

Learn more about Invertebrates and Biological Diversity

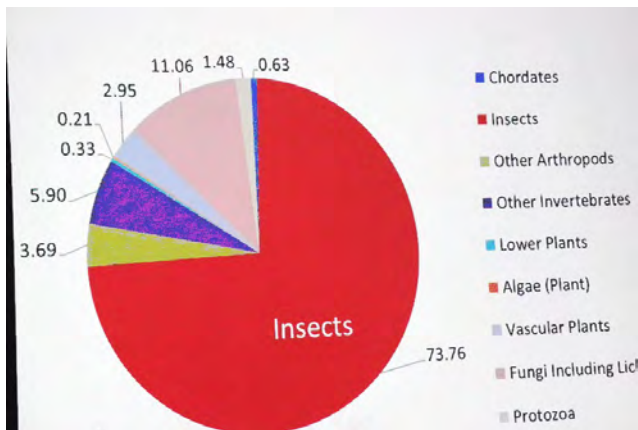
The Friends of Hoddles Creek arranged the talk on 22 May 2017

The Friends of Hoddles Creek organised a talk on invertebrates and their biological diversity at the Hoddles Creek Primary School on 22 May evening.

The speaker was naturalist Maxwell Campbell, who shared some of the secrets of this largely unknown world. He has been an active naturalist and biologist for over five decades, and is also an accomplished microscopist and photographer and President of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Inc (Australia's oldest Natural History Group, established in 1880).

Maxwell spoke about these fascinating creatures and their role in biodiversity.

Life on Earth is a diverse complex system of organisms



Earth's organisms	Possible Global Estimate
Chordates	85,000
Insects	10,000,000
Other Arthropods	500,000
Other Invertebrates	800,000
Lower Plants	45,000
Algae (Plant)	28,000
Vascular Plants	400,000
Fungi Including Lichens	1,500,000
Protozoa	200,000
	13,558,000

- There is no certainty about the total number of species on Earth
- The complexity of living things and their mutual interactions is poorly known.

Persistent Natives

- Katydid (Clayton S/Cntr)
- False Garden Mantids
- *Drymaplaneta sp* – cockroach
- A few species of Dermaptera
- Green Lacewings
- Geometrids
- Huntsmen spiders
- Salticids – jumping spiders
- Garden orb weavers
- Common field cricket
- Golden orb weavers (lately – drifters)
- House spiders – *Badumna sp*
- White tail spiders
- Black widow group
- Some pentatomid bugs
- Cicadas
- Harlequin bugs
- Mole crickets
- Pseudoscorpions
- St Andrew's Cross spider
- Some native bees

Aggressive/effective Invaders

Introduced species - aggressive competitors and predators.

- European wasps will attack and eat just about anything.
- Argentine ants also attack and eat other insects and if not else drive them away by sheer numbers
- Introduced molluscs eat the introduced plants and have able to widely colonise. Eg Suggan Buggan and *Helix asp*
- Isopods *Porcellio* and *Armadillidium*
- Earwigs – *Forficula auricularia*
- Vegetable bugs - *Nezara*
- Cabbage white butterflies



The Friends of Kurth Kiln thank the Friends of Hoddles Creek for the kind invitation and the informative talk.