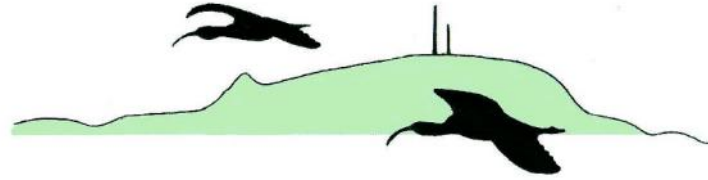


ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th February, 7.30 pm.
Annual General Meeting
followed by online Show & Tell
By Zoom

EXCURSION

Sunday 13th February, 7.00 - 9.00 pm.
Mt Canobolas SCA – picnic & spotlighting
Details below

Committee Meeting
6.30pm, 10th February by Zoom

Annual General Meeting by Zoom

Thursday 10th February, 7.30 pm.

The Zoom link will be sent to all members a few days before the meeting. There is no need to register so just join Zoom 2 to 5mins prior to 7.30pm.

All positions will be declared vacant so please think about nominating or becoming one of the general committee members. The AGM will be followed by a 'Show and Tell' PowerPoint of members photos from the last year.

You can still send up to 4 to the OFNCS email address. Please include the photographer's name, the subject of each photo and the location where it was taken. By sending images you agree to them being placed on the OFNCS website and used on our Facebook page. You will be acknowledged appropriately.

Excursion Details – 13th February 7.00 pm

Picnic and spotlighting at Federal Falls Picnic Area, Mt Canobolas SCA.

Come and discover some of the things there are to love about Mount Canobolas. Like last year we may be entertained by the kangaroos during our picnic and then spot possums and yellow Planarian Worms. Maybe a Greater Glider or owl will be seen. Spotlights will be available.

BYO everything – food, drink, utensils, chairs and torches or headlamps. There are a few mosquitoes about so please wear long clothes and repellent. A jumper might be a good idea if the weather is cool. If the weather is stormy the excursion will not go ahead.

You will be responsible for the Covid safety of yourself and others who come along. Please do not attend if feeling sick or if you have been a close contact in the week beforehand.

If you plan to come on the picnic and excursion, please register at orangefieldnats@gmail.com.

December Meeting & Christmas Get-Together

At the December meeting the committee planned a varied program of talks and excursions for 2022. Talks will range from nature photography to woodland birds and spiders. Where possible the excursions will be to a location that links to the topic of the talk. One may be a bryophyte survey on Mt Canobolas.



Some of the OFNCS and ECCO members sharing Christmas cheer at the ELF.

OFNCS Committee News

The focus during January has been preparing a submission in response to the NPWS Draft Cycling Policy. The OFNCS submission stated that while the Society endorses currently approved cycling on roads and management trails it does not endorse the Cycling Policy and

associated documents. It requested that no new mountain bike tracks (MBT) are approved until better information is available, through scientific studies, to objectively assess the impacts of such tracks on the core objectives of the NPW Act. These are protecting the State's natural and cultural heritage values and assets. With cyclists being only 5% of park users we submitted that more consideration should be given to the majority (95%) of park users. New funding should also be provided to close and rehabilitate illegal bike tracks and that those who build and use them should be prosecuted.

Mt Canobolas Update

Text Rosemary Stapleton, with information from Col Bower.

Col Bower continued to monitor the *Caladenia fitzgeraldii* and *Paraprassophyllum canobolense*. In early December he wrote that he had found that many of the *C. fitzgeraldii* flowers have been nipped off, probably by wallabies. After a mass flowering following the 2018 wildfire, none of the marked *P. canobolense* plants have flowered despite the excellent season. Instead, most of the plants have produced small inconspicuous leaves whose job is to provide enough energy for annual tuber replacement. Flowering awaits another fire.



*Col Bower measuring the length of a leaf of a *P. canobolense* plant. Photo R. Stapleton.*

However, a few days later Col was very excited to find that one of the marked *P. canobolense* had a stunning flower spike and at another location he had found several new plants flowering. These were possibly from seed

dispersal from a plant that had flowered following the fire.

Flowers from other orchid species have been found in December and January. They were a few weeks later than other years possibly due to the milder conditions. Tall Potato Orchids, *Gastrodia procera* were not open until mid-December. In January flowers of Hyacinth orchids and Long-tongue Summer Greenhoods were spotted by Col, Hai, and Nigel. On seeing the photos Col Bower said, 'recent news from genetic studies at CSIRO Canberra tells us that the *Dipodium* on Mt Canobolas are all *Dipodium roseum*, even though they are more deeply coloured than in the Mullion Range for example.'



Dipodium roseum orchid flower. Photo Hai Wu.

Col also said 'the Greenhood is almost certainly *Diplodium aestivum*, the Long-tongue Summer Greenhood. Mt Canobolas is a stronghold of this species which is rare elsewhere in the Central West. It is stockier, darker green, has shorter lateral sepal points and a shorter, less down-curved petal point than *Diplodium decurvum*, but the two are very similar.'

If you've visited the mountain in the last few months and looked closely you will have noticed that it has been a stunning summer for butterflies and other insects. The Common Brown Butterfly is flitting everywhere as are occasional dragonflies and damselflies.



Orthetrum caledonicum, Blue Skimmer Dragonfly at Federal Falls. Photo Nigel Hobden.

In wet areas and soaks the white flowers of *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, Myrtle Tea-tree or Grey Tea-tree, is putting on a show and attracting many wasps and flies. A pair of Peregrines, perching on one of the towers at the summit, have been seen by Bernie Huxtable.

The redevelopments at Towac Picnic Area and The Walls are open and if you haven't been there, it is worth visiting the new viewing platform at The Walls. The work on the Summit redevelopment has been delayed but will start soon. If you intend visiting the SCA please check the Local Alerts for the SCA on the [NPWS website](#).



*A last look at the summit before redevelopment.
Photo Rosemary Stapleton.*

After reading of the rich biodiversity of Mt Canobolas it is fitting to honour the passing of a passionate supporter and carer of the mountain; Borry Gartrell. The article below was contributed by Jennifer Kenna and Jenny Medd.

Vale: Borry Gartrell

(26.04.1944 – 10.12.2021)

Once a member of OFNCS and more recently a supporter of the Canobolas Conservation Alliance, one of Borry's most significant contributions to our local area was his involvement in the former Mt Canobolas Park Trust and the subsequent reservation of the Park under the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Jennifer Kenna (OFNCS President 1994-2002) has provided lengthy details of Borry's early life and commitments to a wide variety of community work spanning decades. His motto of "Bite off more than you can chew and then chew like hell" seems to have evolved over many years of active membership in an array of organisations, beginning from his mid-teens. His interests ranged from Junior Farmers, Air Cadets, Rostrum Speaking Club and debating, rehabilitation of inmates at Kirkconnell Prison Farm, Pony Club, Jockey Club and Trotting Club, local government and local heritage, the Orange Dramatic Society (later the Orange Theatre Company), the Orange and District

Community Chest, the Orange Diabetic Group, Waratah Soccer Club, the Bush Fire Brigade, and several environmental advisory panels.

Borry stood for Canobolas Shire Council in 1973; was appointed to the Provisional Orange City Council in 1976-77 and served on Orange City Council from 1977 to 1987; he was Deputy Mayor for one year and lost the Mayoral vote twice in a draw from the hat; he also stood (unsuccessfully) for the State seat of Orange in the late 1970s. His achievements over this period were simply too numerous to list here.

Most importantly Borry became a member of the Mt Canobolas Park Trust in 1973, becoming Chairman in 1984 through until the Trust, which had evolved into the Canobolas Regional Parklands Trust in 1986, was disbanded in 1995. Following a litany of political interference, both Borry and Jennifer Kenna had campaigned to have the Trust disbanded and lands put under the control of the NPWS. Jennifer has commented: "Without Borry's enthusiasm and never ending, tireless campaigning I doubt whether we would have ended up with such good results; we both went through hell for those 18 months". As well as the mountain, the other areas saved were Giralang NR, Borenore Caves and the Mullion Range. In all those years, it should be remembered that Trustees held (unpaid) Honorary positions.



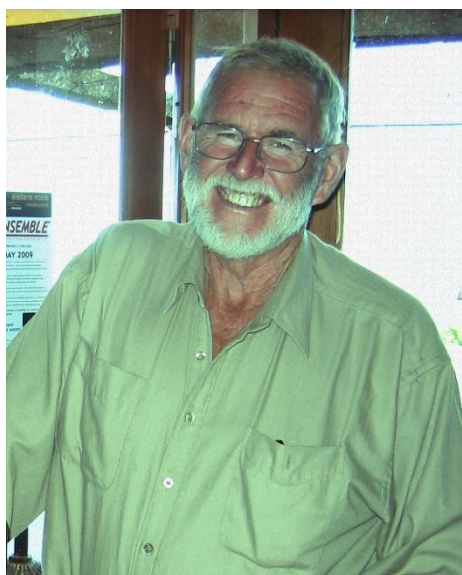
*Campaigning Activists from 1995 - Borry Gartrell and Jennifer Kenna.
Source- Central Western Daily July 1995.*

Back in April 2021, Jenny Medd and NPWS Ranger, Jack Fry, spent some time chatting with Borry about his experiences on the mountain. They hoped to capture stories to be shared by NPWS on information boards and perhaps, one day, on phone apps, as well as fleshing out the history of the mountain that was being collated. All who knew Borry would remember he loved to chat and needless to say, he had a million yarns to recount. However, while always down-playing his own efforts, Borry reiterated that the significance of the then “Mt Canobolas Park” and the need to minimise disturbance, had been important from the very beginning.

Although he readily admitted to putting in an average of 20 hours work on the mountain each week, he emphasised that it was just time devoted to things “a farmer” knew aboutcontrolling blackberries and pigs, and dealing with illegal activities like vandalism, car-burning, and trail bikes. He failed to admit to the time spent fighting bushfires on the mountain and his subsequent activity regarding bushfire management. Instead, he wanted to be sure we knew how important it was when Chris Pratten was appointed to the Trust, OFNCS was formed, and surveys began to be undertaken.

Borry was always forthright and committed, a man with a social conscience and great generosity. Jennifer Kenna’s final words for this man who became a local icon were:

“Borry was such a life force
 We will all miss him – of course
 His ashes will be scattered up on the slope
 He’ll be pushing up daisies – Yam Daisies we
 hope.”



Borry in recent times. Photo Murray Fletcher.

Our condolences go to Borry’s wife Gaye and their family.

Orange City Life of 20-1-2022 has an article on Borry called ‘My Mt Canobolas’.

<https://issuu.com/cwpm/docs/oclife20220120.1>

Canobolas Conservation Alliance Update

Report by Jenny Medd.

The CCA met again by Zoom on January 17th to commence addressing our on-going campaign, with plans to now connect with the new Minister for the Environment.



A second Newsletter was distributed to all members in December.

Orange City Council (OCC) submitted an application, immediately prior to Christmas, for their Mt Canobolas Mountain Biking Network to be considered as a State Significant Development with a “Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements” (SEARS) to be issued. While an indication of the processes that will ensue is readily available, a time-line framework is not offered. CCA intends to maintain a campaign to influence OCC to avoid any development in the Conservation Area.

CCA has made a detailed submission regarding the Draft NPWS Cycling Policy, Strategy and Implementation Guidelines and has encouraged members to do likewise.

Although our website has been redeveloped, media stories from the end of 2021 have not yet been uploaded. The Alliance is still seeking a volunteer to act as website administrator; if you can assist, please contact the Committee.

Plans are underway to refresh our strategic directions, as are on-going considerations to hold a public forum at an appropriate time.

Spring Creek Survey, 8th January 2022

Text by Rosemary Stapleton, photos by Cilla Kinross and Rosemary Stapleton.

Instead of the usual January heat Cilla and I decided to chance the forecast storms and do the quarterly bird survey at Spring Creek on 8th January. She commented it was a very English summer day as it was cool, humid, and overcast with low cloud. The water level was still very

high, no doubt being topped up by the 70+mm of storm rain over the last two days.

Our first look across the water at the track just inside the gate gave an indication of what we would find, or not find, as we surveyed to the dam wall. A small group of Little Black Cormorants fishing, a Great Crested Grebe, an Australian White Ibis flying over and little else. Where were all the coots and ducks that are usually here? Perhaps the water is now too deep, or they have been enticed to more desirable wetlands and flooded areas along the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers.

As we walked, the woodland birds took our attention with Crimson Rosellas, a few Red-browed Finches, and a Double-barred Finch. Calls of Reed Warblers and an occasional Rufous Whistler were heard. Insects over some of the old eucalypts on the slope were being hawked by Dusky Woodswallows and martins. The martins were flying so swiftly, it was hard to identify them.



Double-barred Finch at Spring Creek. Photo Cilla Kinross.

While watching a pair of Australian Wood Ducks on the road a pair of Dusky Moorhens scurried from a roadside swampy area. And then we saw a male Blue-billed Duck which disappeared before Cilla could photograph it. While we watched for it to surface, I wondered how long they could hold their breath and how far they could swim underwater? We didn't find it again, so my questions weren't answered.

The Little Black Cormorants and ibis were roosting in some of the willows on the far bank. Perhaps they were building nests as one Little Black Cormorant was seen carrying a stick to these willows.

At the dam wall the usual sweep of the water's edge through the telescope only turned up a few perching Little Pied Cormorants and Eurasian Coots, with more Little Black Cormorants circling overhead.

It is always interesting to do surveys with Cilla as she often tells anecdotes from her past. When we heard an Australian Raven call, she said the first time she heard the call after arriving in Australia she thought it's FAARRK...AARRK...AARRK calls were very rude. She was teaching skiing in the Snowies and seeing an Echidna, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and Crimson Rosellas whilst cross-country skiing was an amazing sight for someone not used to Australian fauna.

On the survey we spotted 36 species. For many species, the number of individual birds counted was much lower than in previous surveys.

Following this survey, I usually do a 20-minute survey at the western inflow area of the reservoir. Sometimes there are different bird species here and this was the case with a Pink-eared Duck and a Hoary-headed Grebe spotted. There was also another Blue-billed Duck. A pair of coots were feeding four very young chicks who were in their spikey orange plumage. The martins also obliged by perching in a dead hawthorn and it was easy to see that they were both Fairy and Tree Martins.



Making identification easy - Fairy and Tree Martin resting at Spring Creek Reservoir. Photo Rosemary Stapleton.

Peregrine News

Information and photos from Cilla Kinross.

The female peregrine, Diamond, laid three eggs in 2021 in late August/early September. The sole chick this year was a male named Yurruga (meaning 'sunny' in the Wiradjuri language). He hatched on 8th October and fledged on 22nd November at 45 days old. Unfortunately, he did not survive the atrocious weather during the week after his fledge. He may have hit a tree or other obstacle while trying to fly in poor weather.

The remaining two eggs were non-viable and so, after Yurruga, the sole juvenile fledged, I removed the eggs and 'candled' them. This procedure involves simply holding the egg over a torch in a darkened room. If the egg is transparent, it indicates that the egg has not been fertilised. So, it can be inferred from this process that one egg was fertilised and one not. The fertilised egg was just liquid, so no chick had formed. We had thought there might have been a 'pip' in one egg at hatching time, with a live chick inside, but the candling showed this was not the case.



Unfertilised Peregrine egg.



Fertilised egg - liquid, without a formed chick.

After the candling procedure, the fertilised egg exploded - literally - all over me and my desk! I would have done this in our laboratory, but it was closed. The unexploded egg will go to the Australian Museum.

So, a sad end to the season, especially as there was only one chick. Let's hope for a better season in 2022. Thanks for everyone's concern.

You can still watch the adults in the nest box, such as their reaction to the storms in December at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbPu_rcU79c

Dates for your Diary

Pantry Blitz in Feb-March 2022 NSW Department of Primary Industries is running this citizen science project to see what pest species are in food and stored products in people's kitchens. To register visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pantryblitz and receive a sticky trap and a beetle pheromone lure. There is a MyPest Reporter App (branded with WA DPI) to use to submit photos of the traps when first placed and for the four subsequent weeks. Any insects on the traps will be identified, depending on the photo quality.

Glossy Black Cockatoo Count

Pilliga Forest on 12 February (Registrations close 9/2/22)

Goonoo NP on 19 February (registrations close on 16/2/22). Register with Tanya (tanya.muccillo@lfs.nsw.gov.au) or Adam (Adam.Fawcett@environment.nsw.gov.au).

2022 Cowra Woodland Bird Surveys,

The February surveys were a Covid cancellation. Other dates for 2022 are 23/24 April; 23/24 July; 15/16 October. Julian Reid is now the contact for surveyors at **0405 922 505** or julian.reid@anu.edu.au

Big Bushfire Bioblitz -Blue Mountains, Dharug and Gundungurra Country, 25 February 6pm - 27 February 4pm. There are two other locations and dates. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/big-bushfire-bioblitz-registration-206905017477>

Postponed AGAIN to 21-22 June 2022 – Listening to the Lachlan Conference, Forbes. Details [here](#).

Sightings around Orange

If you see anything interesting, please email orangefieldnats@gmail.com or post it on Facebook. And thanks to the members who regularly send OFNCS photos for the newsletter or Facebook. Unfortunately, there have been too many from the last 2 months to include all.

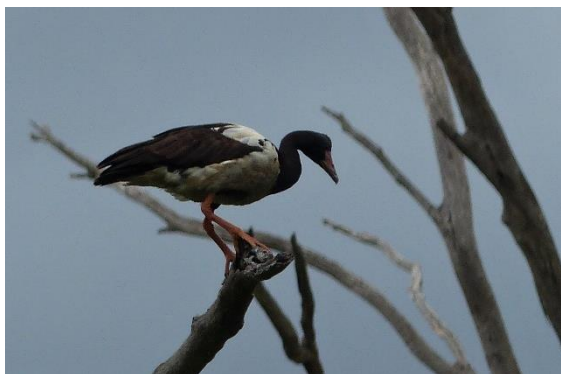
Water, water everywhere.....

In recent months there has been unseasonal heavy rain and storms in the Central West. There was flooding in the Lachlan, not just from spills of Wyangala Dam but large volumes of water came in from the Boorowa and Belubula Rivers. Then there was very heavy rain in Bland

and Back Creek which flow into Lake Cowal. Before getting to Lake Cowal this water blocked the Newell Highway for at least a week. A few members who are birders have headed out to see if there were waterbirds to see.

Murray Fletcher wrote:

‘Yesterday (27/1/22) Vicki and I drove out to Lake Cowal. We stopped off at Gum Swamp and there were lots of Magpie Geese there, particularly in the long grass near the giant Goanna sculpture.



Magpie Goose at Gum Swamp. Photo V Glover.

Between Forbes and West Wyalong along the Newell Highway, the water is all over the place (like driving through a lake) and we spotted several Glossy Ibis, including one that flew across the front of the car showing off its iridescence. It took us a while to actually find our way into the Lake itself. Having driven all the way around the bottom of the lake and west around the Lake Cowal gold mine, we saw a sign which said, "Public Access" and about 300m or so along that track, we came to the edge of the lake. We couldn't get any further in because it was all lake. We also found the road that cuts across the top of the lake and it had a sign which said "Road Closed Ahead". So, we drove around the sign up to the point where the road disappeared under water. There were plenty of birds with the best being Pink-eared Ducks. Last time the water was up and that road was closed (some years ago now) there were crakes and rails just wandering around out in the open but there was nothing like that this time. All up 485km driven, much of it on dirt.

Another thing we noticed throughout yesterday's trip was the number of cabbage white butterflies everywhere. There must have been millions of them and they all seem to be feeding along the roadsides on brassicaceous weeds. Certainly, a good season for insects!’

The Stapleton's had seen the millions of butterflies as well when we took a trip to Forbes (via the fruit orchard) and Condobolin. At a flooded 'lake' west of Eugowra there were hundreds 'drinking' around the water's edge. Near Corinella there were millions and millions fluttering over an unstriped canola crop.



Cabbage White Butterflies. Photo C Stapleton.

Further west great volumes of water from Lake Cowal were flowing north through Nerang Cowal to Bogandillion Swamp. And Banar Lake was flowing over the Lake Cargelligo Road. There weren't a lot of waterbirds although near Waroo, west of Forbes, the floodwater is still lying beside the road and a few Nankeen Night Herons were hunting (below) and hundreds of Whiskered Terns were fishing in the distance.



Nankeen Night Heron near Waroo. Photo Rosemary Stapleton.

While the floods caused significant damage to crops and farms it is good to know that the water is replenishing the mid and lower Lachlan wetlands. Many colonial nesting birds are breeding in these areas, a thing they only do when the wetlands receive a flood. These are the wetlands that will be severely impacted if the Wyangala Dam wall is raised.

These heavy rain events and storms have caused significant damage in towns and to many trees.

The damage is evident if you take a drive to Canowindra then via Gooloogong to Forbes.



One of the large trees blown over by a severe storm near Gooloogong. Photo R Stapleton.

'Things with Wings'

Superb Parrots – in early December, a Superb was seen perching on the fence at Oaktree Retirement Village. They were also seen eating some of the many acacia pods at Ploughmans wetland on 14/12/21 by Neil and Libby Jones.

Nigel Hobden also reports:

Over the past two years PhD Student McLean Cobden, from the Fenner School of Environment and Society, The Australian National University, has been monitoring nesting of the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*). It is a species listed as vulnerable.

In Orange Mclean, with assistance from a few helpers, has set up camera traps, checked nests and taken samples from chicks (below) for DNA testing. He is researching the DNA of the Orange, Cowra, and Canberra Superb Parrot populations to determine if the populations are related or if they are disjunct.



Superb Parrot chicks that are part of the DNA study. They were sampled in late November when they were a few weeks away from fledging. Photo Nigel Hobden.

McLean has also trapped and installed GPS trackers to male Parrots which are released in their nest locations. The tracker is a small backpack weighing around 7 grams or 4% of the bird's weight. A male Superb from Orange has been tracked travelling to the Pilliga Forest in western NSW, a distance of 350 kilometres.

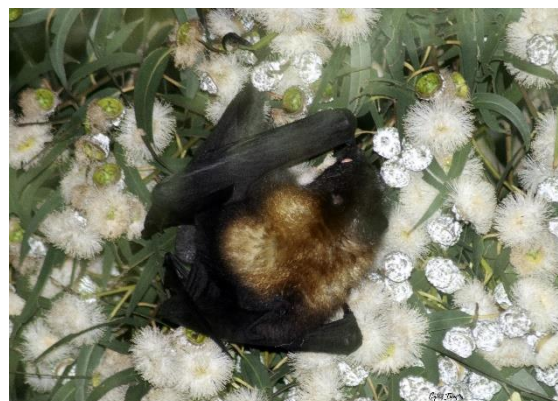
Little Eagles – the Medds occasionally see a Little Eagle at their property on Cargo Road. After hearing begging calls, they suspected there may have been a nest nearby. Kerry Medd scored by finding a recently fledged juvenile in a tree at their front gate. And on 30/1/22 an adult bird was seen bathing in their dam. How wonderful to see such a threatened spies from your front veranda!



Little Eagle. Photo Jenny Medd.

Other Fauna

Grey-headed Flying-fox (GH FF), *Pteropus poliocephalus* – these returned to the Ploughman's Lane roost in late November and are still there. Ironically, they arrived two weeks after the national GH FF count day and Nigel found none in Orange. Subsequently he photographed them feeding on Eucalypt blossom (below).



Echidna – I can't resist saying how delighted I was to see that at the Bathurst 1000 a safety car was needed when an Echidna decided to cross the Mt Panorama Track.

Snakes and Frogs

In the last two months a **Copperhead** and a **Black Snake** have been seen at the Ploughmans Wetland by Neil Jones. It's obviously providing good habitat.

Banjo Frogs (*Limnodynastes drumerilii*) were heard calling in ponds above Federal Falls in late January by Nigel Hobden.

Lichens

Heidi Zimmer has established a website to allow us to identify the rare and endemic lichens that are found on Mt Canobolas. <https://canobolaslichens.wordpress.com/>.

Plants

Hyacinth Orchids not on Mt Canobolas – on Boxing Day Hai spotted twenty flower spikes at Clifton Grove. Nigel has also found one spike in Black Sallee Reserve in this last week. They are *Dipodium punctatum*.

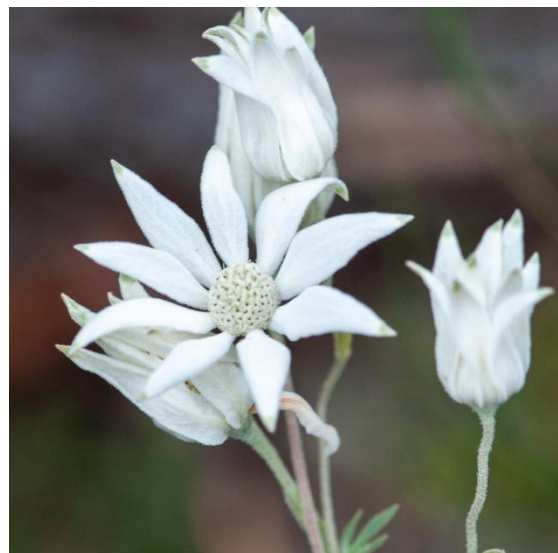
Spiranthes australis, commonly called Ladies' Tresses spotted by John Zimmer at Clifton Grove in the last two weeks. Dick Medd commented, 'This is a widespread orchid species, but quite uncommon locally. It prefers marshy swamps and bogs, so is obviously enjoying the extraordinarily wet summer!'



Spiranthes australis at Clifton Grove. Photo John Zimmer.

***Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flower) -**

Nigel went to the northern section of Goobang National Park at the end of January. He found Flannel Flowers along the Pipe Clay Creek track and another highlight was a *Prostanthera* along Sawpit Creek Trail. He said there were lots of flowers out in the Wanda Wandong camp area little nature walk. He drove the Wanda Wandong to Caloma Trig tracks and noted that the trail through to Greenbah Campground is closed as part of it is boggy.



Flannel Flower, from Goobang NP. Photo Nigel Hobden.

The Flannel Flowers can also be found on the Baldry Peak Hill Road 2.25 kms from the start of the south-eastern corner of the park. Beware if driving from Baldry as this road may be blocked for sedans with water over the road in several places. If coming from the Peak Hill side the flowers are right beside the road at the corner to the east of the pig farm.

Creature of the Month

Black Rock Scorpion: *Urodacus manicatus*
Report & photo by Richard & Jenny Medd.



This little critter made a surprise appearance for Christmas -- almost trodden underfoot in the hallway of our home near Nashdale. Having worked the property since the late 1970's we were oblivious to their existence, even in the district, as we've never heard of any local reports! Rosemary tells us her husband Doug regularly sighted them whilst rock picking at their Cudal property and Jennifer Kenna recalls a past OFNCS member had a knack for finding them.

Black Rock Scorpions vary in colour through reddish, dark and yellowish brown and are smaller than other species of *Urodacus*. At a guesstimate, this one would have stretched to around 10 cms from claw tip to tail tip. They are a long-lived species with females living for up to 8 years (on average). Native to eastern Australia they range from Queensland, through NSW and Victoria and into South Australia, mostly west of the Divide. While there are numerous observations recorded on Bionet/ALA, only one other local observation is listed for the area immediately around Orange, with very limited recordings for the wider region.

Its preferred habitat is rocky outcrops in open forest, where it excavates a burrow underneath rocks or logs with a terminal chamber and passage to the surface. It preys upon insects such as cockroaches and beetles, as well as

other invertebrates such as millipedes, centipedes, spiders and occasionally, earthworms.

Females give birth to live young. The pale young scorpions are carried on their mother's back for the first few days or weeks; once the juveniles have had their first moult, they usually disperse to find food and shelter for themselves. While not considered deadly to adult humans, the sting can cause local inflammation and pain for several hours and be more life-threatening to children.

All scorpions fluoresce under ultraviolet light; a feature scientists use to find them in the field. The fluorescence is thought to serve as an ultraviolet sensitivity mechanism, perhaps allowing the scorpion to avoid damaging light levels.

The Black Rock Scorpion is one of the species of scorpion most commonly seen for sale in pet shops in Australia and is relatively easy to keep in captivity. There are concerns wild populations are being depleted because of specimens taken for the pet trade.

Information taken from:

<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/spiders/black-rock-scorpion/> and
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urodacus_manicatus

Please note Annual Subscriptions are now due.

To join please send your cheque or money order made out to "OFNCS" to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr Dick Medd, OFNCS, PO Box 369 Orange NSW 2800.

EFT payments to: BSB 802 129: Account 100014678: O F N & Cons Soc Inc.

Please be sure to identify payments with your name and send confirmation to orangefieldnats@gmail.com

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Concession rate (printed newsletters) – \$25

Note: concession rate is for *bona fide* pensioners and students only

This Newsletter is produced for OFNCS by the Editor, Rosemary Stapleton. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Society. Items should not be reproduced without permission of the Editor.

Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, including the people of the Wiradjuri Nation, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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