



WHIRRRAKEE

April 1995

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO
FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3550

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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single \$30; Family \$35; Concession: Single \$20; Family \$30; Student \$20 *Whirrakee* subscription only is \$30.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Department of Food and Agriculture (formerly DARA) Meeting Room, Epsom. Meetings start at 7:30pm and conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month in members' homes. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members: W Demeo; R Orr; M Stone; A Howe; P Howden; S Beattie.

Excursions The assembly point for excursions is outside the Ministry of Education complex in Havlin Street East, Bendigo, unless otherwise specified. Full-day excursions normally commence at 10am (usually on a Sunday); half-day excursions normally commence at 2pm and may be either on a Saturday or Sunday. Full-day or half-day excursions are usually held on the weekend following the General Meeting. Campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has 2 active sub-groups:

Bird Observers Group: meets on the first Friday of the month, at 7:30pm. The venue for meetings is the Department of Food and Agriculture (formerly DARA) Meeting Room, Epsom.

President: Chris Tzaros

Secretary: Sally van Gent

Mammal Survey Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8pm in members' homes as announced in the monthly diary.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (39 5710)

Secretary: David McDonald, "Mulgara", Guys Hill Road, Strathfieldsaye (39 5756)

Equipment Officer: Ian Fenselau

Vice Chairman: John Guley

Front Cover

Congratulations to Tess and Tom Patullo who recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They have been long-standing and valued members of the Club and have, for many years now, been responsible for a good part of the *Whirrakee* including the organisation of the mail-out team. Here they are surrounded by some of their smaller fans.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 16, No. 3, April 1995

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.

Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.

Editor's note

In this issue is an article that brings into focus one aspect of the current drought - changes in the behaviour of black wallabies. There must be lots of stories around of things that are different this year - the prevalence of pelicans on our lakes this year (about 15 on Kennington Reservoir this morning), for example. So let's have them for *Whirrakee*.

The form for people wishing to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Club is included in this issue. We hope the night has good support, and are sure it will. Make sure you get the form back in good time, and thus help the organisers in their task.

Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Back issues are available at a cost of 80 cents each. Complete sets are available at \$ 8.00 for each volume. The above prices do not include postage.

Spine-tailed Swift or White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Author: Kate Lottkowitz

At dusk on January 28, we straddled a bird as we drove along Piccaninny Road. It appeared to be in good shape and recovered to a crouching position when the car passed. We stopped to pick up the bird, and as we approached it, a frail attempt at flying indicated that its wings were perfect, but its tail feathers were short and spiny - perhaps the result of attempted predation or harassment by other birds. It was an unfamiliar and pretty bird with deep colours and was in good condition with the exception of the tail feathers and its apparent inability to fly. We left it under shrubs at the side of the road and searched through our references. After identifying it as a Spine-tailed Swift, we returned and tried to launch it to freedom. After two attempts (from a tree, and further up a tree in an open paddock) we succeeded by throwing it from a ladder into the wind gust. The bird wheeled to the south and flew quickly and smoothly away.

IDENTIFICATION: 200mm long with a wingspan of 500mm. Males and females look similar, sooty brown above, paler on nape and centre of back; head duller, brown green, faintly mottled over crown. White frontal band over bill and white throat. Wings dark glossy purple-green above, dark below, extending 50 - 80mm beyond tail tip when the bird is at rest (making the tail appear very short). Tail dark glossy purple-green above; 4mm long spine projects from the centre of each tail feather. Eyes are black. Bill black, broad and slightly down curved.

Spine-tailed Swifts are migratory and almost exclusively aerial. From May to August they breed in Northern Asia and Japan, in forests south of the tundra, and then migrate to Australia slowly making their way down the eastern mountain range, appearing in Victoria by mid-December. They begin their journey northwards again between mid-March and the end of April. Whilst in Australia they spend almost all the time in flight following local weather changes. They can even sleep on the wing although they do cling to cliffs or tall trees with their sharp claws using their tail spines as a prop. Their twilight vision is excellent, making it possible for them to fly well into the night.

Spine-tailed Swifts are among the largest of the Swifts, and are one of the fastest-flying birds in the world. They cruise and feed on insects at 50-130km/h, alternating gliding with short bursts of flapping. Mainly feeding ahead of the weather changes (especially summer thunderstorms), they prefer warm, rising air, where there is maximum insect activity. They also gather over bushfires catching fleeing insects and on swarms. They fly in flocks ranging in size from small to very large and skim lakes and other stretches of water to drink. (J. Burtonclay has observed a flock circling a dam, swooping to take drinks on the wing and after a short time, leaving at great speed.)

They are not equipped for ground travel, and if stranded on the ground are incapable of taking off in flight. This characteristic led us to believe, at first, that the bird we had found must have been young one which had fallen out of its nest. We needed a tall ladder and high wind to make it airborne. It is interesting to note that it was found the day after one of our brief thunderstorms.

Predators of Spine-tailed Swifts include hawks, falcons and possibly owls. They are very conscious of hawks and will attack them by mobbing them. Swifts are also killed by flying into powerlines or high window panes and some are also hit by cars.

Swifts may look similar to swallows but they are not related. They are closer to frogmouths and nightjars, sharing good twilight vision and the habit of catching insects on the wing with a wide gape.

During the breeding season in the Northern Hemisphere, groups may be seen staging aerial courtship displays, and similar displays have been observed during summer in Australia. Their nest consists of a bracket of sticks, placed in tall broken-off trunks of conifers.



- References: Blakers, M., Davies, S. and Reilly, P. 1984. The Atlas of Australian Birds.
Reader's Digest 1974. Complete Book of Australian Birds
Trounson, M. & D. 1989. Australian Birds

March Club Meeting - Guest Speaker: Gary Sobey

Author: Sabine Wilkens

Do butterflies know that one day they are going to fly ?

This question was asked by the speaker who is the proprietor of 'Skydancers' the butterfly house/orchid nursery in Harcourt. Gary has loved butterflies as long as he can remember and that was obvious! Butterflies always make a great impact on children, probably because they are so highly visible and can be caught quite easily too. For Gary the passion continued, and when he later went into the nursery business he consistently refused to see butterflies (and their larvae) as his enemies. He told us how many leaves one particular butterfly caterpillar consumes and that this was a good reason to leave them alone. Gary's nursery background allowed him to set up 'Skydancers' with a different philosophy from the display house at the Melbourne Zoo. His idea was to encourage the cohabitation of butterflies and their food plants and thus avoid as much as

possible having to feed the animals on artificial nectar food. This meant that the plants needed quite some time to become established, and only now, after having opened for 15 months are they beginning to look good and supply enough food for the butterflies. The other big difference from Melbourne is that 'Skydancers' is not heated, and this allows Gary to display not only the usual spectacular tropical butterflies, but also the local species for which it is too hot and humid in the Melbourne Zoo house.

Gary had brought three beautifully prepared display cases along, and after the short introduction, talked about the animals in these, starting on the top left corner of the first one and finishing in the right bottom corner of the third. Potentially this can be a very boring way of giving a talk, but Gary showed so much enthusiasm, experience and knowledge and he wove so many stories into the talk that I didn't look at the clock once.

Many of the butterflies are widespread, occurring in Australia, New Guinea and throughout Asia. It is interesting that of the several subspecies, Australia often possesses the one with the brightest colouration. This applies for example to the Blue Triangle. This butterfly, like many, has increased its distribution since the arrival of white settlers. This is because the range of Australian food plants, which often restrict the butterflies to a particular habitat, may be drastically extended by the introduction of related, non-native food plants which also become acceptable to the butterfly. For the Blue Triangle this was the Camphor Laurel Tree which is a common garden tree in Sydney. Blue Triangles in Sydney are doing particularly well because their usual predators are not there.

Another butterfly which sometimes accepts Camphor Laurel is the Macleay's Swallowtail (its native food plant is Sassafras). Gary obtained about 20 pupae of this butterfly from which hatched 14 females. Out of the 14 females only one laid on his Camphor Laurel, the other layings were doomed as they occurred on plants that didn't support the larvae. The next generation (from the single female) produced 17 females, 14 of which laid on Gary's Camphor Laurel! Is this natural selection greatly speeded up? As long as the trait persists, the population of Macleay's Swallowtails at 'Skydancers' seems assured.

The largest butterfly in south-eastern Australia, the Orchard Butterfly, has also greatly extended its range due to being able to lay on *Citrus* and many other introduced horticultural plants. It has recently become established in Canberra. Locally it has been sighted by quite a few Club members so there is a good chance for it to become established in Bendigo one day.

The introduction of related, non-native food plants can also have disastrous consequences, and Gary gave an example from the N.S.W. coast. The Richmond's Birdwing (not the large green one but a smaller version, however, just as lovely) feeds, as a caterpillar, on a native vine called Dutchman's Pipe. A closely related plant by the same name and appearance was introduced as a vigorous garden plant, and this import became more attractive for female Birdwings to lay their eggs on. Unfortunately, though, the leaves could not be eaten by the caterpillars which led to the near extinction of this species in a very short time. Luckily, in this case, the authorities acted quickly and made the imported variety illegal. Normally this is not enough to make people pull up their plants from their gardens, but here officers actually went around offering the native species in

exchange and supervising the destruction of the imported species. This strategy worked very well and the population of Richmond's Birdwing is healthy again.

The Swordgrass Brown occurs on the east coast of Australia. The appearance of the population changes dramatically around Port Macquarie because the northern form mimics another butterfly which shares its habitat. This latter butterfly feeds on the poisonous Oleander and is therefore avoided by birds. Where the southern form of the Swordgrass Brown meets the northern form hybridisation occurs, resulting in a zone with a highly variable population. Gary has been able to achieve some hybridisation in his house and is now patiently awaiting what new coloration nature can come up with.

The butterflies we were shown had wonderful names, Australian Painted Lady, Admiral, Cruiser, Great Egg Fly, Tailed Emperor, Meadow Argus, Fringed Blue, Moonlight Blue, and there were many Browns, Whites and Yellows. Almost every one was accompanied by a story and we were told what to plant in our garden to attract some of these.

(However, it is much quicker and much less work to go and see them at 'Skydancers'.)

As Rob Moors said at the end when thanking the speaker, 'if we only retained just a fraction of this information we have all learned a lot'.

Thanks also go to Warwick for holding the boxes upright through the entire talk.

Bird Notes and Observations - February Meeting

Author: Bird Observers Group

Highlights

Swift Parrot (1) Strathfieldsaye, 25/12/94

Bell Miner Bendigo Psychiatric Centre, Feb. 1994

Observations

Leaden Flycatcher (2) Pilchers Bridge Flora & Fauna Reserve, 26/12/94

Chestnut-rumped Hylacola (1) Pilchers Bridge Flora & Fauna Reserve, 26/12/94

Brown Goshawk (3; 1 ad., 2 juv.) Pilchers Bridge Flora & Fauna Reserve, 26/12/94

Spotted Quail-thrush (1) Diamond Hill Historic Reserve, 28/12/94

White-throated Needletail (50-60) Black Rock Road, Whipstick S.P., 17/1/95

Greenshank (5) Bendigo Sewage Farm, 18/1/95

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (24) Bendigo Sewage Farm, 18/1/95

Australian Crake (4) Bendigo Sewage Farm, 18/1/95

Diamond Firetail (3) Mandurang State Forest, 16/1/95

White-fronted Chat (26) Black Duck Cove, Lake Eppalock, 22/1/95

Owlet Nightjar (3; 1 ad., 2 juv.) Kangaroo Gully Road, 16/12/94 - 29/1/95

White-browed Babbler (7) Edwards Road, Maiden Gully, 29/1/95

Notes

The Swift Parrot is usually a winter visitor to mainland Australia, following breeding in Tasmania and nearby islands. Previous 'early' records have been around late February and early March, so this record in December is most unusual. John Robinson observed the bird flying over his property in Strathfieldsaye, and it was also heard calling.

Prior to 1991, there had been no records of Bell Miners in Bendigo, or anywhere further inland of Nagambie (the previous most inland record of Bell Miners). Since 1991, there have been six sightings of the species around the Bendigo District, and bird(s) at the Bendigo Psychiatric Centre are the most recently discovered.

The two young Brown Goshawks were observed perched near the nest, whilst their mother, calling very loudly, tried to distract the observer and lure him away from the young.

Bird Notes and Observations - March Meeting

Author: Bird Observers Group

Observations

New Holland Honeyeater (6) Pilcher Street, Bendigo, 27/2/95

Rainbow Bird (15) Flying over Dept. Agriculture Building, Epsom, 20/3/95

White-browed Woodswallow (2 ad., 3 imm.) Tang Tang Swamp, 19/2/95

Red-rumped Parrot (several) Tang Tang Swamp, 19/2/95

Dusky Woodswallow (4) Tang Tang Swamp, 19/2/95

Owlet Night-jar (2) Kangaroo Gully, 7-13/2/95

Speckled Warbler (2) Kangaroo Gully, 17/2/95

Hooded Robin (2; Ad. female feeding imm.) Corner Rd., Lake Eppalock, 7/2/95

Blue-faced Honeyeater (4) St. Vincents Hospital Social Club, Lake Eppalock, 8/2/95

Yellow Rosella (1) Mandurang South Rd., Sedgwick, 23/2/95

Notes

The Owlet Night-jars at Kangaroo Gully have been reported over the last months, with one bird still in the vicinity at present. The juvenile was observed roosting in the opening of the nest hollow whilst the adult female was in a hollow log 40 metres away. After 13/2/95, the juvenile was not observed again and was presumed fledged. The adult was observed roosting in the same hollow for the next eight days, before shifting to another hollow. It appears to be dominating three hollows within a distance of about 60 metres.

The Yellow Rosella at Sedgwick was probably an aviary escapee, as the bird's usual habitat is along the Murray River. The bird was observed feeding with Eastern Rosellas on roadside grasses.

Birds of the Night at Bird Observer Group Meetings

Below is the program for this segment of the Bird Observer Group Meetings for 1995:

February	Eastern Rosella
March	Tawny Frogmouth
April	Olive-backed Oriole
May	Rufous Songlark
June	White-winged Triller
July	Owlet Nightjar
August	Grey and Pied Currawongs
September	Sacred Kingfisher
October	Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets
November	White-faced and Pacific Herons
December	Bendigo District Finches

From the Mailbag

Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the Club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for *Whirrakee*. These are available from the Club librarian at our meetings.

ANH (Australian Museum Trust) Summer 1994-95

'Golden Bandicoot' by Alaric Fisher and John Woinarski reports on the value of islands as sanctuaries, and of the progressive investigation of the Wessel Group off the Northern Territory coast. Evidence collected shows the possibility of the endangered Golden Bandicoot being present. Further research will be needed to verify this.

'Palms: Plants with Hearts' by Tim Low points out the usefulness of palms, not least being the food they provide. This includes large and small fruits, and palm hearts. Unfortunately, obtaining the latter usually destroys the plant. Details of other palm products are given.

'Pandanus: Then and Now' by Richard Braithwaite deals with the changes in pandanus growth which have taken place since the arrival of buffalo and pigs in the Northern Territory. In many areas impenetrable thickets have given way to isolated clumps, with a consequent reduction in the fauna species which rely on this habitat.

'Dining with the Devil' by Menna Jones asks how the Tasmanian Devil got its name and if its reputation is deserved. The writer points out that while it is easy to see how it got its name and popular image, its true nature belies this reputation. The species is fully described and its various behaviours, including the unsavoury ones, are detailed.

'Big Tooth' by John Long points out that despite sharks being perhaps the most feared and ill-famed group of marine creatures, only very few of its 360 species have any reputation for attacking humans. The Great White Shark is the most dreaded but read why its extinct fossil relatives would have been even more feared!

PARK WATCH(VNPA) March 1995 No. 180

'Forest or Freeway' by Julian Guess reports on the proposed and actual construction work planned for the Koonung and Mullum Mullum valleys in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. These valleys have been described as a 'biological oasis' in the middle of suburbia. Details are given of an ecological study of the area commissioned by the previous State Government.

'Rainforest in Victoria: An Asset at Risk' by Colin Smith points out that 'Victorians are fortunate to live in a state with an important rainforest heritage. Our rainforests are home to a diverse and wondrous array of species and therefore deserve to be carefully managed. Like so many communities of plants and animals across Victoria, their future is inexorably linked to human activity. The survival of rainforests is in our hands'.

'Park Notes: Mitchell River National Park' by Deidre Slattery describes the interesting features of this area centred on the Mitchell River gorge near Bairnsdale in Eastern Victoria. Particular reference is made to the Den of Nargun cave, first visited by the writer as a child.

'History Notes: James Barrett and Victoria's National Parks' by Janet Coveney deals with Barrett's important role as a campaigner for national and municipal parks in the early years of this century. He was involved in the early National Parks organisations and spent many years urging the reservation of public land. Barrett recognised the importance of conserving flora and fauna but he also realised that such reserves must play a role in recreation and tourism.

Black Wallaby Subsistence Diet

Author: Mal Haysom

On the weekend of January 28 1995 severe electrical storms swept across Central Victoria. They caused damage amounting to tens of thousands of dollars to electronic communication equipment. But not a drop of rain fell.

Two CFA volunteers are taking the West Woodstock tanker on the Sunday morning exercise run. Gazing across the bare paddocks, observing the north wind and feeling the heat apparent even at nine-thirty, the passenger comments, "They say there'll be no fires because there's no grass to burn. But under conditions like these even the sheep dung in the paddocks can carry fire."

Two people view Nuggetty Ranges from in front of the Tarrengower Prison. A clearly defined area of eucalypts on the north west side of a ridge are totally brown. The local pessimists declare that they are dead - only time will tell..

Two farmers are crutching sheep at a shed near the Shelbourne Silos.

"Do ya reckon it's worse than the '82 drought?"

"Not sure mate, but I know that some dams that lasted in that drought are dry now."

Sixteen kilometres north west of Maldon is about a thousand acres of bush on several private titles. The area, known as Blue Hills, has survived as bush because the ground is too rocky, dry and hilly to encourage any agricultural activity. It supports a large number of Grey Kangaroos which raid the adjoining pastures for feed and water. It also carries a smaller number of Black Wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*).

In normal seasons the Black Wallabies are not seen outside of the bush. They can obtain sufficient feed without raiding the pastures. This year they have not found feed within the bush and have encroached onto cultivated land for feed.

The wallabies approach humans and their dwelling place with a different attitude from the larger kangaroos. Both are cautious, but the 'roo displays daring and some degree of arrogance. The wallaby shows a timid courage (if we can accept this apparent oxymoron). The wallaby is well aware of the harm humans may inflict but is pressed by need for food to approach. The wallaby recognises that there is a chance for negotiation - a coexistence - with man and beast drawing from common resources. But the 'roo will always be a raider.

Elly Fry captures these characteristics faithfully in her illustrations in William D.L Ride's book "A Guide to the Native Mammals of Australia" (Oxford University Press, 1970). If you have access

to this book compare Plate 6, (Western Grey Kangaroo) with Plate 5 (Tammam Wallaby) and this will give you a good idea of how the character of the kangaroos and wallabies in the Blue Hills differ.

The wallabies appeared close to our house (which is about 100 metres from the scrub boundary) in December. One could be seen at dusk among our few small fruit trees about 25 metres from the house. She would pick up fallen plums, and, with a cautious eye out for us or the dog, would gracefully eat them using her front paws to hold the fruit. She was undeniably 'cute'. It was fortunate that she acquired this label for herself and her friends and thus earned protection from harsh treatment (that is, the kelpie was taught that wallabies, unlike 'roos were permitted guests) before some of her less 'cute' behaviour became evident.

We have identified three wallabies which have grown increasingly bold in recent months. At first they were seen only early in the morning and after dusk but now they approach the house well before sunset and can be seen two or three hours after sunrise, and overnight they approach to within two or three metres of the building.

Their diet is diverse. Once the fallen plums were exhausted they tackled the fruit (plums, apples, apricots and peaches) still on the trees. In the process they caused considerable damage to the young trees by breaking branches. In the vegetable patch they attacked tomatoes, water melons, basil, parsley and lettuce, ignoring (to my disappointment) the pumpkin vine and its fruit.

We have a small vineyard of some 260 vines, and this proved to be very attractive to our timid guests. Initially they ignored the unripe grapes and ate only the vine leaves. When the grapes began to ripen they added them to their diet. They feed in fine style by removing a bunch of grapes with their front paws and then eating them, seemingly, a grape at a time. We have come to terms with them over the grapes by dividing the vineyard into two parts, one of which is 'ours' and the other is 'theirs'. The test of this territorial arrangement will come if they finish their portion, - the barrier separating the portions is only light bird netting.

These 'cute' wallabies also eat the bark of the fruit trees and some of our hand planted natives. They eat the foliage of some native trees, mainly acacias. They nibble lucerne hay but not phalaris or oaten hay. The commonality in their choice of food is that it all contains some moisture, though water is available from the dam or the dog's water bowl.

We had some rain (20mm) a week or two ago and now there is a small amount of green ground feed available, and as I write two wallabies are feeding close to the house. Now here's a worry: we have a paddock without stock on it, there must fresh food out there, so why aren't they grazing on it? I just hope they realise that once this d*mned drought is over the 'feed the cute animals' deal is off!

A small, thin, grey, black-tipped mammal's tail stuck in the mud

Authors: Salli Derricott and Calum Walker

It has been with much anticipation that Calum and I have been looking forward to moving to our land adjacent to the North end of the Pilchers Bridge Flora and Fauna Reserve, with the subsequent opportunities to observe the abundant bird, plant and animal life that reside there.

One of the birds which has an aura of mystery about it is the Powerful Owl, reputed to be resident in the Reserve. I have often wondered how I would go about observing the birds or evidence of their whereabouts.

Recently (about late February) I found a small, thin grey, black-tipped mammal's tail stuck in the mud of our dam. I identified it as probably a tail from a Sugar Glider. I then recalled reading somewhere that Powerful Owls prey on sugar gliders and snip their tails off. After much searching I found a small article confirming this in a back copy of a Land for Wildlife publication.

On Monday the 13th of March, we found two more tails inside the incomplete shell of our mud brick house, within feet of each other. Something definitely has a penchant for Sugar Gliders.

As I have not been able to confirm this in any other literature, perhaps someone else may have some evidence, anecdotal or otherwise?

Easter Campout at the Chiltern Valley No 2 Mine, in the Chiltern Regional Park

The Club has received permission to camp at the Chiltern Valley No. 2 Mine site providing the following commonsense requirements are met:

*** FIRES:** At the time of receiving permission (16th March) it was suggested by the Ranger in Charge that without good rain, fires would be unacceptable unless lit in the permanent fire places at Cyanide Dam and then subject to possible total fire bans. Gas-fuelled stoves are o.k., **so please bring them.**

Note: For update on fire situation ring Warwick Bates on 411980 a day or so before heading off.

***TOILETS:** Pit toilets are o.k. if properly constructed and managed.

***VEHICLES:** Minimal movement of vehicles "off road" in the Park.

*** All other Park regulations must be observed.**

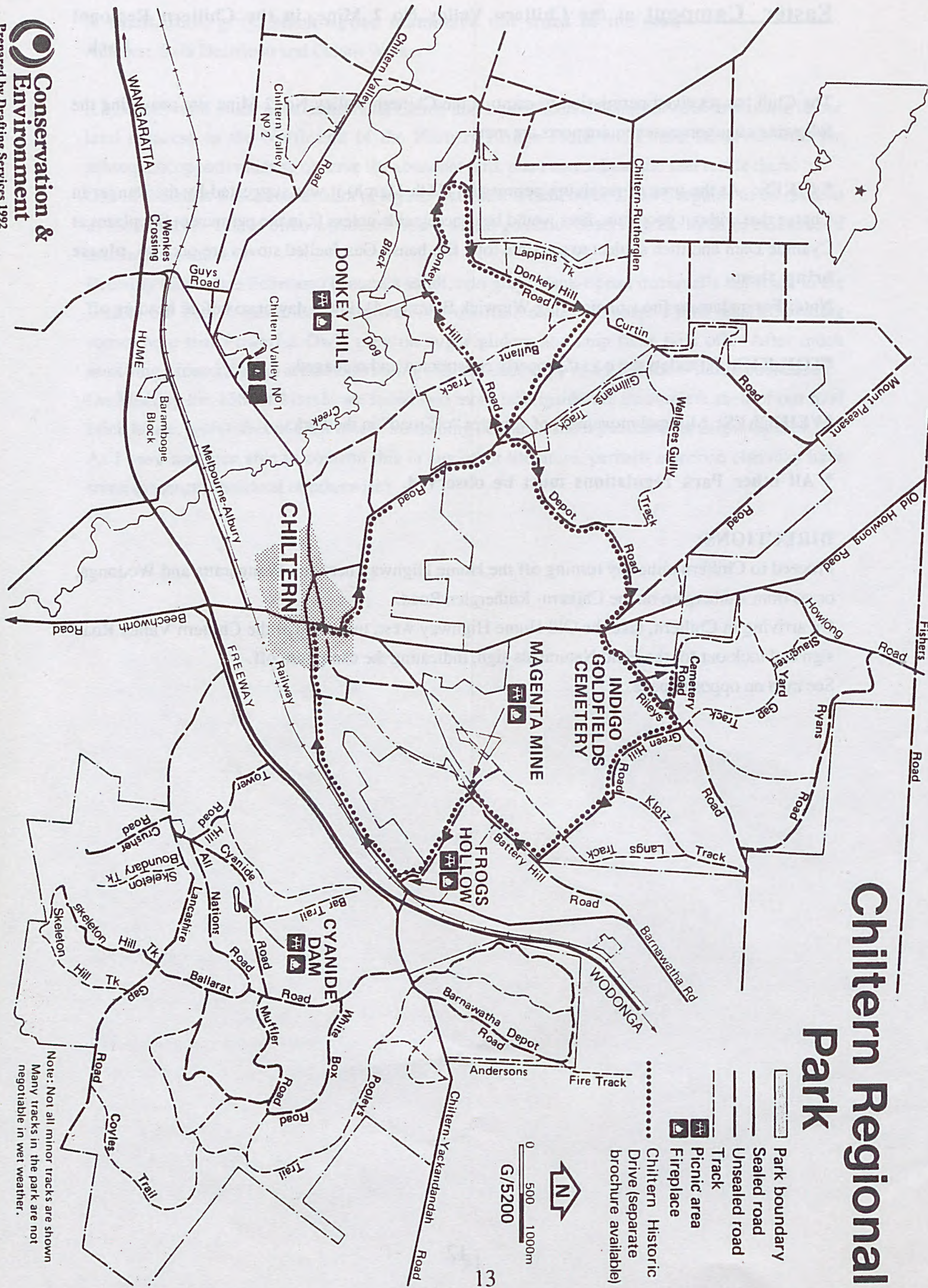
DIRECTIONS:

Proceed to Chiltern either by turning off the Hume Highway between Wangaratta and Wodonga, or go from Rutherglen on the Chiltern- Rutherglen Road.

On arriving in Chiltern, take the Old Hume Highway west, turn right at the Chiltern Valley Road sign and look out for the Field Naturalists sign, indicating the camp turn off.

See map on opposite page.

Chiltern Regional Park



█ Park boundary

▬ Sealed road

▬ Unsealed road

▬ Track

⊞ Picnic area

⊞ Fireplace

⊞ Chiltern Historic Drive (separate brochure available)



Note: Not all minor tracks are shown
Many tracks in the park are not negotiable in wet weather.

Diary

All general and Bird Observers Group meetings are held at the Department of Food and Agriculture, corner Taylor Street and Midland Highway Epsom, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday April 12, 7:30pm

Speaker: Ken McDonnell will give a talk about birds of the Farne Islands.

Bird Observers Group

Friday April 7, 7:30pm

Speaker: Peter Menkhorst from the Dept. Conservation & Natural Resources (Flora and Fauna Branch) will talk on the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program.

Friday May 5, 7:30pm

Speaker: David Marcollo will speak on searching for Paradise Parrots

Friday June 2, 7:30pm

Speaker: John Robinson will talk on the wildlife of Puckapunyal

Friday July 7, 7:30pm

Ray Wallace will give a talk on some birds and habitats to the north of Bendigo and how some species have increased/decreased in numbers over the years.

Easter Camp

This will be held at Chiltern State Park (Chiltern No.2 Mine) from April 14 - 17.

Details on page 12 and 13 of this issue.

Mid Murray Field Naturalists Club Campout

June 9 - 12.

Venue: O'Bree Mallee Fowl Reserve, Boundary Bend.

Leader: R. Chick. (Tel. 050 321634)

Supper

The usual arrangements for supper are as follows: members either bring a plate or pay \$1 for supper. This small amount is used by the treasurer to reimburse members who purchase essential supper supplies.

50th Anniversary of The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club.

For details of the **dinner** and the **public lecture** see separate insert in this issue.