



Brush-tailed
Phascogale

Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests (Mount Alexander Region) Inc.

A0037461H

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Scene From the Air:

Landscape Change in Mount Alexander 1946–2007

What's been happening in the landscape of our area in the last sixty years? Sometimes things change so gradually it's hard to notice changes as they take place.

In the late 1940s aerial photos were taken of this district from Air Force planes. We have selected four of these, and paired them with photos taken in the last ten years. By comparing the two sets it is possible to get an idea of the scale and nature of change.

The photos centre on the town of Castlemaine and areas to the north, east, south and west. They are mounted with recently taken ground level pictures which help the viewer visualise more clearly what the aerial pictures show. We have also assembled some historical material indicating what happened to our landscape during the gold rushes, and what it might have been like before then.

The pictures are both encouraging and challenging. They show a land slowly recovering from the devastation inflicted on it in the nineteenth century, but facing new problems in the form of various kinds of development.

The exhibition is a preamble to FOBIF's 2008 project to produce a biodiversity blueprint for the shire of Mount Alexander. It is designed to help viewers identify their landscape, think about it, and consider what approach to management can best balance and integrate the needs of people and nature.

It has been mounted with support from the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria and the Mount Alexander Shire.

The exhibition will run from 20 February to 12 March in the foyer of the Phee Broadway Theatre, Castlemaine, during library opening hours.

**FOBIF members are cordially invited to the exhibition launch
on Saturday 23 February at 11.00 a.m.
by the chairperson of the North Central CMA, Ian MacBean.
Light refreshments will be available.**

Forgotten your 2008 sub?

If so, use the membership form enclosed to get yourself up to date!

**Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests
(Mount Alexander Region)**

**BUSHWALKS
2008**

All walks are on Sundays. Meet at 9.30 a.m. outside 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine (Continuing Ed.) and carpool to the start of the walk. Take water, morning tea and lunch. Non-members welcome. No cost. Walks will not take place on days of total fire ban in the area. For more information ring Bronwyn Silver on 5475 1089.

16 March Loddon Falls

Loddon Falls and a volcanic crater behind Mt Franklin (c. 5000 years old and younger than Mt Franklin). Emphasis on geology, with tessellated pavements and basalt pillars. c. 4 km. For more information ring Muriel Sovar 5472 1709.

20 April Rock of Ages

Short ridge walk (c. 2 km) at Nuggetty Hill followed by sketching session at the magical Rock of Ages site. Bring drawing materials. For more information ring Miles Geldard 0427 591 269.

18 May Taradale Conservation Reserve

Beginning at Taradale Mineral Springs Reserve, walk under the Taradale Railway Viaduct, along the banks of the Coliban River, through the Taradale Conservation Reserve and finish in the Metcalf Forest. 7.5 km. For more information ring John Sinnott 5423 2437 or 9489 7661.

15 June Mount Lofty

Visit Mount Lofty (near Redesdale), the lowest mountain in Mount Alexander Shire. Easy walk. c. 8 km. For more information ring Doug Ralph 5470 5407.

20 July Fryers Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve

Range of native plants, creekline vegetation, interesting rocks, up hills & down gullies. c. 8 km. For more information ring Barbara Johnson 5423 2773.

17 August Dry Diggings Trail

Follow part of the Dry Diggings Trail to the Monk and back via Monk's Hill Track. The route takes in some interesting historical features and hopefully some early wildflowers. Finish at the fascinating People and Places display in the Chewton Town Hall (entry by gold coin donation). 5–6 km. For more information ring Helen McGeachin 5472 3990.

21 September Maldon Railway Line

Walk through a range of ecosystems and past the old prison farm/asylum site. Emphasis on native birds and early spring plants. Bring binoculars. c. 5 km. For more information ring Chris Morris 9885 4221.

19 October Sandon

Walk along Carr's Creek gully lined with mature river red gums. A moderate climb through the forest with a view towards Clunes at the site of an abandoned mine. Hopefully spring flowers on the way. 5–6 km. For more information ring Bob and Barb Harry 5476 6293.