

# THE FIELD NATURALIST

NEWSLETTER NO. 126: September, 2016

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



Gang Gang Cockatoo – *Callocephalon fimbriatum*  
(Photo – S Jacovac)



Woolly Grevillia – *G. lanigera*  
(Photo – P Spencer)

## This Issue:

	Page
Wonga Wetlands and back ponds	2
Georges & Jervis Creeks	2
Chiltern Mt Pilot NP	5
Sandy Ck. / Lockhart's Gap	6
Koetong	7
Upcoming Outings	10



Stalked Orange Peel fungus – *Sowerbyella rhenana*  
(Photo – N Blair)

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welcome and should  
be emailed as above.

## WONGA WETLANDS

12<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

For our first Autumn outing, fifteen members took the opportunity to access Cook's Lagoon on an enjoyable but cold day. The bird count was very good (52), and included numerous ducks, Azure Kingfishers and a pair of White-bellied Sea Eagles: the deer, fox & kangaroos were bonus viewing.



Australasian Grey Teal (D Andrews) Azure Kingfisher (D Andrews).....White-bellied Sea Eagles - (D Andrews)



Male Chestnut Teal - (P Spencer)



Male Spotted Pardalote – (P Spencer)

## GEORGES and JERVIS CREEKS

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

The day began cool and still, with light fog lifting for a beautiful drive past a glassy, 90% full Lake Hume. At our first stop, a ridge-top rural lane after Talgarno, a juvenile White-bellied Sea Eagle was seen circling & swooping repeatedly over a small nearby dam. An unfortunate, stationary Wood Duck appeared to be its target although it was unclear if the duck was injured. The eagle then retired to watch from an overhanging vantage-point and still the duck remained in the centre of the dam. Eventually the eagle moved on & so too, it seemed, did the duck. We then travelled on to Magazine Track but with so many varieties of mushrooms on display, our horizontal progress was minimal. Over the day there was something in almost every fungal group of Basidiomycetes, some interesting Ascomycetes and even some unidentifiable 'goo'. Bird numbers were low with list eventually 17 and some early Greenhoods were photographed by Dick.



Gail Steed



Gilled fungus: *Amanita xanthocephala* – ‘Pretty Grisette’. Note the cup (volva) at base (N Blair)



Gilled fungus: *Dermocybe austroveneta* – ‘Green Cortinar’. Note the remains of a fine, cobwebby veil on stem, coloured ochre by spores (N Blair)



Gilled fungus: *Hypholoma* sp; purple black spores. Note the veil remnants as a ragged fringe on edge of cap (P Spencer)



A leathery pored fungus: *Podoscypha petaloides* – ‘Rosette or Wine-glass Fungus’ (N Blair)



A fleshy pore fungus – possibly *Boletus barragensis* (G Steed)



A Gasteromycete (puff ball fungus) – *Cyathus stercoreus* – ‘Bird's-nest fungus’ (N Blair)



Unidentified ‘goo’ - (star jelly?) located on ground & branches of dying Kurrajong tree. Possibilities include regurgitated frogs eggs, crystal brain fungus, frog spawn, slime mould, or even something deposited during meteor showers! (G Steed)

Also, during this outing we found this very colourful log lying on the ground



On reviewing the photos back home it became even more interesting with closeups of the gold, green and white patches.



1



2



3A



3B

Entries are open for identification thoughts from readers, with Mars Bar prizes for all who enter.

**Article & Photos - Neil Blair**

A small group ventured out on an overcast, occasionally threatening day with alternate patches of heavy rain, small hail and sunshine. We met at our usual spot of the Honeyeater Picnic Area and with the thermometer in single digits eight members braved the windy showery weather to explore the area. Some birds were out but many seemed to be sheltering from the weather. The dam was overflowing, with water still gliding gently over the saturated ground and rushing down the gully feeding into the dam.



Some of us had never seen it overflowing, although with 280 mm in May-June, and continued rain in July, it was hardly surprising. Records indicated a similar display in March 2012 when 490 mm was recorded for Feb-March. (Photos – G Steed)

We were treated to a small flock of Gang-Gang cockatoos (an aboriginal name) and a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater perched long enough for me to photograph it in detail. Gail was excited to get her first viewing (but no photo) of the stunning Rose Robin. With the damp conditions we were rewarded with another wide array of fungi – gilled, pored, jellies, puff-balls, cups and earth-stars - as well as emerging greenhoods. After lunch under cover at the park in Chiltern (accompanied by a Red-capped Robin) we then went on to explore the start of the Tuan Track Walk off Depot Road.



Hooded Mosquito Orchid (P Spencer)



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (P Spencer)

Here Neil identified the Hooded Mosquito Orchid (*Acianthus collinus*): ‘collinus’ meaning growing on a hill and not formally described until 1991. Members gradually retreated to warmer places during the day until only two completed the final leg in the late afternoon. Total bird count for the day was 36.

**Peter Spencer**

## SANDY CREEK and LOCKHART'S GAP

14<sup>th</sup> August, 2016

Twelve members on this trip were joined at Upper Sandy Creek Reservoir by Ute and Portia from the now-closed herb nursery nearby. Unfortunately the platypus did not put in an appearance that day, perhaps since it was much sunnier than the 'reccie' when we did see one (or more?)



Common Hovea and Hardengeria were beginning to flower and Scarlet Sundews were hoping for insects to find them.



*Hovea heterophylla* – Common Hovea (D Andrews)



*Drosera sp.* – Sundew, (P Spencer)

Neil refreshed our memories with the trees present: Eucalypts – gums and box – and wattles (see his report next page).

After lunch we drove on to Lockhart's Gap and took the southern track on the Eskdale Spur. The bank was a mass of mosses (*Braunia*, *Breutelia* and *Dawsonia*) and lichen, including *Heterodea*, *Cladia* and *Cladonia* species. There were many orchid leaves but only a few *Corybas diemenicus* (Veined Helmet Orchid), and several specimens of Tall Greenhoods, with very few fully developed. Woolly Grevillea was conspicuous in flower along the bank (photo Page 1)



Veined Helmet Orchid (D Andrews)

One unusual find was *Calostoma fuscum* (Common Pretty Mouth fungus) poking out from the bank.

This is a brown stalked puffball (Gasteromycete) found world-wide, and made of tough gelatinous interwoven strands to a height of 100 mm supporting a head which encloses the spore sac. Our specimens had lost their cap and the once-red mouth had faded with age.

Common Pretty Mouth  
(Photo – N Blair)



Birds seen included Little Pied Cormorant, Intermediate Egret, Galahs, Hardhead Ducks, Coots, Corellas, Swallows, Superb Fairy-wren, and a very obliging Gang-gang Cockatoo (photo on page 1), as spotted by new member John

## Dick Andrews



A. Overstorey

Eucalypts –	Rough “tessellated” bark:	<i>E. goniocalyx</i> – Long-leaved Box, & <i>E. bridgesiana</i> (Apple Box)
	Stringybark:	<i>E. macrorhyncha</i> (Red Stringybark)
	Gum:	<i>E. blakelyi</i> (Hill Red-gum)

B. Understorey

Acacias (wattles):     *A. dealbata* – Silver Wattle, &  
                                  *A. rubida* – Red-stem Wattle

*Exocarpos cupressiformis* – Cherry Ballart  
*Cassinia longifolia* – Shiny Cassinia  
*Bursaria spinosa subsp. lasiophylla* – Hairy Bursaria  
*Leptospermum continentale* – Prickly Tea-tree

C. Ground Cover

Ground shrubs:         *Hovea heterophylla* – Common Hovea  
                                  *Hibbertia riparia* – Erect Guinea-flower  
                                  *Pimelea linifolia* – Slender Rice-flower

Orchids:                 *Pterostylis nutans* – Nodding Greenhood  
                                  *Thelymitra sp.* – single leaf only at this stage.

Neil Blair

**KOETONG AREA**

**27<sup>th</sup> August, 2016**

On a cool, cloudy but otherwise fine day a group of 15 members and 2 guests had a most enjoyable outing led by Phillip. There were 2 main stops.

The morning stop was on the road to Koetong, where we stopped at a roadside depot near the railway underpasses. The bush had an overstorey of *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark) and *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* (Long-leaved Box or Bundy); an understorey of *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *Dodonea viscosa* subsp. *angustissima* (Slender Hop-bush) in flower (photos next page), *Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *lasiophylla* (Hairy Bursaria), *Cassinia longifolia* (Shiny Cassinia), *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Cherry Ballart) and *Correa reflexa* (Common Correa).



*Dodonea viscosa* subsp. *angustissima*, Slender Hop-Bush – Flowers & Leaves. (Photos – N Blair)

Amongst the herbs were *Pterostylis curta* (Blunt Greenhood), *Wurmbia dioica* (Early Nancy), *Cymbonotus preissianus* (Austral Bear's Ears), *Lomandra longifolia* (Spiny-headed Mat-rush) and *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia* (Green Rock-fern). Also noted was a delightful, red fungus (*Hygrocybe* sp.). The area was enhanced by a dilapidated trestle bridge and a vigorously flowing stream.



Early Nancy (bi-sexual flower)



Unidentified moss and leafy Liverwort (Photos – D Andrews)



We then proceeded on a lovely drive through multiple montane habitats to the Mt Lawson summit carpark where we enjoyed lunch around a campfire.

The afternoon was spent going on the walking circuit around and over the summit. Unfortunately because of the wet, slippery rocks in one section not all members could fully participate on the walk through an overstorey of *Eucalyptus globulus* subsp. *bicostata* (Victorian Blue-gum) - identified by its buds in triplet – *E. mannifera* (Brittle Gum) and *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark); an understory *Cassinia ozothamnoides* (Cottony Cassinia), *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *cuneata* (Wedge-leaf Hop-bush), *Platylobium montanum* (Mountain Flat-pea), *Cassinia aculeata* (Common Cassinia) and *Lomatia fraseri* (Tree Lomatia). On the ground were noted *Corybas incurvus* (Slaty Helmut-orchid), *Isotoma axillaris* (Rock Isotome), *Hovea heterophylla* (Common Hovea). Also found was a white leathery shelf fungus yet to be identified.



Sessile buds, in triplet, of Victorian Blue-Gum (N Blair)



Leaf of aptly named Wedge-leaf Hop-bush (N Blair)



Blunt Greenhood, (*Pterostylis curta*) (P Spencer)



The views along the walk were spectacular with lovely snow views of both the Victorian and NSW alps as well as the Hume Dam and Upper Murray Valley.



View from near the 1041m summit, looking towards Lake Hume. (Photo – P Spencer)

A big thanks to Phillip for checking out the area for an outing and leading us on the day.  
[I understand that thanks are also due to Parks staff at the Tallangatta depot who kindly cleared the road in time for the outing! - Ed]

**N Blair**

**Koetong/Mt Lawson bird list - 27/8/2016 (Bernie & Glenda Datson)**

<b>Koetong</b>	<b>Mt Lawson</b>
Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Australian Raven
Eastern Spinebill	King Parrot
Galah	Noisy Friarbird
Gang Gang	Pied Currawong
Grey Fantail	
Grey Shrike-thrush	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Laughing Kookaburra	White-plumed Honeyeater
Scrub wren	
Spotted Pardalote	
Striated Pardalote	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
White-throated Treecreeper	
Yellow Robin	
Yellow Thornbill	

P.S. Remember the handsome caterpillar determinedly making its way up the tree at the stock route reserve adjacent to Henty Cemetery?  
Thanks to Eileen who provided his ID as *Trichiocerus sparshalli*, and Dick his picture.- Ed



Also, many, many thanks to all newsletter contributors – for articles, photos, commentary, guidance & identification.

**Upcoming Outings – Spring**

**~11<sup>th</sup> September – Chiltern Mt Pilot NP**  
**MONDAY - 19<sup>th</sup> September – Woomargama State Forest**

**~24<sup>th</sup> September – Warby Range State Park**  
**MONDAY – 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Nail Can Hill**

**~9<sup>th</sup> October – Chiltern Mt Pilot NP**

**~22<sup>nd</sup> October – Galore Hill**

**~11-12 November – Werribee Treatment Works (TBC)**

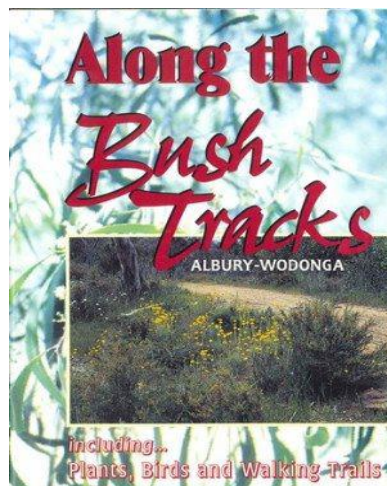
**~26<sup>th</sup> November – Stanley & surrounds**

*Full outing details to end Feb 2017 have just been compiled & published in separate list. This includes two weekday Spring outings - contact Secretary for a copy or access via Friends Of Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park website. (Thank you, Tony!)*

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

.....

And coming soon!



Some members of our group - Glenda, Neil & Phillip – are part of a committee which is reviewing the content of local booklet, “Along the Bush Tracks”. The committee includes representatives from a few local organisations and is currently working on the first draft. It is hoped the new (third) edition will be finalised with updated information and photographs by December this year.

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