



The Whistler

Newsletter of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club Inc.

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From the Editor's workshop

September brought our AGM and with it a change of President - Hazel returns to the position for her second appointment. While Peter takes a well-deserved rest, I'm sure he'll find other things to keep him busy. We also got some new and returning members onto the Committee, with Inta, Lynn and Graeme Fernandes joining.

Spring is in the air which is boom-time for the bush and for Field Naturalists. We've had spectacular flowering of wattles this year and native wildflowers are starting to appear in local reserves. In fact, our September excursion to Pound Bend and Tindals Reserve found 7 orchid species, and more species have been seen in Colman Park and Boomers Reserve by members. In November, we are heading to Crib Point with the Peninsula FNC, which is a hot-spot for Sun Orchids, so this should be exciting for the orchid-lovers amongst us.

Before then we have our spring camp-out which is a very big deal this year - we're hosting the SEANA camp-out, based at the Little Desert Nature Lodge. A wonderful area to visit in itself, we have over 130 registered participants, with 25+ of our own members attending. The camp-out promises to be a great time with a wide variety of walks scheduled over the weekend.

A quick reminder - we've got two articles from members in this edition of The Whistler, which is great, but there is always room for more. I'm sure there are some just waiting to be uncovered for all to enjoy.

Jack Airey
Editor



Making sure all the sauce bottles are in a row.

Some of our Club members manning the sausage sizzle at Bunnings for our fundraising day in August.

Thanks to all who helped out, with special thanks to Alison and Peter for organising the event and their hard work on the day.

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"... to further the study of Natural History in all its branches"

President's Report

What a great year we have had with interesting speakers, enjoyable outings and wonderful weekends away.

Unfortunately, there has been sadness during the last 12 months with the passing of some of our members in Gordon Coutts, Doug & Ella Thomas (all Life Members) and Moira Minty. But we can all look back and remember great times with them and what they did for the Club.

Our program continues in the high standard with great variety. We had members talking about their jaunts around Australia, bird migration from Ken Gosbell and Seagrasses by Robert King. Two very different but very informative talks were "Rays of the Bay" by Jason Caruso and "The Burranan Dolphin" by Dr Kate Charlton-Robb.

Our outings continue to provide enjoyment for members and a good chance to get out and about. We returned to some of our usual haunts, such as Lake Mountain and Banyule wetlands, and we visited two new areas - an enlightening day to Werribee Gorge, as well as an educational visit to the Melbourne Aquarium. To all who co-ordinated the excursions, thank-you for your work, including the write-up for The Whistler.

As a group, we like to see different parts of Victoria and again we had two very successful weekends away, Portland in spring 2016, and Alexandra in autumn 2017. Both weekends were excellent with their own highlights, Portland for the gannets and spending a day with the Portland FNC, and Alexandra for new areas visited, especially the McKenzie Nature Conservation Reserve.

As in previous years, we need to say a big thank you to Alison Rogers for all her hard work in compiling our programs.

We still have ahead of us the SEANA weekend being hosted by our Club at the Little Desert Nature Lodge in October. Thanks to our sub-committee who have been working hard the last 12 months to ensure it is a success.

Club members continue to present a high standard of images at meetings. It is always pleasing to see what other members have seen, find interesting or just display their skill in photography. Keep up the good work. Once again, thanks to David Hewitt for his time and patience as projectionist. Also thanks to members who provide these images, it helps to make the meetings.

As always there are a number of people who keep the Club running:

- Eleanor Dilley for all her work as Secretary,
- Ray Wall, again as Treasurer, not only for our usual finances but also the upcoming SEANA weekend,
- Loris Peggie for undertaking again the role of auditor,
- Jack Airey for newsletter editor and publisher as well as being our webmaster,
- Roger Needham for taking over the role of librarian.

Again, thank you to all members for making this Club what it is and I look forward to another great year.

Peter F Rogers
PRESIDENT



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Club News

Welcome to our new member – Sophie Taylor.

Vale – Gordon Coutts

The Ringwood Field Naturalist Club has unfortunately lost another Foundation Member with the passing of Gordon Coutts on 16 July 2017. Although ill health prevented Gordon from attending meetings over recent years, he was still able to get enjoyment from the Club newsletters.



Long-term members would remember the effort put into the Club by Gordon, especially in the early years. Gordon was Club President for 7 years, (and hence Immediate Past President for 7 years), Vice President (4 years), Secretary (4 years) and General Committee for another 11 years – a total of 33 years input to the Club.

Gordon was always ready to share with other members by providing numerous talks at Club meetings, leading monthly excursions and arranging weekend campouts. In the early years printing of newsletters was a big problem for the Club. For many years Gordon completed this job, often using his work's printing equipment.

He was made a Life Member of the Club in 1975.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

By Peter Rogers

Vale – Moira Minty

The Ringwood Field Naturalist Club has unfortunately lost another Member with the passing of Moira Minty. Moira joined the Club in September 1993 through her friend Pam Faragher. Moira enjoyed meetings and regular outings as well as the new friends she made.

Moira let her membership lapse at the end of 2015 when she was unable to get to meetings or outings any more. She was a 22-year member of the Club.

Moira died on 30 July 2017.

Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

By Peter Rogers



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Out and About

Alexandra Camp-out

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th March 2017

Leaders: Inta and Roger Needham

Our autumn camp-out was on the weekend of March 24th to the 26th. It was based at the Breakaway Twin Rivers Caravan Park located 6 km south of Alexandra, attended by twenty-two club members.

At 4pm on Friday, the group embarked on the first outing which was to the Alexandra sewerage plant where a good number of water birds were seen. We then headed to Grannies Lane where there were a number of bush birds. After the outing, participants enjoyed a barbeque outside the Camp Kitchen at the Caravan Park.



Our outing on Saturday morning was to a farm located on the Goulburn River flood plain where we were met by the owner Lorraine Pyke, a local naturalist. Members walked through the lovely environment along the river, heading west in the morning and then east after morning tea. Forty birds were seen during our visit with a family of Golden Whistlers, two Sacred Kingfishers and Gang-gang Cockatoos being the most significant.



Members at Pyke's farm

For lunch, we stopped at Rotary Park in Alexandra, on the banks of UT Creek, outside the Alexandra Tourist Information Centre, which is a great place for some local souvenirs.

On Saturday afternoon, we visited Gobur Flora Reserve. After a long dry summer, the vegetation looked parched and few birds were seen in the Reserve. However, some nice sightings were made in the farmland adjoining the Reserve, namely Varied Sitella, Mistletoebird, Eastern Spinebills and a White-throated Gerygone.

A few kilometres from the Reserve, on Frees Road, there are two large farm dams where plenty of waterbirds were seen, and along the roadside bush birds such as Diamond Firetails, Satin Flycatchers and Brown Treecreepers were observed.

Most of the group had dinner at the Shamrock Hotel in Alexandra and afterwards gathered outside at the Caravan Park before a downpour drove everyone inside.

Fog on Sunday morning highlighted the thousands of spider webs in McKenzies Flora Reserve on the outskirts of Alexandra. With many of the webs belonging to Golden Orb Weaver spiders (*Nephila edulis*), there were also Garden Orb Weavers and Jewel Spiders (*Austracantha minax*). The fog burnt off and a warm humid day developed.



Birdwatching at McKenzies Flora Reserve



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As at Gobur, the dry summer had parched the area, though there were a few bird hotspots encountered and a total of 30 species of birds were seen, with a large congregation of Australian Ravens noticed along the southern boundary of the Reserve. A few lucky members managed to find a single Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*) orchid. Due to the warm and humid conditions, morning refreshments were very welcome at the end of the walk.

The lunch venue was Kendalls Campground in the Rubicon State Forest. We found a shady area near to the start of the Kendall Link Trail, set up our chairs and had lunch. Later, many of the group took the short walk along the trail beside the strongly flowing Rubicon River. This area had the most distinctive vegetation we had encountered for the weekend including a copse of kunzeas, grevilleas, prickly currant bushes, tall eucalypts and even a southern beech. Once the walkers returned, refreshments were taken and the organised part of the weekend came to an end.

Thanks to Alison and Peter for leading the Friday outing, to Graeme Fernandes for keeping a tally of the 80 bird species seen, and to all members who took part, for making it a very pleasant weekend for all involved.

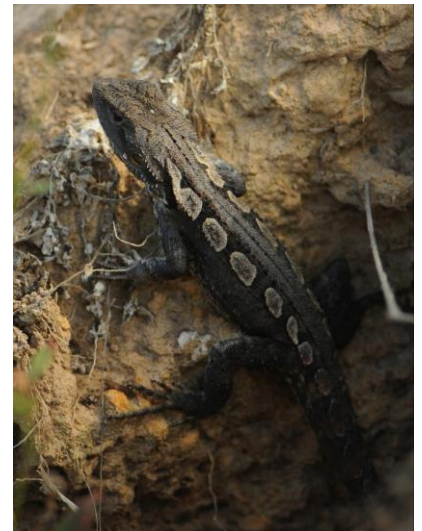
By Inta & Roger Needham



Nephila edulis
Golden Orb Weaver
(Jack Airey)



Eriochilus cucullatus - Parson's Bands
(Jack Airey)



Amphibolurus muricatus
Jacky Dragon
(Jack Airey)

Field Care Day

Sunday the 30th of July was National Tree Planting Day and the Club again joined the Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group for a morning of revegetation planting in Warrandyte. It was a smaller turnout than usual, with only 6 members attending, working with the 15 or so Landcare members to plant 500 new plants into a creek bank and surrounding area. The plants are to stabilise the banks and provide structure and habitat for native wildlife. The Landcare team came well-prepared with morning tea which we all enjoyed after the hard work was done.





Banyule Wetlands

Sunday 23rd April 2017

Leader: Jack Airey

A small group of 14 members and 1 guest headed to an excellent bird-watching location in the suburbs of Melbourne – Banyule Wetlands, otherwise known as Banyule Flats Reserve. Banyule Wetlands is a well-known spot for bird-watching because it offers a good range of habitat for birds and easy walking trails. Its main lake, Banyule Swamp, is popular with ducks, cormorants and grebes, and when water levels are low, supports crakes and rails on the “grotty pond”, which is a silt pond in the corner of the lake. Latham’s Snipe are regular visitors in summer.

Banyule Creek, which is now a storm water drain, supplies the lake year-round, and feeds into the Yarra River which is close by. Both are good for herons and kingfishers, with Azure and Sacred typically seen. The park itself is a mix of remnant and regenerated bushland which provides habitat for a range of bush birds such as Butcherbirds, Kookaburras, Grey Fantails, Mistletoebirds, Whistlers, Red-rumped Parrots and especially Tawny Frogmouths, which are a speciality of the park. Dusky Woodswallows are a summer breeding resident.



Members looking out over Banyule Swamp

Our morning walk took us around the main lake which was surprisingly quiet for waterbirds, however using Alan & Hazel’s spotting scope, we got excellent views of both Australian and Hoary-headed Grebes. We also viewed several Red-rumped Parrots sitting at their nest holes on the dead trees in the middle of the lake. Continuing around the lake, we started seeing more bush birds including Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Grey Butcherbirds, Red-browed Finches and Pied and Grey Currawongs. On Banyule Creek we saw a juvenile Nankeen Night-heron which was being mercilessly harassed by Magpie Larks. Rounding the grotty pond, where we saw our first Tawny Frogmouth, we paused at a large gum tree that was being worked-over by numerous Musk Lorikeets, giving great views and a few photo opportunities.

After lunch, which we had under the watchful gaze of another Tawny Frogmouth, we walked along the Main Yarra Trail east of the park, finding a third Tawny Frogmouth perched just metres from the trail. On our way back, several members took a detour on a side track in an unsuccessful attempt to find a reported Powerful Owl, however we did find a Golden Whistler and a pair of Mistletoebirds. The daily total was 51 bird species.

By Jack Airey



Tawny Frogmouth



Dindymus versicolor
(Harlequin Bug)



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Upper Yarra Reservoir Park

Saturday 13th May 2017

Leaders: Bruce Fuhrer and Jack Airey

Our May excursion was to Upper Yarra Reservoir Park, out past Warburton, which is a popular spot for fungi foraging. The Club visited the park in May 2015 and were overwhelmed with the number and variety of fungi seen then so we were hoping for a repeat performance for this visit.

Leading the excursion was our own renowned fungi expert and Life Member Bruce Fuhrer, with assistance from Jack Airey. 19 members made the drive out on a picturesque autumn day – blue sky, cool temperature, damp ground and not a hint of wind.



The Yarra River



Stereum ostrea - Gold-lipped Stereum

After taking about 30 minutes to get from the cars to the start of the nature walk, with a group of *Cortinarius archeri*, *Phylloporus clelandii* (Gilled Bolete) and *Clavulina cinerea* distracting us on the way, we moved into the forest and the group quickly spread out. Most fungi found were on trees and fallen logs, with highlights including *Lycoperdon scabrum* (Puffball Fungus), *Trametes versicolor* (Rainbow Fungus) and *Tremella fuciformis* (White Jelly). A fallen log off the path was covered in *Stereum ostrea* (Gold-lipped Stereum) and provided much discussion between members trying to confirm the exact species.

We had lunch on the lawn near the ranger station in beautiful sunshine and then headed to the water-wheel carpark for our second walk. Arriving at the lower carpark, we noticed several Satin Bowerbirds calling and moving around in nearby trees. After a quick look around, we located an active bower in the bushes and we had a quick peek at it, careful not to disturb the owner for too long.



Satin Bowerbird



Chiloscyphus semiteres – a liverwort



Chlorociboria aeruginascens

Again, we took our time getting to the trail with *Podoscypha petalodes* (Rosette Fungus), *Geastrum triplex* and *Xerula australis* (Rooting Shank) near the carpark. The walk was quiet for birds but didn't disappoint for fungi with a spectacular specimen of *Ryvardenia campyla* (Weeping Polypore) and the beautiful *Bisporella citrina* easily seen. Several members took a side route to investigate a large fallen tree and were rewarded with *Chlorociboria aeruginascens* (Blue-green Stain Fungus) and the only *Mycena interrupta* we found on the day. Back on the path we found a fascinating red *Nectria* sp. which most hadn't seen before.

While the overall amount of fungi wasn't as great as last time, we still managed to find and identify nearly 80 species which was a very pleasing effort.

By Jack Airey



Mt St Leonards

Sunday 18th June 2017

Leaders: Eeva & David Hewitt

Twenty-five people including one new member arrived on a cold and misty morning at the Mt St Leonards car park. After a warming coffee, we all managed to climb to the lookout to view the cloud-covered Yarra Valley. Fortunately, there were quite a number of birds and some interesting fungi and plants along the way. We then drove to the Tanglefoot car park for lunch, where we were somewhat dismayed to find a notice from VicForest indicating that the nearby area was due to be logged starting almost immediately.



Members meeting in the Mt St Leonards car park

After lunch, we moved to the Kalatha giant tree, which was new to many members. During the walk we were entertained almost non-stop by a lyrebird going through his repertoire. We finished the day at the Wirrawilla Forest Walk where we saw quite a few fungi and a great variety of ferns and mosses.

By David & Eeva Hewitt

Werribee Gorge State Park

Sunday 16th July 2017

Leaders: Graeme & Helen Fernandes

Sixteen members and two visitors made the trip up the Western Highway to Bacchus Marsh. The day, although cool, was quite sunny and pleasant. After a brief stop at the Quarry picnic car park, we moved further down the gorge to Meikles carpark which is by the Werribee River. From here we ventured upstream. After climbing the twenty-seven steps the track flattened out, although it was quite narrow in places and a little uneven. The track is part of the circuit walk which gives good views of the geological part of the gorge. Anticlines (upward folds) and synclines (downward folds) are exposed along the cliff face in the sandstones and slates. The folds were formed about 380 million years ago. A layer of glacial sandstone sits above these folds. While strolling back to the carpark, some members were lucky enough to spot some Agile Antechinus.

After lunch, we drove back to the carpark at the entrance of the Park. Although the car park was now full, most people were walking the circuit. This gave an opportunity to explore the side of the hill off the beaten track. It turned out to be a very good area for birds and plants. Even though the walks are more challenging than we are normally used to, a good day was had by all.

Some of the more interesting plants and trees were:

Rock Fern (<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>)	Necklace fern (<i>Asplenium flabellifium</i>)	
Golden wattle (<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>)	Bacchus Marsh Varnish wattle (<i>Acacia rostriformis</i>)	
Wedge leaf hopbush (<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>)	Grey box (<i>Euc. microcarpa</i>)	Manna gum (<i>Euc. viminalis</i>)
Red stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>)	White cypress pine (<i>Callitris columellaris</i>)	

By Graeme & Helen Fernandes



Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium

Sunday 13th August 2017

Leader: Jason Caruso

One of our winter excursions, intended to beat the cold weather, was to the Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium. Most members had already been to the Aquarium, but for our excursion we organised a personalised tour with Jason Caruso. Jason, a marine expert, recently gave a talk to the Club about stingrays in Port Phillip, and is a guide at the aquarium. Not only did we get a tour of the exhibits on display to the public, we also got the opportunity to go behind the scenes to see some of the operations, including the veterinary and research area, and one of the food preparation areas – it sure was fishy!



Jason leading our excursion

We finished the tour at the penguin "world of ice", having a look at the King and Gentoo penguins. It was feeding time so the penguins were most amusing trying to get at each other's fish, or saying "no" to the keepers if they didn't want their lunch. There were also 4 fluffy, but large, chicks in the enclosure. It's not often that a Club excursion can include penguins on the bird list! Many thanks to Jason for his informative and very enjoyable tour.

By Jack Airey



An Eagle Ray poses for photos



A very colourful large grouper

Pound Bend & Tindals Reserve

Saturday 9th September 2017

Leaders: Hazel & Alan Veevers

Lots of nesting birds and swathes of spring flowers were amongst the delights that greeted the 16 members who attended the September excursion to Warrandyte. In the car park area at Pound Bend, many Rainbow Lorikeets and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, the most common of the bird species seen throughout the day, were noisily claiming nest hollows. Wattle trees and bushes provided a colourful backdrop to the riverside track from which members tested their skills at identifying the different species of Acacias and Eucalyptus. Shining Bronze, Horsfield's Bronze and Fan-tailed Cuckoos were all heard as we wandered along looking for, but not finding, a known resident Platypus.



The Wattles in Warrandyte



"... to further the study of Natural History in all its branches"

In the paddock at the end of the river track, a mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos were relaxing near the path. Several of them had small joeys peeping out of pouches and one of them was unusually light coloured, almost white. Whilst walking along the roadside track, hundreds of young Gold-dust Wattles (*Acacia acinacea*) were observed in full bloom, together with lots of Early Nancys (*Wurmbea dioica*) and a stunning patch of Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*). A rowdy flock of White-winged Choughs passed through the trees alongside us before we headed back down to the river.

Lunch was eaten in the picnic area after which most members did the short walk to the tunnel. A Tawny Frogmouth and a pair of Little Corellas were highlights of this section and brought the bird total to 44 species for the day.

Members then drove to Tindals Reserve where the number and diversity of flowering plants were both found to be exceptionally high. Again, Wattles were very colourful, and there was a large number of Leopard Orchids (*Diuris pardina*), as well as Mosquito Orchids (*Acianthus pusillus*), 4 types of Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans, curta, melagramma* and *pedunculata*) and a Small Spider Orchid (*Caladenia [Arachnorchis] parva*). *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Hovea linearis* and *Comesperma volubile* provided contrasting colours from the blue end of the spectrum.



Diuris pardina - Leopard Orchid



Hardenbergia violacea



Kennedia prostrata
Running Postman



A very pale Eastern Grey Kangaroo

We then walked across the road to the "Triangle" and were again treated to a great display of spring flowers. Lots of Tall Greenhoods were flowering out of the rocks in the roadside cutting and leaves of Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra sp.*), not yet flowering, were plentiful by the vehicular track. However, the multitudes of Gold-dust Wattles and Leopard Orchids again stole the show.

After several wet days everyone felt we had been fortunate to have a fine day on which to enjoy a nature walk in beautiful Warrandyte.

By Hazel & Alan Veevers
Additional photo by Eleanor Dilley



Eastern Grey Kangaroo joey
(Eleanor Dilley)



Member's Articles

The Garden Orb-weaver Spider

Our autumn camp-out in March was to Alexandra and a visit to the McKenzie Flora Reserve resulted in something unexpected - finding numerous Orb-weaving spiders. They were a sight to behold in their large, intricate, orb-shaped webs glistening in the sun.

The Orb-weaver constructs its web usually in the evening between the branches of trees. The web is often a metre in diameter and between one and two metres above the ground. The spider then waits upside down in the centre of the web for any insect that may become trapped. Any prey trapped in the web is immediately wrapped in silk. A venomous bite follows. The spider then returns to the centre of the web with its catch. It can be eaten immediately, or alternatively saved to be devoured later.



Eriophora biapicata - Garden Orb-weaver
McKenzie Flora Reserve

The web is often taken down at dawn, however, if the web is not damaged, the Orb-weaving spider may leave the web for the following night. During the day, the spider will find a place to conceal itself in nearby foliage. Fortunately for us many were observed within their webs. The Garden Orb-weaver is found in all states of Australia except Tasmania.

By Don Redman

The Owlet Nightjar

With its huge eyes, small beak and stripy head, the Owlet Nightjar resembles a Sugar Glider as it peers out of its hollow to investigate a noise in the garden. Despite being widespread, these small nocturnal birds are rarely seen. They usually emerge from their hollows just after dusk to feed on ants, spiders, small beetles and grasshoppers. Pairs mate for life but do not share the same daytime roost. Each bird appears to occupy several different hollows within their huge 50-100 hectare territory. They breed from August to December, just raising one brood, with both parents helping with nest building and in rearing the young.



A few years ago, we were surprised to find an Owlet Nightjar in one of our garden nest boxes. On hot days it would poke its head out of the hole and open its beak wide, revealing a bright pink inside to its mouth. We think it must have been doing that in order to cool itself down. On another occasion in our garden, in the middle of the day, an Owlet Nightjar flew up out of a hollow tree stump as we walked past it. In March this year, we were again fortunate to see Owlet Nightjars, on consecutive days, looking out from the holes of two of our boxes. It seems likely that they were being inquisitive about the noise of power tools in use in our garage.



Given the huge territory occupied by each pair we feel extremely privileged that they have, albeit briefly, called our backyard home.

By Hazel Veevers



Appendix

Alexandra Camp-out bird list – 80 species

Compiled by Inta and Roger Needham and Graeme Fernandes

Species	1	2	3	4	5	Species	1	2	3	4	5
Australian Wood Duck	x	x				Weebill	x				
Pink-eared Duck				x		Spotted Pardalote	x		x		x
Grey Teal	x					Striated Pardalote		x			x
Chestnut Teal	x					Eastern Spinebill			x		x
Pacific Black Duck	x	x		x		Yellow-faced Honeyeater	x	x			
Australasian Grebe				x		White-plumed Honeyeater	x	x	x	x	x
Hoary-headed Grebe	x					Bell Miner		x			
Crested Pigeon	x					Noisy Miner	x				
Little Pied Cormorant	x	x				Red Wattlebird	x				x
White-necked Heron	x					Brown-headed Honeyeater					x
White-faced Heron	x	x				White-naped Honeyeater	x		x		
Australian White Ibis		x				Varied Sitella			x		
Straw-necked Ibis	x	x			x	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	x	x			x
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		x				Crested Shrike-tit		x		x	
Brown Goshawk			x			Golden Whistler		x			x
Wedge-tailed Eagle			x			Rufous Whistler	x	x			x
Nankeen Kestrel		x		x		Grey Shrike-thrush	x	x	x		x
Purple Swamphen	x			x		Olive-backed Oriole					x
Dusky Moorhen	x					Dusky Woodswallow				x	
Eurasian Coot	x			x		Grey Butcherbird		x			x
Masked Lapwing	x					Australian Magpie	x	x	x		x
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo		x	x			Pied Currawong	x	x	x		
Gang-gang Cockatoo		x	x			Grey Fantail	x	x	x		x
Galah	x	x			x	Willie Wagtail		x		x	
Long-billed Corella	x	x				Australian Raven		x	x		x
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	x		x		x	Little Raven	x	x	x		x
Rainbow Lorikeet	x					Satin Flycatcher				x	
Australian Kin Parrot	x					Magpie Lark	x		x		
Crimson Rosella	x	x	x		x	White-winged Chough					x
Eastern Rosella	x				x	Scarlet Robin	x				
Laughing Kookaburra	x	x	x			Eastern Yellow Robin	x	x			x
Sacred Kingfisher		x				Australian Reed-Warbler				x	
White-throated Treecreeper	x	x	x		x	Silvereye	x	x			x
Brown Treecreeper				x		Welcome Swallow	x				
Superb Fairy-wren	x	x	x			Tree Martin	x			x	
White-browed Scrubwren		x				Common Starling (I)	x		x		
Striated Thornbill		x				Common Myna (I)	x		x		
Yellow-rumped Thornbill			x			Red-browed Finch	x	x			
Buff-rumped Thornbill			x			Diamond Firetail				x	
Brown Thornbill	x	x		x		White-throated Gerygone			x		

1: Alexandra 2: Pykes Farm 3: Gobur Flora Reserve 4: Frees Road 5: McKenzies Flora Res.



Banyule Wetlands bird list – 51 species

Compiled by Jack Airey

Musk Duck	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon (I)	Golden Whistler
Australian Wood Duck	Spotted Turtle-dove (I)	Grey Shrike-thrush
Grey Teal	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Fantail
Chestnut Teal	Galah	Willie Wagtail
Pacific Black Duck	Rainbow Lorikeet	Magpie Lark
Australasian Grebe	Musk Lorikeet	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Hoary-headed Grebe	Crimson Rosella	Grey Butcherbird
Darter	Red-rumped Parrot	Australian Magpie
Little Pied Cormorant	Tawny Frogmouth	Pied Currawong
White-faced Heron	Laughing Kookaburra	Grey Currawong
Nankeen Night Heron	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Raven
Dusky Moorhen	Spotted Pardalote	Red-browed Finch
Purple Swamphen	Brown Thornbill	Mistletoebird
Eurasian Coot	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	Noisy Miner	Silvereye
Silver Gull	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Common Starling (I)
Crested Pigeon	Eastern Spinebill	Common Myna (I)

Upper Yarra Reservoir Park bird list – 27 species

Compiled by Jack Airey

Australian Wood Duck	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Masked Lapwing	Striated Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Australian King-Parrot	Lewin's Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Crimson Rosella	White-eared Honeyeater	Grey Currawong
Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Raven
Superb Lyrebird	Eastern Yellow Robin	Satin Bowerbird
White-throated Treecreeper	Golden Whistler	Silvereye
Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Bassian Thrush

Satin Bowerbird bower seen at Upper Yarra Reservoir (Jack Airey)





"... to further the study of Natural History in all its branches"

Upper Yarra Reservoir Park fungi list – 78 species

Compiled by Jack Airey, Bruce Fuhrer, Cecily Falkingham and Carol Page

<i>Agaricus</i> sp.		<i>Lycoperdon scabrum</i>	Puffball fungus
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	<i>Macrolepiota</i> sp	
<i>Amanita ochrophylla</i>		<i>Marasmiellus affixus</i>	Little Stinker
<i>Amanita xanthocephala</i>	Vermillion Grisette	<i>Marasmiellus candidus</i>	
<i>Armillaria luteobubalina</i>	Honey Fungus	<i>Marasmius</i> sp.	
<i>Armillaria</i> sp.		<i>Melanotus hepatochrous</i>	
<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	Yellow Jelly Disks	<i>Mollisia cinerea</i>	
<i>Calocera</i> sp.	Yellow Jelly Fingers	<i>Mycena albidofusca</i>	
<i>Chlorociboria aeruginascens</i>	Blue-green Stain Fungus	<i>Mycena cystidiosa</i>	
<i>Clavulina cinerea</i>	Ash-grey Coral	<i>Mycena interrupta</i>	Pixie's Parasols
<i>Clitocybe clitocyboides</i>		<i>Mycena kuurkacea</i>	
<i>Clitocybe semiocculta</i>		<i>Mycena sanguinolenta</i>	
<i>Clitopilus lateritius</i>		<i>Mycena</i> sp.	
<i>Clitopilus</i> sp.		<i>Mycena viscidocruenta</i>	Scarlet Mycena
<i>Collybia butracea</i>		<i>Nectria</i> sp.	
<i>Conocybe tenera</i>		<i>Omphalina chromacea</i>	Yellow Navel
<i>Coprinellus disseminatus</i>		<i>Panellus stipticus</i>	
<i>Cortinarius abnormis</i>		<i>Phellinus robusta</i>	
<i>Cortinarius archeri</i>		<i>Phellinus</i> sp.	
<i>Cortinarius rotundisporus</i>	Blue Webcap	<i>Phylloporus clelandii</i>	Gilled Bolete
<i>Hymenoscyphus</i> sp.	Non-staining disc	<i>Phylloporus rhodoxanthus</i>	
<i>Entoloma</i> sp.		<i>Pluteus letescens</i> (immature)	
<i>Favolaschia calocera</i>	Orange pore fungus	<i>Pluteus</i> sp.	
<i>Favolaschia</i> sp.		<i>Podoscypha petalodes</i>	Rosette Fungus
<i>Galerina hypnorum</i>	Moss Galerina	<i>Russula nerima</i>	
<i>Galerina unicolor</i>		<i>Russula</i> sp.	
<i>Ganoderma australis</i>		<i>Ryvardenia campyla</i>	Weeping Polypore
<i>Geastrum triplex</i>	Earth Star	<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Splitgill Fungus
<i>Hemimycena</i> sp.		<i>Scleroderma cepa</i>	
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>		<i>Sphaerobolus stellatus</i>	
<i>Hypholoma</i> sp.		<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Stereum
<i>Hypocrea sulphurea</i>	Golden crust fungus	<i>Stereum ostrea</i>	Gold-lipped Stereum
<i>Hypoxyylon rubiginosum</i>		<i>Stereum</i> sp.	
<i>Inocybe eutheles</i>		<i>Trametes</i> sp.	
<i>Laccaria</i> sp.		<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Rainbow Fungus
<i>Lactarius plumbeus</i>		<i>Tremella fuciformis</i>	White Jelly Fungus
<i>Lepista</i> sp.		<i>Tricholoma</i> sp.	
<i>Leucopaxillus eucalyptorum</i>		<i>Troglia straminea</i>	
<i>Lichenomphalia chromacea</i>		<i>Xerula australis</i>	Rooting Shank

Common Names taken from Fungi Down Under (Pat Grey & Ed Grey) and Australian Fungi Illustrated (I. R. McCann)



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Mt St Leonard bird list – 12 species

Compiled by David & Eeva Hewitt

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	White-throated Treecreeper
Crimson Rosella	Striated Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Spotted Pardalote	White-browed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
White-eared Honeyeater	Superb Lyrebird	Grey Currawong

Mt St Leonard fern list – 10 species

Compiled by David & Eeva Hewitt

Hard Water Fern	Filmy Fern
Fan Fern	Soft Tree Fern
Ray Fern	Rough Tree Fern
Kangaroo Fern	Bristly Shield Fern
Finger Fern	Bristle Fern

Mt St Leonard fungi list – 15 species

Compiled by David & Eeva Hewitt

<i>Antrodiella zonata</i>		<i>Hypholoma sublateritium</i>	Brick Caps
<i>Australoporus tasmanicus</i>		<i>Mycena albidifusca</i>	
<i>Calocera</i> sp.	Yellow Jelly Fingers	<i>Mycena interrupta</i>	
<i>Conchomyces bursiformis</i>		<i>Mycena</i> sp.	
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>		<i>Mycena subgalericulata</i>	
<i>Heterotextus miltinus</i>	Golden Jelly-bells	<i>Russula purpuroflava</i>	
<i>Hygrocybe</i> sp.		<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	
<i>Hypholoma brunneum</i>			





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Werribee Gorge State Park bird list – 39 species

Compiled by Graeme Fernandes

Australasian Grebe	White-throated Treecreeper	Jacky Winter
Little Pied Cormorant	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler
White-faced Heron	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Shrike-thrush
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Striated Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Peregrine Falcon	White-browed Scrubwren	Australian Magpie
Brown Falcon	Brown Thornbill	Little Raven
Dusky Moorhen	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Zebra Finch
Purple Swamphen	White-plumed Honeyeater	European Goldfinch (I)
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater	Mistletoebird
Rainbow Lorikeet	White-naped Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye
Eastern Rosella	Scarlet Robin	Common Starling (I)
Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Yellow Robin	Common Blackbird (I)

Pound Bend bird list – 44 species

Compiled by Alan & Hazel Veevers

Australian Wood Duck	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pacific Black Duck	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Golden Whistler
Australasian Grebe	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Grey Shrike-thrush
White-faced Heron	Tawny Frogmouth	Grey Fantail
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra	Magpie Lark
Dusky Moorhen	Superb Fairy-wren	Olive-backed Oriole
Eurasian Coot	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird
Spotted Turtle-dove (I)	Striated Pardalote	Australian Magpie
Long-billed Corella	White-browed Scrubwren	Pied Currawong
Little Corella	Brown Thornbill	Little Raven
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	White-winged Chough
Galah	Noisy Miner	Welcome Swallow
Rainbow Lorikeet	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Common Starling (I)
Crimson Rosella	White-eared Honeyeater	Common Blackbird (I)
Eastern Rosella	White-naped Honeyeater	

Caladenia parva
Small Spider Orchid
(Eleanor Dilley)



Pterostylis nutans
Nodding Greenhood
(Alan Veevers)

