

SIP February General Meeting

Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear guest speaker Geelong naturalist, Trevor Pescott, at SIP's first meeting for 2018 to be held on Tuesday February 20 at 2pm in the Bayview Room at the rear of Parks Hall. Trevor will speak about his latest book, *Birds and Botanists A Field Naturalists History of Geelong*, which was launched in late 2017. His eighth book, also featuring Trevor's photography, canvasses regional landscapes and coastal and marine places of environmental significance; key people who have made a major contribution to our understanding of the diversity of plants and animals in our region, and profiles the history of Geelong's field naturalists clubs - the first was established in the 1880s. Free entry for members with a gold coin entry for non members, or why not join SIP for only \$10 and help promote Portarlington as an age-friendly community for all. Copies of Trevor's book - which has a limited edition - will be available for purchase at the meeting.

The SIP Committee extends a big thank you to the Portarlington Primary School and all those book donors and buyers who supported SIP's Annual second book stall in the airconditioned hall at the January Portarlington Market. Unfortunately the searing heat deterred many people from venturing out on the day; but nevertheless sufficient funds were raised to subsidise the bus costs for SIP's very popular outing during seniors month in October. And there is still a chance to purchase some book bargains whilst doing your shopping - watch out for SIP's pop-up book shop coming soon to Portarlington!

Say No to Plastic Bags - Buyers at SIP's book stall were very appreciative of the SIP reusable bags provided free of charge. With many more people now more aware of the need to protect our fragile coastal environment from plastic pollution, more communities banning plastic bags and the decision of major super markets to phase out single use plastic bags, SIP is puzzled as to why the State Government continues to delay legislation banning single use plastic bags. Surely it's time - particularly in an election year - for Victoria to catch up with South Australia where legislation dates from 2009, Tasmania, Northern Territory, ACT and West Australia where the ban of single use plastic bags will commence from July 1 this year.