

# Castlemaine

## Naturalist

April 2006

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RED-TAILED  
BLACK  
COCKATOO.



**Castlemaine Field Naturalists - 2006 - Celebrating 30 years**

### A short trip to Armidale – mid-January 2006

Jenny was going on a week's Art course in Bathurst, so I dropped her off and went on up the Newell and Oxley Highways to Armidale. I wanted to revisit some collecting spots I hadn't been back to for 20 to 30 years. I'm happy to say that, by and large, they're still the same.

About 25 km past Coonabarabran I stopped at a picnic area, Oxley's Crossing, to look for *Candalides geminus* (1978), the Twin Dusky-blue. It took 100 years for entomologists to realize that this insect is a different species to our local *C. hyacinthinus* (1878), the Varied Dusky-blue, which is much more widespread. As its name suggests, it is very similar, but if you compare half a dozen of each species, there are significant differences visible on the underside. There were a few specimens about though they were rather worn as it was late in the season for them.

About 40 km before Gunnedah there is a small hill surrounded by cultivated land where I had found a new species of *Acrodipsas*, an Ant-blue, some years before. (I remember then that Jenny sensibly stayed near the car reading Clavell's *King Rat* in 35 degree heat while I toiled up the hill.) It was much harder now, 20 years later! The Golden Orb spider, *Nephila aureus*, had been blown down from Queensland as spiderlings, and were everywhere. The huge females sitting in the centre of their surprisingly strong golden webs with the tiny male nervously hovering at the edge, no doubt wondering if he's going to be the female's next meal. There were dozens of Blues on the summit, but no *Acrodipsas* that I could see. The Wattle Blue, *Theclinesstes miskini*, and our two common local species, the Saltbush Blue, *Theclinesstes serpentata* and the Two-spotted Line-blue, *Nacaduba biocellata*, were very common. I saw a perfect Tailed Emperor, *Polyura sempronius* as well as a Wood White or Spotted Jezebel (as they will now call it!), *Delias aganippe*, which I haven't seen here at all this year. There were also thick swirling clouds of some sort of gnat or midge which occasionally enveloped me. I collected a lot of these inadvertently.

At Armidale I visited Dangar's Falls, about 20 km South of the town. The dwarffish *Pomaderris* that line the sides of the creek are the foodplant of the larvae of a Jewel, *Hypochrysops byzos*, the Yellow Jewel. If they were still there, I didn't see any. I was probably too late. Timing is vital with many butterflies. Plentiful one week, absent the next! Bushes of *Bursaria spinosa* were in flower, and there were a few female Coppers feeding from them. These were not our Castlemaine Coppers, *Paralucia pyrodiscus*, but the closely related Bright Copper, *P. aurifer*.

My last visit before returning to Bathurst was to Dorrigo. Among other species, I was looking for *Tisiphone abeona regalis*, the montane form of our orange and black Swordgrass Brown. In *regalis*, the brightest and biggest of the six subspecies, the orange markings are replaced by cream. I took a cabin in a caravan park and visited the Rainforest Centre on the road to Coffs Harbour. It was evening but there were still many butterflies around, mainly sub-tropical Papilios and Danaiids but also Macleay's Swallowtail, *Graphium macleayanum*, which we have in the Victorian hills wherever there is its foodplant: Sassafras. I saw a Bush Turkey and a cuckoo of sorts and heard the Whip-bird and the Koel.

That night it started to rain. Really hard. The rainforest needed keeping going, I imagine! It went on all next day and the day after. I got a lot of reading done in my cabin. I noticed, whenever there was a pause in the rain, that the Magpies had black backs and were definitely under the thumb (or should it be primaries) of the Pied Currawongs, perhaps because the latter were more numerous. In cool, rainy, cloudy weather, butterflies, which have more sense than humans, sit it out under a leaf. This is what I was doing. I only saw one more. I had gone into a supermarket to get some dinner when I noticed a Skipper, *Trapezites symmomus*, the Splendid Ochre, hiding behind some large packs of toilet paper on a top shelf. It's a different subspecies up there. Our local one is *soma*, so I had to have it. I'm usually very nervous about appearing more eccentric than I am, but there were very few people inside the place. A ladder was handy. I moved it, climbed up, gave the insect a loving squeeze and popped it into my specs case. It's now in a storebox with a special label.

The return trip was uneventful, though cloudy and rainy still. At Coonabarabran I stayed on the Warrumbungles road at a very reasonably priced motel just outside the National Park. Much better than being on the highway in town. It was about here that I noticed several parties of the Apostlebird. I feel sure I remember this bird from India where we called them the Seven Sisters.

Tony Morton

Is your Membership up to date? Subs were due in February. If you have a (p) after your name on the envelope, you have paid, if you have (-) you haven't. Send to the Treasurer c/o the FNC, PO Box 324, Castlemaine.

(For those who don't know them, Ken and Maureen Dredge were very active members of the club for a number of years, Maureen having held office as President at one stage, Both are keen birdos - Ken's reputation in the Club was that the birds came to see him! - and since Ken's retirement they have moved to warmer climes for Maureen's sake, and at the moment are having a wonderful time touring Australia, with the intention of being in the far north by Winter. The club received a letter from them towards the end of March, which I think is well worth publishing in the CN!)

Mid March - (no date!)

### **"On the Road"**

Dear friends,

Just a line or few to give you all a bit of an update on Ken and Maureen's "Duinteazy Trip". Firstly, we are both fit and well and settling into retirement mode quite well. We have been "on the road" for six weeks now, and haven't come to blows as yet!! I have agreed to stay out of the caravan kitchen and Maureen has agreed to stay out of the front storage locker, and things are working out fine.

We left home at Barham on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> and only made it to Terrick Terrick N.P. on the first day. This seemed to set the pattern for the rest of the trip (so far). It has taken us over 5 weeks to clear Victoria and get to S.A.

The aim of our 9 month trip is to combine good birding and an appreciation of our great continent at a leisurely pace. So far we have a total of 202 birds for the trip and 245 species for the year. (Sean Dooley, your record is safe!!)

The weather had been fine, dry, and mostly mild with only a couple of showery days, perfect for all our outdoor activities.

We have alternated our stop-overs between caravan parks, National and State Parks and free off-road and bush camping. This lifestyle certainly makes for interesting and varied touring, (and) it puts us amongst our avian friends a lot.

On the way, we joined in with the Souwest Birders for their weekend campout at Nelson on the Glenelg River. It was a very enjoyable weekend where we renewed quite a lot of friendships that were made at last year's BOCA Warrnambird camp.

The main birding highlight of the camp was the presence of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos together with Gang Gangs along the banks of the river. Unfortunately the wader watch was severely hampered by a VERY heavy fog and sea mist that came in and stayed. However, we managed to get most of the "regulars".

At the moment we are at Port Augusta for a few days before “launching our attack” on the north. We have spent many hours here at the Arid Lands Botanical Gardens - as most members will know, a truly magnificent experience, with over 200 hectares of amazing arid zone flora and the bird life that goes with it. We found a new bird for our “life list” here - the shy and elusive Redthroat, a lovely little bird. Along with Chirruping Wedgebill, White-fronted Honeyeater and Mulga Parrot, (it) makes us realize that we are definitely heading north to Alice and beyond.

We will send another update a bit later on from some other northern climes.

We wish the club all the very best in its future direction, hopefully, from our point of view, in a non political direction. We believe that the club’s policies and procedures of the past have been the strength of the club, and a big part of the reason for our strong membership numbers when many similar type organizations are “falling by the wayside” through lack of members. Good Luck,

Regards to all,

Maureen and Ken Dredge.

Ken also enclosed a list of the main areas they travelled through and the “main birds spotted there”. They sound like “some pretty special birds spotted there”

Terrick Terrick NP - Hooded Robins, Diamond Firetails, Gilberts Whistler.

Lismore (Western Plains)- Great Crested Grebe, Cape Barren Geese and many waders and waterbirds.

Colac - Otway Ranges - Apollo Bay - Pink Robin, Crescent Honeyeater, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Rufous Fantail, Bassian Thrush, Gang Gangs, White Goshawk, King Parrot, Blue-winged Parrot, Satin Bowerbird.

Cape Otway - Olive Whistler, Beautiful Firetail, Leaden Flycatcher.

Port Campbell area - Rufous Bristlebird, Southern Emu Wren, Golden Plover,.

Warnambool area - Striated Fieldwren, Ruddy Turnstone, Lathams Snipe.

Portland area - Hooded Plover, Fairy Tern.

The Coorong - Red-necked Avocet, Banded Stilt, Purple-gaped and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters.

Port Germain - Port Augusta - Mallee Ringneck, Southern Whiteface, Chirruping Wedgebill, Mulga Parrot, White-fronted Honeyeater, Redthroat, White-winged and Variegated Fairy-wrens.

### **Ray Bradfield Memorial Excursion – 11/2/06**

Armed with eight pages of “Notes for a Tour of Castlemaine, Chewton, Fryerstown, Vaughan, Yapeen, Guildford and Castlemaine.” by R. A. Bradfield, CFNC members set out at 1.30pm on what promised to be a comprehensive and information packed tour under the experienced guidance of leader, Ern Perkins.

When Ray led the tour in June 1976, they started out from the Market at 10.30am. We skipped Castlemaine (page 1) and headed straight for “the Children’s Cemetery” at Pennyweight Flat where about 200 children were buried (between 1852 and 1857) when they “succumbed to the hard life on the gold fields”.

Next stop was the Garfield waterwheel and mine at Chewton (1866 – 1911) where the main shaft was 1,135ft deep and 134,314 tons of ore was treated for an average yield of 5dwt per ton. Members climbed onto the two great abutments for a group photo. The abutments are all that remains of the giant water driven wheel that powered the fifteen-head battery until 1904 when it was replaced by a new steam-powered plant.

Driving through Chewton we noted that the Town Hall, Post Office and Mt Alexander Hotel were still stand defiantly despite Ray’s comment, in 1976, that they were shortly to fall victims to the bulldozer and realignment works – to “enable greater speeds to be safely maintained, by the traveller, in his headlong dash to wherever he is going”.

At the tourist information shelter at the far end of Chewton we viewed historical photos of the Garfield Wheel and took a moment to look towards the site of the Monster Meeting that was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1851. The miners gathered to demonstrate against the proposal to double their licence fees from 30 shillings to three pound per month.

Driving back through Chewton past the site of the Francis Ormond mine on the right that was flooded on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1889 when about six inches of rain fell during the day. Two miners were trapped in the mine and drowned. Public opinion forced the mine to be pumped out so that the bodies could be retrieved and the mine continued until 1913.

Just past Wattle Gully Gold Mine we turned right and stopped at a clearing where the W.G. Southlegs once stood. All that remains today is an old boiler and part of some brick foundations. The “fine view of the Forest Creek area”, has long since been blocked out by the surrounding bush.

We stopped briefly at the Duke of Cornwall mine. Unfortunately the small stone domed-roof powder magazine across the way is on private property and no longer accessible. Passing by the mining registrar’s cottage, Carter’s Boot Factory and the Court House building which was “bought for \$35” in the 1930s we turned left to the Burke and Wills Mechanics Institute (1863) for afternoon tea in the Town Square area

At Bald Hill on the way to Vaughan we stopped to look out over Red Knob rising above the clay and gravel beds where Ray helped sluice 80,000 yards of residues during the 1930s. The dams, on the other side of the road, once provided a good bird watching site, but very little water remains today.

At Vaughan Springs and visited the old cemetery on the left of the roadside that was one of several sites used before the General Cemetery was opened in 1860.

Pennyweight Hill further along on the left was like a heap of glacial tillite but unlikely to be of glacial origin, we pondered over the origin of this "great jumble" of mainly quartz boulders but were unable to explain this curious site.

After a brief visit to the Big Tree at Guildford, those of us that remained settled down along the Loddon River, in the evening sunlight, to enjoy our picnic tea. Most expressed a need to revisit this tour another time, notes in hand, and in a more leisurely manner so as to be able to slowly take in all that Ray had presented back in 1976.

Geraldine Harris

### **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos at Barkers Creek?**

I met Lorna Grant, one of our very reliable early birdwatchers who regularly sent in reports back in the late 70s and early 80s, in the street in mid March. She asked me if there had been any reports of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos in the district, because she had about five arrive "four or five weeks before", and they "attacked" one of her large old banksias over 3 or 4 days, and have made rather a mess of it. She was adamant that they were Red-tails not Yellow-tails. She didn't ring anyone about them as she took it for granted that others would have seen them too. She was just glad to see them go, as they had made such a mess of her banksia! Rita Mills

### **February Bird List for Barkers Creek – Geraldine Harris**

Australian Raven	Black-shouldered Kite
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Choughs
Crimson Rosella	Dusky Woodswallow
Eastern Rosella	Galah
Kookaburra	Mistletoebird
Musk Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater
Pacific Black Duck	Rainbow Bee-eater
Red-rumped Parrot	Red Wattlebirds
Red-browed Finch	Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote	Superb Fairy Wren
Thornbill	Tree Martin
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Welcome Swallow
White-browed Scrub-wren	White-naped Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater	White-throated Treecreeper
Willy Wagtail	Yellow-faced Honeyeater

## **Continents Apart: Landscape and Plants of the Alpine Europe and Australasia – Phil Collier – 10/3/06**

Phil Collier's reputation for wonderful images attracted a large audience to our March Meeting. With a dual screen presentation of slides and digital images projected simultaneously during the address, members were indeed treated with both a visual feast and a stimulating educational experience.

Our climate becomes one degree cooler for every 100m of elevation in the alps. Where it becomes too cool for trees to grow is referred to as the treeline and where snow and/or glaciers persist throughout the year is known as the nival zone. The alpine zone lies above the treeline and below the nival zone.

Alpine vegetation is comprised of mostly grassland and low growing shrubs clinging to rocks. In Tasmania shrubs are more common than grassland because Tasmania's mountains are not very high. Grassland is more common in Europe where the mountains are higher but areas of shrub woodland also occur eg. Rhododendron forests.

The Alpine Climate In Alpine areas, the mountains attract cloud and higher rainfalls. Snow is more common and wind speeds are higher particularly as they pass over the peaks. Temperatures can be described as summer by day and winter by night. These factors shorten the season for growth and reproduction resulting in some plants growing very slowly and others developing an ability to put down long roots quite rapidly to take advantage of this short opportunity to bloom and reproduce.

Alpine Landscapes depend on such factors as rock type and fertility, local topography (present and past elements), the influence of humans (huts, cattle, ski resorts and runs, fires lit by graziers to create grassland in areas of heathland, etc.), and the intensity and direction of the sunlight (affecting evaporation and soil moisture, surface water and availability, and duration of the snow on the ground).

Various types of Alpine Plant Habitat include:

Scree Fill - areas of loose small rocks where young mountains are still fracturing.  
*eg. Alpine Buttercups*

Wind Feldmark – very little soil, permanently exposed, too windy for snow to last. Little plants get their roots down in search of sparse soil. Dry stony areas. Shrubs clinging on to surface. *eg. Cushion Plant*

Snow Feldmark – snow lies long into spring and possibly summer. Once the snow has melted, herbaceous plants take the opportunity to bloom. *eg. Snowbells, Crocus*

Fen and Bog – standing water, herbaceous vegetation. *eg Cushion Heath, Snow Grass, Spagnum Moss, Fairy Aprons*

Espalier - two-dimensional vegetation pressed flat to rock, wet, windy, no soil.

By the end of the evening we were beginning to have some understanding of what factors determine whether alpine vegetation is heathland or herbfield. Herbs prefer higher altitudes and deeper soils. They don't waste their energy producing dead wood. Shrubs are found in rocky areas at lower altitudes. They use the thermal mass of the rocks to their advantage.

To finish the presentation Phil showed some colourful examples of plant families that are common to both Europe and Australasia. They included plants from the Violaceae, Asteraceae, Orchidaceae, Campanulaceae, Scropulariaceae, Brassicaceae, Ranunculaceae and Gentianaceae families. A most engaging night.

Geraldine Harris ( from notes taken at the meeting)

### **Bird Survey on Zhale property at Baringhup - 11/ 3/06**

Five club members braved the hot afternoon to visit this Baringhup property to carry out an initial bird survey. Since September 2005, Nils and Liz have planted more than 10,000 trees on their property on the Cairn Curran side of Mt Tarrengower. Despite the dry weather they have lost only a few trees and the rest appear to be very healthy with many already almost a metre high, helped no doubt by the fact that they had heavy rain after each planting. It is quite an impressive sight.

The birds we noted as we walked along the dry creek bed were:

Australian raven	White-plumed Honeyeater	Striated Pardalote
Red-rumped Parrot	Magpie	Galah
Willy Wagtail	Crested Shrike-tit	Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush	Superb fairy Wren	Crested Pigeon
Noisy Miner (heard)		

It will be interesting to follow the progress of the trees and to monitor the effect on the bird population of such a large scale planting.

Geraldine Harris

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club.

### **WANTED! Articles for the Newsletter!**

If it interested you, others will be interested also. Articles, reports and observations can be sent to Geraldine Harris, P O Box 703, Castlemaine, 3450. Ph. 5472 2244 or emailed to [gharris@castlemaine.net](mailto:gharris@castlemaine.net)



## **Stop, Look and Learn.**

Returning to Avoca on the evening of my first outing with CFNC on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, about four kms on the Castlemaine side of Carisbrook, I observed a road-kill bird in the middle of the road. After stopping, I verified the deceased bird was a Brown Falcon – very fresh.

On the side of the road was a dead hare with its freshly extracted heart on its chest. Apparently the Falcon was disturbed by a car and chose to fly the wrong way.

Margaret Lees

## **Observations**

- Four Sacred Kingfishers, two pairs, for two days, at Lancefield. Robyn van Smeerdijk
- Farmer friend predicting “a good year ahead” because of the amount of Grey Box blossom - the best since 1980. Beverley Mary Hill. (Red Stringy-bark has been in flower at the same time, but starting a few weeks earlier and finishing earlier)
- Another sign of rain at north Castlemaine was the myriad of black ants carrying eggs up into the ceiling of a car port - the trouble was, three days and no rain later they were spotted carting them all down again!
- Collared Sparrowhawk with chick chasing Crimson Rosellas around. Bruce Donaldson
- Very nervous Australian Hobby, in Myring St. Rita Mills
- Rainbow Bee-eaters and Sacred Kingfishers along Loddon River at Newstead. Dawn Angus
- Southern White-face at Strathlea and Goughs Range Rd, Nankeen Kestrel and Musk Ducks near Treloars Bay, White-browed Wood Swallow at Goughs Range Road and also Masked Woodswallows. John Alexander
- At the roadside cleanup on the 18th of March Richard Piesse found Cranberry Heath in flower. (In my experience it seems to flower in response to rain any time between January and May., though I found on a U3A walk on the Wednesday after the cleanup that there were no flowers on the ones at the Vaughan Cemetery. Perhaps they had less rain? Rita Mills)
- Richard Piesse reported spreading Wattle beginning to flower south of Vaughan, and Hans van Gemert told how he and Anne had climbed the Monk, and the Spreading wattle was well out at the base, but the flowering tapered off as they climbed towards the top, where there was very little blossom.
- Hans also told of an incident at their place. He and Anne were sitting at the window watching Spotted Pardelote families, including four or five fluffy chicks, when one of the pair of resident Grey Currawongs swooped down and snatched one of the chicks.
- Richard remarked on the increased number of ducks in the gardens since the start of the duck season. They're not silly!

## **Extra Events for your Calendar**

**Sun April 2.** Muckleford Catchment Landcare Group and NCCMA present **“Muckleford: Our Place and Time.” Part 1: The Geological Story.** Discover the geological forces that have shaped and are shaping the landscape of the Muckleford Catchment by visiting landmarks in the Muckleford valley. A family field day led by Dr Neville Rosengren, Lecturer – Dept of Civil and Physical Science, Latrobe University, Bendigo. Muckleford Community Centre Muckleford-Walmer Rd (between Maldon Rd. and Rilens Rd.), 10am – 4pm.

### **Sustainable Living in Suburban Perth.**

Again a friend living in suburban Perth has sent me some information on what Western Australia is doing to interest people in caring for and appreciating their environment. I published some of the information in the CN she sent me earlier about how Western Water was helping to rescue endangered orchids by backing a cloning program.

This article in the Cockburn Gazette for Feb. 21 - 27 this year tells how LandCorp is helping a community to develop an appreciation for their environment and its conservation.

“Making frog-friendly gardens is keeping some Cockburn residents busy after taking part in the first of a series of free sustainable living workshops at the Harvest Lakes Community and Environmental Centre, Atwell, last week.

“Environmental scientist Johnny Prefuma is running the workshops, which include a Frog Watch night stalk and building community garden in the courtyard of the centre.

“The workshops are part of a joint community program involving LandCorp, Cockburn Council, Harmony Primary School and the Harvest Lakes community.

“LandCorp business manager Mario Claudio said the program promoted the idea of the estate as a classroom to teach the community environmental and conservation values.”

And it gives a number to ring for information about the workshops.

Rita Mills

### **From The Business Meeting 23/3/06**

- **Welcome to new members:** Virginia Bartlam.
- The Roadside cleanup was a success, though there were fewer to do the job, but there was only about half the usual number of bags of rubbish collect. Hans has arranged with the Shire to deal with a large tangled mass of barbed wire which was too much for us to deal with.

- The committee has accepted with much regret the resignation of Lesley Perkins from the Club. She has been a real asset, working with Ern quietly in the back ground but adding greatly to the base of knowledge.
- The Barkers Creek annex of the secondary college is hoping to have input from parents friends and organizations to help set up a Ceres-like Community environmental centre, and would welcome our input. This fits in very well with Helen Morris' proposal aired at the last general meeting and we are informing the co-ordinator of our interest.
- A number of Screensavers have been sold, and the Library has put it on their computers.
- Hans van Gemert brought to the meeting his summary of the Field Nats involvement of the VicRoads application to remove trees on the Pyrenees Highway, and it was suggested that it be published for the information of the general membership.

#### **Background**

- June 2004, CFNC decided to oppose application to remove 109 trees along Pyrenees Highway (along with 43 other objectors)
- Sept. 2005, mediation meeting called by Shire Council
- Oct. 2005, VicRoads submitted revised application for 69 trees
- Nov. 2005, Council rejected application
- Jan 2006, VicRoads applied to VCAT for a review
- Mar. 2006, CFNC members decided by a large majority to continue to oppose the application

#### **Hearing details**

- Likely to be held in Castlemaine
- May take up to one day
- No date as yet, but at least 4-6 weeks away (from time of informing the club of a date)
- Cases usually stronger if all objectors collaborate
- Council will engage legal representative

#### **Main Arguments**

- environmental/habitat importance of trees
- aesthetic, heritage, visual aspects of trees
- new clause 52,17 in State Planning act is not being followed  
(i.e.) first avoid removal  
then minimise removal  
as final resort consider offset planting
- Other safety measures possible which allow 52.17 to be adhered to  
reduction of speed limits  
use solid steel barriers rather than wire rope barriers  
use warning signs (as used elsewhere)
- Safety statistics from VicRoads open to question
- VicRoads have commissioned a study of the habitat value of the trees but are not willing to make the report available.

# Castlemaine Field Naturalists Programme – April 2006

**General meetings** (second Friday of each month, except January) are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) Hall (enter from Lyttleton St.) at 8.00 pm.

**Excursions** (Saturday following the general meeting) leave from the Octopus carpark opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street at 1.30pm sharp unless stated otherwise. Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days.

**Business meetings** - fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at 27 Doveton Street, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS

**Fr.i Apr. 7. Revegetation Techniques.** John Anthony (Environmental Officer, MASC). UCA Hall, 8pm.

**Sat Apr. 8. Revegetation Sites on the Guildford Plateau.** Depart from carpark opposite the motel in Duke St at 1.30pm sharp. BYO afternoon tea. Leader: Maurie Dynon, Project Manager, Guildford/ Upper Loddon Landcare Group, Ph 5473 4457.

**Fri. May 11. Dingo Farming.** Tehree Gordon. UCA Hall, 8pm.

**Sat May 12. Cobblers Gully.** Depart from carpark opposite the motel in Duke St. at 1.30pm sharp. BYO afternoon tea. Leader: Richard Piesse, Ph 5472 3191.

**Fri. Jun 9. Reconstruction of the Earth's Crust.** Julian Hollis. UCA Hall, 8pm.

**Sat Jun 10. Walk with Julian - Loddon River Valley near Doxa Camp?** Depart from carpark opposite the motel in Duke St at 1.30pm sharp. BYO afternoon tea. Leader: Julian Hollis.

July 30 - Tree Day

October 13, 14, 15 SEANA Campout at Mayborough. We will join the campout program for this month. Details later.

## 2006 Committee

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Pensioner or student: Single \$19, Family \$24

The sub. includes postage of the monthly newsletter, *Castlemaine Naturalist*.

**Website:** <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cfnc>

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