



# WHIRRAKEE

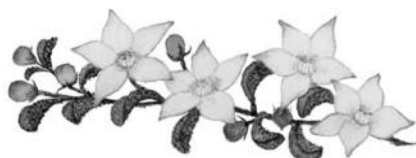
**January/February 2019**

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**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB**



## Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552.

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Website: [www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](http://www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au) E-mail address: [info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au)

### Office Bearers for 2018 - 2019

President	currently vacant	
Vice President	Simon Hay	0410 424 686
Secretary	Richard Goonan	0423 418 815
Treasurer	Ben Goonan	<a href="mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au">info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au</a>
Other Committee members:	Tim McCaw, John Bird, Jess Millroy, Matt Comer, Amy Greenfield	

### Positions delegated by the Committee

Minute Secretary	general meetings: Matt Comer, John Bird	
Excursion sub-committee	<b>John Lindner</b> , Tim McCaw, Simon Hay, Richard Goonan 5448 3406	
Syllabus Coordinator	Ben Goonan	<a href="mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au">info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au</a>
Library Coordinator	Jess Milroy	
Garden Coordinators	Kerrie Norris, Colin Thomas, Richard Goonan	
Observations Coordinator	Richard Goonan	
Hall Management Coordinators	<b>Maurie Lewis</b> , Ben Goonan, Glenise Moors	<b>0407427179</b>
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Bullying and Harassment Officer	John Bird	
Website coordinator	Ben Goonan	<a href="mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au">info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au</a>

**Membership** of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single \$40; Family \$50; Concession: Single \$35; Family \$40. *Whirrakee* subscription only is \$40. *For cost of printed Whirrakees, see membership renewal form*

**General meetings** are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Hall, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with members sharing their recent natural history observations. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

**Committee meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers and other committee members listed above. *There are several vacancies for committee members.*

**Excursions** are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Hall, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Hall. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

**Bird Observing:** Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley on 0474 467 661 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley on 0474 467 661. To propose bird excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

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# WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 40, No. 1, January/February 2019

*Whirrakee* takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*), which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions should be posted or e-mailed to the editor at least two days prior to the last Wednesday of the month. They will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although space restrictions occasionally require shortening of articles or holding them over till the following edition of *Whirrakee*. Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club.

### *Editor's Note:*

*Hello and welcome to a new look printed Whirrakee. As also mentioned in the December Committee notes (page 7), I would like to add my heartfelt gratitude to our former loyal printer Helen Muller, who has cheerfully printed the Whirrakee for more than 30 years. Helen has been an amazing printer friend to me for that time, who was always ready to solve any problems I threw at her. Unfortunately, we could not overcome the last problem, caused by the colour printer (which was responsible for the poor printing results over the last few months), so the committee has now moved to a new printer. The December/January observations in this issue testify that many interesting things happened in the bush during this time (often considered super quiet), and they have contributed much to this bumper issue, and in 2019, the club continues to offer many activities to experience more. The popular Weekly Saturday Walks have morphed into the 'Saturday Excursions' (see page 4), the Night walks are still on (see Dec/Jan observations for what can be seen and heard), and the first club excursion is fully organised, waiting for your participation (see page 3). There are also regular workshops and general meetings, and...and... Running the club and these activities all take time and energy, so you are encouraged to get involved in any aspect of club business that suits your interest. Please let someone from the committee know if you are interested in that, and ... have a wonderful field-natting year.*

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**Front page:** Malcolm Cousland photographed these beautiful broilgas at Greens Lake in August 2018. See excursion notice on page 3. Hopefully the February excursion party will see them too.

## Short Notices

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### Excursion Sunday 17 February to Gaynor Swamp and Greens Lake near Corop

*Leader:* Malcolm Cousland assisted by John Lindner

*Date:* Sunday 17 February

*Location:* Gaynor Swamp and Greens Lake at Corop

*Details:* Meet 8.00 am at the clubrooms.

NOTE EARLIER TIME!

*Bring:* Binoculars, telescope/tripod, field guides, hot weather clothing, plenty of liquids and food

The Corop wetlands are notable as a refuge for birds, in particular Brolga which are listed as vulnerable in Victoria. Numbers are thought to be less than 100 in Northern Victoria. In 2018 and 2019 as many as 20 have been reported in the area at Gaynor Swamp, Greens Lake and a private wetland south of Stanhope. A pair with a 1/3 sized chick was seen recently at Greens Lake. Other birds of interest reported recently include Glossy Ibis, Australian Bittern, Pied Cormorant, Sandpipers, Snipe Intermediate Egret and a Sea Eagle.

Gaynor Swamp is a 300 hectare cane grass wetland situated on paleosaline soils, and it can sometimes receive saline water from Lake Cooper during times of flood. It received water for the environment in autumn 2018 for the first time, after drying from the heavy summer rainfall. Victorian listed wetland flora recorded are Salt Paperbark *Melaleuca halmaturorum subsp. Halmaturorum* (vulnerable) and Spiny Lignum *Muehlenbeckia horrida subsp. Horrida* (rare).

Since 1968 Greens Lake has been used as off-stream storage to supplement the Waranga Western Channel that supplies water to the Rochester and Loddon Valley Irrigation Areas. The lake is connected to the Waranga Western Channel via two pipelines. Any surplus flow on the channel is diverted to Greens Lake via a pipeline under gravity conditions, and is later used during periods of peak demand to meet

flow requirements. It is a popular spot for camping, recreational boating and fishing.

Lake Cooper, Gaynor Swamp and Greens Lake were originally part of the terminal system of the Cornella Creek which rises near Heathcote and flows north through Colbinabbin. Greens Lake was an ephemeral lake with its only catchment from rainfall and floodwater runoff, and its water dissipating by evaporation and seepage to groundwater.

Shane Ryan is a member of the Cornella Local Area Plan Implementation Committee; he grew up on a farm his father bought in 1927. He recalls "The area was naturally heavily timbered with Grey Box, Spotted Gum, Buloke and Belah. In fact, the whole farm was cleared of trees in the 1880s. Woodcutters came from Heathcote and Rushworth to cut timber for fence posts, firewood, mine supports and bridges. Much of the wood went to one of two timber mills in Colbinabbin in the early days. It helped pay off the farm."

### References:

<http://www.vewh.vic.gov.au/watering-program/seasonal-watering-plan>

[https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Environmental\\_Water/Goulburn\\_Broken\\_Wetlands\\_Seasonal\\_Watering\\_Proposal\\_2017-2018\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Environmental_Water/Goulburn_Broken_Wetlands_Seasonal_Watering_Proposal_2017-2018_FINAL.pdf)

[https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Wetlands/Gaynor\\_Swamp\\_Regulating\\_Structures\\_Business\\_Case\\_Report\\_-\\_October\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Wetlands/Gaynor_Swamp_Regulating_Structures_Business_Case_Report_-_October_2014.pdf)

[https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Outcome\\_Stories\\_Case\\_Studies/Little\\_Town\\_Big\\_Motors\\_-\\_28.09.2015.pdf](https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/Outcome_Stories_Case_Studies/Little_Town_Big_Motors_-_28.09.2015.pdf)

[https://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storages/goulburn/green\\_slake](https://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storages/goulburn/green_slake)

[https://www.g-mwater.com.au/downloads/gmw/LOWMPs/Greens\\_Lake\\_Land\\_and\\_onwater\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2014.pdf](https://www.g-mwater.com.au/downloads/gmw/LOWMPs/Greens_Lake_Land_and_onwater_Management_Plan_2014.pdf)



### **NightLife – wandering in the bush after dark...continuing in 2019**

Explore, discover, observe, record and exchange. This has been the theme of a series of regular walks running since December 2017 with a focus on wandering in the bush at night. Participants have had an opportunity to see wild creatures in their natural habitat, and to experience the bush at a time that is utterly different to the usual daylight hours. Walks have been relatively short, with some off-track walking, and while we haven't travelled far, we have encountered many different species. If you would like to come along, register via emailing [info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au). After you register, you will be added to the e-mail list to receive walk notifications including dates, meeting places and other information. The walks will be held in all conditions except torrential/extreme rain. Times will vary but will usually be from about dusk for a few hours or so.

### **Naturalist Workshops**

Continuing in 2019 the Club will be running a series of Naturalist Workshops specifically designed to develop participants' proficiency across a broad range of field-based naturalist skills and knowledge. They will be designed to cater for a wide range of abilities, and will use a participatory/interactive model, where participants learn from one another in a friendly and welcoming environment.

#### **Workshop 34: 'Bendigo Region Cicadas: an introduction to species and their identification'**

This workshop will be an opportunity for participants to learn about the cicada species they may encounter in the Bendigo region and more broadly Central Victoria. Although a much loved and ubiquitous part of the summer forest soundscape, cicada diversity may be easily overlooked. Just like birds and frogs, etc they can be identified by their calls, so join us for an evening focusing on these wonderful insects.

**Presenter:** Ben Goonan

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Time:** 7.00pm, Golden Square Hall

**RSVP:** Please register your interest via

[info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au) or by post to PO Box 396 Bendigo VIC 3552.

**What to bring:** Enthusiasm! and images if you have any, specimens, recordings, your field guides and notes, paper and pen, your laptop or phone to use apps, etc.

#### **More information:**

[www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](http://www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au) or [info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au)

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### **Saturday Excursions – Local 3hr Walk**

Saturday excursions, February and March 8.00am to 11.00am, April to December 9.00 to 12.00. Check website to confirm dates. Meet at Golden Square Hall. Walks will occur approximately every second week throughout the year. Visitors (non-members) welcome to attend. Please carry your own water and food (as you require), and wear clothing suitable for the prevailing conditions (hat and full length cover such as shirt, pants, sturdy footwear, rain jacket). Inform the leader of any relevant medical conditions at registration. Walks will be easy to moderate difficulty, suitable for anyone with a basic level of fitness. Contact Richard Goonan for further information ([richard.goonan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:richard.goonan@optusnet.com.au)), and check the club's website for updates:

[www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](http://www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au)

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### **An unlikely record of *Delma inornata***

**Kluge, 1974** (Olive legless lizard or Patternless delma) **at Lake Tom Thumb, Eaglehawk, Victoria** by Richard Goonan

Although *Delma inornata* Kluge, 1974 (Olive legless lizard) is sometimes referred to as a common and widespread species, it is rarely encountered in local environments around Bendigo. The true local distribution and abundance of the species is unknown. I suggest it is far less common than sometimes indicated, and analysis of available landscape scale surveys also shows it to be relatively uncommon across large parts of its range in south-eastern Australia (Michael *et al.* 2011, Kay *et al.* 2013). Atlas of living Australia occurrence records show the species has a wide distribution (see Map 1, page 10), which coincides with grassy woodland vegetation

types on the inland plains. This broad area has now been predominantly cleared. Like the closely related *Delma impar* Fischer 1882 (Striped legless lizard), the Olive legless lizard appears to be partially adaptable to modified habitats, including areas of low intensity grazing with grassy ground layers dominated by exotic graminoids (Fischer *et al* 2004, Brown *et al* 2011).

An Olive legless lizard was recently found (13 November 2018, see page 8) alive and uninjured in a small area of exotic grassy sward below the main wall of Lake Tomb Thumb (Eaglehawk). The area had been mown and the lizard was found moving across the top of the fresh grass clippings. Having previously undertaken surveys for *Delma impar* in South West Victoria and become familiar with the distinctive movement of legless lizards when they are disturbed above ground in the open, I subconsciously recognised the specimen was *unlikely* to be a small snake and I grabbed it. Luckily, it wasn't a snake, and indeed it turned out to be a healthy specimen of *Delma inornata*.

This record of the species in such a location is very positive and highlights the potential for managing natural and semi-natural areas within the suburban environment for a wide range of native species and their habitat needs. Further surveys will be required to determine the species ongoing and wider presence at the site, and within adjoining creek line areas. If areas of grassy habitat further downstream along Eaglehawk creek do support a population of the species, this could be an interesting example of urban biodiversity conservation. Although the grassy sward in this area is generally dominated by exotic species (presently) the overall structure of habitat does resemble a grassy woodland habitat (albeit it a modified one) that is suitable for the Olive legless lizard.

Without records such as reported here, areas which may at first appear highly modified and low quality (unnatural) habitat could inadvertently be 'improved' or 'restored' and in the process the specific habitat attributes that support a species such as *Delma inornata* may be lost. Fortunately, with a recent record of the species now confirmed in the area, further

surveys can be undertaken and the site's management adapted to take account of the areas' habitat and biodiversity values for the Olive legless lizard.

Research has demonstrated that the Olive legless lizard can utilise simple grassy habitat where large rocks and soil cracks, logs or large woody debris, and an open tree canopy or treeless patches are present and retained (Fischer *et al* 2004, Brown *et al* 2011). Over planting with trees or shrubs, repeated low slashing/mowing, earth works and other soil disturbances, or the removal of woody debris, will likely alter and reduce the habitat suitability for this species. Retention of microhabitats and overall habitat heterogeneity (variability of different habitat structures present) will assist the conservation of diverse reptile assemblages (Fischer *et al* 2004, Brown *et al* 2011).

Given that large scale survey data demonstrate this species is less common than indicated by its wide geographic distribution, this record of the Olive legless lizard is significant, any confirmed population of this species warrant greater protection and conservation management in local areas around Bendigo.

Acknowledgment. Ben Goonan provided insightful comments on this note.

## References

- Kay, G., Michael, D., Crane, M., Okada, S., Mac-Gregor, C., Florance, C., Trengrove, D., McBunney, L., Blair, D. & Lindenmayer, D. (2013) A list of reptiles and amphibians from Box Gum Grassy Woodlands in south-eastern Australia. *Checklist* 9(3): 476-481
- Michael, D., Lindenmayer, D., Crane, M., Mac Gregor, C., Montague-Drake, R. & McBunney, L. (2011) Reptilia, Murray Catchment, NSW, south-eastern Australia. *Checklist* 7(1): 025-029.
- Fischer, J., Lindenmayer, D. & Cowling, A. (2004) The challenge of managing multiple species at multiple scales: reptiles in an Australian grazing landscape. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 41: 32-44.
- Brown, G., Dorrough, J. & Ramsey, D. (2011) Landscape and local influences on patterns of reptile occurrence in grazed temperate woodlands of southern Australia. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 103(3-4): 277-288.
- Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (DELWP) <https://vba.dse.vic.gov.au/vba/#/> Accessed 01/01/2019.

**A new record of the skink species  
*Saproscincus mustelinus* (O'Shaughnessy,  
1874) from Spring Gully Creek, Bendigo,  
Victoria.**

Richard Goonan.

Thirteen species of Scincid lizards are recognised to occur in the greater Bendigo district (within 50km radius of town centre) by Green and Gibbons (2010). The identification of these lizard species is generally straight forward once the basic features are recognised, however, without close inspection and careful attention to diagnostic details the chance of some closely related and nearby species being overlooked is certainly possible. When a specimen was recently found in the Spring Gully creek that didn't quite match the usual features of any previously recognised local species, it was either a mutant form or a new species for the region. Ben Goonan examined a specimen and provided the following diagnosis using the keys in Cogger, H. (2014) *Reptiles & Amphibians of Australia*. Ed. 7.

Scincidae:

- 1. Parietal shields in contact
- 8. Lower eyelid with transparent disk/movable
- 9. Lower eyelid movable
- 10. Supra-nasals absent and nasal un-divided
- 12. Limbs meet when appressed
- 13. Fingers 5
- 16. Nasals widely separated
- 23. Frontoparietals paired

*Saproscincus*:

- 1. Forelimbs penta-dactyl
- 2. Only two nuchals in contact with parietals
- 3. Dorsal pattern uniform, white teardrop streak behind eye, orange dorso-lateral bands on each side begin over rump and extends onto tail.

...*Saproscincus mustelinus* (O'Shaughnessy, 1874) Weasel Skink.

Records for this species from the Atlas of Living Australia indicate it has a geographic distribution that is predominantly south and east of the Great Dividing Range (see Map 2, page 10). The species occurs along the east

coast through NSW into Queensland, with two unusual records extending a long way inland (outliers or possible data errors?). Most records appear to be associated with areas that support taller and wetter forest types or coastal vegetation (see Map 2). In central Victoria few records extend inland north of the ranges, and there are no local records (see Map 3, page 10). This distribution pattern raises interesting questions about the presence of the species in Spring Gully. Did it occur in the region before European settlement and has been overlooked until now, perhaps due to being restricted to few small areas of locally suitable habitat? Has it been introduced into the region more recently, carried from further south in nursery stock, household pot plants, other garden supplies, or via some other modern transport mechanism? Whatever the case, the species has now been recorded locally along the Spring Gully creek. Further surveys will provide better understanding of the species distribution along the creek system.

Although no detailed ecological studies of *Saproscincus mustelinus* have been undertaken it is generally suggested the species prefers damper, shaded areas, in gardens with large amounts of litter. It is known to be readily adaptable to suburban habitats, see distribution around Sydney and Melbourne for example (Map 2, and is considered a secretive species that is easily overlooked in contrast to other common skinks that more often bask or move about in the open.

Acknowledgment, Ben Goonan provided insightful comments on this note.

## References

- Cogger, H. (2014) *Reptiles & Amphibians of Australia*. Ed. 7. CSIRO Publishing.
- Green, D. & Gibbons, D. (2010) *Frogs and Reptiles of the Bendigo District, A guide to identification*. Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
- Atlas of Living Australia website at <http://www.ala.org.au>. Accessed 01/01/2019
- Wilson, S. & Swan, G. (2017) *A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia*. Reed New Holland, Australia

## December Committee Notes

Secretary, Richard Goonan

- In early 2019, new mugs will be available for members to purchase. Their graphic design features the club's floral emblem, *Philotheca verrucosa*, and is being updated with new accompanying text.

- The club has published a new laminated foldout brochure '*Wildflowers of the Bendigo Region*'. All memberships have received a complimentary copy, for additional copies and for non-members or other groups, a small cost of \$3ea will apply. The brochure was developed after a publishing plan was first endorsed by the committee, a plan is required as part of the club's Publishing Policy and Procedures document. The plan enabled thorough consideration of the proposal to be made before production commenced and facilitated good decision making from the initial concept stage through to printing and distribution. The cost of the brochure will simply replace the funds expended for its production, enabling the publishing account to be sustainable. Unlike other brochures produced with grants, the use of the club's funds in this sustainable way reflects sound financial management. In line with responsible and environmentally sustainable practices adding a minor price to the brochures will help prevent them ending up in waste like many other free give-aways do.

- The committee hopes members enjoy the comfort of the new chairs at the hall. These have been progressively purchased as different models have been tested before being selected. The CoGB grant has some further expenditure to be allocated to chairs with arm rests and these will be sourced early in 2019.

- Three pairs of Binoculars have been purchased following a successful 2018 project application for this equipment. These will be available for new members/visitors who attend club excursions enabling them to participate and enjoy an introduction to bird watching.

- Tim McCaw will be keeping track of the club's equipment and can be contacted by club members to follow up requests to borrow club

equipment. A register of club equipment is being maintained to facilitate accounting for these items and their management. Let the committee know if you have any equipment that may not have been included on the register yet.

- The committee is considering what types of training opportunities would benefit members and the committee. Contact the secretary, if you would like to make a suggestion.

- The club's membership of the Australian Platypus Conservancy has been renewed. The club has long supported this small but effective organisation. Members are encouraged to take advantage of our membership and read the APC newsletter which is very informative.

- Interested in a campout? Members are invited to provide their suggestions for ways to reinvigorate our campouts including suitable locations, formats, activities, dates. Campouts were a past tradition of the club and provided a great shared experience for members. There are many local and easily accessible areas to visit.

- For those receiving *Whirrakee* by post, you may have noticed the colour front page and improved print quality. Unfortunately, after many years of involvement, our long-standing printer was unable to continue, the committee thanks Helen for her work.

- The committee is beginning to make arrangements for celebrating the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, club members who wish to suggest ideas for consideration or to be involved in their organisation are encouraged to contact the committee to express their interest.

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Above: Karen Thomas took this photo in her garden in early January while pruning shrubs ‘This jackie did not move one bit, so I could get up real close...I nearly pruned its tail’!

Below: This Olive legless lizard (*Delma inornata*) was unexpectedly spotted and photographed by Richard Goonan on November 13, 2018 near Lake Tom Thumb (see article on page 4)



**From Malcolm Cousland’s camera**  
(recent sightings at the February excursion destinations)



Brolgas at Greens Lake August 2018 (left) and Gaynor Swamp October 2018 (below).





**More swamp and lake images from Malcolm Cousland...**



Left:  
Tortoise at  
Gaynor  
Swamp,  
October 2018

Below left:  
Intermediate  
Egret at Greens  
Lake October  
2018

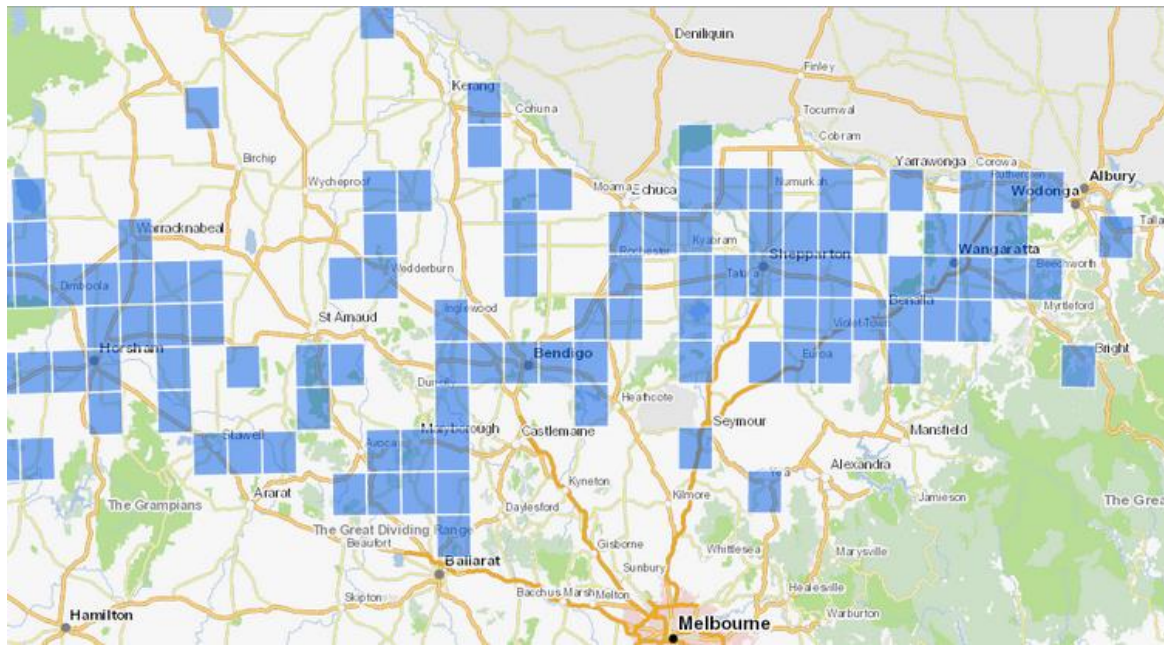
Below:  
Freckled Duck



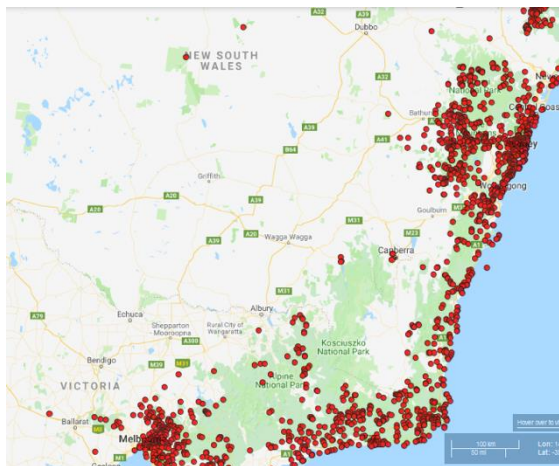
Left: Glossy Ibis at Gaynor Swamp  
October 2018 and below: Magpie  
Goose at Greens Lake October  
2018







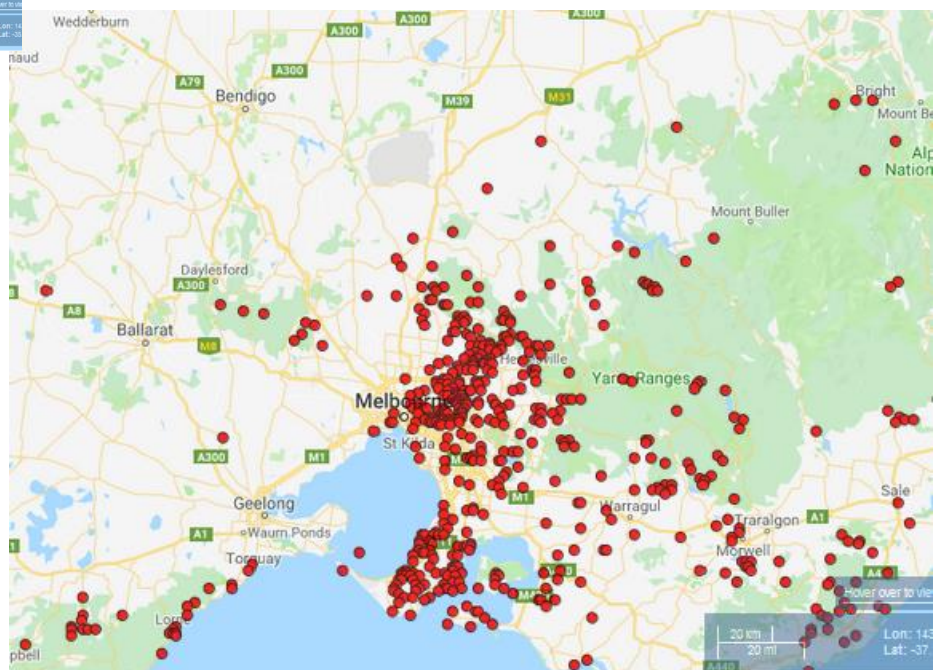
Map 1: Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (DELWP) species geographic distribution map *Delma inornata* (see article on page 4)



Above left: Map 2: Southeast Australian distribution of *Saproscincus mustelinus*. Atlas of Living Australia.



Above right: *Saproscincus mustelinus* (photographed at Mitchell River NP Gippsland by David Paul, source: Museums Victoria/CC BY-NC)



Right: Map 3: Victorian records of *Saproscincus mustelinus*. Atlas of living Australia (see article on page 6)





Above: bottle nests of Fairy Martins.  
Photo by M. Cousland, (see observations 19/1/2019, page 15).



Above: *Cryptostylis ovata* or Slipper Orchid, seen in the south-west of WA in January. The flower attracts male wasps of the genus *Lissopimpla*. The leaf (right) is unusual in its size (hand-size) and that it is present most of the year (photo S. Wilkens)



Below: Dusky Woodswallows with young. Photo by M.Cousland (see observations 9/1/2019, page 14)





## December/January Observations

Collated by Richard Goonan

09/12/18 – Ben Goonan, Epsom: *Trictena atripalpis* (Goat Moth, ‘Bardee’ or ‘Bardi’ Grub, Rain Moth, Swift Moth or ‘Waikerie’) several seen. This species is triggered to emerge during storms. Sugar Glider (1) first heard yelping, then observed low down in an *Acacia pycnantha*. *Limnodynastes dumerilii* (numerous); the wet weather triggered many to come to the surface or out from their hiding spots, some very large. Also observed actively moving around were *Crinia parin-signifera* (few), *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* (numerous) and *Neobatrachus sudelli* (few). Common Long-neck Turtle (1) medium sized and carrying numerous *glossiphoniid* leaches with it.

10/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Spring Gully: Major Flatrock Spider (2). Boulenger’s Skink (2), Garden Skink (2), Bougainville’s Skink (4), Marbled Gecko (2) one juvenile and some eggs, Woodland Blind Snake (1) juvenile, at surface under large rock, eventually disappearing into ant chamber.

14/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Lake Weeroona: Nankeen Night-heron (1). Seen flying in and landing on an exposed branch along the western edge.

16/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Kennington Reservoir: Pink-eared Duck (2) observed doing a fascinating display where each duck would put its head into the water and then rotate in-sync with the other bird. Together they would spin around and around a centre point for up to five seconds at a time before raising their heads for a moment (1-2 seconds), to then repeat the behaviour again and again. This is believed to be a feeding technique used to condense the micro-organisms they feed on (by filter feeding) in the water column created, also called vortexing.

17/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Kennington: Square-tailed Kite (2) seen circling above urban area.

17/12/18 – Ben Goonan, Kangaroo Gully Dam: Common Long-neck Turtle (1).

Pobblebonk (1) and a few others calling. The turtle was observed eating a medium sized pobblebonk. First saw the pobblebonk bobbing up and down in the water. This looked strange so I focused on it, realising after a few seconds, that it was being pulled down by a turtle. As the turtle thrust its head and neck forward (as they do when they are trying to swallow large items) and then recoil its neck to thrust again, the frog appeared to be bobbing up and down. The turtle eventually sunk out of view with the frog mostly devoured.

21/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Lake Weeroona: Nankeen Night-heron (1) observed flying into vegetation on the west side 8.45pm.

22/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, BFNC NightLife walk #15, Sheepwash Creek, Site 1: Spotted Marsh Frog (1) calling, Pobblebonk (1) calling and one observed roaming, Plains Froglet (1) calling and then a group heard calling in a different pool, Peron’s Tree Frog (1) calling. Common Brushtail Possum (1), Microbat (1) not calling. Galah (few) calling/ settling to roost, Willy Wagtail (1) calling/ settling to roost, Grey Fantail (1) calling/ settling to roost, Blue Wren (few) calling/settling to roost, Bronzewing (1) flying through, Long-billed Corella (many) roosting.

Sheepwash Creek, Site 2: Spotted Marsh Frog (many) calling, Plains Froglet (many) calling, Peron’s Tree Frog (few) calling and one observed in *Prunus cerasifera*, Southern Brown Tree Frog (few) calling. Common Brushtail Possum (6), Microbat (1) not calling, Grey-headed Flying-fox (1) flying overhead and then observed feeding on *Prunus cerasifera*.

Sheepwash Creek, Site 3: Spotted Marsh Frog (few) calling, Pobblebonk (few) calling, Plains Froglet (numerous) calling, Peron’s Tree Frog (few) calling. Common Brushtail Possum (10), Sugar Glider (1) observed in *Salix* sp. (Willow), Fox (1), Rabbit (3). Tawny Frogmouth (1), White-faced Heron (1) roosting.

26/12/2019 – Richard Goonan, Read Lane, Kangaroo Gully: *Anilius proximus?* (Woodland Blind Snake) (1), very large specimen (length 38cm+, 1.8cm+ body diameter) found

in compost heap (un-injured). Consistent light body colour throughout. Multiple large *Myrmecia* sp. colonies occur in the area where the specimen was found, these ants are believed to be a key food source. Previously called *Ramphotyphlops*. Further information can be found at

[https://www.swifft.net.au/cb\\_pages/sp\\_woodl\\_and\\_blind\\_snake.php](https://www.swifft.net.au/cb_pages/sp_woodl_and_blind_snake.php)

27/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Campaspe River, Goornong: Azure Kingfisher (1).

27/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Kennington Reservoir: Fork-tail Swift and a few White-throated Needletail. A loose group of about 10 birds (mostly Fork-tail Swift) were observed at about 7.00pm flying east, then west (not really circling), last seen heading to the north. Seen above the bushland, not over the reservoir.

27/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, One Tree Hill: Sugar Glider (2) one low down on Ironbark with lots of sap extruding from main trunk. *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, many trees flowering well. *Bursaria spinosa* some flowering well. Tawny Frogmouth (2), Fox (3) two young. Microbats (numerous) not calling. Scorpions out roaming, on rocks and tracks.

28/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, Lake Weeroona: 9.10pm, Grey-headed Flying-fox (Several hundred+) observed flying along the Bendigo Creek from Rosalind Park to the northern end of the lake where they would then circle to the east and then fly south over the lake. On flying low over the lake, the bats would dip low into the water and then rise again towards the southern end of the lake, circle to the west and fly north again along the Bendigo Creek. A few bats were seen landing in trees close to the lake and some dispersed in various direction other than continuing north along the Bendigo Creek. The bats were observed doing this over a 40-minute period. Usually the bats fly straight past the lake. This was the first time this behaviour was observed. Water Rat (1) 9.40pm, observed in the water from the boardwalk at the southern end of the lake near the Boardwalk café.

29/12/2018 – Ben Goonan, BFNC NightLife walk #16, Spring Gully Creek: Cicada sp.

(many) calling, *Paragryllacris* sp. Wood/Tree Cricket (1). Peron's Tree Frog (few) calling, Spotted Marsh Frog (few) calling. Pobble-bonk (1) calling. Marbled Gecko (1) low on tree roaming. White-striped Freetail Bat (2) calling only and 4 calling/seen, Microbat (1) not calling and very small, Grey-headed Flying-fox (many 100s) flying south overhead following creekline, Common Brushtail Possum (12), Common Ringtail Possum (6), Sugar Glider (2), Cat (2), Kangaroo (1), Fox (1) young, Wallaby (1). Tawny Frogmouth (1), Galah (few) calling/settling to roost, Magpie (1) calling/settling to roost, Common Bronzewing (2) roosting, Kookaburra (1) calling, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (2) roosting. Yellow Gum (small group), flowering.

02/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Mandurang South: Common Brushtail Possum (4) including one with a young, Common Ringtail Possum (1), Sugar Glider (1) low down on main stem of Golden Wattle. Australian Owlet-nightjar (2) calling. Peron's Tree Frog (1).

04/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Lake Weeroona: 9.00-9.45pm, Grey-headed Flying-fox (many 100s), Following a very hot day the bats were again observed visiting the lake. The bats again circled in from the north end, flying south over the water and dipping in once (very occasionally twice) and then flying off along the Bendigo Creek. This time there were more bats, and more were observed landing in trees close to the lake. Observing the bats 'dipping' into the water, it was clear they were dipping their belly and lower half into the water, not their head or mouth.

05/03/2019 – Ben Goonan and Richard Goonan, Epsom: Baillon's Crake (1), Australian Spotted Crake (2), Freckled Duck (6).

05/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, No. 7 Reservoir: Freckled Duck (7) observed sitting as a group on the southern edge. Appeared to be all female birds.

05/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, BFNC NightLife walk #17, Campaspe River: *Psaltoda moerens* (Redeye Cicada) many calling, and some observed on ground. Microbat sp. (many) seen throughout but not calling, White-striped Freetail Bat (few) occasional calling, Grey-

headed Flying-fox (1) flying overhead, Common Brushtail Possum (27) including one adult with young, Kangaroo (2), Fox (1), Wallaby (1), Wombat (1) also many burrows observed, Rat (2). Dusky Moorhen (1) calling, Tawny Frogmouth (2) calling, Tawny Frogmouth (2) observed, Powerful Owl (1) calling, Southern Boobook (4) adults and young observed and heard calling, Dollar Bird (2) observed, Willy Wagtail (1) calling/settling to roost, Blue Wren (few) calling/settling to roost, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (2) roosting.

07/01/2019 – Richard Goonan, Gold Leaf Wetland, Huntly: Black-winged Stilt (9), Aust. White Ibis (33), Masked Lapwing (4), White-faced Heron (2), Black Duck (8), Chestnut Teal (5m, 5f?), Grey Teal (33), Australasian Grebe (5), Hoary-headed Grebe (7), Coot (5), Black-fronted Dotterel (2), Little Corella (10), Galah (4), Red-rumped Parrot (2), Mudlark (4), noisy Miner (4), Tree Martin (200+), Brown-headed Honeyeater (1), Blue Wren (2). Water level full after recent channel flow-through, no exposed mudflats. Calm conditions during morning.

07/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Kamarooka: Black Honeyeater, White-fronted Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Musk Lorikeet, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, all observed feeding on abundantly flowering Kamarooka Mallee. Crested Bellbird also heard calling.

09/01/2019 – Malcolm Cousland, Crusoe Reservoir: Dusky Woodswallow, a couple of groups with young (see page 11), Crested Shrike-tit (3) female feeding one fledged young. Freckled Duck (approx. 25), up to 40 have been reported through the month.

11/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Kennington Reservoir: Nankeen Night-heron (2) observed standing in vegetation overhanging the water on the edge of the island at 8.00pm. Hardhead (1).

11/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Kangaroo Gully: White-throated Nightjar. Calling at about 9.40pm.

12/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Lake Weeroona: Nankeen Night-heron (1).

12/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Campaspe River: Large Huntsman, probably *Holconia immanis* (1) observed on trunk of very large old Grey Box, 15-20cm leg span. Large Huntsman, probably *Holconia colberti* (4) observed on trunk of very large old Grey Box and very large old Yellow Box, 15-20cm leg span. Large Huntsman, probably *Isopedella frenchi* (3) observed on trunk of very large old Yellow Box, 15-20cm leg span. Mantis-fly (1) *mantispidae*. Peron's Tree Frog (1) observed in small wattle, not calling. Microbat sp. (many) seen throughout but not calling, White-striped Freetail Bat (many) calling. Common Brushtail Possum (7), Common Ringtail Possum (2), Fox (1). Brown Tree-creeper (1) calling and one observed roosting on trunk, Willy Wagtail (1) calling/settling to roost, Kookaburra (1) calling/settling to roost, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (2) roosting, Mudlark (4) roosting, Crested Pigeon (1) roosting.

15/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Lake Weeroona: 8.45pm, Nankeen Night-heron (1) observed under the boardwalk, southern end of lake. 9.20-9.45pm Grey-headed Flying-fox (many 100's) following a very hot day the bats were again observed 'drinking' from the lake. This time however, the bats approached from the south (flying north along the Bendigo Creek as per usual) but flew over the water between the south island and the creek and then flew north over the water (a few bats still did it the way originally observed, but only a few). After dipping into the water many (most) of the bats went directly to trees at the lake's edge to rest while drinking. On observing the bats in the trees, it was clear that after landing they would immediately crook their head and lick their fur. This is their method of 'drinking'. They don't drink water directly from the source. They can also lick their wet fur while flying.

18/01/2019 – Richard Goonan, Gold Leaf Wetland, Huntly: Pelican (1), White-faced Heron (2), Aust. White Ibis (14), Black Duck (9), Pink-eared Duck (2), Australasian Grebe (5), Hoary-headed Grebe (2), Coot (5), black-winged Stilt (10), Chestnut Teal (2), Grey Teal

(15), Masked Lapwing (4), Tree Martin (30). Windy conditions at midday, few other typical 'bush' birds (usually seen) in surrounding habitat. Water level slightly receding but still 'full' after channel through-flow.

19/01/2019 – Malcolm Cousland, Murphy St, East Bendigo: Fairy Martin (approx. 15) flying in and out of a concrete drainpipe, bottle nests inside (see page 11). Many more were hawking over the levelled industrial land.

19/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, BFNC NightLife walk #18, Mandurang South Forest: Microbat sp. (many) not calling, White-striped Freetail Bat (1) call, Microbat (5) not calling and very small, Common Brushtail Possum (6) including one with a young on back, Common Ringtail Possum (1), Sugar Glider (1), Sugar Glider (2) each heard yelping only, Wallaby (1), Fox (1) young, Tuan (2). Australian Owlet-nightjar (2) calling, Tawny Frogmouth remains, many feathers found on ground, Tawny Frogmouth (1) observed, White-throated Tree-creeper (1) roosting on trunk, Powerful Owl (1) observed with Common Brushtail Possum in its talons sitting on a branch. *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* flowering well (few).

23/01/2019 – Richard Goonan, Lake Neangar, Eaglehawk: Pink-eared Duck (2).

24/01/2019 – Richard Goonan, Kangaroo Gully: White-throated Nightjar (1), at least one calling from nearby forest. Often call throughout the night during a full moon and warm overnight temperature.

25/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, Lake Weeroona: 8.30pm, Grey-headed Flying-fox (groups of about a dozen) following a very hot day the bats were again observed 'drinking' from the lake. This time however, some bats were arriving much earlier in the evening than previously. Groups of about a dozen were arriving while it was still quite light, and progressively the numbers built up to a constant stream of bats arriving as it got later, usually there is only a small amount of time between the first bats arriving and the large influx of the main group. Once again, the bats approached from the south (flying north along the Bendigo Creek), many flew north over the

water but often circled in different directions and dipped twice. Most of the bats then went directly to trees near the lake.

26/01/2019 – Ben Goonan, BFNC NightLife walk #19, Lockwood: *Delena cancerides* (Social Huntsman) two, one observed feeding on the other, Zodariidae sp. (Ant-eating spider) one observed carrying ant prey, *Misgolas* sp. ? (Tube spider) trapdoor with extended tube without 'lid' observed. Microbat sp. (few) not calling, Common Brushtail Possum (6) including one that was uncertain as it was 'hiding' in a hollow and didn't come out enough to be identified, but BtP scats were observed under the tree, Common Ringtail Possum (9), Sugar Glider (1) with very distinct white tip to tail, Wallaby shelter dens (many) observed along eroded gully edge.

### Additional Observations

Keith Graham, Arnold West, reported 6/12/18 - Wedge-tailed Eagles nests have gone from none to around 10 in his area in the last 15 years. Keith thinks this is because there is less persecution of the birds. Currently there are 3 occupied nests within 4 km of each other. In mid October there were 4000+ woodswallows (exact species unknown) foraging on a green (not cut for hay) canola crop at Arnold. The flock was swirling around with birds dipping in and out of the canola. They might have been taking aphids. Recently there have been 100 or so Magpies chorusing all day across the Loddon River from Keith's place.

Anne Bridley - 25/11/18- A male Cicadabird was heard and seen in the Ironbarks next door. Anne also heard the bird a few hundred metres away at the top of Shelley St on Xmas day a few years ago. Their main loud call can be heard in the Strathbogie Ranges, but this is the first time that Anne has managed to see one.

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**Interesting News in Ecology (via Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) e-News, December and January 2018)**

**Extreme heat wipes out almost one third of Australia's spectacled flying fox population**

An extreme heatwave in far north Queensland last month is estimated to have killed more than 23,000 spectacled flying foxes, equating to almost one third of the species in Australia

The deaths were from colonies in the Cairns area where the mercury soared above 42 degrees Celsius two days in a row, breaking the city's previous record temperature for November by five degrees

Ecologist, Dr Justin Welbergen from the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (Western Sydney University) is collating the numbers of bat deaths and said it was the second-largest mass die-off of flying foxes recorded in Australia and the first time it had happened to this species.

"These are certainly very serious wildlife die-off events and they occur at almost biblical scales," he said.

For more information, (which includes some quite distressing images, see <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-19/heat-wipes-out-one-third-of-flying-fox-species/10632940>)

*Editor's note: In this context, it is very interesting to read Ben's many observations of bats flying over and dipping into Lake Weeroona after hot days in the last couple of months.*

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**Swift parrot polyamory a new threat to critically endangered species' survival**

Tasmania's critically endangered swift parrots are facing a new threat to survival – polyamory

A study by researchers at the Australian National University, published in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*, has found that a chronic shortage of female swift parrots caused by intensive predation by sugar gliders has

wreaked havoc on the bird's usually monogamous breeding habits and lowered the survival rate for young hatchlings

Lead researcher Prof Rob Heinsohn said the unusual behaviour was caused by a significant disparity in the number of males and females in the parrots' breeding grounds of the blue gum forests in south-east Tasmania. Surplus bachelor males were pressuring paired-up females for sex and getting into fights with paired males.

For more information, see...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/05/swift-parrot-polyamory-a-new-threat-to-critically-endangered-species-survival>

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*... and here is the big news item. Some of you may already know this, but some might not...*

**Parasitic flatworms help mark 30 years of Holsworth Endowment**

The Ecological Society of Australia recently celebrated 30 years of the Holsworth Endowment. In 1990, the first year the grants were awarded, three students received \$3,000 each as a result of Bill's investment, and it went from there. His support has now helped 100s of early-career ecologists to get established.

Last summer, two early-career researchers Bill was supporting were out in the waters off Perth collecting parasitic flatworms, when they discovered two new species of worm in silver drummer fish and western buffalo bream.

Storm Martin and Daniel Huston, from the Marine Parasitology Research Laboratory at the University of Queensland believe that these species in fact are a new genus, likely to be endemic to south-west Australia.

So, they did what any grateful grant recipient would, and named the genus after their funder.... *Holsworthotrema* (the Holsworth trematode).

At the recent ESA conference, close to 50 people, including many past recipients joined Bill to celebrate his contribution and both,

Storm and Daniel presented Bill with a poster detailing their discovery.

See

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/news/2018/12/parasitic-flatworms-help-mark-30-years-holsworth-endowment> or

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au> to read more about this event and other interesting research developments in Ecology.

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### **The science is in: aerial cull of feral horses needed to reduce their impacts in the**

A suite of research papers published today in a special issue of the journal *Ecological Management and Restoration* (Jan 2019) together show that feral horses degrade the alpine environment, and aerial culling is urgently needed to stop them driving already threatened species closer to extinction, and promote recovery of already degraded habitats.

Professor Don Driscoll, President of the Ecological Society of Australia, said that ‘New evidence of the impacts by feral horses in Australia's alpine parks confirms that they endanger threatened species and extensively damage critically endangered communities that could take thousands of years to recover.’ He said computer modelling and decades of management experience have shown that trapping and fertility control alone can't control the thousands of feral horses in remote areas. ‘Aerial culling is needed to cost-effectively and humanely control feral horse populations’. ‘As a result of ineffective management, horse populations are now expanding and causing well documented damage to Australia's alpine parks.’

Nine ecological papers from 25 authors representing at least 12 organisations provide very clear science that any attempt to accommodate feral horses in the Kosciuszko National Park makes no ecological nor business sense.

Threatened species at risk from the impacts of horses include the critically endangered corroboree frog, alpine tree frog, alpine water skink, broad-toothed rat and Kiandra green-

hood. A report for the Ecological Society of Australia found that feral horses present a substantial weed risk, damage waterways and are a threat to native species.

‘We can celebrate the Man-From-Snowy-River culture without having horses in sensitive alpine ecosystems,’ said Professor Driscoll. ‘Cultural appreciation of horses already occurs outside national parks in other ways such as festivals and races. Feral horses need to be quickly removed from national parks to protect Australia's natural heritage and globally unique flora and fauna.’

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/news/2019/01/science-aerial-cull-feral-horses-needed-reduce-their-impacts-australian-alps>

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### **Bilbies make historical return to NSW**

The Australian bilby, a much-loved Easter icon, has made a historic return to NSW, after an almost 100-year absence.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy released the bilbies last night into the Pilliga, where a 5,800ha feral predator-free fenced area was constructed earlier this year.

“The establishment of the fenced area will enable six locally extinct mammals to be reintroduced to the Pilliga: bilby, western quoll, western barred bandicoot, brush-tailed bettong, bridled nailtail wallaby and plains mouse,” said the AWC

The release was a part of a joint project with the New South Wales Government called ‘Saving Our Species’. NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said this was a major victory for the campaign

“The return of the Bilby is internationally significant; this is a major victory in the campaign to save our species from extinction,” the minister said.

For more information, see

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2018/12/bilbies-make-historical-return-to-nsw/>

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... and the article below reminds us that any re-introductions are always rather complex and risky operations...

### Antipredator behaviour of a native marsupial is relaxed when mammalian predators are excluded

H. Bannister, R. Brandle <sup>B</sup> and K. Moseby *Wildlife Research* 45(8) 726-736  
Published: 12 December 2018

#### Abstract

**Context:** Predator-controlled environments can lead to prey species losing costly antipredator behaviours as they exploit their low-risk environment, creating a ‘predator-naïve’ population. If individuals lacking suitable antipredator behaviours are used as source populations for reintroductions to environments where predators are present, their behaviour could result in high post-release predation. In contrast, animals sourced from environments with predators (‘predator-exposed’) may show effective antipredator behaviours and thus higher survival post-release.

**Aims:** The aim was to compare the antipredator behaviour of brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) at predator-exposed and predator-naïve source populations, and then compare post-release survival after their reintroduction to a low predator environment.

**Methods:** Data were collected from possums at two sites, one with and one without mammalian predators. The behavioural responses of possums to a spotlighter, their willingness to use supplementary feeders at ‘safe’ and ‘risky’ heights, whether they avoided predator odour at traps and their general willingness to enter traps were recorded.

**Key results:** Predator-naïve possums showed weaker antipredator responses, were often found at ground level, engaged with novel objects, did not avoid predator scents and utilised different habitats regardless of associated predation risk. In contrast, predator-exposed possums had higher antipredator responses, chose connected trees, were rarely found at ground level and were generally

difficult to capture. Post-translocation survival was high for both source populations. Predator-naïve-sourced female possums began to avoid predator urine (feral cat; *Felis catus*) 12 months after translocation.

**Conclusions:** Our research demonstrates that environmental predation risk can predict prey naïvety in brushtail possums. Some aspects of prey naïvety behaviour appear to be able to change in response to altered predation risk.

### Can we use flower movements to tell the time?

Carl Linnaeus (one of the editor’s heroes) constructed a famous flower clock in 1748 (according to legend it was located in his kitchen garden in Uppsala). He used local plants, which opened and closed so reliably each day that, apparently, he could organise his day by them.

Here in central Victoria, Frances Cincotta has recently posted a start to her investigations in this field of ‘chronobiology’ (see reference to Natural Newstead blog below). Of course, daylight savings complicates the story somewhat, as does the latitude and a host of other environmental factors... Nevertheless, the idea is very interesting. Can anybody add to Frances’ beginnings of our own flower clock?

Clock Time	Local flowering event
8 a.m.	<i>Arthropodium fimbriatum</i> flowers open
1 p.m.	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i> flowers open
3 p.m.	<i>Dianella tarda</i> flowers open
5 p.m.	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i> & <i>Arthropodium fimbriatum</i> flowers close

Reference:

<https://geoffpark.wordpress.com/2019/01/21/what-time-is-it-ask-the-flowers/>

## Diary

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All Club meetings are held at the Golden Square Hall, Old High St Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

### **Wednesday, 13th February 7.30pm**

Our speaker for the first meeting of the year is Mr. Dermot Henry, Head of Sciences, Division of Research and Collections, Museums Victoria.

The topic is 'Volcanoes in Victoria'  
Everybody, including visitors, are welcome.

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## Excursions

### **Excursion Sunday 17 February to Gaynor Swamp and Greens Lake near Corop**

*Leader:* Malcolm Cousland assisted by John Lindner

*Location:* Gaynor Swamp and Greens Lake at Corop

*Meet:* 8.00 am at the clubrooms.

NOTE EARLIER MEETING TIME!

For details, see page 3.

### **Saturday Excursion (3hr Local Walk)**

February and March 8.00am to 11.00am

Meet at Golden Square Hall (7:55am)

Visitors (non-members) welcome.

See website for dates

[www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](http://www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au)

For further information see page 4 or call Richard 0423418815.

### **Nestbox Monitoring Activity**

Contact Karen if you want to be put on notification list 0417377223

### **NightLife – wandering in the bush after dark**

See page 3 for more information and e-mail [info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au) to RSVP.

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### **Family Nature Club**

Check out their website. **Registration:**

Bendigonatureclub@gmail.com or 5443-1326  
[bendigofamilynatureclub.blogspot.com.au](http://bendigofamilynatureclub.blogspot.com.au)

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### **Naturalist Workshop – Workshop 34: 'Bendigo Region Cicadas: an introduction to species and their identification'**

**Presenter:** Ben Goonan

**Date:** 27th February 2019

**Time:** 7.00pm, Golden Square Hall

**RSVP:** Please register your interest via [info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au) or by post to PO Box 396 Bendigo VIC 3552.

**What to bring:** Enthusiasm! and images if you have any, specimens, recordings, your field guides and notes, paper and pen, your laptop or phone to use apps, etc.

For more information, see page 3 and [www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](http://www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au) or [info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au](mailto:info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au)

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### **SEANA Autumn meeting 2019**

The SEANA Autumn meeting for 2019 is to be held at Port Fairy on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

The 1st circular, registration form and accommodation options at Port Fairy can be obtained from the secretary, Richard Goonan.

This gathering is being held in place of the usual 'camp' as we have been unable to find a club willing to host our traditional style of event. But we hope that members will like the idea of gathering at a Victorian location with plenty to offer naturalists.

Phil Rayment (SEANA President)

(N.B. completed registration forms and payment are due by 1st of February)

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### **Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.**

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment. Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433. WRIN meetings held on the 1st Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December at 1pm the Golden Square Hall.

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**Submission deadline** for the February *Whirrakee* is Monday the 25th February.

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