

## Mt. Buffalo Field Naturalist Group

---

Telephone (03) 5752 2080

Convenors: Roger & Meredith Briggs  
"Nil Desperandum"  
271 Mummery Rd.,  
Myrtleford, Victoria, 3737.

Email: [rbriggs@netc.net.au](mailto:rbriggs@netc.net.au)

Web Site: [www.go.alpinelink.com.au/naturalist](http://www.go.alpinelink.com.au/naturalist)

20 October 2005

Dear Member,

It is almost a year since our last Newsletter, and we are planning a General Meeting as we have several issues to discuss.

We have been informed by the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria that we do not fall into the Special Interest Group category unless we fulfil a number of criteria which would change the nature of the group. This means that we are not covered by the Public Liability policy of FNCV. We have a few options, and need to discuss these.

The projects of the club continue. We had an excellent "grass day" with Sue Berwick in January. At the end of this day, we were distracted by an orchid, which turned out to have some of the characteristics of the presumed extinct *Prasophyllum suttonii*. David Jones, in Canberra, now has some florets of these plants to study, and they will be followed with interest this summer. We continue to collect images of plants on the Mountain, but there is much work to be done on the more obscure plants, as well as trees, grasses and sedges. We currently have over 550 photos of more than 250 different plants. Please pass on any images you are happy for us to use, or unusual sightings. Roger now has a permit to collect specimens to send to the Herbarium for more authoritative identification.

The Bogong Plains monitoring was completed again in 2005, and we will be locating these plots again in February.

Meanwhile, the mountain continues to recover and hold much interest for us. This spring is very different from last year. Earlier we were impressed that some wattle was flowering this year, but the creepers are the outstanding group so far this year. Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorosa*), Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*) and Twining Glycine (*Glycine clandestina*) being particularly prominent. On the Eurobin Falls track a week ago, a large number of Lemon Star Hair (*Asterolasia asteriscophora*) plants were flowering. Bushes of the Narrow-leaf *Logania* (*Logania albiflora*) are growing well and flowering. Because of an early snow melt, the Marsh Marigolds at Bogong Plain were flowering in August.

We have still only had a handful of the questionnaires returned. It would be good to hear from members what they want from or what they can contribute to the group.

The Field Naturalist Network will be visiting Mt Buffalo in January, and will spend two days on Mt. Buffalo. Meredith and Roger will be leading walks on Thursday, and presenting some audiovisuals to them that evening in Harrietville.

The Broken Creek Field Naturalists Group (in the Shepparton area) will be camping at Lake Catani in February for a weekend still to be arranged.

Coming Events:

**General Meeting:** Fri November 11 at 7:30 pm at Roger & Meredith Briggs' home. See address above. Please phone to get directions as to how to open our "Nudge Gate"

**Excursion with Field Naturalist Network:** It would be good if some members could come and assist with the guided walks on Thursday Jan 19, or benefit from the company of naturalists from around Australia on Friday Jan 20.

**Grass Day:** with Patrick Ward – Sat Feb. 4 at 10:00 am. Meet at the Rangers Office. Bring lunch.

**Quadrat Day:** - Sat. Feb. 25. Meet at the beginning of the Dixons Falls Track at 10:00 am. Bring lunch.

**Weekend with Broken Creek Field Naturalists** – to be announced.

*It would be helpful if you could inform the convenors if you plan to attend any of the events on the Mountain, in case dates or times are altered. We will try to post any changes on our web site.*

#### **Rangers Notes:**

*Provided by Matt Moylan, 6/11/05*

Spring has sprung on the mountain with many species flowering or about to come into flower. Alpine Rusty Pods *Hovea montana* and Alpine Wattle *Acacia alpine*, to name a couple, are currently providing a colourful backdrop to Lake Catani among other places. After a winter that saw us experience inconsistent and irregular snow falls and some major storms it will be interesting to see what the next couple of seasons will dish up.

There have been a number of staff changes occurring over the last few months. *Kevin Cosgriff* has now left Mt Buffalo and is working as a Ranger at Mt. Beauty; he is managing specific projects eg. Mossbed Rehabilitation on the Bogong High Plains. *Darin Lynch* has returned to his Ranger position at Mt. Buffalo, he will be primarily managing roads and tracks, visitor assets and the Himalayan Honeysuckle and Buffalo Ck Blackberry projects among others. *Dale Smithyman* has unfortunately left and has moved on to working with the Alpine Shire in Myrtleford. *Brian Catto* will be a new addition to our team starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> November. Brian is an Exchange Ranger from Parks Canada and will be working with us for 6 months; he and his family will be living on the mountain during this time.

With longer days and more pleasant weather it is a great time of the year to get out and enjoy the natural beauty that Mt Buffalo and the region has to offer. Remember to pack a camera when on a bushwalk, you never know what you might come across while out on the tracks.