



South East Australian Naturalists' Association Inc.

No. A0044963D ABN: 23 918 778 150

Spring Camp 2025

Friday 17th – Sunday 19th October 2025

Hosted by Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat Inc.

No. A0014919P ABN: 13 150 403 135



First Circular, May 2025

The Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat warmly invites you to attend the SEANA Spring Camp to be held on October 17-19, 2025.

Program

The camp will be based at Pax Hill Scout Camp. Full- and half-day field trips will be offered, visiting sites such as Woowookarung & Creswick Regional Parks, endangered grasslands, Trust for Nature-covenanted properties, lakes & waterfalls, Mt Beckworth, BirdLife Australia's Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary, Mt Elephant and Enfield State Park.

The excursions will provide the opportunity to experience scenic landscapes and local botanising and birding hotspots. Enjoy and learn about wildflowers including orchids, land-use history, geology, endangered grasslands, woodlands, forests, wetlands, birds and conservation & land management themes across the Victorian Volcanic Plains and Central Highlands bioregions on Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung country.

Attendees are responsible for booking their own accommodation. A wide range of options are available in Ballarat. Some of the closer caravan parks and motels are listed on page 3.

A no-frills, low budget accommodation option is available at Pax Hill Scout Camp. We have the use of three cabins with toilet and shower facilities in a separate block nearby. There is room for three couples (or 3 x twin share) in each of these cabins. The cabins have bunks, but all six people will be able to sleep in the bottom bunks. Cost is \$40 per person per night. Please include this on your Registration Form if you would like to take up this option for your accommodation.

Attendees are to provide their own breakfasts and lunches.

Dinner is provided on Friday night at Pax Hill Scout Camp and on Saturday night at Ballarat Golf Club. Please note any dietary requirements on the Registration Form.

Registration and payment should be returned to Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat by Friday 5th September 2025. Please note that numbers will be limited to 90 for Saturday night dinner at the Golf Club and to 20 people per excursion, so get in early to secure your place.

We will also have copies of the Second Edition of our book for sale – *Discovering Ballarat's Bushland* for the discounted price of \$12. If you wish to pre-order and pay for a copy, please include this on your Registration Form.

Outline of Program

Friday 17th October

Registration is from 4pm onwards at Pax Hill Scout Camp, 400-450 Spencer Street, Ballarat. Entry is via the main gate on the corner of Spencer and Fussell Streets. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available.

6.00pm Evening meal at Pax Hill for those who register for it.

7.30pm Welcome to the Camp at Pax Hill, followed by Guest Speaker.

Nicole Kearney, Manager of the Biodiversity Heritage Library, has warmly accepted the invitation to be our speaker on Friday 17th October. Her presentation will showcase the Biodiversity Heritage Library's resources, their project "Capturing the history of Victoria's Field Naturalists Clubs" and the various ways to search for information of keen interest to field naturalists. Nicole will also promote the opportunity for FNCs to share their Club's natural history information with the broader public online through the Library.

9.00pm Supper supplied by FNC Ballarat.

Saturday 18th October

8.45am Meet at Pax Hill Scout Camp with excursions to leave from 9am.

5.00pm SEANA General Meeting at Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Alfredton.

6.30pm Two-course Dinner at Ballarat Golf Club.

7.30pm Evening program and Guest Speaker.

Well-known artist, ornithologist, conservationist and regenerative farmer Richard Weatherly OAM will be our guest speaker on Saturday night. He will speak on how and why "Connewarren" became a Regenerative Farm and about four generations of management at "Woolongoon" and "Connewarran" and its effects on the ecosystem and wildlife. He will also share his experience as a wildlife artist and bring some of his art works for us to view.

Sunday 19th October

8.50am Meet at Pax Hill Scout Camp with excursions to leave from 9.00am.

Attendees to make their way home at the conclusion of their afternoon excursion.

Tourist Information Centre

Town Hall, Sturt St, Ballarat, Victoria 3350
Free call: 1800 446 633

Local maps and other relevant information will be available at the camp.

Some accommodation options in and around Ballarat**Caravan Parks**

Big 4 Ballarat Goldfields Holiday Park, 108 Clayton St, Ballarat Central: 5330 8000
Big 4 Ballarat Windmill Holiday Park, 56 Remembrance Drive, Cardigan: 5334 1686
Eureka Stockade Holiday Park, 104 Stawell St South, Ballarat East: 5331 2281
Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary, 360 Linton-Piggoreet Rd, Linton: 0433 344 287 or via email: emily.noble@birdlife.org.au

Motels closest to Pax Hill Scout Camp

Ballarat Central City Motor Inn, 16 Victoria Street, Bakery Hill: 5333 1775
Eureka Lodge Motel, 119 Stawell Street South, Ballarat East: 5331 1900
Miner's Retreat Motel, 604 Eureka St, Ballarat Central: 5331 6900
Victoriana Motor Inn, 214 Victoria Street, Ballarat East: 5333 3577

There are many more options to be found on accommodation websites.

What to Bring

Everyone should bring:

- Name tag
- Thermos, water bottle and mug
- Morning and afternoon teas; lunches
- Completed Personal Medical Record Form to carry with you at all times (blank form for you to complete will be sent with the Second Circular)
- Binoculars and magnifying glass
- Field guides/ apps
- Folding chair for excursions
- Hat, coat, sunscreen, sturdy enclosed footwear, etc.

Further information

Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat
PO Box 328W, Ballarat West, VIC, 3350
Email: ballaratfnc@gmail.com
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Mob.: Neville Oddie (President)- 0447 546 164

A Second Circular with updates and further details on field trips will be sent out in mid-September to those who register.