an unusually rich and diverse flora including species of regional and state-wide significance. During our 90 minute walk, we observed remnants of the diversity that was present 35 or so years ago.

At the entrance Ken Harris drew our attention to a 'snake-charmer' grass-tree. The flower spikes of this Small Grass-tree *Xanthorrhoea minor* had grown in a shape typical of two snakes under the control of a snake charmer.



'Snake-charmer' grass-tree  
(Photo: Margaret Rowe)

The track led around a patch of Thatch Saw-sedge and then rose gently. Red Stringybark dominated the canopy and, in much of the reserve, Long-leaf Cassinia *Cassinia longifolia* in bloom overwhelmingly dominated the midstorey. Individual shrubs and small trees of Cherry



Vegetation at Hochkins Reserve (Photo: Margaret Rowe)

Ballart were conspicuous throughout the reserve. The ground cover was mainly tussocks of grasses and sedges with Thatch Saw-sedge and Bracken dominating in patches. To the eyes of Gippslanders, the soil looked very dry and the cover sparse.

Scattered mauve blooms of Chocolate Lily and Black-anther Flax-lily, and the yellow Button Everlasting, provided a sprinkling of colour. Beside the track, healthy young plants of Rough Fireweed *Senecio hispidulus* in bloom provided a challenge for those keen to identify it. Here and there, under the shelter of eucalypts and in low numbers, we found a wide

---

variety of shrubs: Austral Indigo, Sweet Bursaria, Acacias, Hakea, Snowy Daisy-bush, Black She-oak, Common Heath, Common Beard-heath, Honey Pots, Common Hovea, Golden bush-pea, Grey Parrot-pea, Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea and Common Flat-pea. Herbs, again with each species in low numbers, included Creamy Candles, Milkmaids, Trigger Plant, Bluebell, Bulbine Lily, Running Postman and Common Rice-flower. Climbers were represented by Love Creeper, Downy Dodder-laurel, Twining Glycine, Purple Coral-pea and Small-leaved Clematis.

Margaret Rowe

### **Schwerkolt Cottage Reserve – Monday morning**

Our last excursion of the camp was to the Schwerkolt Cottage reserve in Mitcham. This is a heritage site containing several buildings (a stone cottage, smokehouse, wine cellar and machinery sheds), a picnic area and bushland. The Mullum Mullum Creek passes through the reserve, as well as the EastLink shared pedestrian/bike path.

We found that the museum was closed on Mondays, so we had to leave that for another occasion, however some orchardist equipment could be seen through windows as well as equipment used in producing stoneware drainage pipes. A notable point was a planted sapling from the original Separation Tree, which marked the founding of Victoria as a separate state from New South Wales.

The path along the creek was very attractive, and we saw a few plants in flower that may have been part of a revegetation program. Several members were particularly interested in some mature she-oaks.

The afternoon finished with a picnic lunch and at least one member deciding it would be a good place to return to on a pushbike for a ride along the bike path and a visit to the museum.

Mark Watkins

### **ANN 2018 Get-together in the Grampians & Anglesea**

The tenth biennial Get-together of the Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) saw 74 folk, drawn from 21 natural history groups, meet over the ten-day period from Saturday 29 September through to Monday 8 October. All eight states and territories would have been represented had an Alice Springs FNC member not had to withdraw close to the time. It is pleasing to report that the event was a great success, being hosted by the South East Australian Naturalists Association (SEANA) as the second Get-together based in Victoria.

Participants spent the first four nights in the Grampians, accommodated in the Uniting Church's comfortable Norval camp in Halls Gap, and then spent two days travelling to Anglesea via the Victorian Volcanic Plains and the Great Ocean Road, with a one-night stay in the student residences at Deakin University's Warrnambool campus. The YMCA Recreation Camp at Anglesea was the base for the final four nights, spanning excursions to Serendip Sanctuary, You Yangs Regional Park, Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre and also in the Anglesea-Aireys Inlet area led by the very active ANGAIR group. Two coaches were used as transport for all the excursions in the Grampians and Anglesea region, thereby simplifying the travel logistics. Most evenings included a guest speaker, with topics as follows:

Geoff Lay: Macrofungi – forms and function  
Neil Marriott: Grampians wildflowers  
Hannah Auld (Parks Victoria): Grampians Under Threat  
Mandy Watson (DELWP): Southern Right Whale in South-east Australia  
Jemma Crisp: Urban kangaroos in Anglesea  
Margaret MacDonald: Plants of Anglesea  
Margaret Lacey: Birds of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet

Other evening activities included a delightful 'Songs of Nature' performance by accomplished singer Fay White, and a presentation and nocturnal fauna walk at Mt Rothwell.

Hannah Auld's talk was of particular significance for highlighting some of the critical issues impacting the Grampians. Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) was declared as recently as the 1980s, having previously been managed for forestry purposes. The fourth largest national park in Victoria, it has just ten ongoing Parks Vic staff to handle approximately 1.2 million visitors per year. Hannah noted that threatened fauna include the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Heath Mouse and Smoky Mouse. The Grampians Ark fox-baiting program began in 1996, and there are now 1450 bait stations in place, covering an area of 230,000 ha and targeting cats as well as foxes. The Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby is critically endangered in Victoria; 170 ha was set aside for the introduction of 39 captive-bred animals in spring of 2018, but sadly only 18% survived the first hundred days. Several species of Peacock Spider *Maratus spp.* have been found in the Grampians, but not much is yet known about these tiny jumping spiders. With regard to plants, the rapidly spreading Sallow Wattle *Acacia longifolia*, a NSW and East Gippsland native species, is a problem as it covers and shades indigenous plants; research is underway to find the best eradication method.

Of the Grampians field trips, those in the northern section were the most rewarding for plants in flower, with the Heatherlie Quarry site being particularly good. Also well worth a springtime visit is the Jallukar Nature Conservation Reserve, near Lake Fyans, a species-rich open woodland with large Yellow Box, Yellow Gum and River Red Gum trees.

The trip from Halls Gap to Warrnambool proved particularly interesting from a geology viewpoint. The Harman Valley Lookout on the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road affords good views of the valley impacted by the lava flow from Mt Napier around 8,000 years ago. A little further south, one can view tumuli formed by pressure from the lava pushing the crust into mounds. The afternoon included visits to Budj Bim National Park (Mount Eccles) and Tower Hill; the mountain was the source of a massive lava flow 20,000-30,000 years ago which extended offshore past the location of today's Tyrendarra.



Mountain Grevillea at Heatherlie Quarry (Photo: Phil Rayment).

During the final segment of the ANN2018 program, the Anglesea Heathlands were of great interest. Our ANGAIR friends had done a great deal of preparation by identifying the best sites for flowers, and orchids in particular. Margaret MacDonald took us to see the recently named *Pterostylis unicornis*, previously *P. sp aff plumosa (Anglesea)*, its new name reflecting the fact that its hood



Unicorn Greenhood (Photo: Phil Rayment)

tapers to a horn-like point.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks go to the members of the ANN2018 organising sub-committee of SEANA – John Gregurke (convener), Geoff Harris (treasurer), Geraldine Harris and Joan Pitaro – and the many other helpers. It was my privilege to welcome all participants in my capacity as SEANA President.

Phil Rayment

## Light at the End of the Tunnel: Ecology & Management of Sweet Pittosporum

At our October meeting, PhD student Ben O’Leary spoke about his research into the breeding ecology of Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*, and the effect on native plant and bird communities when it is removed from an area.

The natural range of Sweet Pittosporum extends from West Gippsland to far south-east Queensland, between the Great Dividing Range and the coastline, however it is now widespread in south-eastern Australia, and also occurs in south-western Australia, south-western Europe, southern Africa and North and South America.

The main factors considered to have influenced its range expansion include a combination of reduced fire frequency, disturbance, deliberate plantings, creation of hybrids, introduced vectors and loss of biotic barriers that previously would have allowed environments to resist invasion. When it establishes in a new area, Sweet Pittosporum forms very dense, shady stands, often creating a monoculture with no understorey below and only eucalypts above, resulting in a reduction in biodiversity.



A stand of Pittosporum saplings (Photo: Ben O’Leary)

One of the objectives of Ben’s study was to determine whether Pittosporum fruit varied depending on the parent plant’s sex, origin (native/non-native to the area) or access to resources.

His study sites included five native populations between Morwell National Park and Mallacoota, and five non-native populations between Montrose and Red Hill. He marked out 20 x 20 m quadrats and counted the flowers and fruits on every mature tree within them (1000 individual trees), as well as collecting leaves from the plants to analyse their levels of nitrogen, carbon and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  (an indicator of water availability).

Ben found that all his populations were gynodioecious (there were no males – only females and hermaphrodites) and the proportion of females and hermaphrodites within each population was relatively equal in all populations. More female plants produced fruit than did hermaphrodites, and those in native populations produced more fruits per individual. However, the seed mass was greater

---

in the introduced populations. Ben suggested that nitrogen may be playing a role in fruit production, with more nitrogen available in native populations because the vegetation is more intact. A smaller seed helps with dispersal, however a larger one may have greater ability to overcome stressful environments.

Ben stated that laboratory testing has previously shown that around 90% of *Pittosporum* seeds are viable, without requiring scarification to germinate, and they remain viable after having passed through a Blackbird's gut. However, they do not persist for more than 1-2 years in the soil.

Ben's study also looked at the management of *Pittosporum* as an environmental weed. He said there exists a kind of disparity between scientists, who feel that weed removal is often ad hoc and not systematic enough, and land managers, who believe that the scientists' theories regarding control of *Pittosporum* are not practical. With his study, he aimed to bring the two entities a little closer.

He said the plant community that exists in an area is a product of dispersal, environment and biotic filters. Each of these can potentially be altered, such as by seeding, burning or removal, to reduce a weed's ability to compete with native species. *Pittosporum* is not thought to be a 'transformer' species – one that permanently alters the environment, for example by adding nitrogen to the soil to make it unsuitable for species native to the area – however, it is possibly allelopathic, suppressing the growth of other species while it is establishing.

Ben compared remnant vegetation that had been cleared of introduced *Pittosporum* with control sites of unaffected vegetation, and found that after removal of *Pittosporum* (without any planting of native species) there was a sharp increase in the number of native plants appearing there, and that over time the area continued to become more similar to the unaffected area. This recovery appears to be delayed somewhat depending on the treatment method used; if the *Pittosporum* plants are left onsite after cutting-and-painting, or drill-and-filling, the leaf decay may inhibit the growth of new plants for longer than if the plants are removed from the site, however drill-and-fill can be a good option for controlling erosion on steep slopes as the root structure is retained.



*Pittosporum* flowers (Photo: Matt Campbell)

Birds, possums, foxes and wild boars are known to consume the *Pittosporum* fruit, which appears to ripen just as many local plants have finished fruiting. The study looked at whether removal of *Pittosporum* would have a negative impact on birds that might be utilising this plant. In forest where *Pittosporum* had invaded, birds tended to be found mostly in the eucalypt overstorey rather than in the *Pittosporum*, however observations were made during winter when *Pittosporum* was not flowering. Carnivorous birds were at lower density in the invaded sites, apparently because the *Pittosporum* layer is difficult to penetrate and prevents them from locating their terrestrial prey. Few ground-dwelling birds were observed where *Pittosporum* occurred, however this was also the case in remnant vegetation, and is thought to be an indication of a general decline in these species.

Ben conceded that outside of the core habitat areas where he placed his quadrats, it can be difficult to determine whether *Pittosporum* is native or invasive. He added that climate change also complicates this, because species are moving into areas where they previously haven't occurred.

More information on Sweet Pittosporum and its control can be found on the website of StopPitt, an organisation formerly chaired by Ben, at <http://www.stoppitt.org.au/index.html>

Tamara Leitch

## **REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING 18.02.2019**

### **Finance**

No finance report was tabled.

### **Business Arising, Correspondence & General Business**

- Club Summer Camp 2019 at Mt Buller: A good and varied weekend attended by 24 members.
- Dawson Railway Reserve signage: Jay has offered to help with fine-tuning the sign.
- SEANA Spring Camp: Runs from 4-7 October, a day longer than what is printed on the program.
- Field guide 'Orchids of East Gippsland': \$40 each to be paid and then a Club order will be placed.
- Spotlight walk/s at Crinigan Bushland Reserve: David S has contacted Latrobe City to offer his services. The walks will be held in autumn.
- iNaturalist is a free online service used by the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria for recording observations. Reiner Richter will hold a workshop in Melbourne during March (date to be confirmed) on how to use the program.
- SEANA survey of member clubs, seeking views on future SEANA activities and gatherings: Our responses were recorded by Phil who will relay them to the SEANA committee:
  - Hold one camp in the years in which ANN gatherings are held, and two camps in the alternate years;
  - Continue to have 'traditional' camps (excursion program in addition to the meeting) as well as simpler meeting gatherings;
  - LVFNC will host Autumn 2023 camp (traditional form).
- April business meeting date falls on Easter Monday so we cannot use the Moe Library. We will retain the time and date but shift the venue. Rose will book Newborough Uniting Church.
- Latrobe Valley Trust responded to our letter regarding the Jean Galbraith Scholarship, advising that they do not meet until 19 March but will discuss our letter then.
- Annual General Meeting to be held in March. The following positions fall vacant: President, Vice President 1, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer. No change to subscription rates.

### **Conservation Matters**

- Mirboo North logging: Logging was proposed to commence in March 2019. Denis will ask Ian Cornthwaite for an update.
- Australian Paper Community Consultative Committee terms of reference are under review. LVFNC is currently listed specifically in the terms of reference as having a place. It was decided we would like this to continue, however John Poppins suggested succession planning with regard to our representative.
- WGCMA held a meeting to discuss environmental water requirements of the region to draw up a 10 year plan. David S and Phil attended. The draft has a lot of information regarding fish, but little about birds, and nothing about filling the mines. David S suggested Morwell River be used as a biolink between the mountain ranges. The next meeting is in March and Phil will most likely attend.
- Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting requested LVFNC be listed alongside other environment groups in an imminent full-page newspaper ad. This request came with a very short response deadline which has now passed. They further requested that we support their demand for an inquiry/royal commission if need be, and apply pressure for a ban on duck shooting through social media, letters, etc.

Please note that annual club membership fees were due on **1<sup>st</sup> March 2019**.

### Guest speaker for March

*Craig Boase*

Craig works in the environmental management sector in the Bass Coast region, and has a passion for nature, photography and conservation, with a particular interest in reptiles. He will draw upon years of observations and photographs of West Gippsland's reptile species in his presentation showcasing their beauty and diversity.



### Guest speaker for April

*Peter Homan*

Peter is a fauna consultant who has been involved in wildlife field studies since the 1960s and undertaken wildlife surveys in the Latrobe Valley for the past 15 years. His talk will highlight the changes and advancements in survey techniques employed during his career, and include his observed response of local wildlife to the 2014 bushfires.



*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:

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

Phone: 0438 372 186

Email: [tleitch@wideband.net.au](mailto:tleitch@wideband.net.au)

**Deadline for articles to be considered for inclusion in the next issue (May/June): 29 April 2019**

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

***The Naturalist is generously printed by the office of Russell Northe MLA, Member for Morwell***

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Send remittance with completed form to Mr David Mules, LVFNC Inc, 408 Connection Rd, Narracan 3824.  
Bank details for direct transfer: BSB 633000 A/c no. 145729844 – please remember to include identification.

Full Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Private)\_\_\_\_\_ (Business)\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

Family \$45 (e \$35)      Single \$30 (e \$20)      Jun/Stud \$15 (e \$5)      Naturalist \$15 (e \$5)

**CHEQUE ENCLOSED \$** (Made payable to LVFNC Inc)

***Subscriptions are due on March 1<sup>st</sup> each year (half fees apply for those joining after 31 Aug)***