

# **THE FIELD NATURALIST**

NEWSLETTER NO. 113:



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

## **PROGRAMME: 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**

### **March "Hawksview", Wirlinga**

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> :** Meet 1pm Olive Street Car Park Albury (opp. SS&A Club)  
Bring Afternoon Tea.  
Leader - David Coleman, ph: 60 212022

### **April Kentucky Forest, Balldale and Lonesome Pine**

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> :** (Joint outing with BirdLife Australia)  
Meet 9.30am at the entrance to Kentucky Forest on the  
Howlong-Balldale road  
BYO refreshments for the day.  
Leader - Phillip Seely, ph: 60 215 313

### **Sun 29<sup>th</sup> : Kremur Street Albury**

Meet 9am Olive Street Car Park Albury (opp. SS&A Club)  
Bring morning tea.  
Leader - David Coleman, ph: 60 212022

### **May**

#### **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> : Chiltern – Mt Pilot National Park**

Meet 10am Olive Street Car Park Albury (opp. SS&A Club)  
BYO refreshments for the day.  
Leader - Phillip Seely, ph : 60 215 313

#### **Sun 27<sup>th</sup> : Koetong Area – Friendship lunch at Koetong Pub**

(numbers will need to be confirmed to book lunch)  
Meet 10am Acacia Car Park Wodonga.  
Bring morning tea/afternoon tea.  
General meeting to be held on this day.  
Leader - Neil Blair, ph: 6021 2097

### **June**

#### **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> : (Queen's Birthday) Kiewa River/Murray River**

Meet 1pm Acacia Car Park Wodonga  
Leader Dick Andrews: ph 60 564 112

#### **Sun 24<sup>th</sup> : Social Botanical Information Session - TBA Afternoon/Evening :**

Further details circulated closer to the date.

### **July**

#### **Sat 14<sup>th</sup>: Sandy Creek/Lockhart's Gap**

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

#### **Sun 29<sup>th</sup>: Wonga Wetlands**

Meet 1pm at Wonga Wetlands.  
Bring afternoon tea. General meeting will be held.  
Leader Veronica Robertson, ph: 60 212 120

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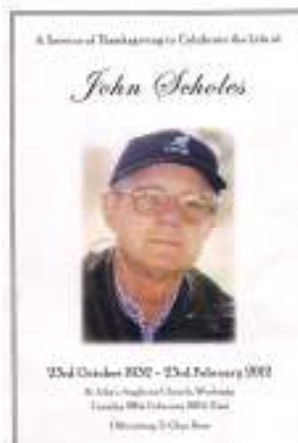
To be sent to the  
Treasurer, PO. Box  
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Make cheques payable  
to: Albury-Wodonga  
Field Naturalists' Club  
Inc.

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

Notes:

1. If anyone needs a lift, please contact the leader in the week before the activity
2. It is unlikely, but possible, that the programme may change. Please confirm details in "The Diary" of Saturday Border Morning Mail.
3. FYI, changes made since the programme was drafted are the Sat April 14<sup>th</sup> outing and the start time for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April outing.

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2012. Over the last 12 months the group has been busy with its normal active calendar (18 outings) but has also incorporated two mid-week trips away (Echuca & Falls Creek), as well as a lunch outing. Consensus at the AGM was that such additional activities were enjoyable & worthwhile and would be included this year, if possible. But there was also sadness, with three members passing away – Frances Gladstone (see Newsletter No. 112), Jim Morrison, and John Scholes.



We appreciate and acknowledge their wonderful friendship and contributions to the group, and offer our heartfelt condolences to their families.

As you can see on page one, our office-bearers remain the same – such dedication! On behalf of all members, I thank you all, for jobs well done and your enthusiasm and commitment. Of special note was the publication of the beautifully presented AWFNC pamphlet compiled by Veronica. Welcome too, our new committee members Lyn, Stephanie (and myself!) and general members Joseph and Robin. We look forward to enjoying your company and skills this coming year.

Neil 'stepped up to the plate' as our AGM guest speaker, with a presentation based on his observations and field identification of local botanical species. Neil has noted the group's loss of expertise in this field so has decided to improve his knowledge in the area. Once the laptop was beaten into submission, we were able to share the beginning of that journey with him. Thanks Neil, in anticipation of future instalments & learning with you.

Since then, on Saturday March 3rd, the presentation of a Best Friends Award by the Victorian Environment Friends Network was made to Eileen Collins in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Friends group over many years.

The event was supposed to take place at Honeyeater Picnic Area but due to the persistent rain was held in the Chiltern Senior Citizens Hall. About 40 gathered to hear Eileen praised by several speakers and the presentation of a framed certificate. Congratulations to the Friends of Chiltern for providing a spectacular lunch and the resulting fellowship made it a very momentous occasion.

And Eileen made the front page!



For the first outing of 2012, approximately 12 members enjoyed an afternoon Wonga Wetlands wander, followed by a shared tea; Phillip's bird list was 42.

"For me the most exciting were the Rainbow Bee Eater, Great Crested Grebe and, just as we wandered over the bridge heading up for tucker, we sighted 2 Azure Kingfishers playing on the low branches at the edge of the water. They were very obliging and gave all a wonderful view of themselves - front on as well as the back view. Then, to top off our sightings, we had a mistletoe bird calling to us just above the table where we were set up for tea. Once again, everyone had the best view ever of this little bird - it was also kind enough to come out from behind the leaves and perched a little higher up, out in the open"

Veronica



The club has information from other organisations eg the Murumbidgee group newsletter, SEANA Spring camp (Bendigo) details, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora & Fauna, BirdLife Australia (previously Bird Observers Club of Australia) and CSIRO publishing. Please contact Veronica if you would like to access any of these.

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 [ggadsteed@aapt.com.au](mailto:ggadsteed@aapt.com.au)

**Subscriptions** are currently due for 2012: see page one for fees.

In closing, here is an observation from an up-and-coming student of bird behaviour:

...It was raining [surprise!] and 2 galahs were sitting on the electricity wires. Suddenly one flipped upside down and flapped its wings. Granddaughter Zoe immediately says "It's having a shower". [The galah did it again so obviously hadn't rinsed properly the first time!]

Richard

