



**The Greater
Dandenong
Environment
Group Inc.**

Newsletter!

December/January

The trip to the Pearcedale Conservation Park

On 3rd Nov we went to the Pearcedale Conservation Park. The group had donated 900 surplus plants to the park and we went to plant them. After a slight delay we soon got to work in the usual GDEG fashion with more helpers arriving. We soon had 13 people, either members or friends, planting.

At about 4pm we stopped for tea and we resumed planting until just before 6 pm. Then we returned to the reception hall where drinks and dips were supplied to us. Some of us took the chance to see the Spinifex Hopping Mice, the Fat-tailed Dunnart and to search for the New Holland Mouse in the display cabinets. At some time in the evening some of us were introduced to the Carpet Python. Amanda got very broody when Grace produced a baby Quoll, which no-one was allowed to touch - which was probably just as well or it may have been loved to death.

We had a very nice barbeque tea served to us followed by some delicious desserts. Those of us who had other activities planned either went home or took the early tour. The rest of us stayed in the reception hall just talking and drinking tea etc.

During the afternoon we had been closely supervised by the resident emu (some thought too closely at times) and had interacted with the dingos, six of whom were in a pen near the plants.

This was just a taste of what was to come. We were introduced to Potoroos, Bettongs (Eastern and Brush-tailed), Pademelons, Squirrel Gliders, more Quolls and Feather-tailed Gliders. We also saw a Masked Owl. There had been two Masked Owls. Apparently they mate for life but the resident two were road accident victims so were not the original pair. The female recently killed the male. Not a good prognosis for the survival of the species. We finished with the common but nevertheless special Tawny Frogmouth.

My thanks to all who took part. It is very special when you organise an event and get that kind of support from the members, so my thanks. I also received an e-mail from the Park thanking us for our contribution.

Earth Sanctuaries Little River

On the 10th Nov we joiner The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and The Earth Sanctuaries Foundation (which is like the Friends of Earth Sanctuaries) in a reptile survey. Previously the Field Nats had placed sheets of tin in several places so we wanted to see if they had matured enough to have attracted any residents.

The week before there had been a shareholders day and much was made of the Tiger Orchids so as they were on the way we stopped for some photos. We also found Sun Orchids but they were not in flower.

Spreading out in a line we eventually found some tin and a Little Whip Snake another had a Spotted Marsh Frog. One of our number discovered a very light coloured Eastern Tree Dragon, it was quite cold and was easily caught so it was posed on a log for some photos after which it was stowed away in a hollow log to protect it.

Proceeding to one of my lines of tin we found a Spotted Marsh Frog where we found one months before and at the end of the line a rather pregnant looking Blue Tongue Lizard. We adjourned for lunch.

After lunch we headed for the granite outcrops finding Blue Tongues as we approached. The weather suddenly changes and a series of squalls can through that alternately tried to blow us away or wash us of but we persevered and were rewarded by catching a large Cunningham's Skink and seeing a White Striped Skink. The Little Whip Snake was under the same rock as last time and the time before so all was well with his world . We followed the road to the east where Growling Grass frogs had been sighted. We turned (and replaced) virtually every rock or piece of tin in the area but the only thing of interest was a dead Brown Falcon. Our frog expert appeared so we went to the dam below the shearing sheds to look for frogs and found a Southern Brown Tree Frog and then a Growling Grass Frog who was a rather handsome fellow large and mainly green. We returned to the mansion for tea and enjoyed dips, grilled sausages and salads followed by cake.

After tea a smaller party returned to the dam and played frog calls on a tape recorded and despite the cold and blustery weather we had a reply from the Growling Grass Frog and 2 Banjo Frogs. We then returned home after a very enjoyable day as before we had 13 people take part, all of whom had a great time and want to do it again. Which, if I can arrange it will be in early February. Again I would like to thank all those who took part and made the organization of this event worthwhile.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be the last one before Christmas, it was decided to give me a treat by freeing me from catering duties by getting attending members to bring a contribution for super.

So please come and bring a friend and a plate I look forward to seeing you there. which is 64 Fillmore Road, Dandenong Nth 3175, Ph 9795 7423 at 7-30pm.

Christmas Cakes

Don't forget to phone Dorothy and Brian for your Lions Club Cakes which will apart from tasting good will also allow them to do good too. Phone 9795 6031

Calendars

On the subject of Christmas etc the Field Naturalists Club calender is out, It costs \$12 each there are some very nice photos all of nice things. None of yours truly naked with a cage trap held in a strategic position (thank god) which seems to be the norm these days. So buy! buy! buy! it's all in a good cause.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you all for your support during the year and to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.