

THE FIELD NATURALIST

NEWSLETTER NO. 114:

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



INTERIM PROGRAMME: 28TH JULY – 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2012

July

Sandy Creek / Lockart's Gap

Sat 28th : Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
Bring refreshments for the day
Leader Dick Andrews, ph 60 564 112

Note: This replaces the Sunday 29th July outing to Wonga Wetlands

August

Stanley State Forest

Sat 11th : Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader - Neil Blair, ph: 6021 2097

Sun 26th : Lake Mokoan, Winton

Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader - Neil Blair, ph: 6021 2097

September

Sat 8th : Wooragee – Mt Pilot National Park

Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader Dick Andrews, ph 60 564 112

Sun 23rd : Warby Ovens National Park / Killawarra

Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader Phillip Seeley, ph 60 215 313

The remainder of year's programme will be confirmed at a special Committee meeting (early September, date TBA) and published in Newsletter 115.

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

ODD SPOT (The Age, 11th May 2012)

Oxford tree surgeon Leon Timms revived a near-dead chaffinch with his phone. Mr Timms, 37, played it a chaffinch call from a phone app. It stopped struggling to breathe, opened its eyes, and flew away.

Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds congratulated him on his creativity.



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Field Naturalists' Club
Inc.

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newsletter are
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or posted to the
Editor, PO Box 251,
Albury, 2640.

Half the year has gone but we have enjoyed activities ranging from combined or regular group outings, social events and botanical information sessions. We are hoping to include spring flowers & another trip away (November?) as the weather improves. Possibilities discussed include Colac Colac or MurrumbidgeeIf you are interested, have a preference or alternative suggestion, please let Veronica know.

The April Kentucky Forest combined outing with Birdlife Australia was a very pleasant and social day. An interesting find by Eileen was the uncommon white, scented woolly-head mat rush – see photo). Later at Morebringers Rd, numerous birds of prey were able to be watched at length. The list included Whistling Kite, Swamp Harrier, Kestral, Brown Falcon, Brown Goshawk & Wedge Tailed Eagle.



(identified as *Lomandra leucocephala*)

During a walk in the Shelley Forest after lunch at Koetong in May, Stephanie photographed the fungus, *Trametes versicolour*. Following the find, Neil and Stephanie compiled a brief article describing bracket fungi:

“Bracket fungi are a common sighting on field trips. They are found on the trunks and main branches of trees as well as dead wood on the ground.

Airborne spores germinate on wounded wood and penetrate into the heartwood, causing white or brown rot. Often the bracket (fruiting body) is the first sign of fungal invasion although the tree may show signs of crown thinning (dieback). Falling branches or the whole tree are the usual outcome, although a stable hollow tree can result.



Bracket fungi is a descriptive term inclusive of a number of different fungal clades. They can be leathery, woody or fleshy. They are impossible to break by hand and difficult to cut.



The bracket grows by adding “rings” each growth period, similar to tree trunks. The rings are often visible on the upper surface. The lower surface contains vertical pores from which spores are released into the atmosphere in astronomical numbers (billions and trillions in large brackets), but fortunately spore mortality rates are high.”

[PS I think this fungus may also have been found ‘sitting’ at Wonga wetlands, with its orange friends (*Pycnoporus coccineus*?)]



In June, Neil again prepared an instructive presentation, this time focussing on a selection of local ferns and monocotyledons: looking mainly at how to distinguish them in the field.

[2 Blechnum species (nidum & minus), 4 white Caladenia (catenata, fuscata, cucullata & gracilis), 3 Lomandras (multiflora, longifolia & filiformis) and 3 Dianella species (revolute, tasmanica and longifolia)]

The talk was informative & informal, with plenty of group discussion and was followed by drinks, nibbles & chat - an excellent way to spend a winter afternoon!

So, do you remember the difference between a white, dusky, hooded and musky Caladenia? Well, Neil's flip charts and a copy of his slide show will be kept by the group for reference.



The recent Wonga Wetland outing was officially called off but a small group braved the threatening weather for a short wander. Water levels were high and the crossing to Lagoons 1 & 2 was 'fish-friendly' indeed!

Phillip's bird list was 28, and included many waterbirds as well as a whistling kite, collared sparrow hawk and the red-browed finch.

To finish, I have also included some beautiful photos taken by Peter Spencer in Thurgoona.



Golden-headed Cisticola



Black-shouldered Kite

&

Similarly, if anyone has any photos, drawings, contributions or information they would like shared with members, please let me know via the group email or at gadsteed@aapt.net.au