

# Castlemaine Naturalist

June 2000

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## **B.O.C.A. Easter Camp, Lake Cardross, near Mildura**

In perfect conditions 90+ dedicated (or nutty!) birdos gathered in a lovely bush setting to seek out the many bird varieties of the Mallee habitat.

Castlemaine and North Central area was well represented. We had five in our group, Rita had a group of five, and Bill and Robyn made it an even dozen. White-browed Treecreepers were sighted in great numbers, particularly at Trentham Cliffs Station.

The whole camp recorded approximately 150 species for the week. We were unable to go on the longer trips, but recorded 90 species in the camp area and close proximity. Some of our more unusual sightings were - Spotted Harrier, White-backed Swallow, Chestnut Crowned Babblers, Splendid, Variegated and White-winged Fairy Wrens, Yellow-throated Miner, Striped and White-fronted Honeyeaters, five varieties of woodswallow in large (and noisy) flocks, Mulga Parrots, Mallee Ringnecks and Bluebonnets. We also had a close-up view of a Peregrine Falcon devouring its kill while perched in a dead tree.

Some of the other major sightings of the camp included Major Mitchell Cockatoo, Regent Parrot, Shy Heathwren, Mallee Emu Wren and Chestnut Quail-thrush.

The nights were cold for camping, with a couple of frosts, but the days were perfect, clear blue skies and the temperature was in the low 20s.

Each night the campfire kept us informed of the birds seen during the day, and gave us information on what was happening next day, with the usual charade night on Saturday night - again a most enjoyable night of fun which proves what smart thinkers birdos really are.

There was nearly a catastrophe one morning when one of the camp toilets, dubbed the Leaning Tower of Pisa, because it had been on quite a lean for most of the camp, finally gave up the battle to survive and very nearly deposited one of our well known field nats. into the pit below! However, no harm was done, and everyone is looking forward to the next Campout.

Ken and Maureen Dredge

## Bird Atlassing at Walmer

Lesley and I have been conducting 2 hectare searches for about 16 months, as part of the Bird Atlas project. About once a month we have visited Lewis Road near the Muckleford-Walmer Road corner, and Walmer School Road, just north of Fogarty Gap Road. We count the species seen in 20 minutes.

Lewis Road has some tall trees, with some hollows. Major species are Red Gum, Yellow Box and Grey Box. The understorey is mostly of introduced grasses, as are the adjacent paddocks. There are treed areas about 100 metres away, on both the north and south side.

The major trees in Walmer School Road are Red Stringybark and mixed box. The understorey has many native shrubs, grasses and herbs, with a substantial amount of introduced grass. The adjacent paddocks have many trees and some shrubs.

<b>Birds found at Walmer School Rd. only</b>			<b>More abundant in Lewis Rd.</b>		
Brown Falcon	0	2	Common Bronzewing	2	1
Grey Fantail	0	1	Magpie	10	5
Diamond Firetail	0	1	Red-rumped Parrot	9	4
Sacred Kingfisher	0	1	Eastern Rosella	10	4
Tree Martin	0	1	Australian Raven	2	1
Whiteface	0	1			
White-browed Woodswallow	0	1	<b>Equally abundant</b>		
Crested Pigeon	0	2	Kookaburra	1	1
Magpie Lark	0	2	Spotted Pardalote	1	1
Restless Flycatcher	0	3	Striated Pardalote	1	1
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	0	1			
Willie Wagtail	0	8	<b>More abundant in Walmer School Rd.</b>		
			Fuscous Honeyeater	1	5
<b>Birds found in Lewis Rd. only</b>			Welcome Swallow	1	3
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	0	White-plumed Honeyeater	2	8
Galah	9	0	Grey Shrike-thrush	1	3
Musk Lorikeet	2	0	Red Wattlebird	1	3
Noisy Miner	10	0	Blue wren	1	10

Numbers give number of records per 10 visits

Reasons for the greater number of bird species in Walmer School Road may be due to the presence of native shrub and ground layer, the greater number of trees and shrubs in the adjoining paddocks, and the absence of Noisy Miners.

Some reports indicate that Noisy Miners prefer habitat without ground and shrub layers. If so, then revegetation projects should include shrub species as well as tree species.

Ern Perkins

## Two Hectare Records - a Club Project?

Is the local bushland changing? Are there more or fewer shrubs than in past years? Are there fewer birds than in the past? We just do not know the answer to many of these questions.

As part of the Bird Atlas project, Lesley and I have been making 2 hectare bird records for over 12 months now. We go to each 2 hectare site about once a month, and record all the birds seen in that area in 20 minutes. This builds up a picture of the bird abundance in this site, and how it varies over the year. Some of our results have been published in The Castlemaine Naturalist. Someone could go back to this location at some time in the future, and find out if the bird population has changed, and if so, in what way.

A 2 hectare block is a comfortable size to walk over in 20 minutes. A block 100 metres by 100 metres has an area of one hectare, so a 2 hectare block could be 130 metres by 130 metres, 100 metres by 200 metres, or 40 metres by 500 metres. The last of these is typical of a road. For most roads, the 40 metres width covers the tree overhang, and a narrow strip of land outside the road reserve.

Some of the locations where the results of surveys would be of interest include

- bushland e.g. valley floors, ridge-tops, and areas with varying amounts of undergrowth.
- at the edge of bushland, and well away from the boundaries.
- roadside corridors connecting bushland blocks, and similar roads that do not connect.
- roadsides with high, medium and low conservation value.
- burnt areas and similar unburned areas.
- streamlines
- bushland with mature trees and similar areas without hollows.
- copses within paddocks, either connected or not connected to bushland areas.
- remnant bushland of various sizes.
- bushland blocks with different types of tree cover.
- bushland blocks with permanent water, and similar unwatered bushland.
- weed infested areas.
- revegetation areas.

You may choose to study an area where birds are not abundant, or even absent most of the time. Such areas are just as important to survey as good bird areas - it is as important to know where birds are not, as where they are.

The scheme is flexible. You may wish to visit your site each two months, or quarterly. You may wish to record some other animal e.g. insects, reptiles, or mammals.

Much of the research being done on animal distribution is being done by research students, who work within a very limited time span. Our work is not limited in this way, and so has potential to be much more valuable.

The club would store the information in its archives. And it would complement the photopoint project. The records could also be added to the bird atlas records.

A sample record sheet, that should last for 12 months or more has been prepared.

Ern Perkins.

### Winter reading

**Feral Future**, by Tim Lowe, published by Viking, Penguin Books, 1999. RRP \$24.95.

Low's book is about the invasion of Australia by exotic species. The book is reviewed in the April issue of the Victorian Naturalist. The reviewer concludes "...I would add buying *Feral Future* for yourself, but also for your friends (especially keen gardeners .....you will find Low's passion so compelling that you will not be able to stop turning the pages".

I agree. This is a book to be read by all naturalists. Change that to all Australians.

**Time special edition - Earth Day 2000.** April-May 2000. Price: \$4.95.

This special edition commemorates the 30th anniversary of Earth day. Chapters include man and nature-saving our home, saving ourselves; State of the planet; view from the white house - why the US must take the lead; biodiversity - spreading doom for animals and plants, natural medicine. wildlife conservation - show the poor nations the money, oceans - what the albatross tells us about trash; population; urban sprawl, climate - ways to keep Earth from overheating; freshwater, activism, the Internet, the future; reflections, and time for kids: global edition. It also gives biographies of heroes for the planet.

Read both, but do not wait until winter.

E Perkins.

### 61 Hunter Street, Autumn

The appearance of several small flocks of Tasmanian Silvereyes heralds the approach of winter. This season has produced a bumper crop of figs in our garden for them to feast upon, and after much splashing in the bird bath and several visits to the fruit they are soon on their way again en route to the Gold Coast or similar salubrious areas to the north - the sensible creatures!

The largest flock numbered about eleven, but they were mostly groups of five to seven this year.

The fig tree has also attracted the local Silvereyes, a Grey Currawong, Red Wattlebirds and occasionally a raven, to feed in the canopy. Fortunately there was an abundance of fruit on the lower branches for human consumption and jam-making.

The Crimson Rosellas and Blackbirds seem to prefer the cotoneaster berries - also in good supply at present.

The Indian Mynah pair seem to have disappeared temporarily (or permanently, I hope). A few fierce attacks by our Red Wattlebirds soon discouraged them on our property, but I suspect they are not far away.

New Holland Honeyeaters, Eastern Spine bills, Goldfinches, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Fuscous Honeyeaters and Grey Fantails have all been seen at the bird bath over the summer period with their young. In the nest boxes the Striated Pardalotes produced two families and the Crimson Rosellas the usual four or five young. The Eastern Rosellas are now rarely seen.

We are not enthusiastic about the Australian Ravens which have nested in the large pine on the creek below our house. Their raucous voices and tendency to "hog" the bird bath on occasions doesn't increase their popularity. But their intelligence is not to be underestimated. Several times I have seen them gather a large, apparently tough crust of bread from my neighbour's yard and deposit it in the bird bath to be collected some time later in smaller sections, and carried off to the nest. Later the young bird visited the garden and provided comic relief with his early attempts at communication.

Shirley Parnaby

### **Trip to the Green Centre**

Following the floods in Central Australia I visited Alice Springs, Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) and the West MacDonnell Ranges and discovered that the normally red centre had become the green centre. In spite of the extent of the flooding, by the time I arrived in Alice Springs the Todd River had subsided to its usual sand beach, with only a few puddles still visible. Although most of the water had gone from the surrounding area evidence of flood damage abounded - from sand washed across the highway to uprooted enormous River Red Gums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

As time for us was short (my partner, John, was on tour with "Hotel Sorrento" and had only two clear days before moving on to Perth) we decided on a two day bus trip to Uluru and Kata Tjuta, staying overnight at Yulara Ayers Rock Resort. During this trip I discovered both the advantages and disadvantages of bus travel. For me one major advantage is not having to drive. The main disadvantage was not being able to stop when we wanted to see something at close range. There were many occasions when I wished to do this.

Our first main stop was at Kata Tjuta, an enormous outcrop of rocks. There is a point off the road with a viewing platform which is an ideal place to take distance photos of the rock formation. The platform was reached by following a constructed walkway for about 300 metres through the surrounding bush, which abounded with wild flowers, one of the most prevalent being the beautiful *Grevillea eriostrachya*, Honey Grevillea. The flowers open sequentially, so that

the end of the flower spike is still green bud while the rest of the golden flowers are fully open. Although, according to Elliot and Jones, this species flowers August - November, we were told that many plants had flowered outside of their "normal" season in response to the heavy and prolonged rain. Other plants flowering in the area were *Tribulus*, of which there are seven species, *Hybanthus aurantiacus* Orange Spade Flower, *Solanum* (various species), *Santalum lanceolatum* Plum Bush, *Acacia strongylophylla* Round Leaf Wattle and *A. olgana* Mt Olga Wattle. Wherever we went the ground was carpeted with beautiful bright pink Parakeelyas (genus *Caledrimia*, approx. 11 species). Also in evidence at Kata Tjuta were Hakeas, which are locally known as Corkwoods, *Calocephalus* species, *Themida triandra* Kangaroo Grass, *Allocasuarina decaisneana* Desert Oak, as well as many small ground cover species which I was unable at the time to identify. We then moved on to the base of these magnificent rocks with an opportunity for a short climb to the gorge.

Uluru really defies description. My first view of it was at sunset, when I found it to be rather disappointing. In the fading light it looked two dimensional - like a cardboard cut-out for a movie set. We viewed this from the vantage point where dozens of buses park to disgorge hundreds of tourists to view the spectacle. My disappointment was further compounded by the rapid exodus the moment the sun went down, especially as a full moon was visible.

However, the next morning on our return to Uluru I was able to appreciate its splendour. I believe that nothing can prepare one for the spectacle. Its sheer size - approximately three kilometres long, one and a half kilometres wide, height 384 metres, and with a circumference of eight kilometres, give it a mighty presence. Scientists believe that at least two thirds of it is below ground! Again, because of time constraints, we were driven around the base, with stopping off points at a couple of places of particular interest. This allowed us to appreciate the texture, surfaces and changing colours as we moved in and out of areas caught by sun and shade. Some of the areas around the base are sacred to the local aborigines and entry is not permitted, other areas are not to be photographed.

After John moved on to Perth I went on a one day bus trip to the West MacDonnell Ranges, taking in Simpson's Gap, Standley Chasm, Ellery Bighole and Ormiston Gorge. At all of these sites there was evidence - in varying degrees - of flood damage. On the return trip to Alice Springs we visited the Alice Springs Desert Park. This park incorporates three habitat areas - desert rivers, sand country and woodland. There is a large aviary, a nocturnal house and an exhibition centre and cinema. The recommended viewing time is three hours. We had just over one hour. Although this park has been largely man made the habitat areas are as natural looking as possible.

The first stop on this 12 hour tour was Simpson's Gap, where there is a wide sandy strip before reaching the water hole. The rock in this vicinity is orange quartzite and the gap is said to have been formed when Roe Creek eroded through the quartzite.

The next stop was to view Standley Chasm. This required a 30 minute walk along a narrow rock strewn track. Unfortunately we did not arrive at the opportune time to see the shaft of sunlight between the chasm walls. The chasm track ended at a rock pool; I am unsure if this is a permanent feature or rain induced. At this location there are many specimens of *Macrozamia macdonnellii* MacDonnell Ranges Cycad. This Cycad grows throughout the region, in the gorges as well as on the rocky hillsides. We had a couple of roadside stops for view and photos of places such as distant Mt. Sonder. These stops provided me with the opportunity to look at more closely (and hopefully identify) some of the wildflowers.

We had a short stop at Ellery Bighole, which was larger than usual due to the rain. Again this was formed by the creek (Ellery) cutting a gap in the quartzite ridge. Our lunch stop was at the spectacular Ormiston Gorge. This area was formed by enormous movement of the Quartzite. The gorge has very high steep sides of bright orange rock. The large waterhole with its wide sandy beach is a popular swimming spot. In this area there are many Ghost Gums, *Eucalyptus papuana*, with stark white trunks.

The entire area of the West McDonnell Ranges abounded with magnificent flora including *Cassia* (now *Senna*) (various species), *Acacia kempana* Witchetty Bush, *A. macdonelliensis* Macdonnell Mulga, *Indigophera linifolia* Native Indigo, *Melaleuca glomerata* Inland Teatree, *Solanum* species, *Wahlenbergia gracilis* Australian Bluebell, *Isotoma petraea* Rock Isotome, *Scaveola* species Fan Flowers, *Eremophyla longifolia* Weeping Emu Bush, *Trema aspera* Poison Peach, *Ficus platypoda* Native Fig, *Callitris glaucophylla* White Cypress-pine and many, many others which it was impossible to identify while travelling in a bus at 100 ks p.h.

The West Macdonnell ranges is where Albert Namatjira did most of his landscape paintings. It's not difficult to understand why.

Natalie de Maccus

### **Outing to the Broken Bridge, 13/5/00**

By the time we'd collected a few more people at Maldon there were at least 20 who arrived at the parking place near Eddington just after a shower of rain and set off down the track to the edge of the Laanacoorie reservoir to the shrill calls of, it seemed, hundreds of lorikeets. A good view was had, after some effort, of three species - Musk, Little and Purple-crowned.

For the rest of the afternoon's walk it stayed fine, and the sun even shone - until we got back to the cars and proceeded to read out the bird list for the day, which came to thirty species -

Musk Lorikeet	Black-faced	Little Pied cormorant
Fuscous Honeyeater	Cuckoo-shrike	Masked Lapwing
Dusky Woodswallow	White-bellied d.o.	Whistling Kite
Australian raven	Kookaburra	Eastern Swamphen
Red Wattlebird	Willie Wagtail	White-faced Heron
White-backed Woodswallow	Magpie Lark	Peaceful Dove
Little Lorikeet	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Welcome Swallow
Olive-backed Oriole	White Ibis	Yellow-tufted
Noisy Miner	Pelican	Honeyeater
Eastern Rosella	Black Duck	Brown Treecreeper.

At our stop at Bells Swamp, which was completely dry, we only saw three species - Galahs, Red-rumped Parrots and Fuscous Honeyeaters.

Possibly two of the most impressive sights of the afternoon were the *flock* of Yellow-billed Spoonbills flying off at our approach, and about a dozen Pelicans soaring overhead as we walked back to the cars.

Rita Mills

### Swift Parrot Survey

Only three people met at the start of the survey, Ken and Maureen Dredge and Rita Mills, but Maggie Oliver joined us at the Quince Tree, and Margaret Badminton was waiting at the Red, White and Blue at lunch-time - having just missed us a couple of times earlier!. The day was showery and cold, but the Ironbarks and the Yellow-gums were in flower, and there were large flocks of White-naped and Fuscous Honeyeaters and Little, Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets, as well as numbers of Red Wattlebirds, a few Brown-headed Honeyeaters and about half a dozen of the normally abundant Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters.

We stopped at several spots, eventually arriving at the Quince-tree, which lived up to its reputation and produced three Swift Parrots, which were seen several times, with good views. They were feeding on lerps in the red Gums, seemed to be feeding on blossom in the Yellow Gums and perching in the Yellow Box. Two more were seen flying overhead later in the day near the Blow Mine.

Rita Mills

### Observations

- Following last month's observation about the robins, Margaret Badminton decided that she would just have to try to find where they really were roosting. This is the note she sent - "One evening I decided to watch the Flame Robins on the ridge above School Lane to determine where they roosted, as there are only



small sandstone rocks with no vegetation on the ridge. The evening sun was picking up the Males' (2) beautiful colouring. My patience was rewarded; as they fed, flitting from rock to rock, they moved 20 - 30 metres at a time, gradually down the slope towards the old Olive trees by the dam 300 metres from their ridge habitat. But they were feeding so late into dusk they finally eluded me about 20 metres from the trees, and by that time I was frozen!" Circumstantial evidence suggests that they are roosting in the trees by the dam, though.

- Also from Margaret - "On May 11, travelling slowly along the Guildford-Newstead Road at 10.15 am, I spotted two White-fronted Chats on a paddock fence. To my amazement, when I stopped I saw *nine* Willie Wagtails, 3 male and 2 female Flame Robins, *seven* Jacky Winters and more than twenty Richards Pipits, all feeding in a paddock of lucerne which was shooting again after the previous harvest."

- Hans van Gemert commented on the numbers of Long-billed Corellas and Sulphur Crested Cockatoos (in the hundreds) and Kookaburras, which have been seen on and near their property over the past weeks. There was even a flock of 15 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

- Following Hans' comment Margaret Badminton said that she had noticed that 10 years ago there were huge numbers of birds, but that numbers had dropped during the drought, and now seemed to be back to what it was ten years ago. Perhaps there is a ten year cycle - Alan Reid's talk was to encourage the keeping of records to verify this sort of observation. Also see E.P's article on p3.

- Bill van Smeerdijk reported a flock of about 30 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos at their place near Lancefield.

- Blue-winged Parrots were seen in Carnoghans Lane near Pilchers bridge by Penny Garnett.

- Brenda Envall had the sad job of removing a still warm body of a Boobook Owl from the roadside at Harcourt. Apparently these birds, like Frogmouths, hawk for insects in the streetlights.

- During the week before the general meeting Howard Tozer told Rita Mills of hearing what he thought could be Barking Owls calling before daybreak at his place at Barkers Creek, describing the call as a cross between that of a fox and a Wattlebird. At the meeting Geoff Harris was able to say that they have had Barking owls at their place which is not very far away, but over a couple of hills, and near the creek, from Howard's, so this report will be worth checking out to confirm.

- Frank Carpenter lives opposite the dams below the Wattle Gully Mine, and recently watched what appeared to be Tree Martins, about 500 on the first night, hawking back and forth over the Cumbungi as if attached to strings, apparently catching insects for their supper. After about half an hour they suddenly dropped "like bombs" out of the sky and down to roost. There were none for the next couple of nights, but the following night about 150 - 200 appeared again.

- One of the U3A Art Group , Judy Munro, saw a young healthy Koala when walking in the bush a little north of where the Great Dividing Trail meets the Dingo Farm Road at Chewton.
- Maggie Oliver and Rita Mills found Fly Agarics and Saffron Milkcaps in the Moonlight Flat Plantation when Bird Atlassing.. The Fly Agarics were left there, but some of the Saffron Milkcaps, *Laccaria deliciosa*, were taken home for tea. This is the first time for some years that the Milkcaps have been found in the replanted part of the plantation.
- A pair of Musk Lorikeets were showing great interest in a tree at the crossing below the old house in Muckleford Gorge on the U3A walk on May 10. They were reluctant to leave the tree and only flew a hundred yards or so when they'd decided there were just too many of us showing interest.
- Mira Berenyi's friend from Bairnsdale was able to confirm that Huntsmen spiders *do* dangle on a thread. Like Margaret Willis she wasn't aware of this phenomenon until she found one dangling in front of her out in the yard.
- A sighting has been made of Singing Honeyeater by Debbie and Chris Worland. It was seen at the roadside near the Castlemaine Golf Club and confirmed by Ern and Lesley Perkins and Margaret Badminton. Over a period of time these Honeyeaters have been recorded in the district, but, a Mallee bird, they are not common here.
- Another Crescent Honeyeater has been recorded in the district, this time on March 23 at Eureka Street in Chewton by Ken McKimmie.

#### PLANTS OF THE MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE:

### Spreading Wattle, *Acacia Genistifolia*

Spreading wattle tends to be ignored because it is seldom very showy, and often is covered in galls, but this year it has been a real picture, thick with blossom and just a froth of cream through the bush. Back in June 1976 Geoff Sitch had this article and illustration in our third newsletter.

*Acacia genistifolia*, (syn. *diffusa*)

An early flowering wattle which is easily recognised by its spreading, open habit. Long branches are densely covered with creamy-yellow flower heads from early Autumn. The peduncles (flower stalks) are in groups, shorter than the phyllode.

Usually growing from 1 - 1½ m. high, it may be dwarfed on hard, gravelly terrain.

- One of the wattle group which has phyllodes in place of true leaves. These are stiff, narrow and pointed, about 3 - 5cm long, with the central nerve raised.

G. Sitch

Spreading Wattle



◇ - Ribb(n)  
Cross-section  
of phyllode.

Acacia genistifolia (syn. *A. diffusa*)

Observations since that time have added to our knowledge, and we have found that at Sandon it has been seen flowering as early as the end of December, and the flowering season varies from place to place around the district. At North Castlemaine it can be flowering in early February, while this year at Barkers Creek, about 1km further North the first reports didn't come in until 3 or 4 weeks later.

Also, another form found near Heathcote has golden yellow flowers and flowers in spring.

Rita Mills

### **New Orchid in the Kimberly**

A few weeks ago I was sent another article from my friend in Western Australia. Kings Park botanists, again with the sponsorship of Western Power and a private donation, have been able to do some plant hunting in the Kimberly. One of the nine new plant species included an orchid which grows under Spinifex. Given the common name of Spinifex Orchid, this small green orchid, which grows up to 30 cm high, lures pollinators by mimicking the scent of a female wasp from its shelter in the spines of the spinifex. It has up to 12 flowers about the size of a 10 cent coin. It was found near Mt. Hann in the Prince Regent River Catchment area.

### **FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING**

- The Flora and Fauna weekend at Skydancers was poorly attended, and a disappointment to the organisers. CFNC had a display which had taken some time to organise. Thought will have to go into whether to participate again, but many factors have to be considered.
- Stewart Morris has a brochure about Powercore's Ecosaver on the table at the meeting for anyone who would be interested.
- Following Alan Reid's visit it was agreed that the club should seriously look into the possibility of keeping formal records. See E. Perkins article on P.3.
- On the weekend of Oct. 12 - 15, the Albury/Wodonga F.N.C. is hosting the **VFNCA Spring 2000 Campout** based at Kismet Riverside Lodge, **Howlong**. A number of flyers is available on the table at the meeting. Please take one if you are interested. The full Program and registration details will be sent mid-June, but places like Nail Can Hill reserve, Chiltern Box-Ironbark Forest, Lower Ovens River, Peechelba, etc. etc., sound like it will be a very enjoyable Campout.
- Maryborough F.N.C.'s Syllabus is available, and includes a **World Environment Day** meeting. The Guest Speaker is Garry Cheers, and his subject is Box-Ironbark Biodiversity. 8pm, Clubhouse, Dundas Road, Maryborough.
- The club has been very concerned over the damage done to the Castlemaine /Maldon roadside by the contractors doing the sewerage line and photos taken near Gower School show that the bulldozer cut for the pipeline is actually wider than the pavement itself! Plans are being put forward to take our concerns to council.

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST, JUNE 2000

PROGRAMME

**EXCURSIONS** **General Meetings** Are held in the Uniting church (UCA) hall, at 8.00pm on the second Friday of each month, except January. Entrances to the car parks are beside the Art Gallery and beside the Church building in Lyttleton Street. **Excursions** leave promptly at times stated, usually on the Saturday after the general meeting. There are NO excursions on TOTAL FIRE BAN days.

**Business Meetings** are held at 38 Campbell Street on the 4th Thursday of each month, except December, at 7.30pm. All members are invited to attend.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO CLUB MEETINGS AND  
EXCURSIONS

Mon. June 5. **World Environment Day, Maryborough**, at the Clubhouse. see p 11.

Fri. June 9. **Castlemaine Botanical Gardens** Speaker is Kevin Walsh. UCA hall, 8.00pm

Sat June 10 **Highway Cleanup** Meet at Tait's Carriages at 8.30 am. The cleanup should take an hour, or less if plenty of people turn up. The cleanup will not take place if it is raining or foggy.

**A tour of the Gardens with Kevin.** Leave 13 Mostyn St at 1.30 p.m. or meet at the Rose Garden Car park at the gardens.

Fri. July 14. **Our favourite places of interest in Victoria.** You probably have a favourite nature spot that you like to visit, camp for a weekend or spend a week or two. Share it with the Club, with a few slides or photos to lure us with, and info. on place, distance, camping grounds and facilities, or motel accommodation if you can.

Sat July 15. **Fungi, Bullarto Reservoir.** Leave 13 Mostyn St. at 1.30pm.. Leader, G.Broadway

Fri. Aug. 11. **Gluepot, its history and natural history.** Speaker is Dr David Baker-Gabb, long-time member of RAOU, now Birds Australia.

Thurs. Aug. 17. **Broom Pull.** Meet at the corner of Froomes Rd. and Mary St. at 9.30am. More details to follow.

Sat 9 - Wed 13 Sept. **-Campout at Gluepot** . Chris Morris has been able to book these dates for us, and the most likely arrangement will be that we make our way separately to Waikerie, meeting up there to proceed to Gluepot on the 9th.. Further details later.

Thur. 12 - Sun 15 Oct **VFNCA Spring Campout at Howlong.**

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

**1999 Committee** M. Dredge (President) ph 5470 6474E. Perkins (V.P. and Grievance Officer), G. Broadway (Sec.) ph. 5472 2513, J. Turnbull (treas.) ph. 5474 3005, R. Mills (N/L Ed. and P.O.), M. Oliver, C. Morris, K. Turner, Z. Thomas. B. Maund .

**Subscriptions for 2000 -**

Ordinary Membership: Single , \$22 Family, \$30

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

Supporting: \$31

The subscription also covers postage of the 'Castlemaine Naturalist'.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc.

P.O. Box 324, Castlemaine. 3450.

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