

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

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TREE-CREEPERS AT

BARKERS CREEK

Re the R.A.O.U. Nest Record Scheme, perhaps the following observations may be of interest.

A pair of White-throated tree-creepers has selected a nest log which overlooks our windows. Over the past 2 or 3 weeks they have taken in many beakfulls of fibrous bark, and lately some wool from a supply put out each year.

Last week we noticed the female bird behaving in a strange manner on the outside of the log. She moved steadily about, turning her head from side to side all the time. We could see she had something in her beak, it appeared to be a small type of fibre. She "brushed" almost the whole surface, paying attention also to the entrance hole, going over it several times.

Eventually the cock returned with food, but she finished her task before accepting it. Then they flew away together. A day or two later the hen was again noticed to be brushing round the entrance-hole from the inside.

Now we believe they must have eggs and the hen sitting.

Wyn and Max Palmer.

EXCURSION TO GLENLUCE

Plants seen in flower on the excursion to Glenluce on Tuesday 17th August were

Rosy heath-myrtle (*Baecea ramossissima*)
Sweet marianth (*Rytidosporum procumbens*)
Rough wattle (*Acacia aspera*)
Ploughshare wattle (*A. gunnii*)
Woolly wattle (*A. lanigera*)
Golden wattle (*A. pycnantha*)
Silver wattle (*A. dealbata*)
Tiny greenhood (*Pterosylis nana*)
Tall greenhood (*P. longifolia*)
Nodding greenhood (*P. nutans*)
Scented sundew (*Drosera whittakeri*)
Common hovea (*Hovea heterophylla*)
Silky hakea (*Hakea sericea*)
Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*)
Beard-heath (*Leucopogon virgatus*)
Twin-flower beard-heath (*L. biflorus*)
Pink-bells (*Tetratheca ciliata*)

W.V.F.N.C.A

CAMPOUT

The Campout was organised by the Horsham Field Naturalists Club, and was held at the Little Desert Lodge, Winiam on Friday 28th to Sun 30 August. Sixteen member clubs were in attendance. A range of activities was provided during the weekend, including nature walks, four-wheel drive safaris, and visits to Lowan nests.

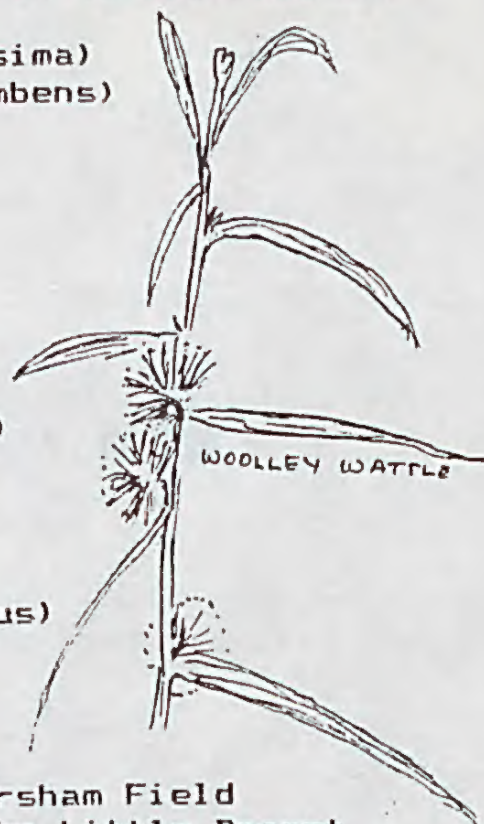
The most conspicuous birds were New Holland honeyeaters, termed by some "the sparrows of the Little Desert". They were certainly plentiful, and some bushes held a dozen or more. Lowans could be seen working, in lowan sanctuaries, and some wild birds were seen by those attending.

The following motion was passed at the meeting held on Saturday evening.

"In view of the obvious conflict between different Government Departments, for example between the Fauna and Flora Guarantee and the issuing of permits for surface mining, we ask the W.V.F.N.C.A. to call for a moratorium on surface mining on public land, and an urgent review of the Mining Act"

GILBERT WHISTLER AT GOWER

A Gilbert Whistler has been seen by Margaret Rotherham, of the Ballarat F.N.C. near the Gower School. Although Gilbert Whistlers are recorded for Maryborough, this is the first record for the Club's Birdlist.



SOME LOCAL CEMETERIES

For a naturalist, cemeteries are interesting places, as often much of the original native vegetation remains and in some cases, the local cemetery may be the only spot in a district where native grasses, herbs and shrubs are still to be found.

TARADALE CEMETERY

The Taradale cemetery is well worth a visit, spring. Much of the area is mown, but the grasses appear to be native grasses, and in spring it should be possible to find orchids, small daisies and other small plants in the mown area. A ribbon of bush can be found along the eastern and part of the northern boundary. There is a profusion of species along here, and this must have been originally a quite outstanding wildflower area. The cemetery is on the the eastern side of the Calder Highway.

SPRING HILL CEMETERY

The Spring Hill cemetery is on the southern side of the Spring Hill - Denver road, about a kilometre from Spring Hill. It is in quite a different to Taradale, with Candlebark, Manna Gum, Swamp Gum, Peppermint and Messmate growing. It is very picturesque, with a beautiful basalt rock outcrop in the centre. Two banksia trees grow in the cemetery. The biggest is magnificent, with hundreds of flower cones, and a base diameter of almost a metre.

GLENLYON CEMETERY

Glenlyon Cemetery is reached by turning right off the Malsbury-Glenlyon Road, about half a kilometre before reaching Glenlyon. It is the most disappointing of the three cemeteries. It has a boundary of pines, and extensive exotic plantings.

However, along the cemetery road there is a turn off to the Loddon Falls. The falls are quite superb. The river has cut down through the basalt to expose an extensive set of basalt columns. The "falls" consist of a series of rapids. It is well worth a visit.

MAP LOCATIONS.

Taradale cemetery	636881
Spring Hill cemetery	626683
Glenlyon cemetery	565700
Loddon Falls	553702

TERRICK-TERRICK STATE PARK

The Terrick Terrick State Park is a few kilometres north of Mitiamo. At the Eaglehawk Post Office, continue north, rather than follow the main highway. At Mitiamo, again continue north past the golf links. The forest is a few hundred kilometres past here, and the picnic ground is reached through the first gateway into the forest on the right.

The Terrick Terrick forest has an area of 2500 ha, and is the largest and most significant area of White cypress pine in Victoria. Originally, much of the surrounding countryside was made up of Cypress pine, Yellow box and Grey box forest. Subsequent effects of settlement, with selective logging, and a wildfire in the 1880's has reduced the amount of eucalypt in the forest.

A number of granite outcrops occur through the forest. The most spectacular is at Mt Terrick Terrick, where a 360 degree view of the surrounding countryside can be gained. The picnic ground is at the base of Mt Terrick Terrick, with barbeques and picnic tables.

Plants typical of granite outcrops can be found on the mountain. One of the most interesting is a fern leaf wattle, or Dean's Wattle (*Acacia deanei*). It is rather like a small Silver wattle, but the leaves are green, without any trace of grey, and the young shoots have a golden colour. Deane's wattle is quite rare in Victoria, although it is more common in the cypress pine forests of N.S.W. Other interesting plants are Rock correa, Nodding blue-lily, Rock isotome, and various mistletoes.

The most common tree in the main forest is the native White cypress pine (*Callitris columnellaris*) with grey box and yellow box. The Slender cypress pine, (*Callitris preisii*) also occurs here.

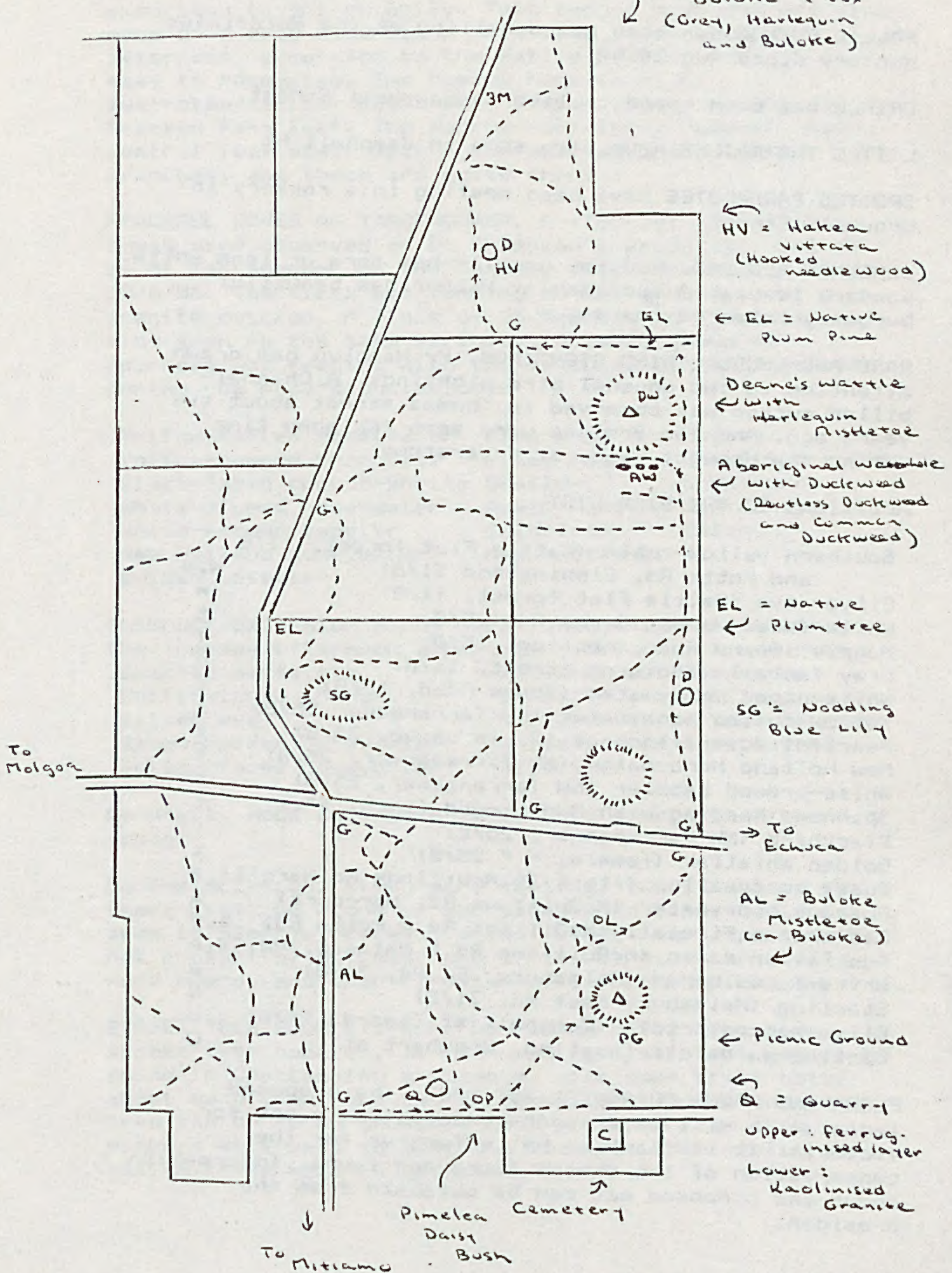
The spelling of the park's name seems to vary. The name of the park, and the mountain, range from Terrick, to Terricks, to Terrick Terrick.

The range of birds is quite impressive, and some of the mallee-type and birds from the north are to be found. Mallee ringnecks breed in the forest, and other birds include Red-capped robins, Peaceful doves, Gilbert Whistlers and Brown Tree-creepers.

Aboriginal waterholes can also be found in the park.

TERRICK-TERRICK STATE PARK

3n = 3 Nistletoes on
Buloke (Box
(Grey, Harlequin
and Buloke)



(Map from Bendigo
FNC)

NOTES FOR AUGUST

PALLID CUCKOO has been heard calling at the Goldfields Nursery since Aug 24th.

ORIOLE has been heard calling in Campbell Street.

LITTLE THORNBILLS have been seen in Campbell St

SPOTTED PARDALOTES have been nesting in a rockery in Urquhart Street

BURGUNDY RED BOX. Red Box usually has more or less white powdery leaves. A specimen at Walmer has beautiful burgundy coloured leaves.

RARE AND UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS. Mr Hamblyn has drawn attention to two unusual bird sightings. A Channel-billed cuckoo was observed in Thomas street about six years ago. And two Brolgas were seen for some time during the drought year, at Fryerstown.

ADDITIONS TO THE BIRD LIST

Southern yellow robin (Wattle Flat forest, 11/8 and Potts Rd, Elphinstone 31/8)	w,e
Silver eye (Wattle Flat forest, 11/8)	w
White-faced Heron (Seers Rd, 15/8)	t
Magpie (Seers Road, nesting. 15/8)	T
Grey fantail (Doveton street, 16/8)	u
White-naped honeyeater (Seers Road, 15/8)	t
Yellow-tufted honeyeater (NW Tarrengower, 25/8)	t
Peaceful dove (flock of 12, as above, 25/8)	t
New Holland Honeyeater (NW Tarrengower, 25/8)	t
White-browed babbler (NW Tarrengower, 25/8)	t
Sparrow (Feeding with Red-browed finch, "")	t
Blackbird (NW Tarrengower, 25/8)	t
Golden Whistler (female, " " 25/8)	t
Dusky woodswallow (flock 20, McQuillans Rd Harc't)	a
Fuscous honeyeater (McQuillans Rd, Harcourt)	a
Red-browed Firetail (McQuillans Rd & Potts Rd)	a,e
Australian raven (McQuillans Rd & Malms.E. Rd)	a,e
White-faced heron (Malmsbury .E. Rd, 31/8)	e
Starling (Malmsbury East Rd, 31/8)	e
Olive-backed oriole (Campbell st [heard] 26/8)	u
Spotted pardalote (nesting, Urquhart st)	U

FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE ACT 1987. The proposed legislation will be a major conservation event for Victoria. It is meant to be effective for the conservation of the States flora and fauna. Information about the proposed act can be obtained from the president.

NARROW ROCK FERN AT WATTLE FLAT. The first record of the Narrow Rock-fern was made earlier this year, on our excursion to Shicer Gully. This second sighting was also made on a club excursion, this time on the Tuesday afternoon excursion to the Wattle Flat forest. It is easy to recognise. The Common Rock-fern (*C. austrotenuifolia*) has a leaf rather like a miniature Bracken Fern leaf. The Narrow Rock-fern, however, has a central leaf stalk with a few well separated side branches, and these are quite short.

PEACEFUL DOVES AT TARRENGOWER. A flock of 12 Peaceful Doves were observed on Dr Champion's property, just NW of Mt Tarrengower on the Tuesday afternoon excursion on 25/8/86. The flock was feeding on the ground, near a granite outcrop. A flock of 23 Red-browed Firetails was also seen in the same vicinity. A small group of Sparrows was feeding with the finches. Other birds seen during the excursion included

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Blue wren	Magpie
Yellow-rumped thornbill	Flame robin	Whistling eagle
Black-faced cuckoo-shrike	Swallow	Kookaburra
White-plumed honeyeater	Aust. Raven	Sparrow
White-browed babbler	Goldfinch	Galah
New Holland honeyeater	Red wattle-bird	
Golden whistler		

GLENLUCE EXCURSION Birds were fewer than the plants on the Tuesday afternoon excursion (18/8/87). Birds seen.

Spotted pardalote	White-eared honeyeater
White-winged chough	Striated Thornbill
Silver eye	White-throated tree-creeper
Brown-headed honeyeater	White-plumed honeyeater?
Yellow-faced honeyeater	Blue wren

As usual, Wood duck were seen, this time with a brood of young

On one occasion, birds were calling, and it seemed that there might be a one of the times when birds could be seen in plenty. However, a low flying hawk appeared in hot pursuit of at least one of the birds. Alarm calls were heard, and then birds were very inconspicuous.

STREET TREE BOOKLET. Work has commenced on the new street tree booklet. It is hoped to list the trees to be found in Castlemaine's streets, with some brief notes about each tree, and two or three locations where the tree can be found growing. Contributions from club members will help to make the booklet. Both exotic and native trees will be included.

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB AGENDA

Excursions leave promptly at the times shown. Date, time and location of the excursions may be changed at the monthly meetings.

Monthly meetings at the High School at 8 p.m.

Frid 11 Sept. Members night

Sat 12 Sept. Mt TERRICK TERRICK via Mitiamo. All day excursion. Leave SEC, Mostyn St at 9.30. Take lunch and binoculars. (See excursion notes inside)

Thurs 24 Sept. Business meeting. 7.30 at 38 Campbell st.

Sat 3rd Oct. BRISBANE RANGES. All day excursion. Bring lunch, and possibly tea also. Leave SEC, Mostyn st at 8.30 a.m., or Clarkes Road turn off on the Ballan-Anakie Road at 10.30. Leader: Ted Errey of Geelong FNC. Map is obtainable from E. Perkins

Friday 9th Oct. CHINA with John Zwar.

Fri 9 - Sun 11 Oct St ARNAUD CAMPOUT of W.V.F.N.C.A. Details of the program can be obtained in newsletter.

Sat 10 Oct. BENDIGO excursion of Bird Observer Club.

Sat 10 Oct. MUCKLEFORD Meet S.E.C. at 1.30

Fri 16 - Sun 18 Oct. RUSHWORTH CAMPOUT. Springtime get-together of the V.F.N.C.A. at Rushworth. Accomodation at Waranga Holiday Camp (camp building with bunks) or overnight vans. For bunks or meals book with Marie Allender (19 Hawthorn Av, Caufield North 3161, 03 527 2749). For camp sites and vans book directly with Mr & Mrs Houghton, Waranga Holiday Camp, Tatura Rd, Rushworth, 058 66 1243). The campout will start with slides and a social evening on Friday. There will be a Saturday excursion and a half-day Sunday excursion.

Sun 18 Oct. MUCKLEFORD FOREST with Bendigo F.N.C. Meet at the Market car park at 10.00 a.m. Bring your lunch.

Sun 14th Nov Bird Observer Club excursion to Lyall Glen.

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Tuesday afternoon excursions leave 27 Doveton St at 1.30

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CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC P.O. BOX 324