



---

## Mammal Survey Group of Victoria Inc.

---

March 2016

Hello there everyone! Well, it looks like the dust has settled on the holiday period – especially after all the rain we have had during the last couple of days!! Many of us have been holidaying, travelling interstate, and unfortunately some of us have been unwell, but hopefully those of you who have will be recovering and able to look forward to a productive, healthy and happy year.

Finally everyone seems to be settling into their regular routines of work and recreation. We look forward to an exciting year ahead full of interesting surveys and friendly meetings – to which all members are invited to attend. The mammal surveys provide fun and interesting week-ends, where we all pull together as a team to get the best results possible without harming any of the wildlife we are surveying. Any members that have not yet ventured into the realm of general meetings will find a warm welcome, tea, coffee, very nice nibblies and both stimulating and educational conversation! Speaking of which, the next one is scheduled for Tuesday 12th April 2016. The venue is still to be decided.

The first camp for the year was to The Doug Fenwick Reserve, a small natural reserve exhibiting a splendid example of remnant damp heathy woodland in close proximity to the coast in Nirranda South, not far from Port Fairy. This reserve was originally purchased by The Warrnambool Nature Reserves Society Inc., but is now managed by the Doug Fenwick Reserve Management Committee.

As it was windy, bat traps were not set up. It was noted by attendees of the camp that the rich species diversity of the small island reserve still prevailed with the exception of dunnarts and potoroos but included: ringtail and brush tail possums, the latter of which had particularly good body condition; koala and bush rats. Perhaps the brushtails were benefiting from the unfortunate loss of dunnarts and potoroos!

The bird life was apparently particularly diverse and footage of a bristle bird was obtained. The Eastern Bristle Bird has been endangered nationally, and a recovery program aided by captive breeding, reintroduction and careful management of fire regimes and land clearing purport to have increased numbers previously reduced during the last 150 years, (N.S.W. Office of Environment and Heritage 2012). The compilation of the full camp report is underway, but will be published and reported in the near future. For all those interested, a small book entitled 'Flora and Fauna of Doug Fenwick Reserve' by David Lockwood, 2000 is available from selected libraries and it could be interesting to see how the flora and fauna has changed since it's publication.

Just to reiterate, a potential camp over the 23rd – 25th April is likely to go ahead, so keep the weekend free if possible, so you can join in. And please keep a look out for the details of our next meeting so you can come and share an evening with us. Hope to see you soon.

Best wishes to you all, from Shirley and all the committee members.