

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

Adult
moth



CUP
MOTH



Larva



Pupal Case

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Too Many Moths to Feed

After the damage done by millions of Cup Moth (Stinging Joeys, Chinese Junks) caterpillars last year its quite alarming to see the number of moths swarming around lights now. At least if they lay their patches of woolly eggs on my house or on the window the larvae won't survive, but there must still be millions layed on the trees. This time I have seen small swarms of them milling and circling around in one spot, which is certainly something I have not seen before, despite living on the edge of the bush all my life. Hopefully weather conditions will be unfavourable to them. It's the only way I can think of that would control them.

Another swarm of moths caught my eye last week (mid-March). They were all milling around a spider web (I believe in being kind to spiders!) on out back verandah. The wings were almost completely clear, the colouring was generally dark grey and the ones I managed to catch (they were quite fast flyers)



were all males, as was another one I caught on one of my plants a couple of days later. This one was quite undamaged and was delightful to look at. The almost transparent wings are grey with black margins and veins. The feelers, legs and tip of the abdomen were a creamy yellow, and it had a brick red spot in the middle of its thorax. The abdomen can be extended quite a bit, and I suspect they could be the moth of the case-moth which decorates its case with pieces of leaf. The female is wingless and never leaves the pupal case, and thus the male needs the extendable abdomen to mate. According to my book, another quite destructive pest. Again, I haven't seen anything like the numbers before - in fact i don't know that I've ever seen the adult before, and only a couple of the larvae.

Rita Mills

NOONAMEENA CAMP-OUT, POREPUNKA, VIC.
Report from Jack Dare

The Victorian Field Naturalists' Club had a good turn up to their camp-out at Noonameena on the long weekend, 7-10th March. The Victorian Field Naturalists' Clubs Association also elected their new office bearers; Mr A. Perry, President and Dr. E. Turner as Secretary.

Noonameena is a conglomerate of buildings with huts containing rooms which include up to four bunks, a cook house and dining room, and a large assembly hall, with plenty of room for tents and vans. The tucker was good and a cut lunch was supplied to all for the day trips. Dinner on the Friday was a very wet affair, not from rain but from perspiration that poured out of everybody, but the weather cooled down after that.

The first day's run was up the Buckland valley for a bit of bird detecting but no one came up with any startling discoveries. However, a Mr A. Piesse gave us a bit of the valley's history which centred around two main items, the amount of gold removed from the area and the incident of 500 White Aussies becoming a trifle terse over the number of Chinese in the area - 2500 to boot - and that's about what happened - they booted them out causing a number of fatalities.

In the evening a good lecture was given by the Mt Buffalo Ranger. The Sunday was taken up with a trip to Mt Buffalo with stops for walks and checking out the profusion of Alpine plants, *Helichrysum rutidolepis* (Pale Everlastings) in many different hues, so they were not so pale to my eyes. Also the *Gentianella diemensis* were beautiful to behold, with many more - Trigger Plants and the Shaggy Alpine Pea to name a couple.

Later we drove up to the area below a pinnacle of rocks known as the Horn, furthermore we all clambered up the Horn, even the Septogenarians, then back to dinner at the Lodge and a talk by an orchid expert from Wangaratta by name of Mr A. Briggs, whose photos were very expertly taken.

As there were so many lovely walking tracks in the area Monday morning was a free choice and parties went off into different areas, back for lunch and then away after the usual goodbyes.

In all, a very pleasant weekend. Pity it is a four hour drive away, otherwise we could have some Club runs up there, but there's always Mt Cole.

From the Royal Horticultural Society Journal, Feb/Mar 1986

"Last Christmas the R.S.P.C.A. Wildlife Branch provided accommodation for :-

Possums - ringtail	348	Brushtail	138
Sugar Gliders	4	Kangaroos	8
Wombats	8	Penguins	13
Sulphur crested Cockatoos	25	Galahs	16
Rosellas	18	Kookaburras	15
Frogmouths	31	Owls	31
Raptors	7	Kingfishers	4
Wild duck	countless	Pelicans	2
Bitterns	2	Black Swan	2
Bats	2	Tortoises	16

The most incredible statistic is the incredible recovery rate recorded of 80% of these animals."



c/o THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
285 Lt. Lonsdale St., Melbourne.

12th March, 1986.

Dear Fellow Conservationists,

As you may know, the State Government is currently preparing legislation called the Native Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act.

The legislation is a direct result of widespread concern over the future of Victoria's many endangered species and hopefully will go some way towards ensuring that these species can survive, flourish and continue their evolutionary development in their natural habitats.

Unfortunatly, there is opposition towards a strong and committed Guarantee while it is in its planning stages.

In particular three areas are being debated.

- i) inclusion of less than all native biota, (there is strong pressure to exclude invertebrates and non-vascular plants - such value judgements are ecologically nonsensical);
- ii) endangering processes (i.e. controls on activities which endanger flora and fauna - the Act should tackle this problem but there is opposition to it doing so);
- iii) declaration of commitment (i.e. accountability to the public - the Act should include commitments which the government is forced to honour):

These points are of vital concern, and must be included if the Guarantee is to be meaningful.

We therefore urge your group to write to the government, voicing your support for a strong Flora and Fauna Guarantee, and one which includes the three features outlined above. Write to Hon. Joan Kirner, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, 3002.

If you want more information on the Guarantee, the Conservation Council of Victoria will be only too glad to assist.

Please Contact Mark O'Neill or Warwick Newson (663 1561).

If your group would like to join the support group or to make a donation to help with the campaign (and you have not already done so) please find donation/membership form enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Mark O'Neill / *Warwick Newson*

MARK O'NEILL / WARWICK NEWSON
for the Support Group

CASTLEMAINE F.N.C. AGENDA

EXCURSIONS LEAVE PROMPTLY AT TIMES SHOWN

Fri 11 April "Roadside and and Railway Reserves" with Mr Kieth Watson-
Linear Reserves Project Officer with the State Forests and Lands
Service. High School at 8 p.m.

Sat 12 April "Chewton Gold Relics" with Ken McKimmie. Visit the old
Eureka Township (Eureka Mine and Open Cut, old Eureka Church, etc.,
and giant chimney), and the Spring Gully Mine and township.
Meet S.E.C. Mostyn St. at 1.30, or 1.40 at the Eureka St. Bridge,
Chewton. NOTE CHANGED DATE.

Sat 26 April Autumn Meeting of the W.V.F.N.C.A. at Portland.

Fri 9 May To be arranged.

Sat 10 May Tarrengower. Birds that live on the west side of Tarrengower
Leave S.E.C. at 1.30.p.m

Friday 13 June To be arranged.

Sat 14 June Mineral Springs Tour with George Broadway. Become a Mineral
Springs connoisseur as you sample the local waters! Not to be missed.
Leave S.E.C. at 11 o'clock.

Fri 11 July Mr Murray Hodge of Colac F.N.C.

Fri 8 Aug "Applications of Bird Watching" with Mr Greg Binns of
Ballarat F?

Ballarat F.N.C.

Sun 12 Oct Salomon Gully and Jackass Flat with Bendigo and Maryborough
F.N.C. Leave S.E.C. at 9.25 am or Salomon Gully at 10 am . Picnic
Lunch.

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