



MAMMAL SURVEY GROUP OF VICTORIA INC.

SURVEY CAMP REPORT

LOCATION/NAME *'Mali Dunes', Yanac North* **DATES** *2 - 5/11/2013*

WEATHER The weather was mostly fine during the entire survey period with daily temperatures getting up to the high 20's, but down to as low as 1°C in the evenings.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA SURVEYED. Include brief physical and botanical description, Modifying factors (fire, logging, grazing) geology if known, and any significant faunal or floristic observations.

The site surveyed was a private property "Mali Dunes" owned by Bernie Fox and Sue Hayman-Fox. It is located on Millers Rd, Yanac North about 40 km north-west of Nhill (VicRoads Country Directory Map 24G2).

"Mali Dunes" is 621ha (1552 acres) in size (approximately 4kms by 2kms) consisting of rolling sand dunes some 12 km south of the Big Desert Wilderness and 30 kms east of the SA border. It has been cleared and farmed in the past (as late as 1995) but is now a Community Land Management (CLM) project site and is fully protected under a 'Trust for Nature' covenant. There is significant natural regeneration supplemented by extensive revegetation from direct seeding and plantings of local provenance.

Although almost all of the area has been regularly chained and rolled for several decades until 1995, it has shown remarkable recovery with evidence of the past destruction not being readily evident over much of the vegetated area on the property. Vegetation consists of cleared areas with remnant pasture dominated by exotic grasses and evening primrose from past agricultural activity; mallee heathland with shrubs up to a height of 2 metres including Heath Tea-tree *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, Broom Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca uncinata*, Pink Velvet Bush *Lasiopetalum behrii*, Wallowa *Acacia calamifolia*, Muntries *Kunzea pomifera*, Common Fringe-myrtle *Calytrix tetragona* and Spinifex *Triodia scariosa*; and mallee woodland up to a height of 5 metres including Yellow Mallee *Eucalyptus incrassata*, Dumosa Mallee *Eucalyptus dumosa* and the shrubs listed above.

Survey Report

Overall a total of 43 species were recorded during the survey; this consisted of 3 mammals (not including signs such as tracks and scats), 41 birds, and 5 reptiles. Refer to attached survey sheets for detailed results on mammals and birds.

No cage or harp traps were set due to forecast very cold evenings, which got as low as 1°C. Almost all MSGV motion sensing cameras plus 6 privately owned by members, a total of 21 were set in a number of locations over three evenings.



Mitchell's Hopping Mouse
- the blur in the top left hand corner



Rabbit
- along vehicle track to Big Dune



Southern Scrub-robin
- on House Dune west of camp site

Results were poor from the motion sensing cameras compared to previous years with only a single record of a Mitchell's Hopping Mouse captured by a camera set on Big Dune, plus two rabbits and a single Western Grey Kangaroo along the track to Big Dune. This was after a total of 63 camera nights over three nights (2 – 4 November). A Southern Scrub Robin was recorded during the day on the House Dune just west of our camp.



Male Malleefowl near Big Dune - Photo Andrew McCutcheon

Other mammals seen or heard over the long weekend include a large number of Western Grey Kangaroos, rabbits and a brief glimpse of a cat in the spotlight. Of the 41 species of birds recorded Rufous Fieldwrens (reported to Birdlife Australia), a single White-fronted Honeyeater and Malleefowl were the highlight. There are two confirmed mounds on the property near Big Dune on the eastern side, and another below Pine T Dune on the western side. It is suspected there is a third mound somewhere in the centre of the property. All the other bird species recorded are what would be expected to occur in this reserve.

Reptiles seen include two sightings of Rosenberg's Monitor, which is at the very edge of its range of distribution, numerous Stumpy-tail Lizards, a Bearded Dragon and a few brief glimpses of Mallee Military and Painted Dragons.

Other Fauna Species (Reptiles) Observed

Rosenberg's Goanna <i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	x 2
Shingleback <i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>	numerous
Central Bearded Dragon <i>Pogona vitticeps</i>	x 1
Painted Dragon <i>Ctenophorus pictus</i>	small number
Mallee Military Dragon <i>Ctenophorus fordii</i>	small number



Rufous Fieldwren

Photos Andrew McCutcheon



Large Brown Skipper



Orange Spotted Sun Moth

Photo Kathy Zonneville

Invertebrates of note include an Orange Spotted Sun-moth *Synemon parthenoides* and an uncommon Skipper Butterfly, the Large Brown Skipper *Motasingha trimaculata*.

Trap Deaths

No trap deaths occurred

CAMP COMMANDANT: Andrew McCutcheon

CAMP HOSTS: Bernie Fox &
Sue Hayman-Fox

PERSONNEL

Jill & Allan Poynton

Nancy McMurray & Trevor Caldwell

Mary & Duncan Frost

Ed & Ann Howell

Max & Faye Campbell

Ian & Lorraine Lamont

Kathy Zonneville

Faye Chapman

**Andrew McCutcheon – Mammal Survey Group of Victoria Inc.
WSIEAC Approval 22.11**

LOCATION MAP :



TRAPPING AND SPOTLIGHTING MAPS :

