CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

MAY 2026 | VOL. 51.4 #552
CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
ISSN 2982-2165

Amegilla albiceps on *Amyema miquelii* (Box Mistletoe). *Photo: Lynda Wilson*

Encounters with native bees

By Lynda Wilson

Ed. Lynda kept us all spellbound at our April Monthly Meeting as she recounted her journey into the world of native bees, illustrated with her spectacular photos. Here she summarises her presentation.

My presentation outlined the journey from our 40 acres of pastural paddock to a garden full of flowering trees and shrubs that now provide habitat and food resources for a diverse range of wildlife throughout the seasons. While the intention was to attract birds and mammals to the Drummond property, the iNaturalist 2023 Great Southern Bioblitz prompted me to investigate the smaller critters that also choose to call Kangaroo Hill home. Working closely with John Walter of the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network (UCLN), and participating in the UCLN pollinator surveys, my interest in butterflies and native bees was sparked, and soon became an addiction. From barely being able to distinguish between a European honeybee and a native banded bee, I have now recorded and photographed around 70 species of native bees on the property with the help of various field guides and dedicated iNaturalist enthusiasts. With approximately 1700 species of described Australian native bees, and an estimated 500 more to be described, there's undoubtedly still more to find in and around Drummond.

Interestingly, my fascination with native bees really took off when they were observed 'cutting' disc-shaped pieces of supple exotic rose and

The Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung community as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Country where we meet and study the natural environment. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future.

raspberry leaves, and nesting in the bolt holes of a plastic hose-reel. Not exactly the pristine native environment you'd think would be a preference for these native critters.

Megachile aurifrons (female) working on her hose reel nest with masticated leaf matter.

These bees of the genus *Megachile* would normally be nesting in existing holes in trees and shrubs such as old borer holes, under bark, in dead hollow stems, or small tunnels within rocks and logs and other nooks and crannies, including masonry. Some will collect materials such as resin, masticated leaf matter and grit to line and secure a nest. *Megachile maculariformis* will also dig shallow burrows under mulch or in loose soil, weaving those circular bits of cut leaf material into a cylindrical tube as a nest.

Masked bees of the genus *Hylaeus* are also cavity-nesters and will nest in various substrates such as hollow grass stems, beetle borer holes, disused nests of other insects, or artificial structures such as drilled holes in wood blocks and gaps in masonry.

Around 70% of Australia's native bees nest in the ground. Bees from genera *Leioproctus*, *Lasioglossum* and *Amegilla*, including the ever-charming Blue-banded Bees, were observed digging their burrows in garden beds, in bare soil amongst the gravel on the driveway and adjacent to garden pathways.

Female Leafcutter bee, *Megachile maculariformis*, cutting her way through a supple raspberry leaf.

The stunningly adorned kleptoparasitic Cuckoo bees of the genus *Thyreus* don't worry about building their own nests. As their name implies, they just wait for an opportunity to access a freshly-prepared *Amegilla* nest and lay their eggs.

Most native bee species found in central Victoria are solitary, with others being semi-social. Social stingless or sugarbag bees of genera *Austroplebeia* and *Tetragonula* can be found further north but don't tend to manage the cooler climate of Central Victoria.

Only a few species of native bees such as the genus *Exoneura* feed live young. Females of most solitary

Left: An aggregation of tiny roosting *Lasioglossum exlautum* settling in for the evening on native Tree Violet, *Melicytus dentatus*. Right: *Lasioglossum urbanum* (female) emerging from one of several burrows in the middle of our gravel driveway. The burrow opening is not much wider than a pin head. A traffic witch's hat now stands watch by the burrows.

Blue-spotted Cloak-and-Dagger (Cuckoo) Bee (*Thyreus caeruleopunctatus*) feeding on *Westringia fruticosa* 'Wynyabbie Gem'. Like their feathered namesakes, cuckoo bees don't bother building a nest. This cuckoo bee uses the nests of Blue-banded Bees. I'm hoping that the presence of cuckoo bees and bee-cuckoo wasps is an indicator of a healthy local native bee population.

species prepare nests consisting of individual brood cells with a mix of pollen (fat and protein) and nectar (carbohydrates), upon which a single egg is laid. The provisions in each brood cell are enough for one larva to develop and mature to adulthood.

Most native female bees capture pollen in special branched hairs called 'scopa' on their legs or on the underside of the abdomen as well as on hairy foreheads. Both male and female bees can concentrate the sugars in nectar they've consumed by blowing bubbles to evaporate excess water.

'Non-hairy' species from the sub-families *Euryglossinae* and *Hylaeinae* carry pollen in the first part of the stomach called the 'crop', and sometimes mix pollen in the nectar bubbles to transport it to their nests.

The hairy flexible tongues that bees use to lap up nectar come in a variety of shapes and sizes making each suitable to different floristic forms. Very small bees and bees with long tongues are able to access the nectar inside long-tubular flowers. Some bees with short tongues may have long mouth parts which can exploit such long tubular flowers, but broad-tongued bees tend to have a preference for more open cup-shaped flowers.

Some native bee species are able to exploit a variety of native and exotic plants for pollen and nectar. For example, the buzz-pollinating behaviour of some *Amegilla* species, also known as sonication, utilises rapid head movement at about 350 revolutions per second to vibrate the pollen out of the

Left: Blue-banded Bee, *Amegilla asserta*, feeding on *Salvia microphylla* 'Hotlips'. Right: Blue-banded Bee, *Amegilla chlorocyanea*, soaking up some sunshine from her burrow after a chilly autumn morning.

flower's anthers. These bees can often be heard before they are seen, especially around tomato plants. If you listen really carefully, you can hear a difference in pitch between the normal flying hum and when the Blue-banded Bee is 'buzzing' a flower.

Having co-evolved with the *Myrtaceae* (myrtle) and *Fabaceae* (legume) families of plants, native bees are vitally important to the pollination of native vegetation which is essential for overall ecosystem health and in providing habitat for so many native species. Habitat loss, pesticide use and competition from introduced honeybees are all recognised threats to native bees. We can help them out by providing suitable habitat and clusters of floristic food resources in our own front and backyards, avoiding pesticide use, and supplementing with artificial accommodation if necessary.

Avoid commercial 'Bee Hotels' as they are often chemically treated and the hollow shafts are generally too short. To make your own bee hotel, drill holes in clay blocks or native hardwoods from 2- 10mm diameter, 100-150mm deep. Bundle bamboo canes – make sure they are capped at one end. Include pithy stems and reeds. Position in an open but sheltered spot with morning sun and flowering plants nearby.

As the lingering warmth of summer and autumn leads us into the gloom that can so easily take hold in the greyness of winter, it's also a bit sad to have farewelled what is probably the last of our native bees for several months. Until spring….

Resources:

Houston, Terry (2023) A Guide to Native Bees of Australia. CSIRO Publishing, Clayton South, VIC

Jacobi, Bernhard (2025) Native Bees of Australia – A Comprehensive Guide. Reed New Holland Publishers, Australia

https://www.aussiebee.com.au/index.html

https://www.facebook.com/groups/beeawareofyournativebees

https://www.facebook.com/groups/buzzonwildbees

For more of Lynda's wonderful photos, check out her iNaturalist site.

SEANA Spring camp, Castlemaine 9-11 October, 2026

This year, the South East Australian Naturalists' Association Spring camp will be hosted by our club. We will share our special environment, flora and fauna with fellow field naturalists from around SE Australia over a program of interesting and varied half-day excursions and excellent dinner guest speakers.

Information about the weekend can be found on our website: SEANA Spring 2026 Castlemaine – Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club, including the invitation letter and registration form (pdf version or word version).

Registration and payment are due prior to **28th August 2026**.

Please register as soon as you can to assist with planning.

Mount Alexander Shire Council - Biodiversity Strategy

Our Council is developing a Biodiversity Strategy to guide how biodiversity is governed, protected and enhanced across Council-managed land. Council's community engagement process will start with a workshop on Friday 22 May from 9.30am-12.30pm at the Mount Alexander Golf Course Clubrooms. Registration will be required.

We encourage you to attend. See the following link for background on the development of this important strategy:

We're developing a Biodiversity Strategy | Mount Alexander Shire Council

Excursion to Smiths Reef – Autumn flowering orchids and more

Our monthly excursion on 11th April was to Smiths Reef in the Gowar section of the Maldon Historic Reserve. Following a dry spring and summer, expectations were not high however we were pleased to find some plants in flower including four species of native orchid.

During a reconnaissance about two weeks earlier we had found a large patch of Southern Autumn Greenhood, *Pterostylis ampliata*, in all stages of flower. Unfortunately, the plants in this patch had all finished flowering with only dead flower stems and many green rosettes of leaves from non-flowering plants present. It was notable that none of the flowers appeared to have been successfully pollinated and developing seeds. Later in our visit we found a single plant of this species with a fresh flower.

Southern Autumn Greenhood – flowering and leaf rosette forms (JR)

Searching for tiny orchids. *Photo: Geraldine Harris*

The other Pterostylis species in this area is the Red-tipped Greenhood, *P. rubescens*, which was in full flower with its typical inwards facing flowers. Stems were scattered throughout the woodland with many having several open flowers.

Two weeks earlier the recently described Dark Midge Orchid, *Genoplesium occidua*, had also been flowering well. This cryptic species is quite common in this area. These midge orchids have a single vertical, tubular leaf about 1mm in diameter and up to 300mm tall. The flowering stem grows inside the leaf tube and bursts out with a spike of up to 10 or so tiny flowers. Most of the plants that we saw during the excursion had finished flowering and unlike the Southern Autumn Greenhood, most flowers had been successfully pollinated and had swelling seed capsules. We were lucky enough to find a few stems with one or two flowers in good condition (photos over page).

Red-tipped Greenhood (EM)

Our fourth orchid for the afternoon was Parsons Bands, *Eriochilus cucullatus*. The

Dark Midge Orchid – left, a fresh flower (EM) and, right, a pollinated plant (JR)

flowers on this species appear before the leaves so what you see is a slender stem with usually a single flower at the apex. These were in full flower at the time of our visit and scattered across the area. In Russell Stanley's new book on "Native Orchids of Victoria's Central Goldfields", he names our local species as the recently described (2017) *E. sericeus,* but this is not yet recognised in VicFlora. The main differences between the two species are in the leaf, which is hairy and ridged in the latter species, but this requires marking and returning to the plants when flowering has finished and the leaf has appeared.

As we returned to the car, we spent some time looking at the small wetland plants growing at the edge of the dam. Those that were in flower are listed at the end of this article.

Some of the group recorded the call of Bibron's Toadlet, *Pseudophryne bibronii*, from the rushes at the edge of the water. This small frog is listed as Endangered under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. It is best detected during autumn and early winter and may be some distance from open water. Use FrogID on your phone to record and submit any frog calls that you hear. It is important that we learn more about the distribution of this species as it is easily overlooked and management practices may not consider this species.

Euan Moore

Flora and fauna list over page.

iNaturalist sightings for the excursion: Observations · iNaturalist Australia

Photos: Euan Moore (EM), Jenny Rolland (JR), Geraldine Harris (GH)

Parson's Bands (JR)

Creeping Knotweed (GH)

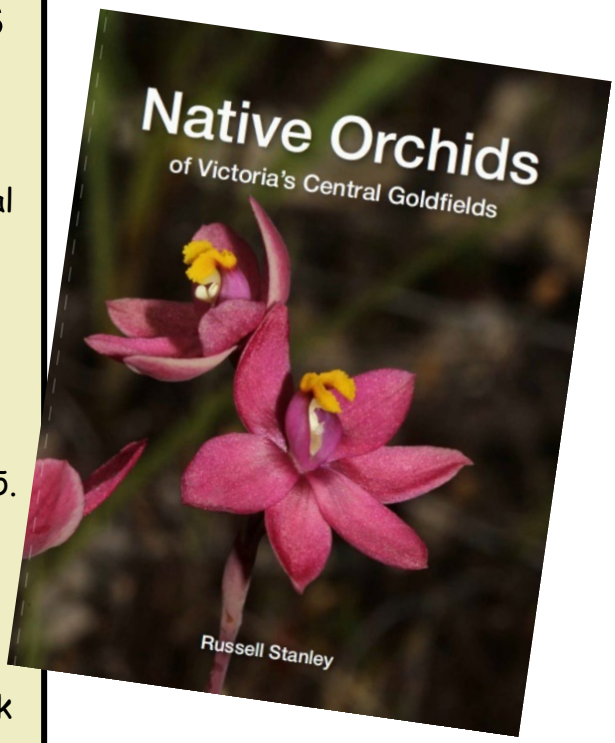
Old Mans Beard Lichen (with fruiting bodies) (GH)

Smith's Reef Plant List:	
Pterostylis ampliata	Southern Autumn Greenhood
Pterostylis rubescens	Red-tipped Greenhood
*Eriochilus cu*cullatus	Parson's Bands
Genoplesium occidua	Dark Midge Orchid
Persicaria prostrata	Creeping Knotweed
Acacia genistifolia	Early Wattle
Styphelia humifusa	Cranberry Heath
Hypericum gramineum	Small St John's Wort
Lythrum hyssopifolia	Loosestrife
Centipeda cunninghamii	Common Sneezeweed
Xerochrysum viscosum	Sticky Everlasting
Other things of interest:	
Austracantha minax	Christmas Jewel Spider
Ochrogaster lunifer	Bag-shelter Moth - Processional caterpillars
Pseudophryne bibronii	Bibron's Toadlet
Aquila audax	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Pardalotus punctatus	Spotted Pardalote
Usnea sp.	Old Mans Beard Lichen (with fruiting bodies)

Native Orchids of Victoria's Central Goldfields

Our Club has Russell Stanley's recently published authoritative field guide to terrestrial orchids of the region available for sale. Copies will be available at the May meeting, at excursions and for pickup by arrangement. The book includes a number of species unique to the Mount Alexander district.

The books are available at the Club price of $35. Cash is preferred, or you can pay by bank transfer. If you want to collect a copy outside meeting or excursion times, please contact our secretary Cathrine Harboe-Ree on castlemainefnc@hotmail.com. If you want a book posted to you the cost is an additional $12.



Geelong Autumn SEANA 2026 Excursion Reports

Several members of our club attended the well organised gathering and interesting mix of excursions for the Autumn SEANA camp, hosted by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club over the weekend of 27-29 March. On the Friday evening, Geelong club members presented valuable overviews of the environments that we would be visiting during the weekend, and the dinner speaker for the Saturday evening was Sean Dooley from Birdlife Australia. In his usual engaging style, Sean raised the issue of changing cuckoo populations in Victoria, noting progressive declines in four previously common cuckoos but increasing records for two new cuckoos for our region (the Eastern Koel and Channel-billed Cuckoo). He went on to discuss potential factors influencing these changes.

The following are reports on some of the excursions attended by our members. More reports will be included in the next issue of this newsletter.

Lake Victoria and Lake Lorne - Judy and Philip Hopley and Peter Turner

Margaret and Richard Alcorn, well known birders and members of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club, led this interesting afternoon excursion to the Bellarine wetlands. Two different lakes were visited: saline Lake Victoria on the western edge of Point Lonsdale, and freshwater Lake Lorne in Drysdale.

Lake Victoria is a 139 hectare shallow saline lake within the Lonsdale Lakes Wildlife Reserve. It is separated from Bass Strait by a narrow strip of coastal dunes. It forms part of the Swan Bay wetland system of shallow marine areas and lagoons, and is an important wetland for waterbirds and waders. The site is part of the internationally recognised Swan Bay and Port Phillip Bay Islands Key Biodiversity Area. Adjacent shallow ponds were created through shell grit extraction, which continues near the eastern end of the lake. Plant communities consist of salt tolerant species typical of coastal dune woodland and saltmarsh in the region. Vegetation along the southern lakeshore mainly consists of Moonah, *Melaleuca lanceolata,* a species that is listed as threatened in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Birds of conservation significance for which the lake and its surrounds are important include the Hooded Plover, Little Egret and Orange-bellied Parrot. It provides rich feeding for migratory shorebirds such as Red-necked Stints.

The route from Emily St, where the cars were parked, went along a woodland track to the gate into the reserve and along a narrow sandy path passing thick tufted grasses. Exposed sandy areas and the lake were on the north side, shallow ponds with part of the golf course on the south, then Moonah woodland. We had good views of a number of birds including Pied Stilts, Little Pied and Great Cormorants, Royal Spoonbills, Swans, Red-capped Plovers and many Red-necked Stints feeding busily.

We had been told that snakes were rarely seen – but a highlight of the visit was a large Lowland Copperhead snake basking in the sun in grass at the side of the walking track. It didn't appear to be disturbed by our presence and remained in place throughout the duration of our walk.

Lake Lorne, adjacent to the Old Drysdale Railway Station, is a natural freshwater lake approximately 12 hectares in size. The lake occupies a depression probably formed by the dissolution of the underlying Curlewis limestone and has a connection to the groundwater system which feeds natural springs that run into Port Phillip Bay. The water level can rise and fall greatly. It can also lag in response to the weather, taking some time to fill after rain and retaining high water levels through dry periods.

Lake Lorne supports a large and diverse population of waterbirds and has an important role as a refuge, both during drought and the duck hunting season. Hunting,

Lowland Copperhead (*Austrelaps superbus*). *Photo: Peter Turner*

fishing and the use of watercraft (of any kind) are prohibited at this reserve.

Our group took a short walk to a viewing platform where it was easy to observe the many water birds enjoying the lake including many hundreds of Eurasian Coots, a few Hardhead Ducks, Hoary-headed Grebe, Chestnut and Grey Teal, and the highlight - Blue-billed Ducks. Freckled Duck are frequent visitors, but not that day. A tree-lined path around the lake allows visitors to take a leisurely stroll and observe birds at different locations.

Sparrovale Wetland Reserve – Euan Moore

Sparrovale Wetlands.
Photo: Jenny Rolland

The Sparrovale wetlands are situated beside the lower Barwon River, a short distance upstream of Lake Connewarre. This area is a natural wetland which was cleared and drained for a racecourse and later for agriculture but is now being restored to a more natural state by the Greater Geelong Council.

In pre-European times this wetland was semi-saline with sea water pushing upstream along the Barwon River. Today the wetland receives greater amounts of fresh water as run-off from nearby housing estates. It also has an important role in flood mitigation for low-lying parts of Geelong and other areas around Lake Connewarre. This area is an important refuge for waterfowl. It also hosts significant numbers of migratory waders that spend our summers here before returning to their Arctic breeding grounds.

Our excursion was led by Donna Smithyman, an environmental officer from City of Greater Geelong, and Geelong FNC member, Chrissy Freestone. In spite of the heavy showers of rain, they managed to show us some of the water management structures and provide opportunities to view the wetland birds. Our brief look at these wetlands was enough to tell us that another visit would be well worth the effort.

During the morning, we recorded 29+ species of bird and one frog (Common Eastern Froglet). Notable were five species of raptor and large flocks of Red-necked Stint.

Name	Scientific Name	Name	Scientific Name
Common Eastern Froglet	*Crinia signifera*	Little Eagle	*Hieraaetus morphnoides*
		Swamp Harrier	*Circus approximans*
Black Swan	*Cygnus atratus*	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*
Australasian Shoveler	*Spatula rhynchotis*	Brown Falcon	*Falco berigora*
Pacific Black Duck	*Anas superciliosa*	Superb Fairywren	*Malurus cyaneus*
Chestnut Teal	*Anas castanea*	Striated Fieldwren	*Calamanthus fuliginosus*
Black-fronted Dotterel	*Thinornis melanops*	White-fronted Chat	*Epthianura albifrons*
Masked Lapwing	*Vanellus miles*	Australian Magpie	*Gymnorhina tibicen*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	*Calidris acuminata*	Willie Wagtail	*Rhipidura leucophrys*
Red-necked Stint	*Calidris ruficollis*	Little Raven	*Corvus mellori*
Whiskered Tern	*Chlidonias hybrida*	Golden-headed Cisticola	*Cisticola exilis*
Silver Gull	*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*	Little Grassbird	*Poodytes gramineus*
Australian White Ibis	*Threskiornis molucca*	Welcome Swallow	*Hirundo neoxena*
Straw-necked Ibis	*Threskiornis spinicollis*	Fairy Martin	*Petrochelidon ariel*
White-faced Heron	*Egretta novaehollandiae*	Common Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Black-shouldered Kite	*Elanus axillaris*		

Boat Tour - Port Phillip Bay Explorer – Oliver Halliwell

There seemed to be a little hesitancy as we stood around on the Main Wharf of Queenscliff Harbour, the forecast was for squally showers, choppy seas and generally overcast conditions. Not perfect for checking out the marine animals and bird life.

The skipper "Murph" finally gave the "All Aboard" signal and off we set on our course to inspect activities at Pope's Eye, Chinaman's Hat and Wedge Light, before heading across the Southern Shipping Channel to view the beach/coastal erosion around Sorrento.

Our vessel was an older but sturdy craft with a six-foot draught, providing a reasonably stable and pleasant sailing experience for all. The weather really went in our favour and after some initial showers we enjoyed clearing skies and even some sunny breaks. Nature did not disappoint either as all three structures visited were teeming with boisterous activity.

Pope's Eye was originally designed as a fortification site in the 1880's but was abandoned in the very early stages as obsolete and too costly. It comprises the remains of the rock foundations in a horseshoe shape and now supports a population of mainly male Australian Fur Seals and a breeding colony of Australasian Gannets. The two groups were totally separate with birds flying in and out and seals being generally grumpy.

Chinaman's Hat is a timber construction, a bit like a summer house, it has a raised platform and a large landing and step-up area. The platform was packed with snoozing seals (approx. 80 head). Our arrival caused some disturbance and a number decamped into the water and performed some interesting manoeuvres. Stingrays appeared and swirled around under the boat and the structure.

Pope's Eye supports a breeding colony of Australasian Gannets. Australian Fur Seals resting on the far side. *Photo: Oliver Halliwell*

Keeping west of the shipping channel we crossed to Wedge Light, another failed man-made structure, to find a breeding colony of Gannets. Very tightly packed on to the platform with their weed and muck nests. Very healthy specimens and plenty of activity, to a large extent we were ignored!

Turning eastward towards the Mornington Peninsular we enjoyed some interesting company. Two Dolphins escorted us part way, a Fairy Penguin crossed our bows and a Storm Petrel danced on the waves ahead of us. Previously we had sighted an Albatross at some distance as it soared and skimmed across the bay and to our delight it suddenly crossed our bow and landed in the water some 15 metres from the boat. What a joy!

The erosion at Sorrento is very significant, our Skipper believes that the cause was the extensive dredging of the shipping channel in recent years. I will leave that discussion to the experts!

Shy Albatross. *Photo: Oliver Halliwell*

Observations

Processional caterpillars, *Ochrogaster lunifer*, Smiths Reef excursion. *Photo: Jenny Rolland*

Euan Moore

Pseudophryne bibronii, Bibron's Toadlet. Happy Valley. Up to 3cm body length. Orange armpits are characteristic of this species.

Chrysolopus spectabilis, Botany Bay Diamond Weevil

PT: Yellow Rush-lily
Tricoryne elatior

Peter Turner

Meadow Argus Butterfly,
Junonia villida.
North St., Castlemaine

Moth, *Abantiades barcas.*
TBC by iNaturalist

Heliotrope Moth,
Utetheisa sp.
on Heliotrope plants in Eldorado

More moths from Jill Williams' verandah

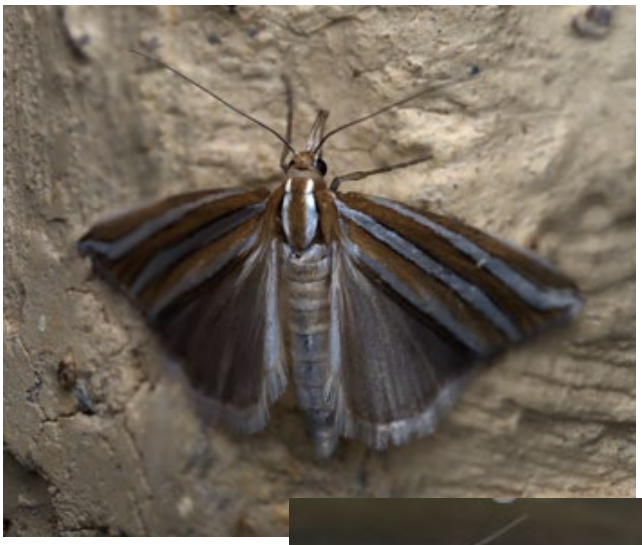
Guenee's Emerald,
Chlorocoma dichloraria

Scoparia exhibitalis

Horehound Plume Moth,
Wheeleria spilodactylus

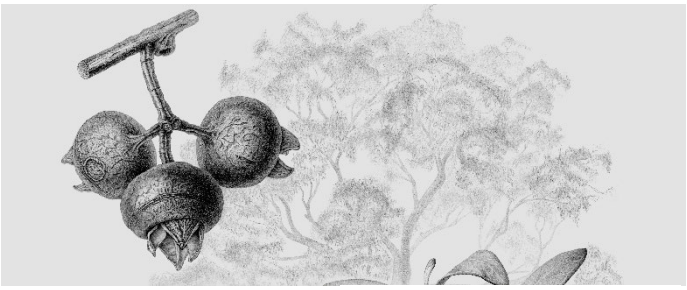
Tigrioides alterna

Gypsum Carpet Moth,
Chrysolarentia gypsomela



Hednota bivittella

Coming Events in May



Artwork by Bev Lewis

Monthly Meeting: Friday 8th May, 7.30pm Uniting Church Fellowship Room, Lyttleton St.

Speaker: Bev Lewis "The art of natural history illustration"

Bev Lewis is a local artist with particular expertise in natural history illustration. Bev says of her work: "My aim is to do with the human eye and pencils more than can be achieved with an electronic 'eye' and pixels. My artworks aim at accurate realism and are on the scientific illustration end of the art spectrum. Building upon the long tradition of scientific illustration, I aim to give a fresh, contemporary twist to produce something of beauty and scientific merit. A piece has turned out well for me when the viewer is encouraged to see nature in new ways."

Bev's works are held in private collections, the State Botanical Collection at the Herbarium of Victoria, the State Library of Victoria and the City of Melbourne. In 2012 Bev was awarded the Celia Rosser Medal for excellence of the art form including the highest degree of scientific accuracy.

Observations: Members and visitors are invited to share their recent interesting observations at the meeting. Please email any photos as uncropped JPEG file(s) and supporting notes to Jill Williams (jilliwill33@gmail.com) by noon on the day of the meeting.

Excursion: Saturday 9th May, 1.30pm

Leader: Joel Bloom "Post Office Hill Reserve, Chewton"

The Post Office Hill Action Group is a Landcare group that manages 22.6-hectares of public land, with a focus on preserving the natural, cultural and historical features of the Post Office Hill Reserve in Chewton, Victoria.

Joel will lead us on a walk around the reserve explaining the work that is being done to complement the natural regeneration of indigenous plants through weed and erosion control, corridor plantings, and the improvement of wildlife habitat by the installation of nesting boxes. Bird surveys and wildlife cameras reveal exciting outcomes of the group's work (see their iNaturalist site).

Meet: for car-pooling and **1.30pm** departure at the northern end of the car park, north of the Railway Goods Shed, Kennedy St. Castlemaine.
Or meet at **1.45pm** at the old council tip site on Railway Street, Chewton. From the Castlemaine centre, travel 4.5k east along the Pyrenees Highway (B180) towards Melbourne. At Chewton, turn right into Railway Street and drive 650 meters to where you will see the parking area on the right before the railway bridge (Google Maps).

Bring: water, snacks, **clean** sturdy shoes, chairs, afternoon tea.

Roadside Clean-up, Monday 11th May, 9.00am

Help keep our stretch of the Pyrenees Highway clean!

It's time for our next roadside clean-up. A pleasant walk enjoying the wildflowers along some roadside bush as we do our bit for the community.

Meet: 9am near Tait's Decorative Iron, corner of Willy Milly Rd and Pyrenees Highway, Castlemaine.

Bring: Gloves, water, sturdy footwear. Garbage bags and safety vests supplied.

Contact: Geoff Harris (mob 0418 392 183) if you can help with the clean-up.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Kalimna Park. *Photo: Euan Moore*

Program

Meetings: 7.30pm, 2nd Friday of the month except for January.

Venue: Uniting Church Hall (UCH), Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine except during winter (June-August) when they are held by Zoom.

Excursions are held on the Saturday following the monthly meeting and leave from the northern end of the car park north of the Railway Goods Shed, Kennedy St. at 1.30pm unless stated otherwise.

See "Coming Events" page for details on May activities.

Fri 8th May, 7.30pm
Meeting (UCH)
Speaker: Bev Lewis "The art of natural history illustration"

Sat 9th May, 1.30pm
Excursion: "Post Office Hill Reserve"
Leader: Joel Bloom

Mon 11th May, 9.00am
Roadside clean-up
Meet Tait's Decorative Iron, corner Willy Milly Rd and Pyrenees Highway.

Fri 12th June, 7.30pm
Meeting (Zoom)
Speaker: Max Sonnemann (Deakin Uni), "Bibron's Toadlets"

Sat 13th June, 9.00am, all day
Excursion: "Yung Balug Aboriginal Artefacts Museum, Boort"
Leaders: Paul Haw, Sue Luke

Visitors are welcome at club activities

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc. #A0003010B

castlemainefieldnaturalists.org.au
castlemainefnc@hotmail.com
PO Box 324, Castlemaine, 3450

Membership – fees due 1st April

Includes the monthly newsletter, Castlemaine Naturalist.
(Membership forms on CFNC website)

Single $35, Family $50

Pensioner or student:
Single $25, Family $30

Newsletter: Castlemaine Naturalist
Email items: newsletter.cfnc@gmail.com
June edition deadline: **29th May**

Committee

President: Euan Moore (0407 519 091)
Vice-President: Peter Turner
Secretary: Cathrine Harboe-Ree
Treasurer: Geoff Harris
Committee:
Lou Citroën, Carolyn Crowther, Kerrie Jennings, Jenny Rolland, Jill Williams, Noel Young

Newsletter Editors: Noel Young, Jenny Rolland, Jill Williams

Program Coordinator:
Jenny Rolland

Newsletter Distributor:
Geraldine Harris

The Nodding Greenhood Pterostylis nutans is the club emblem. Design by Rita Mills

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club.