

THE FIELD NATURALIST

ALBURY-WODONGA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.
NEWSLETTER NO. 112
Reg. No. A0023416K



REMINDER : Friendship Outing Sunday 24th July
Destination Winery: Depart 10am Acacia car park
Ph Dick Andrews 0260 564 112 RSVP 16th July

PROGRAMME: AUGUST 2011 – MARCH 2012

August 13th : Saturday - Beechworth Area

Meet 10.00am Acacia car park Wodonga.
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader Richard Andrews ph : 60 564 112

August 28th : Sunday – Gateway Village

Meet 1.00pm Gateway Village car park.
Bring afternoon tea.
Leader Veronica Robertson ph: 60 212 120

September 10th : Saturday

Toveys Road Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park

Meet 10.00am Acacia car park Wodonga.
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader Anne Andrews
Ph : 60 564 112

September 25th : Sunday Kentucky Forest, Balldale

Meet 10.00 am Olive Street
car park Albury.
BYO refreshments for the day.
Leader Phillip Seely
Ph : 60 215 313



October 8th : Saturday – Nail Can Hill, West Albury

Meet 1.00pm Pemberton Street, West Albury.
Bring afternoon tea.
Leader Phillip Seely ph : 60 215 313



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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.

Photos D Andrews :
Cormorant and flowers

Spring Camp Out – Echuca October 12th Wednesday – 14th Friday

Expressions of interest would be appreciated. Outline of programme as follows :

Main accommodation likely to be Echuca Caravan Holiday Park – to be confirmed.

12th Wednesday Arrive and settle in followed by an afternoon walk in Victoria Park. Evening meal to be decided.

13th Thursday All day excursion from 9am – visiting various parks and reserves in and around Echuca-Moama.

BYO refreshments for the day.

Evening meal at a venue yet to be decided.

14th Friday – 11am Kingfisher cruise, Barmah Lake/Wetlands

Bring refreshments for the day.

Members free to make their own way home after lunch.

All the above is subject to alterations.

**October 23rd Sunday –
Tower Hill Road and Valley 2 Dam
Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park**

Meet 10.00am Acacia car park Wodonga.

Bring refreshments for the day.

Leader David Coleman ph : 60 212 020



November 12th Saturday – Killawarra Regional State Park Victoria

Meet 10am Acacia car park Wodonga. Bring refreshments for the day.

Leader Phillip Seely ph : 60 215 315

**November 27th Sunday – Christmas Breakup Mt Pilot or Yedonba
Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park**

Meet 11am Acacia car park Wodonga. Bring refreshments to share.

Contacts David ph : 60 212 022 or Veronica ph : 60 212 120

February 17th Friday 2012 – Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Age Concern building, Townsend Street, Albury commencing 7pm. Guest Speaker TBA. Bring refreshments to share.

March 10th Saturday – Wonga Wetlands

Meet at 4.00pm Wonga Wetlands.

Bring refreshments for supper 6.30pm.

Outing Highlights

“Hawksview” – a small group of members plus visitors from the UK visited the Webb’s property at Wirlinga on a cold and threatening day. We were pleased to have the company of Eva Park on this outing.

Despite being led up and down the wrong



track by our leader we safely set up camp and headed off on our ramblings. Since our previous visit during the drought the pasture and bush had grown considerably making it difficult to find our way.

A highlight was the sighting of a White Bellied Sea Eagle that conveniently perched in a tree making viewing easy. With eyes upward we also saw Nankeen Kestrel, Wedge Tailed Eagle and 2 very dark Falcons.

At the end of our trek through the paddocks and approaching the Billabong we were very excited when Phillip pointed out that the calls we heard were from the many breeding rookeries of Darters, Little Pied Cormorant and Great Cormorant with their chicks of all ages.



Phillip's bird list included :

Darter (nesting with young), Little Pied Cormorant (Nesting and young), Cattle Egret, Magpie Lark, Willie Wagtail, Red-rumped Parrot, Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo, Galah, White Ibis, Wood Duck, Grey Teal, magpie, Welcome Swallow, Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Grebe, Wedge Tailed Eagle, Superb Fairy wren, Reed Warbler, Little Grassbird, Gold Finch, Black Duck, Black Swan with 4 Cygnets, Little Black Cormorant, 2 very dark Falcons (Brown or Black?), Yellow-Billed Spoonbill, Moorhen, White-Throated Treecreeper, White-Breasted Sea Eagle, Little Friarbird, Kookaburra, Great Cormorant (Nest and young), White Plumed Honeyeater, Tree Martin House Sparrow, Great Egret, Yellow Rosella, Starling, Rufous Songlark, Australian Raven, White Faced Heron.

Wow! What a list for that bleak day. How many birds did you see?



“Mungabareena Reserve” – Despite a small bird list we were excited to see a family of 3 White Bellied Sea Eagles, a pair of Wedge Tailed Eagles and the Whistling Kite which made our afternoon worthwhile.

“Kiewa River” – on a glorious sunny winter day, we enjoyed a walk along the Kiewa River towards Albury with many bird sightings. Of course the highlight was the Scarlet Robin, both male and female and at the end of our walk, to make our day, was the Golden Whistler bathed in sunlight. It was truly great to see so many healthy mature River Red Gums on this outing.



"Lower Ovens Regional Reserve Rutherglen and Dockers Plains Wangaratta" – John and Shirley Scholes

This outing began at an anabranch of the Ovens river on a fine warm day. We stopped alongside the river but so did many other visitors with boats which probably frightened the local birds away.

So we moved on to Dockers Plains for an Open Day organised by the Trust for Nature. The day was run by the Regional Manager for the Trust, Jim Blackney, who introduced the current owners, Docker family members John and Mary Paul and John Docker. The history of the Dockers family association with the property goes back to 1838 when Rev Joseph Docker took over the squatting property of George Faithful and the subsequent Docker family have farmed in a conservative fashion ever since.

However the current family members felt that there was a need to protect the environment because of the 17km Ovens River frontage, remnant Riverine Grassy Woodland, Wetlands farmland and streams. Hence in October 2010 the Trust for Nature launched Victoria's first Landscape Covenant – over 1100 hectares.

We were taken on a conducted tour of the area seeing the progress made with weed eradication, river bank protection, replanting cacias, melaleucas and callistemon and preserving the 400 year old River Red Gums. It was all very impressive and reassuring to see practical conservation on such a large scale saving what is a very important example of Victoria's natural heritage.



Afterwards we were treated to a mouth watering afternoon tea and an outside view of the house and gardens. The house is the second on the property, known as "Bontharambo" and was built in 1858. It is certainly an impressive two storey house with an imposing tower which had been recently renovated.

Thank you to the Paul family and Jim Blackney for a fascinating and rewarding day.

SEANA Spring Camp at Wonthaggi (now Phillip Island) takes place on Saturday 29th October – Tuesday 1st November 2011
If anyone is interested please make contact with the committee.

As mentioned earlier in our programme we are planning to have a **Spring Camp Out at Echuca on 12th – 14th October 2011.** If you are interested please contact Veronica and more details will be advised closer to the date.

Vale Frances Gladstone Lifetime member of Albury Wodonga Field Naturalists Club. Members who knew her called her Fran. Fran was a wonderful observer of the cycles of nature. She lived her whole life in Beechworth and had an intimate knowledge of the area. Fran made a great contribution to the orchid flora of the area and was willing to share her knowledge so that it would be handed down to future generations. A gentle and loving lady at rest, she was buried in the Stanley Cemetery.

Courtesy Friends of Chiltern Mt-Pilot National Park April 2011 Newsletter – Eileen Collins

A Little Sparrow



I am only a little sparrow!
A bird of low degree!
My life is of little value.
But the dear Lord cares for me
He gave me a coat of feathers
'Tis very plain I know:
With never a speck of crimson.
For it was not made for show.
But it keeps me warm in winter,
It shields me from the rain.
Were it bordered with gold and purple
Perhaps it would make me vain



I have no barn or storehouse:
I never sow or reap:
God gives me a sparrow's portion.
But never a seed to keep.
If my meat is sometimes scanty.
Close picking makes it sweet:
I have always enough to keep me.
And life is more than meat.
I know there are many sparrows:
All over the world they're found:
But our heavenly Father knows
When one of us falls to the ground.



Though small, we are never forgotten -
Though weak, we are never afraid.
For we know that the dear Lord keeps
The lives of the creatures He made.
I fly through the thickest forest,
I light on many a spray,
I have no chart or compass
But I never lose my way.



Author unknown

When attending a birding outing on a bleak wintry morning surrounded by a heavy fog, Phillip pointed at a low scrubby tree and mentioned that there were both Tree and House Sparrows in there. Neil then started reciting part of the above poem and mentioned his dad taught it to him. I loved the poem and wanted to share it with all members. Veronica (Do you know which of the above Sparrows are Tree or House?)

