

THE FIELD NATURALIST

NEWSLETTER NO. 117: August, 2013.



ALBURY-WODONGA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.
Reg. No. A0023416K

PROGRAMME: 10th AUGUST 2013 – 23rd FEBRUARY 2014

Aug

Sat 10th : **Draper Lane, from Castlecreek Rd, Leneva**
Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leaders – Bernie & Glenda Datson, ph: 60 208104

Sun 25th : **West Albury Wetlands & Wonga Wetlands**
Meet 10am Boat Ramp, Kremur St, West Albury
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader - Phillip Seely, ph: 60 215 313

Sept

Sat 14th : **McKenzie property, Springhurst**
Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader – David Coleman, ph: 60 212 022

Sun 22nd : **Nail Can Hill**
Meet 10am Range Rd. Lavington
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader - Neil Blair, ph: 6021 2097

October

11-14th : **SEANA Spring Camp, Numerkah**
Sat 12th : **Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park**
Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader - Phillip Seely & Neil Blair, ph: 6021 2097

24-27th : **Little Desert**
Leaders – Bernie & Glenda Datson, ph: 60 208104

November

Sun 10th : Mt Big Ben (jointly with Kiewa Landcare)
Meet 9:30 am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leaders – Bernie & Glenda Datson, ph: 60 208104

Sun 24th : **Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park**
Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day..
Leader - Neil Blair, ph: 6021 2097

December

Sat 14th : **Mt Buffalo (Christmas Outing)**
Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO lunch to share.
Leader Stephanie Jakovic, ph 60 236 464

~~~~~  
**2014**

**Jan 14-17<sup>th</sup> :** **Viking Lodge Falls Creek**  
BYO evening meal 14<sup>th</sup>, eat out 15 & 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Bring breakfast, morning tea/afternoon tea.  
Leader: Committee, ph: 60 212 022

#### PRESIDENT

David Coleman  
(02) 6021 2022

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Neil Blair  
(02) 6021 2097

#### SECRETARY

Veronica Robertson  
(02) 6021 2120

#### TREASURER

David Bird  
(02) 6059 8452

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Gail Steed  
(02) 6032 9874  
ggadsteed@aapt.net.au

#### OTHER COMMITTEE:

Richard Andrews  
Stephanie Jakovic  
Phillip Seely

#### Email:

[awfnc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:awfnc@yahoo.com.au)

**ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
**FAMILY - \$30.00**  
**SINGLE - \$20.00**  
**CONCESSION**  
**\$15.00**

To be sent to the  
Treasurer, PO. Box 251,  
Albury, 2640  
Make cheques payable  
to: Albury-Wodonga  
Field Naturalists' Club  
Inc.

Contributions to this  
newsletter are  
welcome and should  
be emailed as above,  
or posted to the  
Editor, PO Box 251,  
Albury, 2640.

**February**

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> :**     **Wonga Wetlands, Albury**  
Meet 4 pm Wonga Wetlands Entrance  
BYO picnic or BBQ tea.  
Leader – Committee, ph: 60 212 022

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> :**     **AGM**  
Age Concern Building. Townsend St, Albury  
Leader – Veronica Robertson, ph: 60 212 120

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> :**     **Chiltern Valley, Dams No.1 & 2**  
Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga  
BYO refreshments for the day.  
Leader – Gail Steed, ph: 60 329 874

*Please confirm outing details in Saturday’s Border Morning Mail and contact the outing leader in the week prior if you need a lift.*

~~~~~

Electronic Payments

Payments to the club can now be made electronically, so details for those wishing to pay via Internet banking are:

BSB: 803 070

Account No. 61019

Account Name: ALB WOD FIELD NATURALISTS INC

(Please note, the account name should be written in its abbreviated form as shown)

SEANA Notes:

SEANA 2013 Spring Camp, Numerkah: 11-14th October

Hosted by Broken Creek FNC.

“Living in the Landscape” – The Goulburn and Murray Rivers and their Ecosystems

SEANA 2014 Autumn Camp, Marysville: 2-5th May

Hosted by Upper Goulburn FNC.

SEANA 2014 Spring Camp, Details TBA

Hosted by Portland FNC.

SEANA 2015

Depending on the opportunity provided, we may offer to host either the Autumn or Spring camp in 2015. Details will be distributed once they are confirmed.

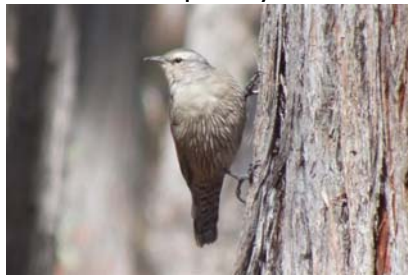
~~~~~

Well spring is nearly here and to date we have had a great range of diverse activities, with pretty sensational weather in which to enjoy them. Thank you to all the leaders.

I didn’t get to Chiltern Valley Dams 1 & 2 in March, but from feedback, Stephanie’s sketches and Peter’s photos there was plenty to see.



*White-browed Woodswallow*



*Brown Tree-creeper*



*Little Lorikeet*



*'An Old Stump', Stephanie Jakovac. No 1 Dam*

It was a perfect April day for a stroll through the Cotton Creek area of Mt Granya SP. The skinks and male common brown butterflies clearly thought so too, and were extremely active. Although Phillip's bird list of 22 expanded by only 4 at the fire tower, it seemed that we were provided with a 'viewing' tree at the end of the day. Over a cuppa', yellow robins, a golden whistler & brown thornbill kept us entertained until the trip home.





The April Baranduda excursion started at the Stringybark block (WRENS G7C). Bird sightings were good and although similar, were fewer than noted by Glenda in August 2010. The speckled warbler wasn't seen here or at G3, despite always being found there previously; the significance of this is unclear.

An interesting 'find' by Phillip was the squirrel glider, jammed in tight & asleep on a bed of gum leaves in a split of the tree trunk. Of personal interest was the juniper wattle and artificial habitat for lizards, neither of which I had seen previously. From there we moved to G2 and G3 where a southern Whiteface was spotted – a new sighting for that location.



For our first May excursion, we escaped the smoke haze enshrouding Albury for a rather dry Kentucky Forest. The Hooded, Red-capped and Scarlet Robins were bold as well as beautiful and the final bird tally was extensive. Personally, I struggled with sightings of elusive 'small brown birds' all day, but did encounter a spotted pardalote, very close and at head height, without my camera of course! The woolly-head mat rush (*L. leucocephala*) sighted last year, was seen again & appears to be surviving well.

Later in May we headed off to Mitta Mitta on a foggy, cold morning. The fog lifted in time for a brief diversion to Upper Kiewa Reserve where a platypus showed itself and a pair of lapwings, unusually sat on a log, appeared to be trying to blend in with the Hardheads, Cormorants & Grebes.

Following morning tea with a resident Kookaburra at Mitta Mitta, we set out in beautiful sunshine on a fascinating fern gully walk to the dam wall. The low bird tally was compensated for by a delightful walk, numerous (unidentified) fungi, liverworts and historical remains associated with the hydraulic sluicing mining which ended in 1904.





The photos below are from the June trip to Yackandandah – notice the sweet Bursaria which was flowering in June! The combined bird list from Noeleen Young’s property, Isaac Isaac Park and the Gorge was interesting and varied, but the Yellow Robin was as photogenic as always.



Later in June we headed over to Beechworth. For me, this was a day of learning some differences – between wet & dry forest, black & white cypress, flame & scarlet robins, ‘spur-winged plover’ and masked lapwings. And more unidentified fungi.....at least they don’t move!



July found us at the Upper Kiewa Reserve on a beautiful sunny winter’s day. Again the platypus did not disappoint – so much for our overcast day theory! Small fungi and waterbirds were easily found, while Linda, Outi and Portia from the Reserve Committee of Management met and accompanied us. They explained the reserve’s history and background, generously answering our questions as we walked.



Our illustrious leader keeping an eye on us over lunch!

Later, at Lockhart's Gap, some were identifying trees, whilst others were focussed a little closer to the ground.



*Plaeceros sp (Hornwort)*



*Cladonia pleurota*



The winter social outing to Bethanga for lunch was a pleasant opportunity to socialise with members, their partners, and those unable to get to other activities. A stop at Bells Travelling Stock Reserve, Tabletop Road and a good viewing of a Wedge-tailed Eagle were just bonuses of the day!

*'Old and New', Stephanie Jakovac*

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events & for those heading to any of the extra-curricular activities such as the Little Desert trip, safe travel.

Also, we wish Anne a rapid recovery and hope to have her back on our outings as soon as possible.

Thank you everyone for the knowledge you share, your photos and your sighting lists.

