



South East Australian Naturalists' Association Inc.  
A0044963D ABN 23 918 778 150

**Spring Camp 2026**  
**Friday 9th – Sunday 11th October 2026**

Hosted by Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc.



**First Circular, April 2026**

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club warmly invites you to attend the SEANA Spring 2026 Get-together in Castlemaine on Djaara country, to be held over the second weekend of October. Our region includes extensive Box-Ironbark woodlands, Mount Alexander and Mount Moorul with their granite boulders; and the volcanic Moolort plains to the west with wetlands and remnant native grasslands. In Spring the wildflowers transform the woodlands, while the Loddon River, local creeks, wetlands and reservoirs provide water for the birds and aquatic life. A full and diverse program of excursions has been planned to showcase these different environments and their native flora and fauna (see program outline on page 2).

The devastating impacts of the Ravenswood-Harcourt fires on 9<sup>th</sup> January can be seen to the north of our region where houses and critical local infrastructure were destroyed and farmland and most of the Mt Alexander Regional Park was burnt. We plan to include some excursions to study how fire-affected bushland is recovering.

**Welcome, registration and central facilities**

Welcome and registration to the Spring Camp 2026, along with refreshments and evening meals, will be provided at the Campbells Creek Community Centre, 60 Elizabeth Street, Campbells Creek.

**Accommodation**

Participants are responsible for their own accommodation, available at Castlemaine's motels, B&Bs and caravan parks. Accommodation options can also be found in nearby Maldon and Newstead. The Castlemaine Information Centre website has an excellent list of places to stay (<http://www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au>). Some accommodation is available through accommodation booking sites (Airbnb, Booking.com et al.). If you come in a campervan or caravan, in addition to the popular Big4 caravan park by the Botanical Gardens, there are basic facilities adjacent to the Campbells Creek Community Centre – details on Registration form. We recommend booking your accommodation as soon as possible.

**Meals**

Breakfast and lunches will be your responsibility. Evening meals have been arranged for the Friday and Saturday at the Campbells Creek Community Centre, followed by guest speakers. For those staying on until Monday, we will make a booking at a local pub for Sunday evening.

**Registration and Payment** should be received by **28<sup>th</sup> August**

Further details, in particular of the excursions, will be sent to all registrants at the end of August, in the second circular. If you have queries, please contact us by email [seanacfc@gmail.com](mailto:seanacfc@gmail.com) or phone (Peter Turner 0439 369 709).

We look forward to welcoming you to Castlemaine early in October!

Euan Moore  
President

Peter Turner  
Convenor, Organising Committee  
0439 369 709

## Program outline

Excursions are planned to include woodlands, local flora and fauna, wetlands, geology, the impacts of the Gold Rush and fires on our environment, and other sites of interest. Members of the BirdLife Castlemaine District branch will be assisting with bird walks and our local Landcare groups are keen to show off their work and share their stories. In addition to the guided excursions, there will be several well-described self-guided walks.

### Friday 9 October

- 3.00 pm Registration from 3.00 pm onwards at the Campbells Creek Community Centre. Register for excursions. Afternoon tea available.
- 6.00 pm: Informal buffet meal (\$30 per person).
- 7.30 pm: Welcome, followed by a presentation by Geoff Park, local field naturalist and ecologist and convenor of the wonderful "[Natural Newstead](#)" blog: "*Ecosystems and birds of the Newstead district - observations, reflections and concerns for the future*".
- 9.00 pm: Supper

### Saturday 10 October

- 8.30 am: Half day excursions.
- 12.45 pm: Half day excursions.
- 5.00 pm: SEANA General meeting for FNC representatives at the Campbells Creek Community Centre. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- 6.30 pm: Dinner at Campbells Creek Community Centre (\$40 per person)
- 8.00 pm: Guest Speaker: Britt Gregory (North Central CMA) will speak about the Platypatch projects around Victoria and the work needed to improve platypus habitat at these sites. [Platypus have returned to Campbells Creek in recent years.]
- 9.00 pm: Supper

### Sunday 11 October

- 8.45 am: Half day excursions.
- 1.15 pm: Half day afternoon excursions.
- 4.00 pm: Afternoon tea at the Community Centre to close the weekend of activities.
- 6.00 pm: Meal at local pub for those staying until Monday (own expense).

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Inc. # A0003010B ABN 91369536236

[castlemaine-field-naturalists.org.au](http://castlemaine-field-naturalists.org.au)

<https://castlemaine-flora.org.au/home.htm>

