

The

NOVEMBER 2010

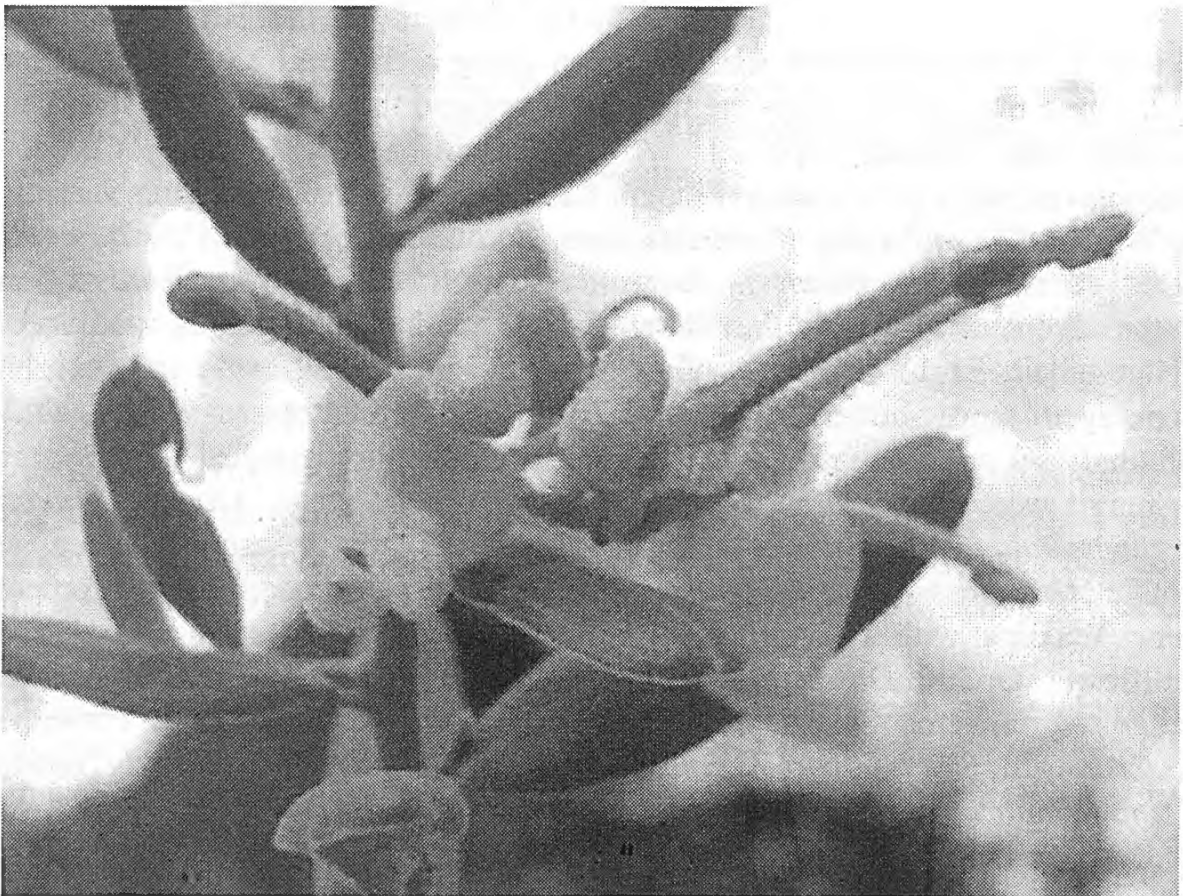
# Ballarat Naturalist



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## BRISBANE RANGES EXCURSION OCTOBER 2010.

The Brisbane Ranges is a low mountain range derived mostly from sedimentary rocks and dissected by rocky gullies. The soils are mostly infertile, but a large variety of plants grow there. Over 619 species of plants have been recorded. This represents a quarter of the Victorian flora. After good winter rains, we were expecting to see lots of flowers and we were not disappointed.



Golden Grevillea *G. chrysophaea*,

Large areas of the flowering shrub Rusty Pomaderris *P. ferruginea* were the main understorey plants at our first stop on the Stieglitz road west of the township. Two orchids were seen here, the Dwarf Greenhood *Pterostylis nana* and the Waxlip Orchid *Glossodia major*. The Love Creeper *Comosperma volubile* and the Blue Star *Chamaescilla corymba* provided a touch of blue to the scene. Other

flowering plants included Creamy Candles *Stackhousia monogyna*, the Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata*, Common Correa *C. reflexa*, and Common Flat-pea *Platylobium obtusangulum*.



Leopard Orchid, *Diuris pardina*

An area adjacent to the Bert Boardman reserve at Stieglitz was our next stop. Another three orchids were found here. The Small Gnat Orchid *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, Leopard Orchid *Diuris pardina* and the Nodding Greenhood *Pterostylis nutans* were added to our list. Some large Scarlet Bracket fungi *Pycnoporus coccineus* were noticed on dead branch on the ground, and also many Horse-dropping fungi *Pisolithus australe*. Other plants flowering included the Golden Grevillea *G. chrysophaea*, Dusty Miller *Spyridium parvifolium*, Beard Heath *Leucopogon virgatus*, and Hedge Wattle *Acacia paradoxa*.

The white flowers of the Blunt Everlasting *Argentipallium obtusifolium* were common along a fire trail alongside Butchers road. These fire trails have all the trees removed and the vegetation slashed short. Another two orchids species were Clubbed Spider Orchid *Caladenia phaeoclavia*, and a pink Dusky Fingers *Caladenia fuscata*. An albino variant of the Waxlip *Glossodia major* was also seen. Common Riceflower *Pimelia humilis* and Myrtle Wattle *Acacia myrtifolia* were also seen here. After lunch we explored another fire trail alongside the Ballan-Anakie road from Butchers road end. A Wedge-tailed Eagle was seen flying in the distance. The warm sunshine encouraged some butterflies and a handsome brown Hawk Moth, which obligingly sat on somebody's hand while it could be photographed. Three species of fungi were noticed here: The yellow capped Pretty Grisette *Amanita xanthocephala*, a bright yellow fleshed *Bolete sp.* that was partly eaten, and another *Amanita sp.* with a greyish white cap and pale lemon gills underneath. Some Waxlips with two flowers on the one stem were seen and also the Wallflower Orchid *Diuris orientis*. Other flowering plants included the tiny orange-red flowered Scarlet Sundew *Drosera glanduligera*, Small Poranthera *P. microphylla*, Silky Tea-tree *Leptospermum mysinioides* and the Prickly Tea-tree *L. continentale*.

After a comfort stop at the Stony Creek picnic ground, where a male Rufous Whistler was seen, we made our way uphill along Switch road to McCleans highway. I think that the highway name has more to do with the road's position in the landscape than its condition. In an area from which road gravel had been removed were a Small Spider Orchid *Caladenia phaeoclavia*, and a Mayfly Orchid *Acianthus caudatus* and a Gnat Orchid. The endemic *Grevillea steiglitziana* was flowering at several spots along the road. This *Grevillea* has

large red and green toothbrush flowers. Two *Pulteneas* Matted Bush-pea *P. pedunculata* and the Large-leaf Bush-pea *P. daphnoides* were in flower here. The yellow flowered *Hibbertia riparia* was here as well as at earlier spots.



*Grevillea steiglitiana*

On our way homeward along Thompsons road we stopped at a spot where the Rough Wattle *Acacia aspera* was the predominant understorey plant. The lead car in our convoy

sighted a tiger snake on the road. It moved off the road and disappeared under a log and undergrowth. The Thin-leaf Wattle *Acacia aculeatissima* was also flowering here. Thanks are due to John Gregurke who lead the excursion and to others who also helped to indentify the many plants seen.

*Les Hanrahan (Report & Photos)*

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## FLORA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA WITH EMPHASIS ON ORCHIDS: CATHY POWERS

Cathy Powers spoke to the October meeting on the plants she observed and photographed on a 6 to 7 week trip to the south west area of Western Australia. She said the aim was to look for orchids but her photographs and observations were far wider than this as she was obviously attracted to other plants as she searched for target species.

On arrival in Perth, Kings Park was visited with a lovely display at the entrance being shown. Also photographed was a huge bottle tree which at the time of the visit had been recently transplanted from up north. Elizabeth and Denis Thurgood had recently visited this tree and reported that whilst it is still alive it was not looking good.

Orchids could also be seen in Kings Park with a photograph of *Arachnorchis arenicola*. Cathy explained that the book she referred to uses *Arachnorchis* for the Carousel Spider Orchid rather than *Caladenia* which some other references use. The reference book used for the trip was "Guide to Native Orchids of South West Australia" by Bob Liddelw with names for orchids coming from this publication.

Here there were also wonderful *Banksia Grandis* and *Dryandra* which are also in the Proteaceae group and have flowers like proteas as well as a number of eucalypts. Photos shown included stunning flowers and bark of *Eucalyptus youngiana* and the lovely flowers and buds of *Eucalyptus kingsmillii*. Cathy

observed that orchids like to grow in Banksia leaf litter. Grevilleas were also well represented in Kings Park with a range of photographs showing the different foliage and flower styles of this genus. Next there were hakeas including amplexicaulis with its spiky leaves and rhombales with a range of flower colours. There were also photos of peas showing yellow, blue, violet, red and mixed colour flowers. Flowers of Western Australia could not be shown without featuring kangaroo paws but there were also isopogans, astolomas, grass trees including Kingia australis (drum sticks) and plants of prey – sundews etc. Cathy observed that sundews are so named because of the light reflected from them and that 50 of the 90 species of Australia's sundews are from the west with 4/5 of these living in the South West of WA.

Her tour of the flowers of WA continued with photographs and discussion of stylidium (trigger plants), calothamnus, verticordia, conospermum (smoke bush) and the engaging blue flowered Lechenaultia biloba which is a favourite of Claire.

Orchids of course did not miss out with Cathy describing how they toured the south west hunting out the locations described in Bob Liddelow's book and a treasure trove of beautiful photos were shown. Some notable ones shown were the very prolific Caladenia flava, Caladenia latifolia and a number of hybrids, white spider orchids with native bees, a jug orchid - Stannorchis (Pterostylis) recurve unique to WA, a butterfly orchid which is 3 – 4 inches across, a rare Cape mustard orchid - Jonesiopsis caesarea and the Purple enamel orchid - Elythranthera brunonis.

Showing that the visiting group did not only look at the ground, the tour finished with pictures of whales.

The camera Cathy used was a Canon S5 IS. She said this 8MP camera has a super macro and variable angle screen which made taking photographs of small orchids at ground level more convenient and her photographs certainly indicated that a capable person could take lovely photos with this camera. Unfortunately the specific model is no longer available.

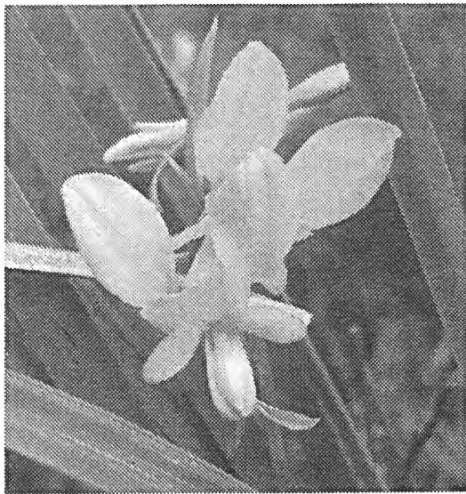
Thanks to Cathy for reminding us of what a beautiful place Western Australia is for flowers in the spring and for ensuring we did not forget the pleasure of travel and observation.

*Peter Dalman*

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**SEANA SPRING CAMP AT FOSTER NORTH, HOSTED BY THE LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB 15<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Around 80 people enjoyed another well organised and varied camp despite the cold and occasionally wet conditions. The camp was based at Camp Rumbug, set among lush rainforest. The daily excursions varied from areas east of Foster to Agnes Falls or Port Albert and west to Walkerville viewing coastal geology. I chose two day trips to Wilsons Promontory. The first was to Corner inlet on the north end and Millers landing, where we explored the diversity of wildflowers.



Donkey Orchid—yellow form

including orchids on the slashed verges of the road. An interesting discovery was a pure yellow form of the Donkey orchid as well as several spider orchids. After lunch at the car park, we walked down the 2 km track to the mudflats and mangroves of Millers Landing.

On Sunday my group drove to Tidal river village and did a full day 8 km walk which took us over the river, up to Pillar Point giving great views over Squeaky Beach and coastline to the south. Coastal tea tree was flowering profusely. We then walked

round the good paths down to Squeaky Beach where we sheltered behind the large granite rocks for lunch. After retracing our steps to the hill top, we took the alternative loop track following the coastal heathlands around the ridge, again seeing a variety of plants—occasional orchids, bright orange pea species and later some flowering grass trees on our return, completing a delightful day.

The welcome night meeting included viewing beautiful nature photography that had been entered in the Club's photography exhibition, part of the celebrations to celebrate the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They also had recently published books "The Nature of Latrobe Valley" and "To protect and Enjoy - 50 years of the Latrobe Valley FNC" for sale.

Guest speakers on the other two evenings were Gary Wallis speaking on "Geology of the Foster Region" and Duncan Malcolm "Management challenges facing Gippsland's coasts". The latter talk also focused on the effects of climate change (whatever the cause) and the potential flooding caused by rising water levels on the lower areas in Lakes Entrance and Loch Sport.

Monday excursions took us to Inverloch and Wonthaggi areas, where some visited the Inverloch-Bunurong coastal cliffs, site of the dinosaur digs. Others walked in the Wonthaggi Heathland area discovering more orchids and other plants along the slashed track areas. We gathered for lunch at Wonthaggi Guide Park and then departed home.



Brown Beak Orchid

*Val Hocking (Report & Photos)*

**BOOK LAUNCH—The Story of a Small Town, A Story of Meredith** compiled by Lyndsay Fink, a past member of FNCB. The launch is at the Masonic Centre, Meredith at 1.30pm on **Sunday 14 November**.

Everyone is welcome. The launch will be followed by afternoon tea.

**FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF BALLARAT INCORPORATED**  
**No. A0014919P                      ABN 13 150 403 135**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting, 1st October 2010.**

## **1. Opening and Apologies.**

The President, Elspeth Swan, welcomed 23 members and visitors.

Apologies: John Petheram, Dulcie Brooke, Douglas Menon, Avis Barlow, Nina Netherway and Zelda Martin.

The apologies were accepted by Paul Norquay, seconded Peter Billing.

## **2. Correspondence.**

IN:

- Geelong FNC: Geelong Naturalist, August & September 2010.
- Bendigo FNC: Whirrakee, August & September 2010.
- FNCV: Victorian Naturalist, August 2010; Field Nats News, October 2009.
- RHSV: Gardeners Gazette. Spring 2010.
- Environment Victoria: Green Action News, Winter & Spring 2010.
- DSE: Land for Wildlife, July 2010; Midlands Fire Operations Plan.

OUT:

- City of Ballarat: Submission on Review of Future Industrial Areas.
- VEAC: Submission on Remnant Native Vegetation.
- Invitations to Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture.
- POWP Clubrooms venue hire.

## **3. Reports**

*Treasurer's Report:* Opening balance \$6167.07, Income \$2.00, Expenses \$140.00, Closing balance: \$6029.07. Received Les Hanrahan, seconded Carol Hall.

*ANN 2010 Get-together at Chinchilla:* Claire Dalman spoke of the highlights of the Get-together attended by 7 Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat members. A report is included in the Ballarat Naturalist.

## **4. General Business**

Members were advised of the arrangements for Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture on 5 November: room to be set up before the meeting, extra supper required.

Steel cupboards have been collected from Christies and will be used to store club records at Les Hanrahan's.

University of Ballarat will consider housing the Cliff Beaglehole herbarium collection when their buildings are completed.

## **5. Show and Tell:**

Val Hocking showed photos of the ANN 2010 Get-together at Chinchilla and O'Reilly's.

## **6. Field Reports**

- Tony Johns: Masked Lapwing with 4-5 chicks in Latrobe Street on 12 September.

- Claire Dalman: Local lakes and swamps are filling. Lal Lal Falls looks excellent.
- Dennis and Elizabeth Thurgood: Lake Goldsmith is full.
- Val Hocking: Many cygnets at Lake Wendouree.
- Greg Binns: Durham Lead has many flowers including wattles, tetraetheca, hardenbergia, pultenea and davesia.
- Les Hanrahan: 8 Shelduck ducklings on dam.
- Anna and Chris Baulch: Male Musk Duck with leg band and several females at Lake Wendouree.
- Mike Sorrell: Lake Wendouree - Musk Ducks, almost mature Crested Grebe, pair of Black Ducks with at least 12 very small ducklings.
- Paul Norquay: Wood Duck nesting in tree hollow 3 metres above the ground at Mt Egerton.
- Jenny Sedgwick: Dainty Bird Orchids at Monmouth Mine, Enfield.

## **8 Excursion Arrangements:**

Sunday 10 October 2010 to Brisbane Ranges. Leader: John Gregurke.

**9 Syllabus Item:** Cathy Powers gave an illustrated talk on "Flora of Western Australia". Cathy showed many flowering plants, including orchids, seen during a spring trip to the south-west of WA. Elspeth Swan thanked Cathy and presented her with a gift.

## **10 Supper**

### **EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING - 6TH AUGUST 2010**

#### **Show and Tell**

- Val Hocking displayed coloured photograph of a toothed fungus growing on tree in Union Jack Reserve.

#### **Field Reports**

- Elspeth Swan: Garden Skink, that already had lost its tail, sunning itself in Mt Egerton Garden
- Paul Norquay: Orchid leaves forming carpets on the ground in Enfield and Dereel areas. At least 9 species seen.
- John Mildren: 5 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo at corner of Eyre Stt and Ascot Stt.
- Peter Dalman: 20 Little Ravens on Wendouree street.
- Margaret Thomas: Flock of 13 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and 2 Wood Duck at Nerrina.
- John Gregurke: At Lake Wendouree on 5 August 65 active Swan nests and 13 clutches of cygnets. 2 Swift Parrots in Clunes Forest.
- Tony Johns: At Drummond St Sth, adult Collared Sparrowhawk observed sitting on fence for several minutes before flying.

#### **Syllabus Item:**

Club member, John Petheram, compared South Africa and Australia looking at aspects of plants, animals, social and family. He was thanked by Elspeth Swan.

## CALENDAR 2010

### NOVEMBER

- Fri 5      **Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture**  
Tony Wilson, Naturalist and Photographer, *Rivers to Nowhere*
- Sun 7      Excursion—*Enfield*, Bill Murphy, Club Member (**NOTE** Change of venue)
- Sat 20     Mid-month Excursion—*Creswick*, John Gregurke, Club Member  
9.30 start
- Tues 23    Committee Meeting—

### DECEMBER

- Fri 3      Rod Orr, Bendigo Field Naturalists Club—*Canning Stock Route*
- Sun 5      Water Reserves Excursion and Picnic Tea - afternoon/early evening

SEANA  
CAMP 2011

SEANA Autumn Camp hosted by Angair  
**Friday 25 - Monday 28 March 2011**  
YMCA Recreation Camp, Anglesea  
Registration by 25 November 2010  
See John Gregurke for a registration form.

### Committee

President.....Ms Elspeth Swan  
Vice-President.....Mr Greg Binns  
Secretary .....Mr John Gregurke  
Treasurer .....Mr Les Hanrahan

Mrs Claire Dalman .....  
Mr Peter Dalman .....  
Dr Frances Hanrahan .....

Mrs Carol Hall.....  
Mrs Val Hocking .....  
Ms Nina Netherway (editor) .....

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                 Editor: Nina Netherway,

**Website:** [www.ballarat.yourguide.com.au](http://www.ballarat.yourguide.com.au) Click on *Community>Local Clubs> Environment*

**Meetings** are held at the Prince of Wales Park Clubrooms in Prince of Wales Park, Gillies St on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm.

**Excursions:** Leave from the carpark adjacent to BGS & BHS boatsheds at the south end of Forest St., Wendouree.

A monthly publication of the Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat Inc.  
Incorporation # A0014919P      ABN 13 150 403 135