

**THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST: THE
JOURNAL & MAGAZINE OF THE
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF
VICTORIA, VOL. XIX, MAY 1902
TO APRIL 1903**

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MR. F. G. A. BARNARD

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ERRATA.

Page 55, line 27—Strike out word "white."	
" 55 " 29—Strike out word "white."	
" 55 " 29—Strike out words " <i>Threskiornis streptopus</i> ."	
" 72.—Strike out "white" in title of paper.	
" 80, line 9—For " <i>X. cryptophaga</i> " read " <i>Cryptophaga leuro-</i> <i>delpha</i> ."	
" 95 " 32—For " <i>macrorhynchus</i> " read " <i>macrorhynchus</i> ."	
" 122 " 18—For " <i>bruceolata</i> " read " <i>lineata</i> ."	

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FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Club was held in the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 14th April, 1902. The president, Mr. T. S. Hall, M.A., occupied the chair, and about 70 members and visitors were present.

The rules, as revised by the Committee, were submitted to the meeting for adoption. Mr. G. Coghill moved and Mr. J. H. Gatliff seconded—"That the rules as now printed be adopted as the rules of the Club."

Mr. J. F. Haase moved—"That the following addition be made to the rules submitted:—'That all papers sent to the Club must be submitted to the Committee for their approval before publication.'" This was seconded by Mr. G. A. Kearthland, and carried.

Mr. J. Shephard stated that it was his intention to give notice of a further alteration in the rules at the next ordinary meeting.

The ordinary meeting was then held.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From the hon. secretary of the Engineering Students' Society, Melbourne University, inviting members to attend a lecture by Prof. J. W. Gregory, D.Sc., F.R.S., at the University, on Thursday, 24th April, entitled "A Journey Round Lake Eyre."

REPORTS.

A report of the Club's excursion to Heidelberg on Saturday, 15th March, was read by the leader, Mr. J. Shephard, who said that, the object of the excursion being pond life, the lagoon near the bridge over the Yarra, and, by the courteous permission of Mr. R. Laidlaw, that in the grounds of Springbank, were visited. Two unnamed species of *Brachionus* were found in much greater numbers than on previous visits, and among other species taken were the Rotifer *Lacinularia elongata*, some fine colonies of Polyzoa, and a single specimen of Pedalion. A pleasant and interesting afternoon was spent by the members who took part in the excursion.

A detailed report of the Club's Easter camp-out at Shoreham, Western Port Bay, from Friday, 28th March, till Tuesday, 1st April, was read by Mr. J. A. Kershaw, who stated that a most enjoyable and profitable time had been spent by the party during their five days' outing. The time was devoted almost exclusively to working the reefs and shores of that part of the bay, with most satisfactory results. Detailed reports on the various branches

touched on were furnished by several of the members who attended.

A report was read by Mr. G. A. Keartland on the work done by the sub-committee appointed by the Club to draw up a list of suggestions for the assistance of the Minister before any alterations were made in the existing *Game Act*. The sub-committee reported that nearly 300 printed circulars, containing several questions to be answered, were issued to various sportsmen, and a large number of these had been returned with the replies filled in. Out of forty-five leading sportsmen in various parts of the State, only one stated that he had not found young quail at the opening of the season. Thirty stated that they had found the birds still breeding, and twenty-five recommended the alteration of the date of opening the shooting season from 1st March to 1st April. Nearly all the replies favoured the opening of the shooting season for ducks on the 1st February, as very few of the young birds can fly by the 20th December. Finally a conference was held at which representatives of the Royal Agricultural Society, sportsmen, bird dealers, and fruit-growers, together with the Club's sub-committee, were present, when the list and suggestions submitted by the sub-committee was adopted by the conference, and it was suggested that a deputation, consisting of the representatives above mentioned, together with the president and secretary of this Club, should wait on the Minister and urge the adoption of the list as amended.

Messrs. A. Coles, A. J. Campbell, and A. E. Kitson discussed the report.

Mr. D. Le Souëf moved—"That the sub-committee endeavour to arrange for a deputation to the Minister, and that the President and Secretary attend."

On the motion of Mr. G. Coghill, seconded by Mr. J. H. Gatliff, Mr. Keartland was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for the valuable work he had done in connection with this matter.

The hon. librarian reported the receipt of the following donations to the library:—*Journal of Agriculture*, Victoria, February and March, from the Department of Agriculture, Victoria; "Fungus Diseases," by D. M'Alpine, from the author; "Proceedings Royal Society of Victoria," part 2, 1902, from the Society; *The Wombat*, March, from the Geelong Field Naturalists' Club; *The Emu*, April, from the Australasian Ornithologists' Union; "Report on the Kiandra Lead," from Department of Mines, New South Wales; "Notes on the Botany of Pitcairn Island," by J. H. Maiden, F.L.S., Sydney, from the author; "Insects and Insect Lore," by J. G. O. Tepper, F.L.S., Adelaide, from the author; *Nature Notes*, February, from the Selborne Society, London; *Knowledge and Science Gossip*, February and March, from the proprietors.

ELECTIONS.

On a ballot being taken, Mr. C. A. Robinson, 257 Auburn-road, Auburn, was elected an ordinary, and Mr. H. Ernest Gatliff a country member of the Club.

The President took the opportunity of mentioning the return of our fellow member, Professor W. Baldwin Spencer, M.A., F.R.S., who, with Mr. F. J. Gillen, had spent some twelve months among the aboriginals in the interior of Australia, and had brought back a very valuable collection of material for future work.

Mr. D. Le Souëf moved, and Mr. G. B. Pritchard seconded—"That Professor Spencer be congratulated on the successful results of his recent expedition."

PAPERS.

1. By Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., entitled—"Shell-fish Food Remains of Australian Aborigines."

In a very interesting paper, illustrated with some very good lantern views, the author drew attention to the large quantities of broken shells which are to be found on many parts of the Victorian coast, which he contended were the remains of shell-fish gathered by the aboriginals for food, and were the accumulation of many years. The author stated that many deposits, which were commonly supposed to be raised beaches, would be found to be the remains of kitchen-middens formed by the natives, and suggested that further research should be made in suitable localities.

In discussing the paper Mr. G. A. Keartland mentioned that he had found the aboriginals on the Fitzroy River, North-Western Australia, engaged in collecting mussels, which they boiled, and on going to their camp found a deposit of some ten or fifteen drayloads of these shells, forming the results of many years' collecting.

Mr. G. B. Pritchard could not altogether agree with Mr. Le Souëf's conclusions, being of opinion that the kitchen-middens were not so common as stated, and discussed the possibility of the shells being blown up to the top of the cliffs by strong winds.

The president (Mr. T. S. Hall) stated that there was no doubt as to the extent of country covered with the middens, and mentioned several instances where these occur in Victoria, some of which contained enormous quantities of shells, most of which had been broken, evidently by the aboriginals, and which must have taken hundreds of years to collect.

Messrs. G. Coghill, A. E. Kitson, and F. Wisewould also discussed the paper.

Owing to the lateness of the hour the remainder of the papers on the notice paper had to be postponed.

On the motion of Messrs. J. Stickland and D. Le Souëf, a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. J. Searle for again placing his lantern at the disposal of the Club.