

**THE FIELD NATURALIST**

**NEWSLETTER NO. 148: SPRING 2023**

**ALBURY-WODONGA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.**

Reg. No. A0023416K



**PRESIDENT**

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0490 497 032

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Peter Spencer  
(02) 6043 3431

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0419 124 724

**TREASURER**

David Coleman  
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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Gail Steed  
ggadsteed@aapt.net.au

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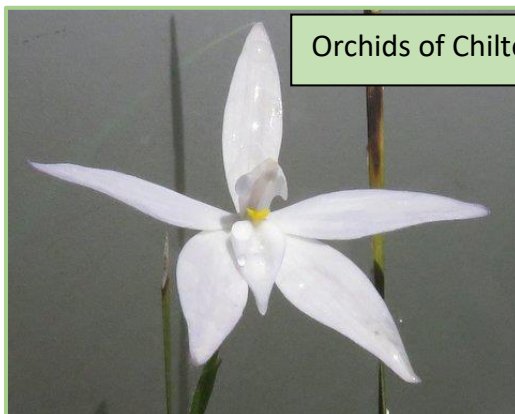
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**Orchids of Chiltern Mt Pilot NP**



White Waxlips (D Andrews)



Pink Fingers (D Andrews)



Large Duck Orchid (P Spencer)



Purplish Beard Orchid (P Spencer)



Leopard Orchid (P Seely)

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**OUTINGS**

**KILLAWARRA**

**10<sup>th</sup> September '23**

After driving through low cloud and drizzle seven members enjoyed a dry, cool and cloudy day without wind. The forest is the northern section of the Warby Range, part of the Warby Ovens NP, and is adjacent to Peechelba. It has many similarities to the Chiltern Forest being north of a granite pluton with a geology of Ordovician sedimentary rock supporting a Box-Ironbark Forest and an understorey of Acacias and Heaths.

We stayed around the camp area taking the Wildflower Walk to the south of the camp in the morning and the circular track to the north in the afternoon.



[So much to see, photograph and try to identify – no wonder we make slow horizontal progress...]

Our lists of findings were:

**1. Birds**

White-throated Treecreeper, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Kookaburra, Speckled Warbler, Magpie, Grey Fantail, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Western Gerygone, Striated Thornbill, Superb Blue-wren, Crimson Rosella, Fuscous Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Red Wattlebird, Grey Shrike-thrush, Currawong & Chough. (Total = 17)

**2. Other Animals:**

- i. Mammals – skull of decomposed wombat identified. No live mammals seen.
- ii. Reptiles - None seen.
- iii. Frogs – Common Eastern Froglet heard
- iv. Invertebrates – Hover flies, Mosquitoes and Meat Ants. Also an unidentified spider, moth, a white Christmas Beetle and hairy caterpillar were photographed.





White Christmas Beetle (D Andrews)



Hover Fly at rest (D Andrews)



Unidentified moth

### 3. Flora:

- i. **Trees** – *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*, Mugga Ironbark; *E. macrorhyncha*, Red Stringybark; *E. albens*, White Box and a small patch of *Callitris glaucophylla*, White Cypress-pine.
- ii. **Shrubs** – *Acacia pycnantha*, Golden Wattle; *A. acinacea*, Gold-dust Wattle, *A. verniciflua*, Varnish Wattle; *A. genistifolia*, Spreading Wattle; *Lissanthe strigosa*,– Peach Heath; *Styphelia rufa*, Spoon-leaf Beard-heath; *Brachyloma daphnoides*, Daphne Heath; *Calytrix tetragona*, Common Fringe-myrtle; *Stypantra glauca*, Nodding Blue Lily; *Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa*, Sweet Bursaria; *Dillwynia phylloides*, Small-leaf Parrot-pea; *D. sericea*, Showy Parrot-pea; *Pultenaea prostrata*, Silky Bush-pea; *Grevillea alpine*, Mountain Grevillea.

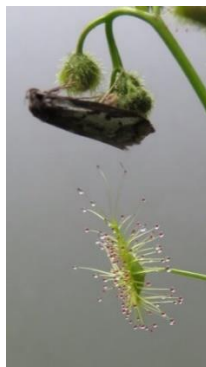


Common Fringe Myrtle



Peach Heath

- iii. **Groundcover** – *Pterostylis nana*, Tiny Greenhood; *Diuris pardina*, Leopard Orchid; *Glossodia major*, Wax-lip Orchid (incl. a white variant - see cover Page 1); *Caladenia fuscata*, Dusky Fingers; *C. moschata*, Musk Hood-orchid; *Cyanicula caerulea*, Blue Fairy; *Wurmbia dioica*, Early Nancy; *Microseris walteri*, Yam Daisy; *Arthropodium strictum*, Chocolate Lily; *Craspedia variabilis*, Variable Billy-buttons; *Podolepis jaceoides*, Showy Podolepis; *Brachyscome gracilis*, Dookie Daisy; *Ranunculus lappaceus*, Australian Buttercup; *R. pachycarpus*, Thick-fruit Buttercup; *Oxalis perennans*, Grasslands Wood-sorrel; *Xerochrysum viscosum*, Sticky Everlasting; *Gonocarpus tetragonus*, Common Raspwort; *Drosera hookeri*, Pale Sundew. (Trapped and ingested prey were noted on their sticky leaves, leading to a discussion of their carnivorous habits to overcome soil nitrogen deficiency)



Sundew and prey (D Andrews)



Common Early Nancy (female flowers)

- iv. **Fungi and Bryophytes** – Coral and bracket fungi; Lichen including *Cladonia sp* and Coral Lichen, *Cladia retipora*; and Yellow Navel, *Lichenomphalia chromacea* (an enigmatic fungus currently in the family Hygrophoraceae).

A most enjoyable outing

Neil Blair

## CHILTERN MT PILOT NP

23<sup>rd</sup> September '23

20 members and guests enjoyed a lovely day in the Box-Ironbark-Stringybark forest surrounding Chiltern. The morning was spent around Honeyeater Picnic Area in the Southern section and the afternoon at Bartley's Block in the Northern section.

The day commenced with a discussion on the Eucalypts noting that this genus is not considered Gondwanian and is believed to have arisen and evolved only on the Australian continent (50 million years ago); its current world-wide distribution due to deliberate human translocation. It has evolved into a very complex genus with local interbreeding making individual species identification complex. It often requires many morphological features including bark, adult and juvenile leaves, buds and fruits to reach a conclusion. We then noted the features in the trees around us to help sort out the Ironbarks, Boxes and Stringybarks.

Our walk was along both sides of Cyanide Rd between White Box track and Bar Trail, moving slowly to appreciate, identify and discuss as we went.

Some notables were that:

- among the wattles forming the understory was a group of Red-stem wattles, (*Acacia rubida*) showing the transition of juvenile bipinnate leaves into flattened leaf stems known as phyllodes. It was noted that this is a unique Australian phenomenon not seen in other Gondwanian continents and is thought to be a sclerophyll adaptation to our dry continent.
- there was a lovely colour variety of pea flowering plants found in the lower understorey.
  - i. Blue (Purple Coral-pea – *Hardenbergia violaceae*; Twining Glycine – *Glycine clandestina*),
  - ii. Pink (Austral Indigo- *Indigofera australis*),
  - iii. Yellow (Common Wedge-pea - *Gompholobium huegelii*) and the Yellow-Red-Brown of the 'egg and bacons' (Parrot-peas – *Dillwynia sericea* and *philicoides*; Bitter-pea (*Daviesia leptophylla*) and Flat-pea (*Platylobium montanum*).



Twining (or Common) Fringe Lily (D Andrews)



Common Wedge Pea (P Seely)

- the Daphne Heath was common and flowering with a scent. Other heaths noted were Urn Heath - *Melichrus urceolatus* and Honey-pots - *Acrotriche serrulata* both forming fruits along with a flowering Beard-heath - *Leucopogon virgatus*.
- some Grey Grass Trees - *Xanthorrhoea glauca* subsp. *angustissima* were noted. It was discussed that these were a species found on the inland side of the divide and which differ in behaviour from those on the coastal side of the divide in that they flower without the need for fire.
- other shrubs included Guinea-flowers - *Hibbertia riparia* in flower and *H. obtusifolia* in bud, and the Mountain Grevillea - *Grevillea alpina*.



- among the herbs were 7 orchid species: Dusky Fingers - *Caladenia fuscata*; Pink Fingers - *Caladenia carnea*; Leopard Orchid - *Diuris pardina*; Wax-lip Orchid - *Glossodia major*; Maroonhood - *Pterostylis pedunculata*; a single flowering Scented Sun-orchid - *Thelymitra megalyptra* whose flowers remained semi-closed due to the cool morning and a wonderful display of flowering Purplish Beard-orchids - *Calochilus robertsonii*.
- there were also three Lily species. Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium stricta*) were starting to flower, Twining Fringe-lilies (*Thysanotus patersonii*) were common as were Early Nancies (*Wurmbia dioica*).
- Yam Daisies (*Microseris walteri*) and *Podolepis* sp. were common along with Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*) and Sticky Everlastings (*Xerochrysum viscosum*).

At Bartley's Block after lunch we walked the path from the car park to the top of the upper dam.

Notables in this section included:

- two shrubs to add to the morning's list. Digger's Speedwell - *Veronica perfoliata* and Hairy Geebung - *Persoonia rigida*.
- butterflies seen around the Digger's Speedwell which Jan confirmed were Rayed Blue butterflies (female) and which use this plant as a larval food. She had previously noted a 'new' colony along Bartley's Track and big numbers near the flowering Veronica, both along Depot Rd and Ironbark Track.



Rayed Blue (P Spencer)



Rayed Blue - underside of wings (P Seely)

- 3 orchid findings to add. Nodding Greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans*), Purplish Beard Orchid (*Chalochilus robertsonii*) and Dainty Bird-orchids (*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*)



Dainty Bird-orchid (P Spencer)



Scented Sun-orchid (D Andrews)

Another very enjoyable day spent in the spring bush.

[Apart from being a wonderful day, this walk was just one of a series led by Neil over spring to showcase the great botanical diversity of the park and also help inform local naturalists and interested visitors. Amazing – thank you Neil.]

## WODONGA / CHILTERN MT PILOT NP

8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Intervening rain meant poor access on the planned trip to Castle Creek, so our itinerary was changed to being around Wodonga - the lagoons at West Wodonga and the NE Sewage Treatment Works – followed by the Mosquito Track and other areas of Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park

On a pleasant spring day this was a well-attended outing with the expected good bird-count and brilliant display of plants, as evidenced by Bernie's bird list and Peter's photos. An initial count of 41 birds was noted with a further 7 'new' species added in the Park.



Whistling Kite (P Spencer)



Sacred Kingfisher (P Spencer)

Birds observed and/or heard – Wodonga & Chiltern

Australasian Grebe	Little Friarbird
Australian Raven	Magpie
Black-chinned Honeyeater*	Magpie-lark
Black Cormorant	Peaceful Dove
Black-fronted Dotterel	Pied Cormorant
Black Swan	Rainbow Bee-eater*
Coot	Red-rumped Parrot
Common Myna	Reed Warbler
Crimson Rosella	Rufous Songlark
Dusky Woodswallow	Sacred Kingfisher
Darter, female	Striated Pardalote
Eastern Shrike-tit (heard)	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Egret species	Superb Blue Wren
Fuscous Honeyeater*	Wattlebird
Galah	Welcome Swallow
Grey Fantail	Whistling Kite
Grey Shrike-thrush	White-browed Babbler*
Hardhead	White Ibis
Kookaburra	White-necked Heron
Little Black Cormorant	White-plumed Honeyeater
Little Corella	White-winged Chough*
Masked Lapwing	Wood Duck
Noisy Friarbird	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater*
Olive-backed Oriole*	
	<b>41</b>

\*Chiltern only

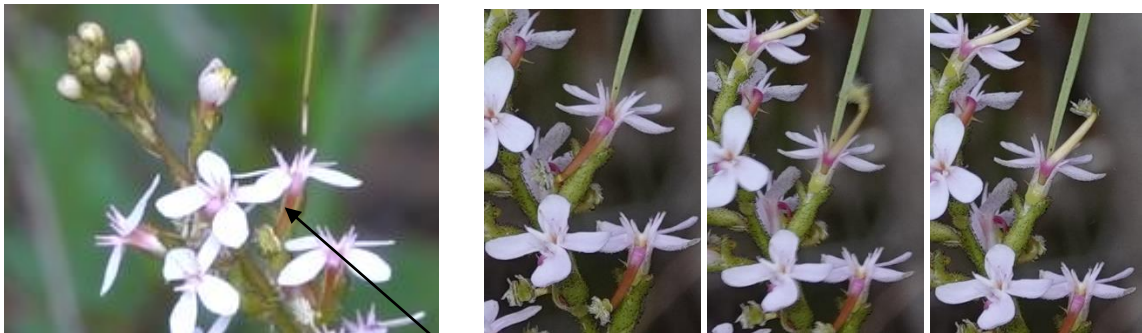
**Bernard Datson**



Salmon Sun Orchid *Thelmytra rubra* (P Seely)



Dotted Sun Orchid *Thelmytra ixioides* (P Seely)



Grass Trigger Plant – Photos captured by Peter, as Neil simulated the activity of an insect sucking nectar. This triggered a reaction by the plant where a ‘hammer’ containing the anthers and pollen swung upward from under the petals to deposit pollen on the body of the insect. Timing of his frames indicate the action takes place within 1/25<sup>th</sup> of a second, leaving the insect little chance to avoid the hammer blow. [The ‘hammer’ may hold either the anthers or the stigma. Delayed development of the stigma helps reduce self-pollination and ensures that cross pollination will occur between individuals of a population.]

**WARBY RANGES –**

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Another wonderful day, as Bernie’s lists and Peter’s and Philip’s photos again attest.

1. Birds seen or heard.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Pied Currawong
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Red Wattlebird
Brown Thornbill	Rufous Whistler
Brown Treecreeper	Sacred Kingfisher
Eastern Rosella	Silvereye
Eastern Spinebill	Striated Pardalote
Eastern Yellow Robin	Superb Fairy-wren
Grey Shrike-thrush	Weebill
Jacky Winter	Western Gerygone
Kookaburra	White-browed Babbler
Leaden Flycatcher	White-plumed Honeyeater
Little Raven	White-throated Treecreeper
Magpie	Willy Wagtail
Magpie-lark	Yellow Thornbill
	<b>28</b>





Jacky Winter (P Seely)



Leaden Flycatchers, female - left; male - right (P Spencer)

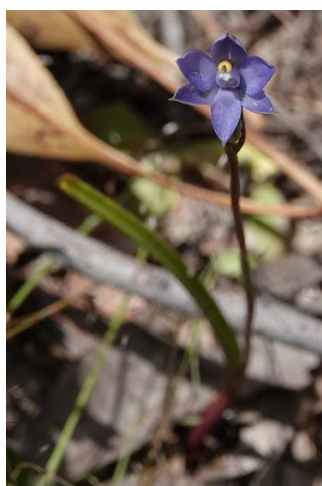


2. Some of the plants encountered (\* Introduced)

Spur-wing Wattle	<i>Acacia triptera</i>	Red Stringybark	<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>
Cotton Fireweed	<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	Salmon Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>
Daphne Heath	<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Slender Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>
Austral Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	Narrow-leaf New Holland Daisy	<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i>
Red Box	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Yellow Hawkweed*	<i>Tolpis barbata*</i>
Mountain Grevillea	<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	Common Sunray	<i>Triptilodiscus pygmaeus</i>
Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Narrow Rock Fern	<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>
Slender Hopbush	<i>Dodonia viscosum subsp. angustissima</i>	Green Rockfern	<i>Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia</i>
Bulbine Lilly	<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Pale Sundew	<i>Drosera hookeri</i>
Tall Bluebell	<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	Fairies' Aprons	<i>Utricularia dichotoma</i>
Red Stem Wattle	<i>Acacia rubida</i>	Grey Guinea-flower	<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>
Tiger Orchid	<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Common Raspwort	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>
Jersey Cudweed	<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>	St John's-Wort*	<i>Hypericum perforatum*</i>
Hop Clover*	<i>Trifolium campestre*</i>	Blushing Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>
Stinking Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Swamp Isotome	<i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i>
Prickly Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Nodding Blue-lilly	<i>Stypantra glauca</i>
Fringe Myrtle	<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Common Cassinia	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>
Showy Parrot-pea	<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>		
Purple coral-pea	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Lesser broomrape*	<i>Orobanche minor*</i>
Lightwood	<i>Acacia implexa</i>		



Spur Wing Wattle\* (P Spencer)



Slender Sun Orchid (P Spencer)



Unidentified Sun Orchid (P Seely)

\*Note the leaf spike & its long attachment to the plant stem.





New Holland Daisy (P Spencer)



Grass Tree (P Spencer)

3. Other: Butterflies and Moths

Cabbage White, Common Brown, Day Moth, Imperial Jezebel

**Bernard & Glenda Datson**

**STANLEY & SURROUNDS**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Ten members enjoyed this outing, our first into wet sclerophyll forest this spring. South of Beechworth the forests change from dry sclerophyll to wet sclerophyll as the annual rainfall increases from around 700ml to over 900ml and the elevation from 250m to a high of 1000m on top of Mt Stanley. Lake Kerford and Stanley are on uplifted ancient sandstone whilst Mt Stanley is a granite peak, separate from the Beechworth granite. Walks were taken at Lake Kerford, Stanley Blue Gum Walk and Mt Stanley.

**Flora**

**i. Trees**

The tall forests were dominated by the Peppermints (Narrow-leaved – *Eucalyptus radiata*, Broad-leaved – *E. dives*) and white gums (Candlebark – *E. rubida*, Manna – *E. viminalis*). In Stanley and Mt Stanley there were Southern Blue-gum forests (*E. globosus* subsp. *bicostata*). Other taller trees included Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*).

**ii. Shrubs**

Amongst the understorey shrubs were Common Cassinia (*Cassinia aculeata*), Mountain Mirbelia (*Mirbelia oxylobioides*), Panax (*Polyscias sambucifolia*), Pink Bells (*Tetradlea ciliata*) and Grey Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*).



Pink Bells (N Blair)



Pink Bells (D Andrews)



iii. Groundcover

Amongst the groundcover flowers were Dwarf Boronia (*Cyanothamnus nanus* var. *hyssopifolius*), Ivy-leaved Violets (*Viola hederacea*) and Narrow-wing Daisy (*Brachyscome willisii*). A dominant native grass in the wetter areas was Common Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardierei*).



Dwarf Boronia (N Blair)



Narrow-Wing Daisy (N Blair)



Ivy-leaved Violet (N Blair)

iv. Ferns

Ferns were plentiful and included Fishbone (*Blechnum nudum*) and Soft Water-fern (*B. minus*), Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) and Common Ground-fern (*Calochlaena dubia*). A highlight was a Rough Tree-fern (*Cyathea australis*) unusual in this part of Victoria. The most prominent sedge was the Red-fruit Saw-sedge (*Gahnia sieberiana*).

v. Other



*Trichocerus sparshalli* moth (D Andrews)



Unidentified spider (D Andrews)



A number of larval shelters on the Elderberry Panax were seen on the walk. Neil has also provided some information from iNaturalist as well as some photos of the larvae.

***Cryptoptila australana***, commonly known as the **Elderberry Panax Leaf Roller**, is a species of moth of the family Tortricidae. The larvae feed on Elderberry Panax (*Polyscias sambucifolia*), living in a

communal shelter made of leaves joined with silk. They are dark brownish green with orange spots and white hairs. They reach a length of about 30 mm. Pupation takes place in the larval shelter.” (iNaturalist)





Because of the heat we settled for a short session and it was really great to see the return of new members from earlier in the year. The Nail Can Hill session (at the Range Road entrance) enabled us to see and identify, with the help of very useful signage and the knowledge of fellow members (particularly Neil), many of the plants contained in the local booklet - "Along the Bush Tracks"

There were not many birds but we did see or hear the following: Western Gerygone, Noisy Friarbird, Grey Fantail, Galah, and Australian Raven.

After lunch under a shady tree at the Crematorium we encountered the following birds: Kookaburra, Australian Raven, Magpie, Magpie-lark, Noisy Friarbird, White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Grey Butcher Bird (feeding young), Eastern Rosella, Wood Duck, Black Duck, Spur-winged Plover and on the way out, Rainbow Lorriquets.

**Bernie Datson.**

[Hmm. Appears to be mainly heat tolerant activity on display this outing: perhaps this was when my garden started to wish I was back from 'mizzly' Cornwall....]  
Thank you Dick & Peter for the following photos.



Grey Kangaroos



Unidentified Wasp

(P Spencer)



Gumleaf Grasshopper, *Goniaea australasiae*



Unidentified beetle on Yam Daisy

(D Andrews)



Christmas Jewel Spider, *Ausracantha minax*



Unidentified Lerp

(D Andrews)

## ARTICLES:

### 1. Spittle bugs

We saw a few of these - both in Chiltern Mt Pilot NP & the Warby's, so I have included some information (& photo) as provided by Patrick Kavanagh on Geoff Park's blog, Natural Newstead. (23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 23)



Unidentified Spittle bugs, covered in 'foam'

Chiltern Mt Pilot NP  
(N Bartlett)



Warby  
(P Spencer)



*Bathyllus* spittlebug

Newstead  
(P Kavanagh)

Patrick Kavanagh found and photographed these small insect nymphs on the Grey Everlastings (*Ozothamnus obcordatus*) in nearby bush and noted:

“Apparently, these nymphs extract the xylem of their host plants, which is less nutrient-rich and less viscous than the phloem that most sap-sucking insects extract. This results in a large volume of fluid excreted by the insect which becomes the foam. This foam hides the nymph from predators, insulates them thermally and stops them drying out. It's also unpleasant tasting which also helps deter predators.”

[PS If you haven't seen Geoff Parks' blog, Natural Newstead - Observations of flora, fauna and landscape in central Victoria, do check it out -<https://geoffpark.wordpress.com/>  
And if you sign up, it's a wonderful find in your in-box each day ☺ ]

### 2. 'Bryophytes'

I struggle with mosses, liverworts & hornworts so attempted recently to clarify them for myself. Here goes with what I found – & please, I'm very happy to be corrected...

Firstly, I attempted to review some basic classification, so started with the earlier 5 Kingdom system, & then got lost in the more recent developments. I eventually went with this 5 Kingdom one from [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)

**Superkingdom: Procaryota** (lacking a true, membrane-bound nucleus)

1. **Monera** (includes bacteria & blue-green algae)

**Superkingdom: Eucaryota** (with a nucleus)

2. **Protista** (protozoa, slime moulds & algae other than blue-green)
3. **Plantae** (nonvascular and vascular plants – includes mosses, liverworts, hornworts, whisk ferns, club mosses, horsetails, ferns, cycads, conifers, gnetophytes, ginkgophytes and flowering plants.)
4. **Fungi** (includes yeasts and lichens\*)
5. **Animalia**

Phew. Down to the Plant Kingdom...



Essentially the Plantae Kingdom contains organisms which are multicellular, have defined nuclei, with walled, vacuolated cells and photosynthetic pigments in specialized structures called plastids. They obtain their nutrition from sunlight and many have structure differentiation such as tissue and organ development. They also often reproduce by alternation of sexual and asexual generations. So far so good.

So now, the 'Bryophytes' (a traditional term for Liverworts, Hornworts & Mosses):

These are simple terrestrial plants, believed to have evolved from ancestral green algae and are thought to comprise the earliest lineages of plants. This group lacks vascular tissue so does not have internal conducting systems for transporting nutrients and water. Lacking proper roots and structural strength they are size-limited but can have structures which superficially resemble roots, stems or leaves.

They reproduce by spores – not flowers or seeds. The leafy (gametophyte) stage is the dominant form and is directly attached to a substrate. It produces egg and sperm cells, with large variation in size and appearance between species. This stage grows from spores formed in a sporophyte which depends on the gametophyte for nutrition. They can also reproduce asexually by vegetative means. In nature, bryophytes and lichens initiate soil formation on barren terrain, maintain soil moisture and recycle nutrients in forest ecosystems.

It is probable that mosses, liverworts and hornworts are not closely related at all, being united only by sharing their peculiar life-cycle.

a) **Mosses** (Division Bryophyta):

Have stem-like and leaf-like structures with the sporophytic generation on a raised stalk (seta) which terminates in the sporangium. They are described by their habit (eg upright 'Acrocarps' or spreading 'pleurocarps') and the structure and specialization of their sporangia.



An 'upright' moss, with sporangium on stalk (Dawsonia sp?)

[Note: Most mosses have short seta but *Dawsonia* & *Poltrichia spp* have unusually tall stems].

Honeyeater Picnic area, Chiltern Mt Pilot NP

b) **Liverworts** (Division Marchantiophyta):

Classification of the Liverworts relies heavily on the gametophyte structure, which can be Fleshy, Filmy or Leafy. The sporophyte structure supplies additional distinguishing information.



A Fleshy Liverwort (*Asterella drummondii*), showing the sporophyte.

Chiltern Mt Pilot NP (D Andrews)



A Leafy Liverwort, *Lophocolea semiteres* (*Cylocyphus semiteres*). The spore capsules are formed on the colourless stalks rising from the leaf-like plant base

Magazine Track

c) **Hornworts** (Division Anthocerotophyta):

Hornworts are recognized by their dark-green slimy, fleshy thallus and horn-like capsule. They prefer bare, often clayey soil in damp situations.



These photos show *Phaeoceros* sp. with unopened (left) and mature, opened sporophytes (right).

They have been reproduced from the website of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and Australian National Herbarium, Canberra. Photographer: Heino Lepp.

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/bryophyte/what-is-hornwort.html>

\***Lichens** are not plants, but are a composite organism formed by a mutualistic association between a fungus and a green alga or a cyanobacterium. Because they are combinations of 2 (even 3) different Kingdoms, their classification is unconventional. They are named according to the species of their fungus and are being integrated into the classification system for fungi. However, because their appearance is determined by their vegetative body shape, they are identified that way. i.e.

1. fruticose – 3-dimensional, branched or growing like a tuft.
2. foliose – 2-dimensional, flat, leaf-like lobes
3. crustose – crust-like, adhering tightly
4. squamulose – small leaf-like scales free at the tips
5. leprose – powdery
6. gelatinous – jelly-like
7. filamentous – stringy or like matted hair
8. byssoid – wispy, like teased wool
9. structureless (well, of course!)

And I won't even attempt Slime Moulds, which are a motley group of unrelated organisms with features of both Protists and Fungi, often included with fungi.

If nothing else, I now better understand the inherent difficulties of classification, but hope to start 'seeing' & appreciating these organisms better.

**Gail Steed**



**Upcoming Summer/ 2024 Outings –**

**The 2024 schedule will be compiled & made available soon.**

~ **14<sup>th</sup> January** – Wonga Wetlands (8:30). Walk then BYO morning tea. Contact David Coleman.

~ **9<sup>th</sup> February** – Walk followed by AGM. Baranduda supermarket car park (11:00). Bring Lunch.  
Contact Bernie

~ **24<sup>th</sup> February** – Kremer St/ Lagoons. Walk followed by BYO tea; may need a chair (16:00). Contact  
Robbie

*Please confirm details via Ecoportal & contact the leader if you have any questions, need a lift and to confirm attendance (useful if weather could lead to cancellation).*