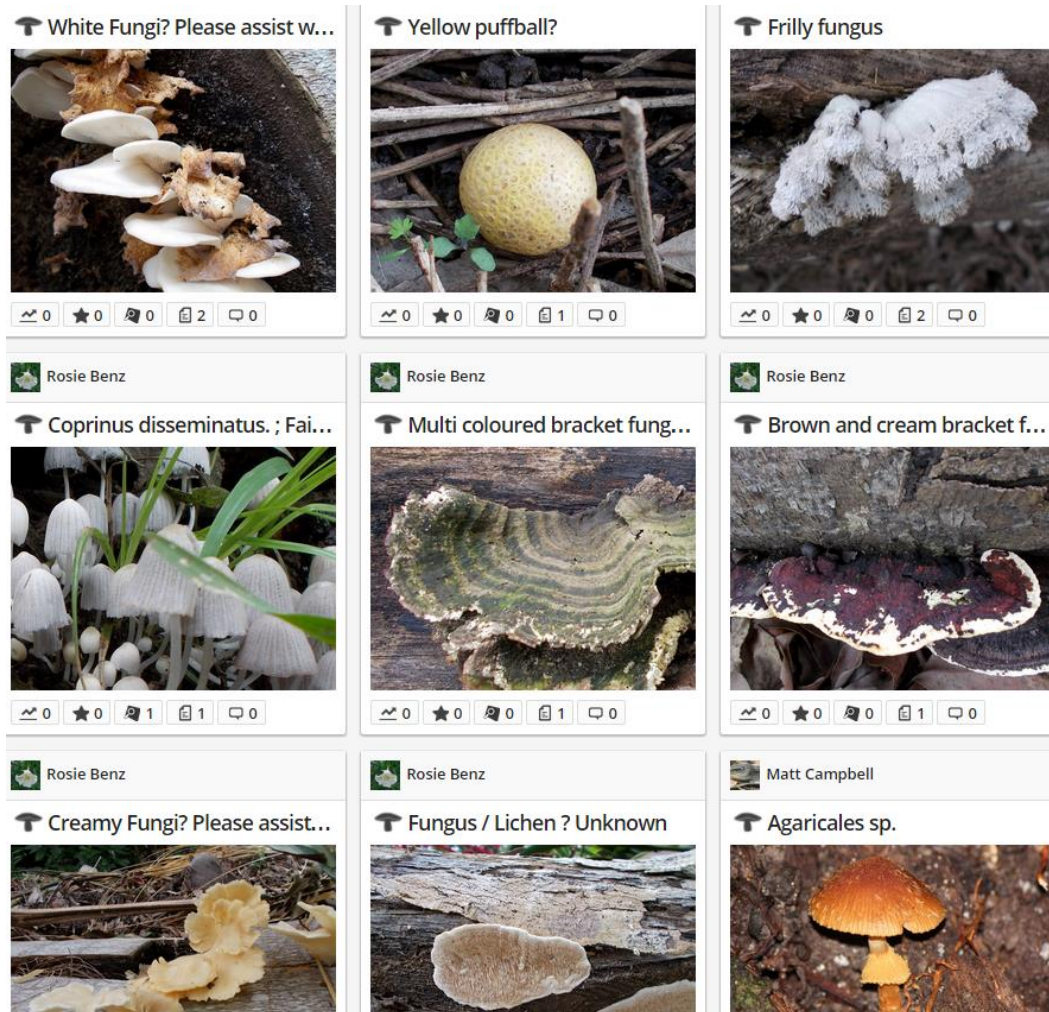


The Bower Bird Bugle

24 April 2015 Ken Walker (kwalker@museum.vic.gov.au) Museum Victoria. Edition 5.

Let the fun(gal) times roll on ...

These are just some of the fungal records that have been uploaded during the past week. Wonderful examples of fungal fruiting bodies



Photographers as per record author

My favourite



Photo by Glenda Walter.

And, fungi come in every possible shape and form ...

A fungus only a mother could love!



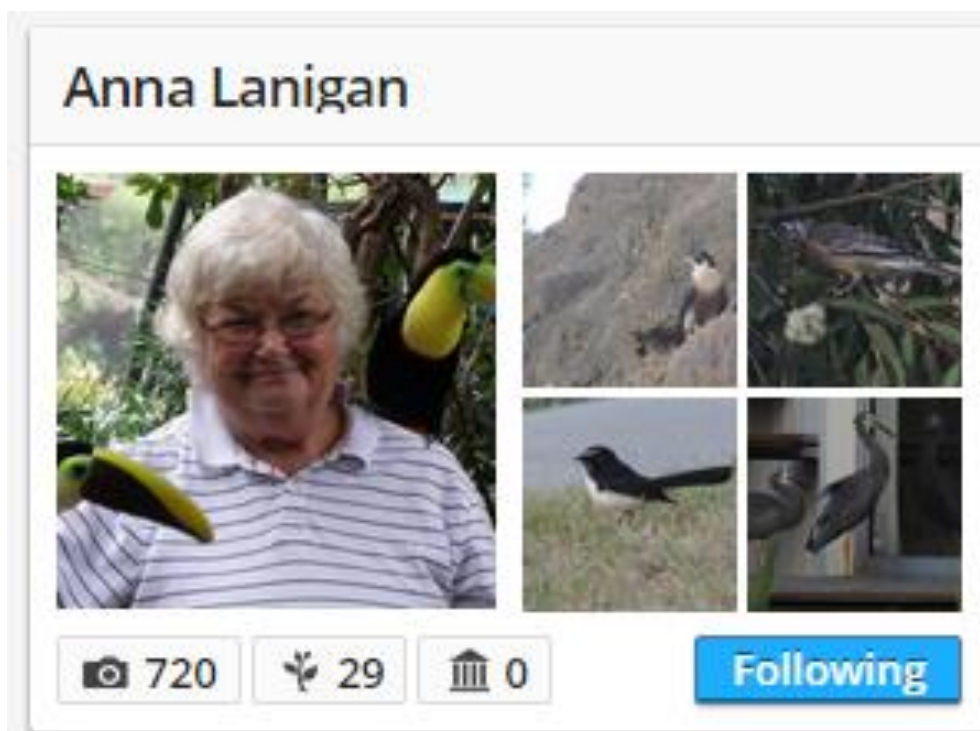
Photo by Matt Campell.

Well, enough of the invertebrates and fungal records this week, let's look at some of the vertebrate records.

Mid last year, I was invited to give a Saturday afternoon BowerBird talk to the Craigieburn Camera Club. It was at the local kindergarten and I was made to feel most welcome. Sitting near the front of the audience was someone who I would later get to know very well – Anna Lanigan. Anna is a photographer and naturalist who has a passion to document the bird faunas from all of the lakes and ponds in and around the Craigieburn area.

Anna later told me that as I gave my talk “It was like the planets all lined up for me.”

BowerBird has given Anna a place where she can express her passion and weave her magic. You can see that Anna has uploaded 720 records and is part of 29 Projects – more than 10 of which she has created herself !!



The image shows a screenshot of a BowerBird profile for Anna Lanigan. The profile header displays her name, "Anna Lanigan". Below the name is a grid of images: a large portrait of Anna on the left, and four smaller square images on the right showing various birds in nature. At the bottom of the profile, there are three icons with associated numbers: a camera icon for "720", a plant icon for "29", and a building icon for "0". To the right of these icons is a blue button with the text "Following".

Here is but one of the many wetlands that Anna visits.
This one is called the “Valley Lake Reserve wetland”.



and it is located here.



Valley Lake Boulevard, Keilor East VIC 3033,
Australia

A Peregrine falcon that Anna has spotted nesting and is tracking Uploaded yesterday ...



Anna Lanigan added a sighting
about 17 hours ago



Anna commented of this find:



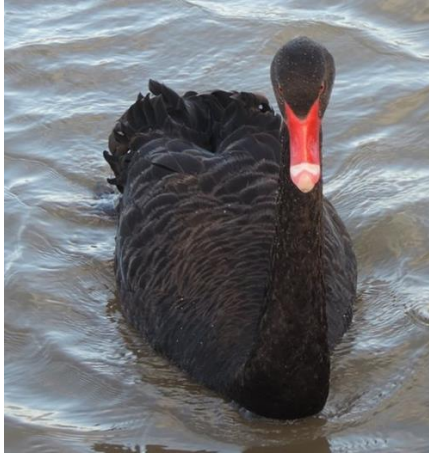
Anna Lanigan says

Hoping the pair are settling in again. Would love a webcam like Norwich Cathedral, England.

As I have done with beetles and flatworms, here are just some of Anna's "**Bird Rogue's Gallery**": All photos by Anna Lanigan

-







Finally, Anna has a great sense of humour



If anyone would like to browse more of Anna's wonderful images, please follow this link:

<http://www.bowerbird.org.au/users/14275/sightings>

Favourite images of the week

Sorry, I'm showing my biases for invertebrates again .. these images were uploaded about 1pm today.

The spider is a member of the “Bird dropping spider” genus and is *Celaenia calotoides*. The images were taken in Emerald, central Queensland so I asked the Queensland Museum for an ID and they quickly named it. These spiders produce a pheromone or smell that attracts the males of one species of moth – usually a noctuid moth in the genus *Spodoptera*. They also make enormously large, rounded and striped egg cases, usually 4-5 such cases, and sit with these egg cases until the spiderlings hatch.

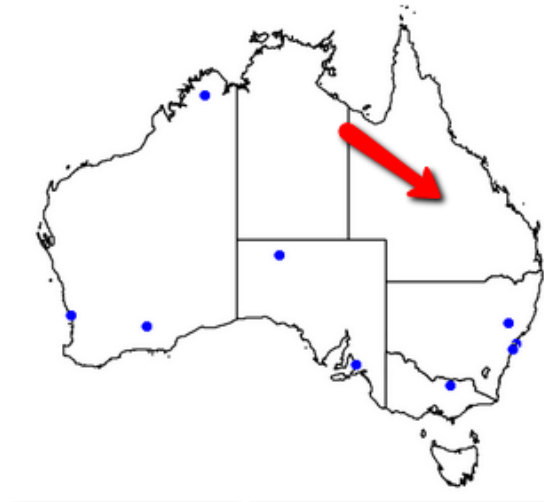


Photos by Laurence Sanders

I just checked on Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and this BowerBird record will be the first for Queensland on ALA for this species.

Celaenia calotoides Rainbow, 1908

Occurrence records map



Laurence added another record which the Queensland Museum says is the same species and demonstrates the enormous morphological diversity of this spider.



Photo by Laurence Sanders

The value of multiple image records ...

Tamara Leitch uploaded a series of images for something she could not identify past “Insecta” – I love a challenge. From her main image, it looked possibly like a fly midge ...



But the above image showed the wings being held in a tent-like fashion so it could not be a fly



Finally, the lateral view revealed all – a winged aphid.



You just never know which angle will show the diagnostic characters that will deliver an identification.

For me, there is something majestic and ancient about dragonflies. This lovely image of the Green Skimmer, *Orthemtrum serapia*, was taken NW of Mackay, Queensland.



Photo by Marlis Schoeb The species appears to be restricted to coastal Occurrence records map



north Queensland.

And, I love this nesting bee image series (*Xylocopa Lestis bombylans*) from a SE suburb of Brisbane. All images by Erica Siegel.

Female:



Male



A pollen “Meconium dump” by a freshly emerged adult.

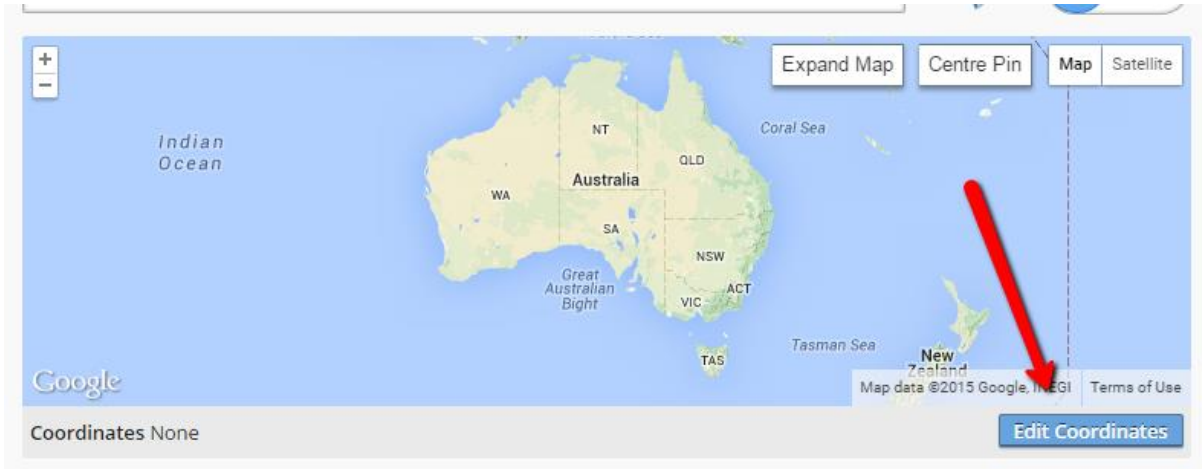


But my story from the week comes from Neil Tucker who lives in Anglesea Victoria and who noticed a tiny white “thing” crawling on his jumper. What was it? Neil’s image was sent to Museum Victoria and we contacted our “anything wormy-like” expert Leigh Winsor in Townsville who provided us with an answer and then uploaded to BowerBird to share.



Leigh’s reply began “This is possibly a juvenile bipaliinaeid, *Diversibipalium* sp. (Platyhelminthes: Tricladida: Continenticola: Geoplanidae: Bipaliinae)” and from there he wrote a book! If you would like to read Leigh’s complete set of comments travel to: <http://www.bowerbird.org.au/observations/34179> for a wonderful explanation of what possible name it could be. I suggest a strong cup of tea as you are in for a long, but fascinating, read.

BowerBird Tip



Did you know BowerBird accepts three different methods to manually provide GPS coordinates for a location?

Click the “Edit Coordinates” in the bottom right corner of the map. From here you can enter coordinates as:

1. Decimal Degrees,
2. Degrees, Minutes and Seconds, or
3. UTM's

If you have typed in GPS coordinates, you must “Check” to see on a map if the marker is where you expect it to be.

A screenshot of the BowerBird coordinate input form. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Lat/Long (Decimal Degrees)' (selected), 'Lat/Long (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds)', and 'UTM'. Below the tabs, there is a text box for 'Latitude' containing '-36.73888412439431' and a text box for 'Longitude' containing '145.74462890625'. A blue 'Check' button is to the right of the longitude box. Three red arrows point to the 'Lat/Long (Decimal Degrees)' tab, the 'Check' button, and the 'UTM' tab.

Finally, it's ANZAC weekend and time for us to reflect. Many of our families have been touched by the wars.

I'll be thinking of my grandfather, my Dad's father, who in WW1 went AWOL in Paris for 4 days !! Whoopee !!

I'll be thinking of my father who flew 33 missions over Germany in Lancaster bombers. He was in the 460 squadron which lost over one third of all flight crews – the highest loss of any squadron. After the war, my mum recalled that for many years Dad's side of bed used to be wet in the morning from his nightmares.

And, my Mum's brother Uncle Ken, whom I never met as he was killed in action aged 18 flying in a Liberator when attacking the ship the Isuzu north of Papua New Guinea.

My father used to like saying The Ode

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

"Lest we forget". See you at the Dawn Service.

Haveagoodweekend

Cheers – Ken

(If you wish to leave this email list, please contact me directly at kwalker@museum.vic.gov.au – else share with your friends)