

The Legacy of Ian McCann & Thelma Argall



When visiting Stawell, you can expect to come across the name McCann multiple times, whether you have a picnic at McCann's Bushland Reserve or walk past McCann Dam in the Ironbarks. Ian McCann's life work as a field naturalist has left a lasting legacy, his books, some of them produced in collaboration with his partner Thelma Argall, have become fundamental reference points for other field naturalists, environmentalists and conservationists in Victoria and Australia. Ian's son, Andy McCann, is extremely proud of his father's publications, *"I use the Grampians in Flower, Grampians Wildflowers and Grampians Birds reasonably regularly. His tribute to Thelma in his latest books is most appropriate. Thelma was a wealth of knowledge, particularly on birds and shared his passion for all aspects of the natural environment. She was a wonderful assistant during his research for those publications."*

Hearing Barry Clugtson talk about Ian's work can make your head spin, Barry is a former ABC radio wildlife presenter and a good friend of Ian's, *"He was a farmer, he had military experience in the later years of the Second World War, he got on the shire council, I think he was even mayor at one stage..."*.

It should also be noted that Ian had strong support from his wife Rene before her death in 1983. From working as a poultry farmer, the Stawell and Grampians tourist officer, as well as his research and photography, Rene supported him throughout and played a major role in raising their family.



(Left to right) David Munro, Ian McCann and Thelma Argall



A Spot-Tailed Quoll, one of the many photos taken by Ian out in the field.