

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<



FRIENDS OF EASTERN OTWAYS

Celebrating and caring for the environment of the Eastern Otways

ANGAIR WILDFLOWER WEEKEND & ART EXHIBITION

As members of the Friends' Group are deeply committed to this annual event, we request as many people as possible to help with the preparation of the show on Friday September 15, and the running of the event during the week-end. If you would like to spend some time at the Friends' display, just chatting with people and selling our new walking guide please contact Margaret 0412 562 419.

The Friends' display will focus on the **new walking guide** with an activity aimed at children involvement. We will also include a visual presentation of wildlife found in the Eastern Otways based on our mammal surveys.

LOCATION: Memorial Hall, McMillan St, Anglesea



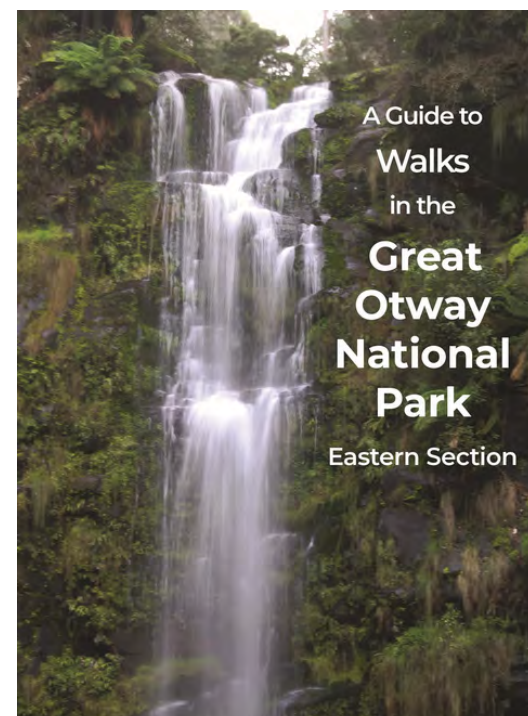
**SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
16 & 17** >>>
10AM - 4PM

A GUIDE TO WALKS IN THE GREAT OTWAY NATIONAL PARK - EASTERN SECTION

The original publication of this walking guide took place in 2004, so after almost 20 years and with our stock completely depleted, we have now produced a new edition to share with all those who enjoy walking within our Great Otway National Park.

Stretching along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria, from the Ironbark Basin to Grey River, the eastern section of the Great Otway National Park provides numerous walking tracks through a diversity of landscapes: heathlands, fern gullies, waterways, temperate rainforests, waterfalls and coastal areas. The park provides habitat for a variety of flora and fauna, many of which may be seen on the enjoyable walks included in the guide.

The new publication will be launched at the ANGAIR Wildflower Show in September. Any profits from sales will be directed to conservation and conservational activities within the Great Otway National Park.



A Guide to
Walks
in the
**Great
Otway
National
Park**
Eastern Section

OUT ON IRONBARK GORGE

FUNGI AND LICHEN WALK

By John Lenagan

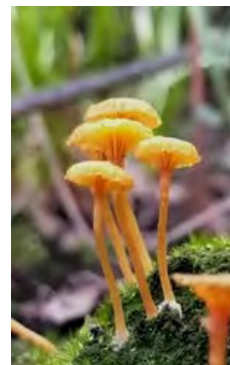
We could see there was a break in the rain clouds on the BOM, and after some discussion on safety and our wet weather gear the small group of 9 Fungi hunters set forth out into the Ironbark Gorge.

Conditions were still good to find some fungi although it was a little late in the season, however the forest was still moist and there were many other eye opening discoveries to be encountered.

As we headed off through the lower flatter habitat that had been burnt 12 months earlier, it was interesting to see what had come back and how well it was all doing. There were a few remnant Small Mosquito Orchids - *Acianthus pusillus* and the occasional Dwarf Greenhood - *Pterostylis nana* and its taller cousin *Pterostylis melagramma* to be found on the sides of the path.



Some of the fruiting fungi from the Subphylum Agaricomycotina such as the Orange Moss Agaric - *Rickenella fibula* these were often found within the moss beds alongside the path as were these their lichen cousins the Yellow Navel Fungi - *Lichenomphalia chromacea* which are dependant on Crustose Lichen and always seen growing on it.



Some of the other fungi seen on the walk included various species from the Tremellales, Stereaceae and Clavariineae Fungi families with the odd more typical small Agaric here and there, all up about 18 different species of Fungi were observed.



Yellow Club - *Clavulinopsis helvola*

Hairy Bracket - *Stereum ochraceoflavum*

Cinnamon Polypore - *Coltricia cinnamomea*

Snow Fungus - *Tremella fuciformis*

As we ventured further up the slopes we noticed the Fungi were not in such abundance however their closely related cousins the Lichens were out in force doing well in the locations around the tree trunks, and on the fallen tree branches, many were extending their new growth further across the rocks and soil after laying dormant during the dryer periods.

It was such a diverse day of discovery with numerous different species of Lichen, Liverworts and mosses to be found, sometimes up to a dozen different species could be observed within a ½ meter patch. It is true to say that the planned two and a half hour walk turned into nearly 4 hours with different species to be discovered at every turn.

The Lichens can often go unnoticed, while related to their wintering Fungi Cousins, they can be found all year round within some fairly extreme environments. Each Lichen is a complex little community, consisting of a fungus, a chlorophyll containing partner, either green algae or cyanobacteria or both which live together in a symbiotic relationship. Fundamentally the fungus provides a suitable habitat for the partner, which provides photo synthetically fixed carbon as their energy source. Lichen species do have their favourite substrates, some preferring soil, others bark and rocks and a whole family enjoy a seldom seen epiphytic relationship up in the tree canopies.

The Lichens can be separated into their main groups:- the Crustose Lichen which are often seen as textural blemishes, as compared to the Fruticose Lichen that can look like bizarre miniature plants and then there are the Light and Dark Foliose Lichens that have spreading flat shield like plate structures often with fruiting bodies atop of them and finally the Coral and Rein Deer Lichens.

WE SAW MORE THAN 20 SPECIES OF LICHEN

Crustose Lichen:



White Thallus - *Lecanora pseudistera*



Wort Lichen - *Ochrolechia pallescens*



Peppered Rock Sheild - *Xanthoparmelia conspersa*



Gold-dust Lichen - *Chrysothrix candelaris*



Pixie-hair Lichen - *Coenogonium implexum*

Fruticose Lichen:



1. *Usnea scabrida* 2. Ladder Lichen - *Cladonia verticillata* 3. Inflated Beard - *Usnea cornuta* 4. Dragon Horn Cladonia squamosa 5. Common Cladia - *Cladia aggregata*

AUGUST WATERFALL WALK: CORA LYNN CASCADES

SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST

By Lesley Cadzow

With the advance welcoming party concerned about the likely numbers on a mizzly Saturday morning, it was wonderful to see car after car spill out their eager occupants. The whole Crowcroft family from children through to granny was there to swell the numbers to seventeen as we set out to the Cora Lynn Cascades. Cora Lynn is Gaelic meaning kettle pool.

Entering through the portals of the Otway rainforest, the grandeur of the massively buttressed Eucalyptus regnans (Mountain Ash) drew our eyes skywards to their rather spindly canopy. Below the canopy tree ferns guarded the gently trickling streams with the greenest of mossy banks, and mountain correas (first named by Hooker) hung thick with white flower candles.

Mosses and lichens dripped out their moisture and a red mite with 3 white spots seemed to signal its unpalatability with its outrageous colour. There were snatches of bird calls – a whistler, crested honeyeater and wrens and the conversation moved to the magnificence of bird song, with particular reference to the repertoire of the lyre bird. Legions of orange bracket fungi marched up dead wood, and there was a rather wilted coral fungus growing on one of the steps.

We all found our own pace and enjoyed the company of likeminded walkers and naturalists - our leader gratified that all made it back through the mud to the picnic table where the wrens and honeyeaters twittered around our lunch. A timely reflection on the beauty of forest bathing!!

Our 5 km squelchy ramble was a little eclipsed by the waterfall trail runners doing 20-50 kms on the magnificently muddy trails. All were in good spirits, however, and the ones flagging perked up as we cheered them through.





MACKILLOP COLLEGE COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT



As this project heads towards its completion for this year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the students and staff of the College for their assistance in the protection of Crown land in the Moggs Creek area. Over the six sessions ranging from

June 2 to August 10, the students and staff have contributed 258 hours of voluntary assistance, and the coastal heathlands at Moggs Creek are looking just so much healthier, having been freed from invasive environmental weeds.

We have one more session on Friday, September 8, and we would be pleased to welcome any volunteers who would like to participate. Meet in Robyn Road, Moggs Creek at 9.25am.

The activity runs for approximately 2 hours, followed by coffee at Skinny Legs Café, Aireys Inlet.



Some keen weeders out in the heath

Upcoming events

21st October Wildflower walk

18th November Rockpool Ramble

details to come via email

PETE'S BACK PAGE

Hi friends! Welcome to one of the most biodiverse times of the year! Many of the plants are flowering already and are starting to show their spring colours. Down the side are some recent pics from around town. There's promise of a great wildflower season! So in my never ending quest to see as much Australian biodiversity as possible I am planning weekends full of camping and travelling Victoria to see a few new ones. That said, looking through Marg's book (Flowers of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet) there are still plenty in there I haven't met, yet.

I hope many of you make it along to the wildflower show and check out a copy of the new, hot off the press, walking guide to our coast.

Also, if you haven't already, have a browse through the new look website:

www.feo.org.au

There are many of your favourite walks in the park listed and with maps and notes on the flora and fauna. This was made possible from a grant from The Geelong Foundation. The digital interactive walk around the Distillery Creek nature trail was included as part of this project, so make sure to check that one out also!

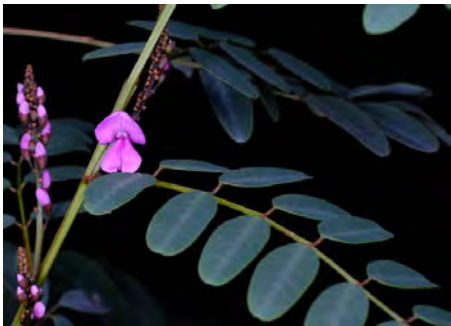
Contributing to our ongoing conservation and engagement projects is the generous donation from Rapid Ascent, organisers of the Surf Coast Century which runs on the same Saturday as the Wildflower Show. **We are still looking for some volunteers** to help out on the Saturday 16th please get in touch with me if you are able to help keep tired runners on the right track for a few hours - it isn't hard, and can be quite fun!

Rod Brooks has put in the hard digital yards this year to make sure we were able to deliver our website upgrade project in time - **thank you Rod** your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Here's some more of John's lichens, cheers everyone!



Leucopogon glacialis - Twisted Beard Heath



Indigofera australis - Austal Indigo



Machaerina acuta



Schoenus lepidosperma



Tube Lichens - *Hypogymnia pulverata*



Specklebelly Lichen - *Pseudocyphellaria dissimilis*



Greenshield Lichen - *Flavoparmelia caperata*



Coral Lichen - *Pulchrocladia fernandii*



Fuzzy Reindeer Lichen - *Cladonia confusa*