

together, and held in position with cobwebs. It was lined with rootlets and hair, and thickly coated on the outside with spider-webs, which gave it a very neat and smooth appearance. Both birds worked very rapidly at the nest and it was completed on the third day. Much discussion has taken place concerning the reason for the wineglass stem constructed to the nest by the genus *Rhipidura*, and several ideas are put forward, such as balancing the nest during rough weather, and the draining of the nest during rain, but the nest is usually built in a well-sheltered position. I am of opinion that the wineglass stem is just used for ornamentation, and, concerning its utility or otherwise, like many other peculiarities of bird architecture, the reason for its addition cannot be solved.—CLARENCE L. LANG, R.A.O.U., Ararat.

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## Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria

On July 16 the above body celebrated the jubilee of its foundation with a dinner in the St. Kilda Town Hall, followed by a two-days' exhibition of natural history. Several original members, who attended the preliminary meeting on May 6, 1880, were present, namely, Messrs. F. G. A. Barnard, W. M. Bale, F. Pitcher and C. French.

The Club has many notable items of historic interest connected with it. The first camp-out was at Olinda Creek, Lilydale, in November, 1884; here were taken the type nest and eggs of the Helmeted Honeyeater (*Meliphaga cassidix*), now in the A. J. Campbell Collection at the National Museum, Melbourne. The first exhibition of wildflowers was in 1885. There have been many since, and for the last ten years or more the largest public hall available has been requisitioned, the proceeds being devoted to charity. The increasing interest of the populace in our wildflowers may be traced to this source. "A Census of the Plants of Victoria" was published by the Club and ran into a second edition.

It was in January, 1908, that Wilson's Promontory was proclaimed a National Park, a permanent reserve for our fauna and flora, largely as the result of the strenuous advocacy of the Field Naturalists' Club. Several expeditions have been organised from time to time, the first being to King Island in 1887. Numerous camps-out have been a feature of the Club's activities, while a complete syllabus of outings is carried out for Saturday afternoons.

"The Victorian Naturalist," first appearing in January, 1884, has been issued monthly ever since and contains in its pages valuable records of members' researches in all branches of natural history. The Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria is the parent society of the R.A.O.U. It was in 1900 that bird men became so plentiful that it was said there were too many feathers at meetings, so, after deliberation (see *The Emu*, Vol. I., p. 1) the Australasian Ornithologists Union, as it was then called, was formed.

The Club is to be congratulated upon its constant endeavour to popularise the taste for natural history. The Jubilee Show was a splendid effort, all subjects being represented, from aboriginal art to microscopic life, an exhibit of especial attraction being tame native animals and reptiles, caged in comfortable surroundings. Members were in attendance to give useful information about exhibits, and many years of useful service lie before the Club in this direction.—A.G.C.