



## NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2015

### **Recent Activities**

Despite the cold wet winter we were largely lucky in the weather conditions for our winter activities, with adverse weather only coming into play twice – once leaving us very wet, and once causing a postponement after a forecast of rain, hail and bitter cold.

In July we began with birding at Bulldog Creek Road, Tuerong – a favourite birding location – see full report below.

Our meeting comprised our AGM and Members night, where Roger Standen presented some of his macro photography of insects, Diane Peters showed some of her recent bird photography including an Australasian Bittern taken at Braeside Park; Heather Ducat showed photos from her recent visit to Charles Darwin's home Down house, and Ruth Marriot showed some of her photos from her trip to Vietnam – specifically a tour through the Cat Ba archipelago.

Our July excursion saw us joining the Friends group for their regular working bee at Frankston Reservoir, where we assisted in weed removal, despite the downpour.

Our very successful August birding was at Braeside Park, where 52 bird species were on our list, including some rather unusual ones. Graeme Patterson gave a presentation on his new book on the natural history of the Westernport region, and we joined a field day held at a property in Flinders by the Habitat Restoration Fund, followed by a visit to the Main Ridge Flora Reserve.

In September we visited Woods Reserve at Tuerong, where besides a good bird count we were pleased to see two koalas. We had two excursions: the first to the Koo-wee-rup Swamp, following up a very interesting presentation at our meeting by Jeff Yugovic; and the second joining Ringwood Field Naturalists at RJ Chambers Reserve in Upper Pakenham, a location new to some of us.



*Robber Fly – Roger Standen*



*Bittern at Braeside – Diane Peters*



*Cat Ba Archipelago, North Vietnam – Ruth Marriott*

### Birding at Bulldog Creek Road 6<sup>th</sup> July

The weather forecast was unpromising to say the least, but still six members turned out, for what proved to be a rather chilly but dry day. The birds had more sense than us, however, by mostly staying under cover. The usual suspects were sighted – Yellow-faced and White-eared Honeyeaters, Brown Thornbill, Magpie-lark etc, which have been sighted there each time in the past four years. Some slightly less common records for the location were a Mistletoe (heard but not seen), Brown-headed Honeyeater, and White-throated Treecreeper; a Wedge-tailed Eagle was sighted over the paddocks.

The final tally of 27 was well down on the 37 sighted at this location in 2014. but White-throated Treecreeper was a new sighting for this area in the last four years bringing the total over that period to 52 bird species sighted at this spot.

Non-bird sightings included several patches of Nodding Greenhoods along the side of the road, while the Common Heath was in bright pink flower.

Some large fungi caught our eyes, including *Cortinarius austrovenetus*, with its olive-green pileus and mustard-yellow gills; the brilliant orange of the bracket *Stereum ostrea*, another bracket *Trametes versicolor*, and a pored fungus tentatively identified as a species of *Austroboletus*. We were interested to see Creeping Mistletoe (*Muellerina eucalyptoides*), growing on a *Leptospermum* host in private property along the roadside.

The rain that had threatened all day finally set in after lunch, signalling time to go. - **Lee Denis**

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### Frankston Reservoir 12<sup>th</sup> July

For our annual working bee we decided to help out at Frankston Reservoir. Despite the weather (the wettest July day in 25 years) four members joined half a dozen members of the Friends Group for a few hours removing woody weeds.

After being passed back and forth between Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Frankston City Council, the area has now passed to the control of the Friends group and renamed Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve. The website <http://www.fnrc.org.au> gives some information on the history and features of the reserve:

- total area 98 hectares;
- the water body comprises 10 hectares
- built in 1921 on the east branch of Sweetwater Creek,
- capacity of 660 megalitres
- three geological formations within the reserve
- six Ecological Vegetation classes (EVCs) occur within the Reserve
- three of the EVCs are listed as endangered, two vulnerable and one rare in the Gippsland Plain Bioregion.
- A total of 236 indigenous flora species is recorded
- 17 species are listed as rare in the Gippsland Plain Bioregion and at least 57 species are considered rare in the Melbourne metropolitan and Mornington Peninsula regions.
- over 100 species of native wildlife including the Nationally threatened Growling Grass Frog.
- both the Musk Duck and Blue-billed Duck have been recorded.

There are extensive areas of good quality heathland, but also, particularly near neighbouring houses, areas heavily infested with weeds. We noted just about every weed species you can think of during our visit, and spent some hours (in the rain) removing Bluebell Creeper, Sallow Wattle, and Pittosporum, amongst others.

Ending thoroughly soaked, we had to admire the dedication of the Friends who seemed reluctant to stop despite the downpour. The Friends hold a working bee on the second Sunday of each month – they can be reached through the aforementioned website. - **Lee Denis**



Photo: Judy Smart

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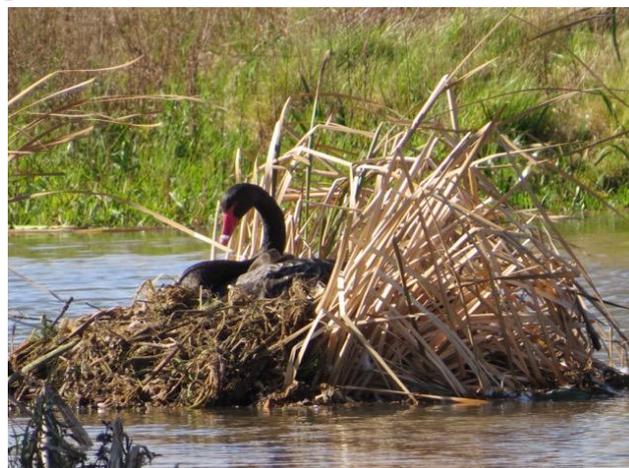
### Birding at Braeside Park 10<sup>th</sup> August

After one false start – a forecast of rain and hail caused a week's postponement – four members gathered on a fine sunny day with the promise of Australasian Bittern, since one of our number, Diane, had seen and photographed one there a couple of weeks before.

Sightings started in the car park with Spotted Pardalote and Red-rumped Parrot. Black Swans and Grey and Chestnut Teal were in numbers on the water, with a single Pink-eared Duck amongst them. A Royal Spoonbill landed as we watched, while a Black-shouldered Kite hovered nearby. High in the sky behind us was a Wedge-tailed Eagle being harassed by Magpies. A Swamp Harrier was also in the vicinity.

Progressing towards the hide a couple of Darters were seen together with a Little Pied Cormorant. The majority of birds were clustered in the lee of the hide, sheltering from the blustery wind. At first glance they appeared to be all Coots, but then we spotted a single Hardhead amongst them.

Proceeding around the back of the wetland we spotted half a dozen Flame Robins on the grassy paddock. More Flame Robins near the water, then we flushed the Australasian Bittern (whilst listening to Striped Marsh Frogs) close by. Also on this part, on the opposite side of the water to the usual track, we spotted a pair of Blue-billed Ducks. Swans were also nesting here.



*Photo: Diane Peters*

The usual suspects made up the bulk of the list of 52 species – various ducks, Spoonbill, Cormorant, Grebes and in the bush birds, Wrens, Magpies etc. Surprisingly the only honeyeaters were Wattlebirds and Miners, whilst there was no sign of Red-Browed Finches.

Whilst having lunch we noted a flock of twenty to thirty Cattle Egrets pass overhead, perhaps coming from nearby Waterways, and we found them amongst the cattle later. An echidna rounded out the animal sightings for the day. - Lee Denis

Bird List For Braeside Park 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2015				
Blue-billed Duck	Little Pied Cormorant	Purple Swamphen	Red-rumped Parrot	Grey Butcherbird
Black Swan	Australasian Bittern	Eurasian Coot	Laughing Kookaburra	Australian Magpie
Australian Wood Duck	Great Cormorant	Pacific Gull	Superb Fairy-wren	Little Raven
Pacific Black Duck	Australian Pelican	Silver Gull	Spotted Pardalote	Welcome Swallow
Grey Teal	Cattle Egret	Rock Dove	White-browed Scrubwren	Golden-headed Cisticola
Chestnut Teal	Australian White Ibis	Spotted Turtle-Dove	Brown Thornbill	Common Blackbird
Pink-eared Duck	Straw-necked Ibis	Crested Pigeon	Red Wattlebird	Common Starling
Hardhead	Royal Spoonbill	Little Corella	Noisy Miner	Common Myna
Australasian Grebe	Black-shouldered Kite	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Flame Robin	
Hoary-headed Grebe	Swamp Harrier	Rainbow Lorikeet	Magpie-Lark	
Darter	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Eastern Rosella	Willie Wagtail	

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**Graeme Patterson**  
**Natural History Highlights of the Western Port Coast**  
**12<sup>th</sup> August**

Graham last spoke to our Club in June 2014, about his first book, *Coastal Guide to nature and history: Port Phillip Bay*. This time he spoke about his second book in the format, on Western Port Bay and the Mornington Peninsula ocean shore. Graham originally had a project to walk the Victorian coast from the South Australian border to NSW. He got as far as Wilsons Promontory, then started work on these field guides. Around Port Phillip Bay is 260km, this book covers 320km of shoreline.

He started with the geology- the oldest geological site is Cape Woolamai, of Devonian granite. Most of the area covered is Older Volcanics, of the Eocene, for example the arch at Bushrangers Bay. There is also the iron-rich sandstone (Cretaceous) of Red Bluff near Jam Jerrup, the Dune calcarenites of the ocean back beaches, and the most recent is the earth cliffs of Lang Lang shoreline, being peaty sediments from swamps.

The birds- most of Western Port is Ramsar protected habitat for migratory waders, with 10,000 visiting every year. Phillip Island is famous for its breeding colony of Little Penguins, and less well known for the Short-tailed Shearwaters who also breed there in numbers. The Hooded Plover, an endangered species, breeds on the ocean beaches of the Mornington Peninsula and Phillip Island. Because they share their habitat with humans, they have very little success in breeding – of 130 eggs laid last year on the

Mornington Peninsula, 34 chicks hatched, and one solitary bird fledged.

The animals – the Australian fur seal colony at Phillip Island has about 30,000 residents. Other prominent sea animals are the dolphins, Port Jackson sharks, and Elephant fish. Land animals of note are the long nosed potoroo on French Island, and the Southern Brown bandicoot, which has strongholds at Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, Quail Island, and around northern Western Port.

Underwater vegetation – Graham showed us photos of the three categories of seaweed – simply red, brown and green, with much variation within those categories. Seagrass is an important habitat and food in Western Port for birds, fish and invertebrates, but is not a grass or an algae (like seaweed), but a flowering plant.

Graham also showed us photos of inter-tidal life, mangroves and some salt marsh vegetation.

His books are richly illustrated with his beautiful photos, plus history, walking notes, and answers to puzzles such as the stranded boat at the back of Tooradin airport. They are great reading as well as information. He is working on book three – on the coast from the South Australian border to Port Phillip Bay, which we look forward to very much. - **Judy Smart**

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**Habitat Restoration Fund Open Day at Flinders**  
**Main Ridge Flora Reserve**  
**15<sup>th</sup> August**

For our August excursion we joined an open day at a Flinders property where an intensive habitat restoration project has been carried out, particularly concerning the establishment/regeneration of some wetland areas.



*Photo: Lee Denis*

The day was jointly hosted by two organisations: Habitat Restoration Fund ([www.hrfund.org](http://www.hrfund.org)) and Peninsula Speaks ([www.peninsulaspeaks.org](http://www.peninsulaspeaks.org)). Restoration works have been carried out over the last 15 years, with the total area of existing bushland, revegetation areas, constructed creeks

and wetlands being about 15 acres. Every plant species was grown from seed collected in the Flinders area, where they occur naturally.

Boardwalks have been constructed through the restored wetlands, which in many cases required only the removal of invasive weeds such as blackberries for the ferns and other plants to reestablish themselves without need for planting. These wetlands have naturally attracted a number of bird species, including honeyeaters, rosellas and wrens as well as ducks and cormorants. Kangaroos graze in the nearby paddocks.

The walk was led by some of the people responsible for the work, who were able to give a detailed explanation of the process. In all over fifty people attended, of whom about a dozen were Club members, so that we had to be split into two groups.

After this tour our Club members moved to the Main Ridge Flora and Fauna Reserve for a short bushwalk. The reserve is mainly an open Messmate woodland, with an understory

that included several Acacia species including the relatively uncommon (on the Peninsula) Hop Wattle *Acacia stricta*. A lower area contained Swamp Gum and tree ferns, while birds included White-throated Treecreeper, Mistletoebird,

Crimson and Eastern Rosella, Galah and Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo – in all 16 species in less than an hour. - **Lee Denis**

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**Woods Reserve  
7<sup>th</sup> September**

We usually go to Woods Reserve in October, with the added attraction of the *Caladenia* orchids there. However, The Briars, our planned September destination, was closed for rabbit eradication, so we swapped the two over. It was a cold and windy day, but at least the rain held off.

We saw 28 birds, plenty of honeyeaters, and plenty of bell miners (who were more subdued than usual – calling but not ringing). We did see plenty of furry fauna – a mob of 30 Eastern Grey kangaroos, a wallaby and the highlight – two koalas. Also common froglets calling.

As for orchids – we saw tall and nodding greenhoods, gnat orchids, and lots of leaves of bird, *Caladenia* and tongue orchids. The wattles were in full flower – *Acacia paradoxa*, *A. verticillata*, *A. myrtifolia* and *A. melanoxylon*, as well as plenty of garden escapes such as *A. floribunda*, *A. howittii* and *A. boormanii*. The wildflowers were just starting – *Hibbertia*, *Indigofera*, *Clematis* and *Kennedia prostrata* (running postman) were all a taste of the eagerly awaited Spring. - **Judy Smart**

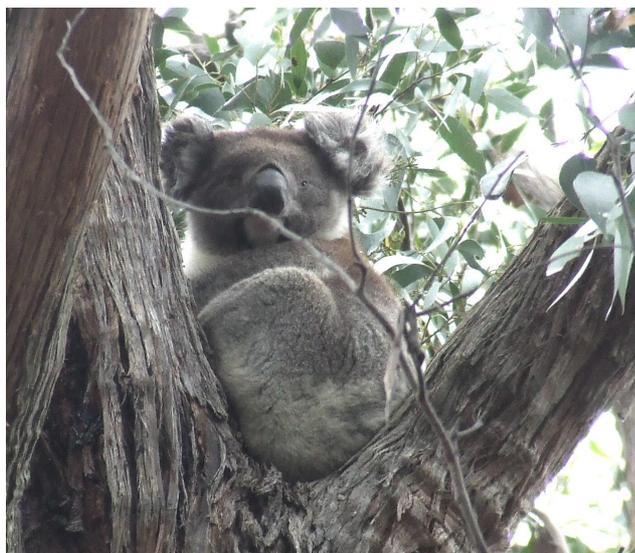


Photo: Lee Denis

Bird List Woods Reserve 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	
Australian Wood Duck	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Australian White Ibis	White-eared Honeyeater
Straw-necked Ibis	White-plumed Honeyeater
Galah	White-naped Honeyeater
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill
Eastern Rosella	Eastern Yellow Robin
Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Spotted Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Brown Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Striated Thornbill	Australian Magpie
Red Wattlebird	Little Raven
Little Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Bell Miner	Common Blackbird

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**Jeff Yugovic  
Ecology of the Kooweerup Swamp and Adjacent Grasslands  
9<sup>th</sup> September**

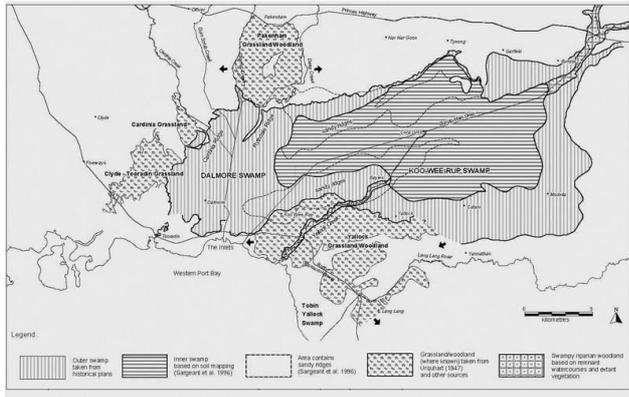
Jeff started studying the Kooweerup Swamp when he was asked by Cardinia Shire Council to find grasslands around it. To locate them he needed to know the original boundaries of the swamp, which took a lot of research into original maps and documents. He wrote an article with Damien Cook on the grasslands for the *Victorian Naturalist* in 2003, then an article on the Kooweerup Swamp’s original spread for the *Victorian Naturalist* in 2006, expanded into a paper for the Royal Society of Victoria in 2011.

Urquhart named it Kooweerup Swamp in 1847, from the local aboriginal name for the area. Because it was impenetrable, mapping was difficult for early surveyors. It was the largest swamp in Victoria – the outer swamp covered 17,000 hectares, the inner swamp 13,000 hectares. It stretched from the Western Port coast north almost to Garfield and Tynong, to Cardinia in the west, and Bunyip and Modella in the east. It was not possible to travel along the coast until bridges were constructed, though these were regularly swept away by floods.

Jeff showed us Ham’s Map of Australia Felix from the 1850s, with the swamp referred to as The Great Swamp.

The inner swamp was not a continuous body of water, but a descending series of lakes, separated by belts of reeds and

sedges, dropping 1.3 metres per kilometre towards the coast. It was fed by the Bunyip River, which didn't run direct to the sea, but petered out in the swamp, with Yallock Creek and other creeks as outlets. There was a 3 metre deep peat layer, which held water like a sponge. The outer swamp was mainly *Melaleuca ericifolia* scrub with water holes and some natural levees, channels and sandy rises.



The Swamp dates back 15,000 years, to the end of the Ice Age, when rainfall increased. Schemes to drain the swamp for agriculture started in the 1880s and it took 90 years to complete the work, with 12 major floods during that time. The early settlers could not find a market for the peat, and

their horses got bogged in it, so they burnt it, which lowered the ground level by an astonishing 3 metres. The swamp is still not entirely tamed, as further floods have occurred.

This was the home of the feared mythological creature, the Bunyip, feared by both the Aboriginals and the white settlers. Jeff noted that most cultures have dreaded mythological creatures in bodies of water, perhaps to deter children from straying into them.

The grasslands are to the west of the original swamp – Cardinia, Clyde-Tooradin and Pakenham; and to the south – Monomeith, Caldermeade, Yallock and Kooweerup. There were three types

- Plains Grassland EVC – mainly kangaroo grass with 5 species of wattle, other grasses, Pale-fruit Ballart, and some invasion by *Melaleuca ericifolia*;
- Estuarine Flats Grassland EVC – dominated by coast tussock grass with salt-grass and noon flower; and
- Brackish Grassland, with tussock grasses, salt-grass and blackwood wattles. They were largely treeless, with some wattles.

Management issues for the grasslands include lack of recognition and management; inappropriate drainage; clearing and ploughing; and weed invasion- **Judy Smart**

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### The Inlets Waterway Reserve, Tooradin 12<sup>th</sup> September

Following on from Jeff's talk on Wednesday night, we had a big turnout of 17 members for an in-depth view of the swamp. We were glad of our gumboots as it was wet underfoot, and the tussock grass tall and scratchy. Jeff noted that gumboots were good for the 4 Esses – swamps, snakes, scratches and seeds.



Photo: Judy Smart

We started off through Estuarine Wetland, dominated by Sea Rush (*Juncus kraussii*) with 2 species of *Senecio* in flower (*S. pinnatifolius* and *S. glomeratus*) and Rounded Noon-flower (*Disphyma crassifolium*), which is spectacular when it flowers in November. Our first stop was a little island of Estuarine Scrub with tall *Melaleuca ericifolia*, then another little island of stunted Blackwood wattles (*Acacia melanoxylon*)

where we found a young Blotched Blue-tongue Lizard.

From there it was across Plains grassland with a number of interesting plants such as the rare *Lawrenzia spicata*, a tall perennial reminiscent of the weed Mullein, twiggly daisy bush (*Olearia ramulosa*), 4 species of wattle, and Pale-fruit

Ballart (*Exocarpos strictus*), to a fallen over windmill and derelict stock pen. Along the way we snacked on wild asparagus self seeded from the nearby farms (delicious!) and sea celery.



Photo: Lee Denis

We could have stopped there, but Jeff offered to take us over to Moodys Inlet and we couldn't resist, so we tussock-bashed through chest high *Gahnia trifida* to Moodys Inlet for lunch. On the way we saw a small Lowland Copperhead snake, and were surprised to find it in the same position on the way back - Jeff carefully established that it was in fact

dead. Rosie lost her binoculars on the way back – we tried to retrace our steps to find them but got disoriented and had to give up, a reminder of what a hostile to human environment it is.

We saw 17 birds, the highlight being white-fronted chats,

and heard our first fan-tailed cuckoo for the season. It was a fascinating day, a chance to understand more about an environment not easily visited or understood without a guide, and we really appreciated Jeff taking us there. **Judy Smart**

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### RJ Chambers Reserve, Upper Pakenham 19<sup>th</sup> September

Due to the late addition of the excursion to The Inlets (see above) to follow up on Jeff Yugovics very interesting talk, we had two scheduled excursions this month, since we had already arranged to join Ringwood Field Naturalists at the RJ Chambers Flora and Flora Reserve in Pakenham Upper. Seven of our members backed up on a very pleasant day, joining twenty or so Ringwood FNC members.

The Reserve covers 121 hectares, largely comprising an open woodland of Messmate *Eucalyptus obliqua*, Peppermint *E. radiata*, and *E. cypellocarpa*, the Mountain Grey Gum, with Swamp Gum *E. ovata* in lower, wetter areas.

Understory includes a diversity of Acacias, several species of Hakea, The Yellow Rice-flower *Pimelea nivea*, Dusty Miller *Spyridium parvifolium*, Slender bitter-pea *Daviesia leptophylla*, and the Mountain Grevillea *Grevillea alpina*.



*Grevillea alpina* – Photo: Judy Smart

Other plants in flower included (lists by Judy Smart):

- Banksia spinulosa*
- Comesperma volubile* – Love creeper
- Coronidium scoparium* – previously *Helichrysum*
- Correa reflexa*
- Epacris impressa* – Common heath
- Goodenia ovata*
- Hovea heterophylla*
- Platylobium montanum* ssp *montanum* – formerly *P.*

- formosum*
- Polyscias sambucifolius* – Elderberry panax
- Pultenea scabra* – rough bush pea
- Stackhousia monogyna* – candles
- Tetratheca ciliata* – black eyed susan – there was some debate over whether it was *ciliata*, but I think it was.

Acacias in flower were *Acacia genistifolia*, *A. paradoxa*, *A. melanoxyton*, *A. dealbata*, *A. mucronata*, *A leprosa*, *A verticillata* and *A. myrtifolia*.

- Orchids in flower included
- Acianthus caudatus* – Gnat
- Chiloglottis valida*- common bird orchid
- Pterostylis melagramma* – tall greenhood
- P. pedunculata* – maroon hood
- P. nutans* – nodding greenhood.

- Orchids in leaf only:
- Leporella fimbriata* – hare orchid
- Cryptostylis leptochila* – small tongue
- Thelymitra* sp. – sun orchid

Notable birds included Crested Shrike-tit, Scarlet Robin, Mistletoebird and Eastern Whip-bird. In all 22 species were listed. - **Lee Denis**

Bird List: RJ Chambers Reserve 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird
Laughing Kookaburra	Crested Shrike-tit
White-throated Treecreeper	Golden Whistler
Spotted Pardalote	Rufous Whistler
Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
White-eared Honeyeater	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
White-naped Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Eastern Spinebill	Grey Currawong
Scarlet Robin	Little Raven
Eastern Yellow Robin	Mistletoebird

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### George Pentland Botanic Gardens, Frankston

Tucked in behind Frankston Hospital lies a little-known oasis known as the George Pentland Botanic Gardens. On part of the site of the former Frankston Municipal Golf Course, and named for a former Town Clerk, the Gardens were set up in the mid 1970s as an Australian native plant garden. Many people are familiar with the playground, barbeque and lake area on the Foot St side of the Gardens, but there is much more to be enjoyed.

Leon Costermans was influential in the conception of a Botanic Gardens showcasing Australian flora, with a planting plan that included beds representative of different environments, beds showcasing the range of cultivars appropriate for home gardeners, and beds dedicated to particular plant families.

The path from the main entrance on Foot Street passes through a garden featuring rainforest species such as *Flindersia*, *Macadamia* and *Araucaria*, as well as tree ferns (*Dicksonia* and *Cyathea*), Birds-nest Fern, Cordylines, and palms such as the Bangalow Palm *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*. This garden also contains the only orchids in the Gardens, the Rock Orchid *Dendrobium speciosum* (flowering at time of writing).



Photo: Lee Denis

The beds at the eastern or Foot St end are mainly display gardens surrounding the barbeque and playground area, and include some striking plants including the Callistemon lookalike Scarlet Kunzea (*Kunzea baxteri*), and the Fish-bone Banksia (*Banksia chaemophyton*), as well as Wollemi Pine (*Wollemi nobilis*) and the Lily-pilly-like *Waterhousea floribunda*. The area is shaded by several species of Eucalyptus, as well as Angophoras, Casuarinas and Allocasuarinas. The lake forms a central focus, surrounded by tall trees such as the graceful weeping River Peppermint *Eucalyptus elata*, Southern Blue Gum *E. globulus*, Yellow Gum *E. leucoxylon* and Ironbarks *E. sideroxylon* and *E. shirleyi*. Lower story includes the Snow-in-summer *Melaleuca linariifolia*, NSW Christmas Bush

*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, the unusual wattle *Acacia glaucoptera*, and many varieties of Callistemon.



*Banksia chaemophyton* – Photo: Lee Denis

The lake is also a central focus for bird life, with resident populations of Wood and Pacific Black Ducks, breeding Dusky Moorhens, regular visitor Little Pied Cormorant, and occasional visitors White-faced Heron and Chestnut Teal. The most spectacular sighting was a Nankeen Night Heron in the large *E leucoxylon* over the lake. Southern long-necked Turtles are also breeding in the lake. In all over thirty species of birds have been recorded in the Gardens, including breeding Tawny Frogmouths and Kookaburras, as well as Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets, Eastern Rosellas, Galahs, Crested Pigeons, and Eastern Spinebills.



Photo: Lee Denis

To the west of the lake is Fern Gully, holding many species of tree and ground ferns as well as wet forest species such as Stinkwood *Zeiria arborescens*, Muttonwood *Myrsine howittii*, and Myrtle Beech *Nothofagus cunninghamii*. The terrace beds above Fern Gully showcase many garden varieties including several species of Netbush (*Calothamnus*), and less well-known species in the Myrtaceae family such as *Darwinia*, *Austromyrtus* and *Backhousia* (with the better-known Geraldton Wax *Chamelaucium uncinatum*).

Along the northern edge, bordering Frankston Hospital, the Acacia bed holds some 40 species, while beside it the Proteaceae bed has numerous species of *Banksia*, *Grevillea*, and *Hakea* as well as *Persoonia*, *Adenanthos*, *Macadamia*, *Lambertia*, and *Stenocarpus*. The western half of the Gardens contains a number of beds dedicated to particular plant families, including Rutaceae (containing many species and varieties of *Correa*, among others), Lamiaceae (*Prostanthera* etc), Epacridaceae, Fabaceae and Myrtaceae.



*Elaeocarpus reticulatus* – Photo: Lee Denis

In all the Gardens holds about 450 plant species, including about 40 species of Eucalypts and Corymbias, as well as distinctive trees such as *Agathis robusta*, the Queensland Kauri; *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, the Blue Oliveberry; *Podocarpus elatus*, Plum Pine, several Bunya-bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*) as well as Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*); five species of *Angophora*, four species of *Brachychiton*, and many others.

These Gardens represent a valuable asset for Frankston and hold a great deal of interest for anyone interested in plants or gardening.

A quiet stroll on a spring day, through the profusely flowering Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*), Callistemons of all varieties, spectacular giant Spear Lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*), and many species of *Banksia*, is recommended. - **Lee Denis**



*Doryanthes palmeri* – Photo: Lee Denis

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**Peninsula Field Naturalists Club Inc**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month with a field trip the following Saturday. Further information and current Programme of Activities can be found at our website.

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Newsletter edited by Lee Denis

[www.peninsulafieldnaturalists.org.au](http://www.peninsulafieldnaturalists.org.au)