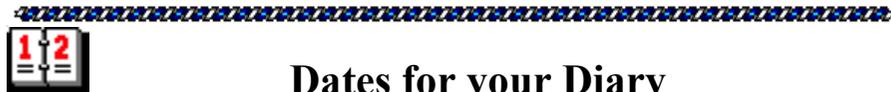


NATURE NOTES (CONT)

Bird List Long Forest - 19th June 2011

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Scarlet Robin
Red Wattlebird	Spotted Pardalote
Australian Magpie	White-browed Scrub Wren
Crimson Rosella	Grey Fantail
Long-billed Corella	Grey Thrush
Brown Thornbill	Magpie Lark
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Willie Wagtail
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Brown Falcon
Little Raven	Brown Goshawk
White-plumed Honeyeater	Welcome Swallow
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Galah
Kookaburra	House Sparrow [I]
Superb Fairy-wren	25 species



Dates for your Diary

50th Anniversary Spring Camp-out, Little Desert Lodge
Friday 14th, Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October 2011.



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‘THE RINGWOOD FIELD NATURALIST’
CLUB NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 33 October, 2011

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

EDITORIAL: The Ringwood Field Naturalists Club has celebrated its half century milestone in typical fashion. Special weekends away have been organised as well as commemorative events such as planting days. Members have had opportunities to get together and enjoy each other’s company and the chance to reminisce and share many great memories. One of the most satisfactory aspects of the Club is that it continues to attract new members who bring their own interests and enthusiasms. They play an important role in helping to revitalise and enhance the Club and we extend a special welcome to all those who have recently become members. The study of natural history remains a worthwhile occupation and we can look forward with optimism to continuing that tradition into the years ahead.

* * * * *

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Marion King and Eeva Hewitt stroll the boardwalk at the Gulpa Creek Reed Beds Bird Observatory on the Club’s Autumn weekend to Echuca

President's Annual Report 2010-11

- Hazel Veevers

The past year has been a busy and memorable one for the Club. There have been many interesting meetings and excursions and two very successful weekends away at Anglesea and Echuca. 2011 marked the 50th year of the Club and this has been recognised by having a special historical segment at each meeting, a commemorative planting at the F.J.C. Rogers Reserve, an Anniversary Lunch and a special long weekend at Little Desert Lodge.

We are fortunate to have so many hardworking and enthusiastic members; Peter and Alison Rogers have put in a huge effort in organising anniversary events, in addition to their usual activities on behalf of the Club; Ray Wall is a very efficient and competent Treasurer; David Hewitt is remarkably patient and proficient in dealing with the digital images of both speakers and members; Alan Veevers capably manages the website; Jack Airey organised the Echuca Weekend and the designing and printing of our new banner; Lynn Smith has led walks and stood in as Secretary.

A special thankyou goes to Graeme Fernandes who is retiring from the committee after several years of service. Thank you also to the non-committee members for their contributions, such as Loris Peggie for auditing the accounts, Judith Cooke for editing the Newsletter, Ruth Christensen for being Librarian and Phil Daniell for his library displays.

I have enjoyed my term as President and thank all the members for their support and encouragement. I feel sure that the Club will continue to thrive for many years to come.



1961-2011 MEMORIES THROUGH THE YEARS

- Cecily and Reg Falkingham

Reg and I joined the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club in 1978. We attended our first outing on July 16th to Starlings Gap. Gary Cheers was the leader. The weather was freezing with light snow falling.

Our daughter Caroline found a brilliant red coral fungus and from then on until the present day I was hooked on fungi. With Gary's amazing knowledge of everything to do with nature, by the end of the day, it was almost information overload.

NATURE NOTES (CONT)

Bird List – Echuca - 14-15th May 2011

Emu	Laughing Kookaburra
Black Swan	Brown Treecreeper
Australian Wood Duck	White-throated Treecreeper
Grey Teal	Superb Fairy-wren
Pacific Black Duck	Spotted Pardalote
Darter	White-browed Scrubwren
Great Cormorant	Weebill
Little Black Cormorant	Yellow Thornbill
Little Pied Cormorant	Striated Thornbill
Australian Pelican	Buff-rumped Thornbill
Great Egret	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Cattle Egret	Noisy Friarbird
White-faced Heron	Blue-faced Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Noisy Miner
Nankeen Night Heron	White-plumed Honeyeater
Royal Spoonbill	Black-chinned Honeyeater
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Red-capped Robin
Australian White Ibis	Jacky Winter
Straw-necked Ibis	Varied Sitella
Whistling Kite	Crested Shrike-tit
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Golden Whistler
Swamp Harrier	Rufous Whistler
Black-shouldered Kite	Grey Shrike-thrush
Nankeen Kestrel	Restless Flycatcher
Brown Falcon	Grey Fantail
Dusky Moorhen	Willie Wagtail
Purple Swamphen	Magpie Lark
Masked Lapwing	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Crested Pigeon	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Rock Dove	White-breasted Woodswallow
Long-billed Corella	Australian Magpie
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australian Raven
Galah	White-winged Chough
Musk Lorikeet	Diamond Firetail
Crimson Rosella (Yellow)	Red-browed Finch
Eastern Rosella	Welcome Swallow
Red-rumped parrot	Australian Reed-warbler
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Silvereye
Sacred Kingfisher	Common Starling [1]
Azure Kingfisher	79 species

NATURE NOTES

Bird List for Warburton Trip - 12th March 2011

Australian Wood Duck	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Northern Mallard [I]	Red Wattlebird
Pacific Black Duck	Crescent Honeyeater
Rock Dove [I]	Rufous Whistler
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Grey Shrike-thrush
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Grey Butcherbird
Galah	Australian Magpie
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Pied Currawong
Australian King-Parrot	Grey Fantail
Crimson Rosella	Satin Flycatcher
Laughing Kookaburra	Magpie-lark
Superb Lyrebird	Flame Robin
White-throated Treecreeper	Rose Robin
Satin Bowerbird	Eastern Yellow Robin
Superb Fairy-wren	Silvereeye
White-browed Scrubwren	Common Blackbird [I]
Brown Thornbill	Common Myna [I]
Eastern Spinebill	European Goldfinch [I]
Lewin's Honeyeater	37 species



Bird List Blackburn Lake - 16th July 2011

Pacific Black Duck	Rainbow Lorikeet	Spotted Pardalote
Wood Duck	Red Wattlebird	Grey Fantail
Mallard [I]	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Magpie
Eurasian Coot	Noisy Miner	Little Raven
Australasian Grebe	Crested Pigeon	Pied Currawong
Kookaburra	Superb Fairy Wren	Tawny Frogmouth
Welcome Swallow	White-browed Scrubwren	Blackbird [I]
Eastern Rosella	Brown Thornbill	23 species

1961-2011 MEMORIES THROUGH THE YEARS (CONT)

The excursion the following month was led by Gary and the late Bill King at Warrandyte State Park. With the help of these two knowledgeable men, once more my notebook bulged with names of orchids, fungi, birds, and a huge variety of plants. Who will ever forget the day when Bill slowed down the journey of a snake with his hat, to allow us all a good look before it slithered away into the grass.

How was I to remember a fraction of what I had been told by these leaders and many more leaders to follow in future years? The answer was to write everything that I could down in notebooks whilst in the field and then transfer the notes into exercise books when I arrived home. This required me to sit far into the night (and early morning) for years as it turned out until I had a satisfactory picture in my mind of what I had seen, so it meant looking up many library books and the small but growing library at home.

I filled lots of exercise books until eventually I discovered the wonderful Gould League Environmental Log books which I still record into on a daily basis environmental notes and observations.

But without the help and patience of such sharing leaders, the whole learning process would have been very protracted indeed. People like: Doug and Ella Thomas, Bill and Marion King, Ken Clark, Gary Cheers, Jack Hyett, Bruce Fuhrer, Chris Gray, Charles Compton, Gordon Coutts, and many others too numerous to mention.

The unwritten philosophy of the club seems to me has always been to share with others what knowledge you have and to make welcome any new member, making them feel immediately part of this wonderful enthusiastic group.

It is sad to think now that many of those inspirational leaders are no longer with us, but their legacy is the knowledge and enthusiasm for the various topics that they inspired in us all, now allows us in some small way to pass on to others and future generations as well as our children and grandchildren.

This to me is what makes the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club so special and has for us been a very important part of our lives. The friendships formed over many years, the laughs we have shared and the companionship of like-minded people cannot ever be taken for granted. I only hope in an ever-changing technological world there will always be a place for Field Naturalists Clubs such as we have in Ringwood.



Guests getting together for the Anniversary lunch and admiring the displays



Robert King gives his address



Friends catch up



Everyone enjoying the meal



Field Trip, Seymour Bushland Reserve –14th August 2011 (cont)

The most impressive sight was the incredible amount of bloom that was on the *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden wattle) which made the bush come alive. Other flora that was seen included a *Grevillea alpina* sp, various *Pultenaeas*, *Pterostylis nana*, *Kennedia prostrata* (Running postman) and many other wattles. Birds were scarce, but members had good sightings of red-capped robins. Later in the morning we travelled the short distance to the Australian Lighthorse Memorial Park, where we gathered to have lunch. Here we met a member of the Committee of Management who was pleased to see us enjoying the local reserves. After a quick look around this park, we gathered around to thank Marlene for showing us the area and members then went their own way.

Once again we thank Marlene who, although living at Axedale these days, is still a member of the Club and contributes to our program.

- Alison Rogers

Field Trip, Hanson’s Property, Warrandyte

– 11th September 2011

Leaders – Bev and John Hanson.

On an overcast afternoon 17 members and 2 visitors headed to the Hanson’s property in Warrandyte. We met John in the driveway and he got us together in the carport until a quick shower cleared.

After the shower of rain, Bev took us down the track to the back of their property which adjoins the State Park. She pointed out many of the orchids and indigenous wildflowers that were in bloom in the bush. At times the bush was a picture with the gold of the wattles, orange of the pea flowers and the lovely blue of the love creeper. We were serenaded by a fantail cuckoo followed by an Olive backed oriole. We continued up the hill, past the old gold mine and then down Tunnel road. This led us to the back of the house block and through the nursery to the house and garden. Afternoon tea was enjoyed in Bev and John’s beautiful garden which is in the ‘Open Garden Scheme’. It is largely native plants with a splattering of exotics all in flower. Superb fairy wrens and lorikeets were calling in the garden.

We were also lucky enough to be shown the ‘fire bunker’ that John’s son Peter has built in an old goldmine in their front garden. Some members climbed the steep steps down into the bunker to look inside.

We thank Bev and John for once again opening their property and garden for our members to enjoy and their continuing support of our group.

- Alison Rogers

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT)

Field Trip to Blackburn Lake - 16th July 2011

by Leader David Hewitt

A group of 20 members visited Blackburn Lake on Saturday July 16, 2011, on a fine sunny winter's day with a maximum temperature of about 16°C. We met at about 10am and were given a fascinating summary of the history and biology of the area by two members of the Friends of Blackburn Lake. After a quick look at the Information Centre which had some interesting artefacts and dioramas of the area we did a circuit of the lake. Our route took us along the western side of the Lake through land previously used for flower propagation by the Deaf Society. Proceeding then to the eastern part of the park we walked through some much more natural bushland, dominated by spyridium and a number of acacia species among the taller eucalypts. We saw a total of 23 different birds, which unfortunately did not include the white-plumed honeyeater which David and Eeva Hewitt had seen two days earlier. It was a little early to see many flowering plants but we did encounter a large clump of *Pterostylis nutans* and a few *Pterostylis melagramma* orchids. The native bushland area contains a good representation of the local flora with a number of acacias just starting to come into flower and quite a few tree violets in bud.

After lunch at Blackburn Lake most of us went to Black's Walk which is a patch of remnant bushland along the Gardner's Creek. Although somewhat degraded because of the close proximity of housing, there was some interesting vegetation including many tree violets and we were all excited to find a family of three tawny frogmouths in one tree.



Field Trip, Seymour Bushland Reserve –14th August 2011

Leader – Marlene Lyell

This was a repeat excursion of the one that was washed out some time back. On this particular occasion, 17 members and 1 visitor met Marlene at the Seymour Bushland Reserve and, after a quick morning tea, went off to explore the bush.

REPORT OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

by incoming President, Peter Rogers

This year the Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Committee agreed we should recognise this event over the course of the anniversary year.

Throughout the year we presented a short historical presentation at most of our monthly meetings. These presentations included:

- A review of Club campouts and their location within Victoria, with an emphasis on the first camp-out to the Cathedrals in 1964,
- A look at Club excursions including photos of early locations,
- Background on the Club emblem (Golden Whistler) used on the badges, spoons, mugs, and the latest car window stickers (taking over from the long yellow stickers), various club apparel and the old and new display boards,
- A brief dissertation on the Club's Life members, who they are and the roles they have played in the Club's development,
- The various ways the Club has promoted itself to the public through displays at libraries and various shows,
- Delving into the minutes from the early years especially from the first decade,
- An account of how and why the Junior Club was formed, how it was run, for how long and why it eventually wound up,
- A series of posters depicting photographs of members on various excursions, campouts and other events were compiled by Judith Cooke (these were also displayed at the anniversary luncheon).

The culmination of the anniversary year was a luncheon held on Sunday 25th September. There were 70 members, life members, former members, visitors and other clubs representatives who attended this celebration. The celebration was a huge success with displays of pictorial memorabilia depicting members at campouts and excursion, the Junior Club, a Life Member wall etc. In addition, Phil Daniell provided a natural history display along with some of the equipment used in the past. As he did at the 40th celebration, foundation member Robert King provided a brief lecture extolling the values of the Club and the fact we are still functioning with looking forward to a future. Another highlight was the cutting of the anniversary cake by Life Members Ella Thomas and Marion King.

REPORT OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (CONT)

Many former members expressed what a wonderful day they had catching up with old friends and remembering the good times they had had at the Club. Newer members and visitors were equally impressed with the history of the Club. Many comments were received expressing appreciation for the amount of effort we had put in especially the memorabilia wall, the DVD (depicting a history of the Club in pictures), the memories booklet (from both former and current members), the table flower centrepieces, the cakes – in fact everything.

In all, the year has been a wonderful celebration of 50 years and a special thanks to everyone who has helped make the lead-up months and especially the luncheon, the success it was.



FIELD CARE DAYS

Field Care Day – 28th August 2011 - In conjunction with The Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group arranged by Vic Parks.

Leader - Alison Rogers

After meeting at the Ranger's office at the Warrandyte State Park, we carpooled and drove across to the Osborne Peninsula on the other side of the Yarra River.

On a beautiful sunny day, we had 20 members and 2 visitors come along to do a major planting on the edge of some private properties on the banks of the Yarra River. Due to the large number attending both from their group and ours, and with their group being incredibly prepared, we were able to get the planting of 1600 tube plants done in record time. This gave us time to admire their previous plantings and to explore the track that meandered along the river edge. This very enthusiastic group were extremely grateful for the time and effort that was put in by our Club.

Thanks to all who attended.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT)

Field Trip to Long Forest - 19th June 2011 (cont)

We turned onto Gravelly Track and passed through an area that had been previously cleared, leaving only a few isolated eucalypts. The area is now a broad expanse of low regrowth scrubland, mainly Gold Dust Wattle.

Turning east onto the Old House Track we walked down a deep gully which contributes to the steep and rugged terrain. This area is dominated by Grey Box and Yellow Gum. Rising up from the gully we turned north and meandered along the Mallee Track leading back to the car park, through a magnificent stand of Bull Mallee with its beautifully coloured bark. Here rings of mallee clearly illustrate how it regenerates by spreading outward from the parent plant.

When we arrived at Merrimu Lake for lunch to be met by a howling gale, the wind was so strong and cold that it was an easy decision to return to Happy Valley car park which was protected by the surrounding bush.

After lunch nine members stayed and drove to Canopus Circuit, where we took a short walk along Comadai Track. In this area the ground layer is mainly bare, with a scattering of lichen, moss and leaf litter. The understorey is largely Bull Mallee with some patches of Moonah, Fragrant Saltbush and Gold Dust Wattle. The day ended with the return walk back to our cars to conclude a very pleasant day.

Note: Congratulations to Doug and Ella Thomas for walking the entire morning walk. Well done!!

N.B. Bull Ants (*Myrmecia* spp.) are generally confined to Australia. They are among the world's biggest and primitive ants. There are some 150 species altogether, of which ten have been recorded in the Long Forest Mallee.

Botanical Names of Plant Species seen in Long Forest

Gold-dust Wattle - <i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Grey Box - <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>
Yellow Box - <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	Moonah - <i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>
Bull Mallee - <i>Eucalyptus behriana</i>	Fragrant Saltbush - <i>Rhagodia parabolica</i>



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT)

Autumn Campout, Echuca - 14-15th May 2011 (cont)

Sunday we headed north again, this time turning off the Cobb Highway to Barmah for a morning cruise with the Kingfisher Cruises. The 2 hour cruise travels through the Murray Narrows – where the river is actually higher than the surrounding lakes due to silt build-up caused by the Cadell Tilt uprising. Birdlife was excellent with 100-200 Nankeen Night Heron, countless Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants and both Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbill. The highlight of the cruise was excellent views and photo opportunities of several Azure Kingfisher – our expert captain was able to get us almost within touching distance a couple of times! We also saw a Platypus which our captain believed was the first sighting they had made during daylight hours.

Cruise over, we disembarked and enjoyed lunch in the day visitor area. The group photo shows exactly the weather of the weekend by the number of beanies and rugged jackets. Thankfully the sun was out most of the time but the wind sure was chilly! After lunch we had a relaxing stroll around the Dharnya Centre and stockyards where a Red-capped Robin put in an appearance along with two Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo. A Black-shouldered Kite was seen in the distance over the forest. Goodbyes were said and members then dispersed in all directions, making their own way home to Melbourne.

Field Trip to Long Forest - 19th June 2011

Leaders: Graeme and Helen Fernandes

On a brisk Sunday morning seventeen members and two visitors met at the Happy Valley car park along Long Forest Road, Bacchus Marsh.

After a short talk about the significance of the area, we wandered off at our normal breakneck speed along the Happy Valley Track, named after a farm called Happy Valley. The two dams and some old agricultural machinery remain at the site. However it was not long before our steady pace was virtually reduced to a standstill with some members spotting a variety of colourful fungi.

On this plateau, excellent examples of the Rocky Chenopod woodland are dominated by the Bull Mallee and Moonah trees. Some Bull Mallee rings are believed to be several hundred years old. At the end of the Happy Valley Track we had an excellent sighting of a Brown Falcon, clinging to a high, dry branch of a Eucalypt tree.

FIELD CARE DAYS (CONT)

50th Anniversary Planting at FJC Rogers Reserve

– 7th September 2011

As part of the 50th anniversary of the Club, the Committee thought it was appropriate to undertake a significant planting in the Maroondah area that would mark the event.

In view of this we contacted the Friends of The FJC Rogers Reserve in Heathmont as to whether we could plant a tree in the Reserve named after one of our Life Members. The Friends group were happy to accommodate us but asked would we also assist in undertaking a planting exercise as well as plant a significant tree.

On Wednesday 7th September 22 members joined with 3 members from the Friends group at The Reserve. Maroondah City Council had provided us with a range of indigenous plants to be used in The Reserve. The members spent a little time planting these in the designated areas. In addition, we planted 3 special local trees – *Acacia leprosa*, *Acacia dealbata*, *Acacia implexa*.

- Alison Rogers

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Field Trip to Warburton and the Rainforest Gallery

- 12th March 2011

by Leaders Alan and Hazel Veevers

Dawn was just breaking on a perfect autumn morning as 19 members set off upstream along the Yarra River at Warburton on a quest to find a platypus. As we waited in silence at a known platypus haunt near the back of the school a male was seen floating on the surface before diving down for food. Unfortunately we were spotted by the local duck population which flew in to greet us, thus disturbing our platypus. Despite this we did manage a couple more brief sightings of the monotreme before he disappeared from view.

We then walked downstream crossing on several bridges, ever hopeful of finding another platypus. Sadly the vegetation around an old female burrow had been completely washed away rendering the site unsuitable for these shy creatures. It could also have been that recent floods had disrupted the breeding season and hence no young were to be seen.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT)

Field Trip to Warburton and the Rainforest Gallery (cont)

Many birds were spotted, highlights being Satin Bowerbird, Gang-gang Cockatoo and King Parrot.

After morning tea we drove up the Acheron Way to the Rainforest Gallery where we were joined by 4 other members. The wet summer had been very beneficial to the rainforest as was demonstrated by the lush ferns, epiphytes and beautiful fungi. Few birds were seen deep in the forest, but a short walk up the road revealed some unusual species including Rose Robin, Satin Flycatcher and Crescent Honeyeater.

We then drove towards the summit of Mt Donna Buang and stopped for lunch at the 10 Mile Picnic area where we hoped to find Flame Robins. None were seen initially, but just as lunch was concluding a flock of at least ten appeared to forage in front of us and the photographers had wonderful opportunities to record these cooperative little birds. This was a fitting finale to an excellent day in the Warburton area.



Field Trip to Lysterfield Lake - 17th April 2011 - Leader Lynn Smith

We had lovely sunny weather for our excursion with 17 members including Paul Stokes (a first timer) attending. Neal gave a talk about the Lysterfield Lake Park, including information about the Friends group which we ran in 1990's. Luckily the Park was opened last week as it had been closed due to storm damage. The Short cut walk at the northern part of the dam is still closed. Several kangaroos were seen in the picnic area and another larger group was grazing on the other side of the dam wall. From the dam wall was a lovely view of the blue calm lake with still reflections. It was unusual to see the water so still. Along the Acacia Nature Trail the *Allocasuarina littoralis* was in flower with male flower spikes yellow/red and female tiny red colour on stalks. We saw lots of spiders including webs and up to 6 butterflies including common grass blue, common blue, and ringed Xenica. A total of 41 birds including Scarlet and Eastern Yellow robin, Red browed finches, Golden Whistler, with mostly female or immature birds was seen. There was a dead snake draped over a tree on Lamberts Track. We arrived back at the picnic area for a well-deserved late lunch at 2pm after our 8 km walk around the lake.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT)

Autumn Campout, Echuca - 14-15th May 2011

by Leader Jackson Airey

The 2011 Autumn campout took place in Echuca for the 14th and 15th of May. This was the first campout by the club at Echuca. As most activities were on the north side of the Murray, it was also the first time the club had travelled interstate. It was also my first campout as leader. There were 22 club members and 2 guests.

Early arrivals enjoyed a walk on Friday afternoon around Victoria Park just behind the caravan park where most of us were staying. Musk Lorikeet, Noisy Friarbird, Red-rumped Parrot and Blue-faced Honeyeater were easily seen around the caravan park area and further into the Park we were lucky to find a small flock of Black-chinned Honeyeater. A Restless Flycatcher was also seen and Brown Treecreepers were very common, which they were at most sites over the weekend.

Saturday morning we spent at Moama Wetlands. A pleasant walk along the boardwalk and maintained tracks, this is a local wetland which provides access to the Murray River and the Horseshoe Lagoon. The highlights were a couple of nesting Little Pied Cormorant on one of the ponds. There were also Yellow and Striated Thornbill and Weebill which gave members a challenge for good views and identification.

After morning tea we headed in convoy north to Mathoura. Down Picnic Point Road is a large double-storey bird hide overlooking a large lagoon, known as the Reed Beds due to its near full covering of reeds. The bird numbers were pretty low and distant but we did manage views of Great Egret, White and Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill and Swamp Harrier. We had lunch in the carpark and then headed south back towards Echuca to the Moira State Park. This seemed like a promising woodland area and we were not disappointed with views of Red-capped Robin, Rufous and Golden Whistler and the highlight being several Diamond Firetail. There was also an irrigation canal and pumping station that moves water from the Moira Lakes westward, up and over the Cadell Tilt fault line. Around the pumping station were numerous large water birds such as Great Egret, White-faced and White-necked Heron and both common Ibis species. We also saw a couple of Emu. Some intrepid members walked a little further along the irrigation canal and got great views of large flocks of Cormorants and Darter. Returning to Echuca, we went to the local Irish pub for dinner.