

Newsletter 287 Sept 2019

Description

Friends of Chiltern Mt Pilot NP Newsletter #287 Sept 2019

FRIENDS OF CHILTERN MT-PILOT NATIONAL PARK, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

September Field Day and AGM

The weather was not great but a hardy group ventured to Bartley's Block for an afternoon walk. A few Vinca and Caper Spurge seedlings were dispatched as we started the walk and the participants were pleased to find a few Painted Honeyeaters and an amazing number of Grey Fantails. Everywhere we looked there were Grey Fantails. Usually, there are one or two but not 30 or more. Some of the birds seemed to have more white on them. Further investigation revealed that Grey Fantails may migrate and that the ones with more white on them could be a sub-species that is usually found in the Bass Strait islands. We have no conclusive proof that any of the birds in the Park belong to this sub-species but it was great to realise that these birds can move over considerable distances.



Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*) photo: Neville Bartlett

Karen Retra and others found some colonies of Coconut ants (*Tapinoma sessile*) and the more that we looked, the more colonies that we found. These ants had been found in previous years and are now known to be reasonably common in the Park.



Karen Retra (above) inspecting a colony of Coconut ants (*Tapinoma sessile*) â?? photos: Neville Bartlett



An interesting find was what looked like a set of bones but Martin informed us that they were the lower shell from a turtle and it is called a plastron.



A plastron, or lower shell, of a turtle â?? photo: Neville Bartlett

Another discovery was a fungus that could only identified to a genus level but it is commonly known as a puffball.



Puffball (*Pisolithus* sp.) photo: Neville Bartlett

Having several skilled bird watchers present also resulted in the discovery of a male Rose Robin (*Petroica rosea*).



A male Rose Robin (*Petroica rosea*) – photo: Neville Bartlett

This bird kept the photographers busy by mostly keeping its back in their direction to the delight of the other observers who enjoyed wonderful views of the front of the bird. It is the first time that I have seen this species at Bartley’s Block.

Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park – AGM

The financial report and a general report for the group were presented and accepted by the AGM. If anyone would like a copy of these please get in touch with our Secretary, Tony Murnane.

Eileen Collins was elected as a Life Member of the group for her tireless work over more than 25 years.

The office bearers for 2019-2020 are:

Neville Bartlett (President and Newsletter Editor), Mick Webster (Vice President), Tony Murnane (Secretary/Public Officer and Treasurer), Tony Marsh (Webmaster) and committee members: Eileen Collins, Helen Carse, Neil Blair, Jennifer Davidson, John Hawker, Phillip Seely, Simon Bennett and Bill Boulton.

Following on from the AGM, Karen Retra gave a very entertaining talk on native pollinators in which she presented a strong case for us to broaden our attention to these important groups of insects. It was fascinating to learn more about the 1,700 or so species of native bees, 12,000 species of wasps and possibly 30,000 species of flies in Australia. Each species has a life cycle with several quite distinct stages of growth

Eileen Collins â?? OAM Investiture

Eileen Collins was presented with her Order of Australia Medal (OAM) at Government House in Melbourne on the 17th September 2019.



Eileen being presented with her OAM by Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria â?? Photo: Kit Haselden Photography

We are planning to have a local celebration of this award at 12 noon on Sunday 20th October 2019 near the bird hide at Chiltern Valley Number 2 Dam. Food will be provided but please bring your own alcohol. An email requesting numbers attending and dietary requirements will go out early in October. Please advise Tony or Neville if you are planning to come but are not on our email list.

Around the Park

Kim Radnell photographed some interesting lichens in the Park and Eileen Collins has assisted in identifying them.

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Coral lichen (*Cladia retipora*) and British soldiers lichen (*Cladonia cristatella*) photo: Kim Radnell

The dams (Chiltern Valley No 1 Dam, Chiltern Valley No 2 Dam and the dam on Barambogie Block) in the Northern section of the Park have reasonable amounts of water and are well worth visiting.



A pair of Grey Teal and two turtles at Chiltern Valley No 1 Dam – photo: Neville Bartlett.

2020 Friends Calendars – Available mid-November

The 2020 calendars will cost \$20 each plus \$11.20 postage/packaging. This is now the flat rate for ONE calendar countrywide and includes the cost of a padded bag.

Postage for 2 to 3 calendars in same bag in Victoria or interstate (max 3 per bag) \$14.45

Please forward your order and cheque to:

Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot N.P., 69 Conness Street, Chiltern Vic 3683. A limited number will be printed.

I enclose payment of \$... for calendar(s)

Address:

