

THE FIELD NATURALIST

NEWSLETTER NO. 138: SUMMER, 2019/20

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



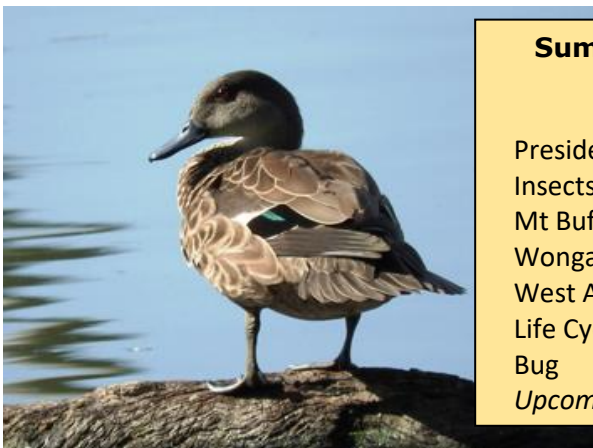
Metallic Ringtail Damselfly -,
Austrolestes cingulatus (Lestidae) Mt Buffalo
(N Blair)



Pixie Caps, *Cladonia* sp
Mt Buffalo (R Andrews)



Sacred Kingfisher nest with young – West Albury Wetlands (P Spencer)



Grey Teal, West Albury Wetlands (P Seely)

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**ANNUAL
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Page 2) or sent to the
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Make cheques payable
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Field Naturalists' Club
Inc.

Contributions to this
newsletter are
welcome and should
be emailed as above.

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Summer is also AGM and membership renewal time, Please see details below for subscription payment. An outing schedule for the coming 6 months is available upon request or via Friends of Chiltern website (Thank you Tony & FOC ☺)

**Direct Transfer details for electronic subscription payments -**

Payments to the club can be made via Internet banking using details below.

**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, and don't forget to include your name)*

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Presidents Report for 2019 (AGM, 7th Feb 2020)

The past year has been a “business as usual” year for the club with 18 outings and an additional 2 joint outing with Birdlife Albury/Wodonga. Only one outing was cancelled by weather – we are a hardy lot! We have 29 financial members and an average outing attendance of 11. These figures have been stable for the last 5+ years.

Once again our focus was to visit a range of habitats in our surrounding areas. We visited 4 sites in and around Albury/Wodonga along with Chiltern/Mt Pilot NP, Eldorado, Boorhaman, Wangaratta, Corowa, Lockhart, Kentucky, Woomargama NP, Mitta Mitta, Stanley and Mt Buffalo NP. The traditional mid-year Pub luncheon and Christmas weekend continued. However the “cycling craze” at Falls Creek has made travel, accommodation and parking increasingly difficult and a decision was made to not have our January trip to the Bogong High Plains. As it turned out the bushfires closed the Alpine NP in January.

The major discussion item for the committee over the last year has been the request from SEANA for our group to run an Autumn Camp in 2021. These camps have become very large events with over 100 visitors attending and include 2 evenings with meals and guest speakers, up to 6 outings each morning and afternoon for 2.5 days requiring leaders etc. In an attempt to involve smaller clubs SEANA has tried joint club camps (Sale and Traralgon) and a more self-guided approach to outings (Port Fairy). Tonight’s meeting will be asked to decide whether we wish to be a host club or whether we feel this is beyond our resources. [The club has agreed, but format & details to be confirmed - Ed]

It has been another very enjoyable and trouble-free year for the club thanks to the contributions of all the committee members and I thank them for their ongoing efforts.

Neil Blair

Several members shared insect photographs and information at the AGM. The following is a selection.

1. **Photos – Neil Blair:** Insect pollination of Bearded Greenhood (*Pterostylis plumosa*), by a Dagger Fly (*Empis sp*) Note the pollinas on emerged fly.



2. Photos - Phillip Seely



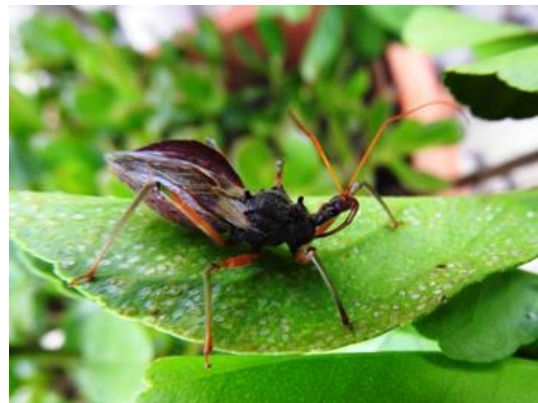
Cockroach, arboreal nymph - *Ellipsidion* sp.
(Blattodea, Blattellidae) Mt Buffalo



Orange Spider Wasp - *Priocnemis* sp.
(Vespoidea, Pompilidae) Wonga Wetlands



Small Bottle Cicada, *Chlorocyste vitripennis* –
Brisbane Qld



Assassin Bug, Brisbane Qld

3. Photos - Richard Andrews:



Plume Moth (Pterophoridae)



Beetle



Blue-banded Bee



Alpine Tiger Moth Caterpillar ('Hippy' form??)

4. Photos - Peter Spencer:



Beetles



Fly



Bees



Unknown (Odonata)

MT BUFFALO STATE PARK

6-8th December 2019

Eleven members participated in our Mt Buffalo weekend which commenced on Friday evening with a most enjoyable Christmas BBQ.

Saturday morning we drove up to the plateau and out to the Reservoir carpark. A walk out along the track to Og, Gog and Magog was highlighted by the number of flowering shrubs with Box Micranthemum (*Micranthemum hexandrum*), Mountain Needlewood (*Hakea lissosperma*), Alpine Phebalium (*Phebalium squamulosum*), Alpine Boronia (*Boronia algida*) and Royal Grevillea (*Grevillea victoriae*) most prominent. Very active Damselflies and Butterflies frustrated the photographers who found the Fir Clubmoss (*Huperzia australiana*) an easier target.



Unconfirmed sighting of Og, Gog and Magog: not sure if we really found them, or peaked a bit early, but they are impressive boulders and legendary giant names none-the-less. (Photos R Andrews)



Box Micranthemum (N Blair)



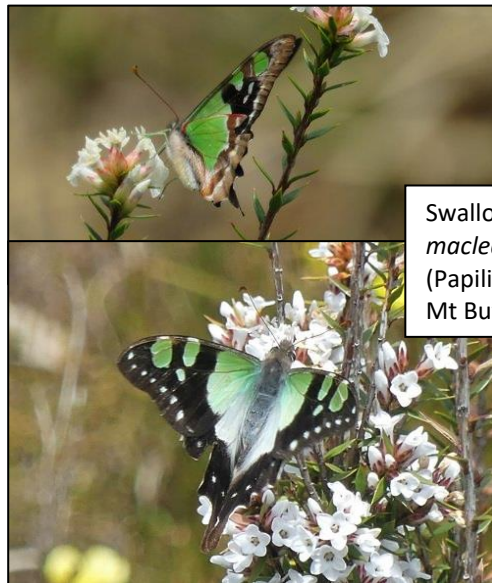
Mountain Needlewood (R Andrews)



Alpine Phebalium (G Steed)



Fir Clubmoss (N Blair)



(R Andrews)

Swallowtail, Macleay's - *Graphium macleayanum moggana* (Papilionidae), Mt Buffalo

(N Blair)



Two-tailed Spider (N Blair)

Lunch was had at Lake Catani and the afternoon spent walking the southern side of the Lake. A Two-tailed Spider was found on Dick's car door (generally more at home on tree trunks). Forest Brown Butterflies were noted and flowering Alpine Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*) and late flowering Hovea (*Hovea montana*) complemented the yellow and orange of the Granite Buttercup (*Ranunculus graniticola*) and Orange Billy-buttons (*Craspediia aurantia*) in the grassy plain. Spreading Rope-rush (*Empodisma minus*) lined the creek banks.



Soldier Beetle on Granite Buttercup



Unidentified Beetle on Billy Button
(R Andrews)



Unidentified spider

We were too early for the orchids found here in Jan- Feb. A drive back down the mountain, a scrub-up and dinner at the Porepunka Pub rounded out the day.

Sunday morning was back to Lake Catani for a walk along View Point track where the Mt Buffalo Sallee (*Eucalyptus michelliana*) was flowering, the Sundews (*Drosera auriculata*) were spectacular and the heaths, Swamp (*Epacris paludosa*) and Coral (*Epacris gunnii*), were covered in white flowers. Wildlife varied from Weevils to Dragon lizards with a Crane fly mimicking a wasp with its sting-like tail. We then completed the Lake Catani walk along the north side finding flowering Bird Orchids (*Chiloglottis valida*), Pink Bells (*Tetratheca bauerifolia*), Gorse Bitter-pea (*Daviesia ulicifolia*), Myrtle Teatree (*Leptospermum myrtifolium*), Wax-berry (*Gaultheria appressa*) and Pouched Coral-fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa*) lining a lake bank.



Crane fly (N Blair)



Wax-berry (N Blair)



Pouched Coral-fern (N Blair)

After a late lunch we started the drive down the mountain and home to a much warmer climate carrying lots of lovely memories.

Neil Blair

[Thanks Neil. How lucky we are to have this wonderful park as well as access to your knowledge: and this year especially, to have been when we did. It will likely be a long time recovering.]

WONGA WETLANDS

9th February, 2020

David led about a dozen of us on our first outing for the year. After such a horrific start to 2020, it was very pleasant to catch up with everyone and enjoy a leisurely amble on a mild, cloudy morning. Despite being fairly dry, the wetlands (as usual) provided a variety of water and bush birds. In the water & large tree at the bird hide along Lagoon No 1, Ibis, Spoonbills, Cormorants and ducks tranquilly hung or floated about, occasionally arguing about position. Pelicans however were on the wing, as well as a few raptors including a White-bellied Sea Eagle.



White Ibis 'discouraging' Royal Spoonbill



White-bellied Sea Eagle

(P Spencer)

Even not walking far, total bird species seen were about the same as 12 months ago, but some highlights not seen in 2019 were the Glossy Ibis, Native Hen & Freckled Ducks. Summer visitors we saw were Dollar Birds, Glossy Ibis and the truly dazzling Rainbow Bee-eaters.



Glossy Ibis (P Spencer)



Freckled Duck (P Seely)



Watching you watching me.....
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (P Spencer)



Great Egret and Royal Spoonbill (P Seely)

WEST ALBURY WETLANDS (KREMUR ST)

22nd February, 2020

It was a still, pleasant and warm evening when about a dozen of us meandered along the lagoon and rivers' edge. Bush birds were quiet but water birds were easy to find; even water rats and turtles. Total number of species seen was a third less than last year's morning walk total. The stillness meant that shadows and reflections on the water were quite lovely. The large trees are magnificent and art installations along the way contribute enormously to the welcoming feel of this area.

The Sacred Kingfisher was again using the same tree hollow as a nest. The juvenile bird could be heard 'chirring' and was eventually 'captured' by both Peter and Phillip (also see page 1)



Singing Sacred Kingfisher (P Spencer)



Young bird in hollow (P Seely)



Pink-eared Ducks (P Seely)



White-faced Heron (P Seely)



Unknown bug (P Seely) – [Shield Bug??]

Again I have combined the bird lists for both the west Albury wetlands.

	Wonga Wetlands, am, 9/02/20 (B Datson/ PSeely)	Kremur St, pm, 22/02/20 (P Seely)
Australian Raven	*	*
Blackbird		*
Black Duck	*	*
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	*	*
Black-tailed Native-hen	*	
Brown Thornbill	*	
Brown Treecreeper	*	
Coot	*	*
Crimson Rosella (Red as well as Yellow forms)	*	*
Darter	*	*
Dollarbird	*	
Dusky Woodswallow ^o	*	
Eastern Rosella	*	
Freckled Duck	*	
Glossy Ibis	*	
Great Cormorant	*	*
Great Egret	*	*
Grey Fantail	*	*
Grey Shrike-thrush	*	
Grey Teal	*	*
Kookaburra	*	*
Little Black Cormorant	*	*
Little Eagle	*	
Little Pied Cormorant	*	*
Magpie	*	
Magpie-lark	*	
Masked Lapwing		*
Moorhen	*	
Pelican	*	*
Rainbow Bee-eater	*	
Red-browed Finch	*	
Red-rumped Parrot	*	*
Reed Warbler	*	*
Restless Flycatcher	*	
Royal Spoonbill	*	
Sacred Kingfisher	*	*(nest with young)
Sea Eagle	*	
Shoveler	*	
Silver-eye		*
Starling*	*	
Striated Pardalote	*	*
Superb Blue Wren	*	*
Swamp Hen	*	*
Tree Martin	*	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	*	

(Birdlist continued)	Wonga Wetlands, am, 9/02/20 (B Datson/ PSeely)	Kremur St, pm, 22/02/20 (P Seely)
Weebill	*	
Welcome Swallow	*	*
Western Gerygone	*	
Whistling Kite	*	*
White Ibis	*	
White-faced Heron	*	
White-plumed Honeyeater		*
White-throated Treecreeper	*	*
Willy Wagtail	*	
Wood Duck		*
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	*	
Yellow-crested Cockatoo	*	*
	52	30

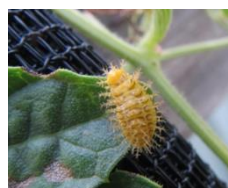
^o BirdLife Monitoring species

Life Cycle of a 23-Spotted Bug

This edition has a bit of an insect theme & is not too long, so I am including some pictures of a leaf-eating ladybird which thought it was OK to feast on my Cucamelon vine. [There is definitely more than one way of living your life but I am not as tolerant as I was.☺]



Leaf-eating Ladybird (adult) ~7mm
(*Epilachna sumbana*)



larva, 6mm



Eggs, 1-2mm

Upcoming Outings – Autumn 2020

~ **8th March** – Wangaratta Wetlands; 9 am Acacia Carpark Wodonga; contact Neil Blair (COMPLETE)

~ **28th March** – Corowa Ponds and Chiltern Dams; 9 am Acacia Carpark Wodonga; contact Gail Steed.

~ **4th April** – Woomargama (joint outing with Birdlife); 9 am Woomargama Village toilet block); contact John Shepherd. [Note: We will not be meeting in Albury this outing so please arrange shared travel separately.]

~ **18th April** – Mountain Creek and Shelley; 9 am Acacia Carpark Wodonga; contact Phillip Seely

~ **10th May** – Eldorado/ Everton; 9 am Acacia Carpark Wodonga; contact Neil Blair.

~ **23rd May** – Walla Walla & area; 9 am SS&A Carpark Wilson St. Albury; contact Peter Spencer.

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

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