



THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

Volume LIV No.5 June/ July 2021

The aim of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club is to encourage the study of all aspects of natural history and to support the conservation of our natural heritage

Patron : Prof. Nigel Forteach
President : Mrs Prue Wright, 0438 410 192
Hon. Secretary : Ms Bernadette Willey, 0487 755 085
Hon. Treasurer : Mrs Karen Manning, 0363 442 277

Meetings 1st Tuesday of month, February-December (except Jul & Aug) at Scotch-Oakburn College, Senior Campus, Penquite Rd Newstead

Program:

August

Sunday 1

Field Trip - Beachcombing – East Beach, George Town

Saturday 7

GPS training in Trevallyn Reserve with David Walters

Saturday 14

Field Trip - Trevallyn Reserve

Sunday 22

Field Trip to Native Point Nature Reserve, Windermere – more details page 9

Sunday 29

Skemps Day - Members Day

September

Tuesday 7

Business Meeting @ 7pm, followed by Guest Speaker: Steven Broadbent,
Bird Protection Programs

Sat18/Sun19

Field Trip - Powranna Nature Reserve for wildflowers

Saturday 25

Skemps Day - Members Day

October

Tuesday 5

Meeting - Guest Speaker: To be confirmed

Sunday 17

Annual General Meeting at John Skemp field Centre

Fri 22 to Sun 24

Weekend at Mt Cameron Field Study Centre - more details page 9

For further program details visit <https://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm>

Skemps Report:

The gas to the Centre failed recently and as I suspected, blockages in the pipes or valves to be the culprit. The soft connecting hoses to the bottles and the switch valve have been replaced. No smoking signs have been put up near the cylinders and holes drilled in the area where the cylinders are stored, for better ventilation.

Pictures and posters in the Centre have been rearranged to allow room for more and so that wording can be read easier.

Jeff and Roy went looking for rare ferns listed in Geoff Martin's herbarium. It appears that the ferns are no longer there.

Karen and I walked the Tyre and Fern Gully trails with a chainsaw expecting blockages after recent rain and wind. We did clear one fallen tree, repaired two bridges and restored another which had been swept away by flooding in the creek. I recently found them all still in place after recent heavy rains.

A short section of board walk on the Loop trail has been lifted and the rusted wire replaced, two new tyre steps added to link sections of new board walk. A step off one of the new board walks has been constructed with the new grating material while three steps have been made of stone and other rough sections tidied up with stone and moss.

Caitlin, Karen and Prue have been sorting the Club's records into new folders and boxes, and storing these in the side shed while the library record has been updated with the latest newsletters being added.

Jeff has been grubbing out more tussock and has started removing the last of the fencing around the Federation Corridor. Karen and I have been helping when available.

I am still working on a leaking tap just outside the Federation Corridor and after a break in at the poisons shed replaced the damaged bolt and missing lock, nothing was missing.

On Tuesday 20 July David Waters looked around the property in preparation for his GPS training day. He walked the Watergate and Loop trails with Roy and attempted the Tyre trail until stopped by the heavy flow in the winter creeks.

The usual tasks of cleaning, restocking the Centre fire wood, weeding, treating wasp nests, cutting fire wood, drain clearing along drive way and small maintenance jobs have been undertaken thanks to Bernadette, Caitlin, Jeff, Karen, Rob, Roy and Tom.

Noel Manning

Meeting - Tuesday 1 June – Angela Hansen – *Bird Research in Tasmania*

Prue introduced Angela, a new member to the Club, and her talk on bird studies in Tasmania. Angela started by describing the items that she carries in her bird bag for her studies in the field. These included waterproof binoculars, bird identification publications by Sarah Lloyd, Nigel Forteach and Dave Watts *Field guide to Tasmanian birds* which she described as the best starter guide. She also has an app capable of uploading the birds to expect in a particular area she visits.

The talk was restricted to a few of the studies as there are so many. Angela started with her own study of ducks, asking us to call out the name of the birds seen in her slides; the first was the Pacific black duck which she described as a favourite with hunters.

Her study started by looking at plastic ingestion and as she found very little moved on to other rubbish, especially the shot pellets. Many birds add small stones to the gizzard to grind up food and can easily ingest the lead pellets which can dissolve in stomach acid causing lead poisoning. The study looked at lead in feathers which indicates the long term effect on the animal, in meat which shows the danger to humans and in the liver to look at the overall health of the bird.

The next phase of her study will look at trace elements in the blood of Victorian waterfowl and comparing those at the Western Treatment Plant at Werribee, where they feast on the dregs of society with birds from the interior.

Angela's weekend passion is bird banding at Sassafras and Port Sorell with retired doctor Geoff Shannon, allowing her to get close to the birds of the study which is done twice a month. 25 species and over 800 individual birds have been banded with a recapture rate of just 12%, meaning that it takes a long time to get survival and recruitment statistics. Fine nets, invisible to the birds, are used to capture them as they fly from tree to tree causing them to fall into pockets in the nets and after being removed are kept in bags for the banding procedure.

Angela described an incident where a grey fantail had just been banded and the wing stretched out to be measured when a kookaburra swooped down and took the bird while six school children stood watching.

We were shown images of captured birds ready to be tagged with members identifying them. Angela then gave a brief description of her involvement and sightings for 'Where? Where? Wedgie!', a project supervised by Claire Hawkins, to assess raptors in the environment. Angela also briefly mentioned 'Project – Eagle Eye' with Dr Dean Williams, of Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Wedgie tracking with Dr James Pay of UTAS. Other studies are looking at lead in bones throughout Australia as well as Tasmania and there are also breeding studies which have concluded there are only around 1,000 eagles in Tasmania, so it is endangered.

Matthew Fielding and others have been studying forest ravens and currawongs on King and other Bass Strait islands looking at breeding biology and roadkill scavenging. Ravens, which prefer roadkill, are steadily increasing while currawongs, which prefer insects, are decreasing and their habitat is also decreasing.

Matthew Fielding and Tristan Derham, working with botanists, have been studying emu scats in southern Victoria to see what impact the extinction of Tasmania emus may have had on native flora, including what may no longer be distributed and what impact that may have.

While Angela is looking at heavy metals in Tasmanian native hens a student in Hobart is looking at their evolutionary traits making them so adaptable. The hens are the only flightless rails in the world not in severely diminished numbers. As Angela said '...they are not endangered, they are not threatened...'. Their success may be due to communal cooperation, aggressive behavior and the lack of foxes in Tasmania.

Angela listed a difficult bird research group including those studying swift parrots, orange bellied parrots, forty spotted pardalotes, masked owls and the birds of King Island. The researchers include Zorro the border collie which has been trained to find masked owl pellets.

Peter Puskic is studying birds including mutton birds, the short tailed shearwater, Melanie Wells ticks in seabirds and is about to start a study of toxoplasmosis in little penguins while Lauren Roman, Chris Wilcox, Heidi Aumen, Jennifer Lavers and others are studying plastic in sea birds and foraging ecology. During the discussion on this matter Angela noted that ticks live on seabirds in the air pocket where the down is against the skin thus staying dry.

BirdLife Tasmania conducts other research and has projects including backyard birds (Australia wide), data on birds feeding on roadkill, flame robin surveys to see if these are increasing or decreasing and where they are going especially in winter time, shorebird and tern populations with regular reports on numbers, and does the state of Tasmanian bird report. Birdlife Tasmania also does penguin colony protection and monitoring, shorebird nesting area monitoring and water quality and silver gulls in the Kingborough area.

Angela asked what we could do if we liked birds stating that every now and then something interesting comes out. She talked about a study of Sulphur crested cockatoos foraging in wheellie bins in Stanwell Park, Wollongong. The birds could open bins to feed and people from around Australia were asked to add to a survey and say whether the bird did this anywhere else.

She then went on to list online tools and survey sites for recording birds starting with Birdlife Australia's Birddata with Backyard, Shorebird/Waders and Bitterns the current projects. She described eBird as the one she mainly used while iNaturalist.org was more difficult as it did not have a list of birds so you needed to know them to start with. She has overcome this by taking bird lists from eBird and copying them into iNaturalist. Another program, BirdNET, developed primarily for the USA, Canada and Europe can identify some birds in Australia by sound.

From a video we heard and saw an amusing description of BirdNET being used to identify calls and learnt that there were thousands of pictures, sound files and movies of many species identified by this program. At the end of her presentation Angela told us about the bird identification day she was conducting at Skemps on Sunday 27 June and invited us to download this program and eBird ready for the day.

Angela answered many questions from members. Tom Treloggen then thanked Angela on behalf of members, led the acclamation and presented her with a copy of the Club's *Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania*.
Noel Manning

Vale – Norton Harvey, OAM

It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of Life Member Norton Harvey, who died on 5 June 2021.

Norton Harvey was the recipient of an OAM in the 1996 Queen's Birthday Honours (Australia), for his service to the arts as a photographer and to photographic organizations, particularly the Launceston Photographic Society, the Tasmanian Photographic Federation and the Australian Photographic Society.

Norton became a member of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club, joining in approximately 1952, serving as Secretary from 1953 to 1959, as Committee member from 1960 to 1963, President from 1964 to 1965 and as Vice President from 1966 to 1973.

He was made a Life Member on 4 October 1966. Minutes of the AGM report, *Mr H J King spoke of the contributions to the FNC of the retiring president Mr N Harvey and proposed that he be made a life member, as a keen observer of nature and outstanding photographer, he had contributed greatly to Club activities. This was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.*

Norton published 9 books, *Northern Tasmania in colour* (1969 & 1970), *Southern Tasmania in colour* (1969), *Tasmania* (1971 & 1974), *Wildflowers of Tasmania* (1974), and *National Parks of Tasmania* (1979 & 1987 Pocket Ed). He also published a calendar, *Wildflowers of Tasmania* in 1987 and 1988.

In 1988 Norton presented the John Skemp Memorial Lecture, giving a talk on *Photography*

The last Club function that Norton attended was the meeting held at Scotch Oakburn where Nic Haygarth gave his presentation "*H J King's Photography*" in September 2019.

Sunday 6 June – Beechford Coastal Walk and Talk

Three members attended this activity jointly presented by Conservation Volunteers Australia, George Town Coastal Community Management Group and Tamar NRM.

About seventy people attended which included UTAS students and their families, residents of Beechford and other towns of the area, and other interested people. Following introduction of the guest presenters, Kaye Bailey, Alison Hugo and Dr Eric Woehler, we divided into two groups. We started with the weeds and plants group with the other participants heading to the beach for the shorebird talk.

We joined Kaye (an LFNC member) and Alison to look at the flora around the recreation ground, along the Currie River to the pedestrian bridge and out to the Beechford coastline. Kaye pointed out the weeds as we walked and advised the appropriate methods for removal of each, noting that we must revisit annually to look for the inevitable regrowth as seeds germinate.

Unfortunately an area along the Currie River had become a dumping ground for green waste and we could see passionfruit vines high among the native trees as well as bamboo and boneseed, to name a few. Kaye also told us that although weeds can take over very easily, that some weeds are useful. Marram grass for example is used to hold dunes together although it can cause them to become too high and unstable. Alison pointed out and discussed the native plants and their role in the area.

Crossing the pedestrian bridge we saw examples of saltmarsh plants and were given a demonstration of how to remove euphorbia (sea spurge) by Jason who volunteers with a local conservation group. Jason advised that you should always wear rubber gloves when removing this plant by hand and eye protection is a must as the spurge has an irritant sap which is harmful to the eyes noting that spurge seedlings have shallow roots and are easily removed by hand. Kaye and Alison also gave a demonstration of cutting and pasting a 'mirror bush' with one visitor spending a considerable amount of time crouched under the plant to saw through the 120mm plus thick trunk.

At the beach front Dr Eric Woehler discussed the shorebirds and the reasons why vehicles should not be on beaches and the need for dogs to be on leashes when shorebirds are breeding or after the chicks have hatched. Two cars drove past as he talked to us with a dog in the lead car.

Noel, Prue, Sharon (from APS) and I had a look at the marine items that had washed up along the beach. There with many ascidians (sea squirts), sea grasses and seaweeds, coralline and pieces of sponge to be seen, admired for their beauty and photographed.

Back at the coastal reserve, participants enjoyed a free barbecue lunch while discussing the day.

Birds seen - 2 little pied cormorants, 2 pied oyster catchers, 1 sea eagle, 1 pacific gull, 1 great egret Fairy wrens on the wing, 20+ flock of pigeons circling for an hour or so, 1 small raptor chasing the flock

Field Trip – Saturday 19 June – Ralphs Falls for fungi and ferns

A nice morning for our field trip to the north-east and Ralph's Falls for fungi and ferns on a cool morning with a good covering of cloud and the possibility of rain. Thirteen members met at the Legerwood Memorial Carvings where we carpoled and set off at 10am. The last 16 kilometres of the drive to the falls was on a dirt road, not totally cleared of fallen branches following the recent bout of bad weather and we passed two keen cyclists on the way.

There was a light drizzle on alighting our vehicles, so we donned the wet weather gear and boots, and armed ourselves with cameras and loops. We entered the forest and the track to the falls viewing platform. The many fallen trees played host to a variety of ferns, fungi, mosses and lichens with more in amongst the leaf litter on the ground.

The walk to the falls took a couple of hours, while we explored along the track and discussed the change in vegetation, before taking in the view across to the falls. Our return walk was a little quicker, however finding fungi we had missed on the way in.

We lunched in the car park mostly in the sun with an occasional fine misty rain. Tom and Tina walked to Cash's lookout and on their return they both spoke about the change in the vegetation

out towards the lookout. They had been walking through forest, on boardwalks in wet boggy areas and to their surprise there was also a buttongrass plain.

Roy and Louise headed off early to look at species along the roadside towards St. Columba Falls and by the time we were ready to leave they had returned and were asked to look at plants seen near the shelter.

On the return to Scottsdale, we stopped a few times on the Ralph's Falls Road seeing *Sticherus* ferns and towering rough tree ferns, before meeting up at the Art Gallery Café. We had coffee and cake and a long chat, and viewed the art on display before heading home. The consensus was that everyone had enjoyed the day, we were lucky with the weather and that there was more to see in the north east on future field trips.

Thank you to Anne Scott for doing a recce earlier in the week for the trip, to confirm that the road was safe for members to travel on.

Noel and Karen

Ferns - *Asplenium flabellifolium*, necklace fern; *Asplenium* sp.; *Blechnum wattsii*, hard water fern; *Cyathea australis*, rough treefern; *Dicksonia antarctica*, soft treefern; *Gleichenia dicarpa*, pouched coral fern; ?? *Gleichenia microphylla*, scrambling coral fern; *Histiopteris incisa*, bat's wing fern; *Hymenophyllum australe*, austral filmy fern; *Hymenophyllum peltatum*, alpine filmy fern; *Hypolepis rugosula*, ruddy ground fern; *Microsorium pustulatum* subsp. *pustulatum*, kangaroo fern; *Notogrammitis billardierei*, finger fern; *Polystichum proliferum*, mother shield fern; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken fern; *Rumohra adiantiformis*, leathery shield fern; *Sticherus tener*, silky fan fern

Plants - *Acaena* sp., buzzy; *Aristotelia peduncularis*, heartberry; *Atherosperma moschatum* subsp. *moschatum*, sassafras; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Coprosma nitida*, mountain currant; *Dryophila cyanocarpa*, Turquoise berry or Solomon's seal; *Eucalypt* sp.; *Gaultheria hispida*, copperleaf snowberry; *Leptospermum lanigerum*, teatree; *Melaleuca pallida*, yellow bottlebrush; *Monotoca glauca*, goldey wood; *Notelaea ligustrina*, native olive; *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, myrtle beech; *Pennywort* sp.; *Pimelea* sp., riceflower; *Pittosporum bicolor*, cheesewood; *Sphagnum* moss sp.; *Stellaria* sp.; *Tasmannia lanceolata*, mountain pepper; *Telopea truncata*, waratah; *Zieria arborescens*, stinkwood

Fungi - *Aleurodiscus limonisporus*; *Antrodiella zonta*; ***Ascocoryne sarcoides* –pink-purple gelatinous discs (pictured right, image KM)**; *Australoporus tasmanicus*; *Biscogniauxia capnodes*; *Clavaria zollingeri*; *Clavulinopsis amoena*; *Clavulinopsis sulcata*; *Cortinarius* sp.; *Datronia brunneoleuca*; *Fomes hemitephrus*; *Fomitopsis lilacinogilva*; ***Geoglossum cookeanum* (pictured below, image KM)**; *Geostrum triplex*; *Heterotextus peziziformis*; *Hygrocybe mavis*, white; *Hygrocybe* sp. (red); *Hymenoscyphus* discs; *Hypoxylon diatrypeoides*; *Leotia lubrica*; *Mycena kuurkacea* (bleeding





fungi); *Mycena* sp (brown); *Postia*; *Ramaria filicula*; *Ryvardenia campyla*; *Scleroderma*; *Stereum ostea*; *Tremella fuciformis*; *Trichoglossum hirsutum*

Grass - *Gahnia grandis*, cutting grass

Lichen - *Bunodophoron* sps lichen; *Cladina retipora*, coral lichen; *Cladonia pleurota*; *Stricta stipitata*

Skemps Day - Sunday 27 June – Birdwatching with Angela Hansen

Club member Angela Hansen offered to lead a bird walk at Skemps so we turned up bright and early, along with several guests with their impressively big cameras. Before we set off across the paddock we could see a Yellow Wattlebird passing by. Endemic number one. Then over the creek near the top waterhole, having ticked of a Raven and Butcherbird, Silvereyes and heard a Golden Whistler calling.

As we turned back towards the treeline to the south we could see a bird of prey trying to avoid a couple of Black Currawong (endemic two). Fortunately it perched high in a dead tree and gave ample opportunities for those with binoculars. Angela could make out the colouration and decided on either a brown goshawk or a sparrowhawk. With the two species sitting close on a branch, eventually the size difference gave the answer - a Sparrowhawk.

Walking back towards the trees, a female Scarlet Robin showed up, flitting between clumps of reeds, and it was soon joined by the brighter coloured male. A Green Rosella called “cussick, cussick” then went quiet again (endemic three).

Standing under the wattles and black woods at the corner of the Federation Corridor, we could see and hear several thornbills. Listening to their call we could pick up in particular the different second part to their song, and eventually see their little white petticoats. This gave them away, they were the endemic Tasmanian Thornbill (endemic four).

Fairy Wrens and Grey Fantails were busy foraging in the leaves. Back in the trees at the bottom of the driveway the Fantails numbered around 20, along with wrens and Brown Thornbills. The walk continued along the edge of the paddock to the far end of the Forest Walk, then turned into the bush and followed the track back to the Centre. A constant caller was the Grey Shrike Thrush, giving his winter call of a single shrill note. Someone also heard the deeper call of the Yellow Throated Honeyeater (endemic five).

Many thanks to Angela, we enjoyed an interesting morning with her enlightening chat.

Prue Wright

Bird list provided by Angela - 1 Pacific Black Duck, 1 Collared Sparrowhawk, 1 Laughing Kookaburra, 1 Green Rosella, 8 Superb Fairywren, 1 Yellow Wattlebird, 3 New Holland Honeyeater, 1 Yellow-throated Honeyeater, 1 Brown Thornbill, 20 Tasmanian Thornbill, 3 Grey Shrikethrush, 3 Golden Whistler, 1 Grey Butcherbird, 2 Black Currawong, 1 Grey Currawong, 20 Grey Fantail, 5 Forest Raven, 7 Scarlet Robin, 6 Silvereye

Social Evening – Tuesday 13 July – Riverside Hotel

Eleven members met at the Riverside Hotel for the first social meal under Covid restrictions. We all signed in with either our phone app or by hand, sanitized our hands and were shown to our table. We had table service for all our drinks and ordering of meals, a relaxing evening with no standing in queues.

The meals were generous and tasty, and the desserts the final touch. Before we left, a couple of members gave us a good laugh when recalling their holiday fiascos, usually due to their choice of travel partner.

Field Trip - Sunday 18 July – Liffey Falls

Seven members and a visitor arrived at the top car park to botanise along the Liffey Falls track on a cold sunny morning. The recent rain made the track down to the falls a little muddy in spots but far better than some tracks we have been on.

The walk to the falls was the usual slow amble taking in all the trees and ferns towering above us and the lower ferns, fungi, mosses and lichens. Roy has been studying ferns and has a particular interest in the variety of filmy ferns growing on the trunks of the *Dicksonia Antarctica* and spent some time with members looking at them. He also pointed out the *Tmesipteris obliqua*, the common fork fern which we have seen growing on the *Dicksonia* in Notley Gorge and at the Skemps property. While the back group was stopping and starting, the group up front was locating interesting fungi and waiting for other members to catch up, before moving on in search of the next find.

At the first observation platform next to the river the water was deafening as it crashed over the cascades to the river below sending up a mist of spray, a much stronger than usual flow after recent rains.

We saw the red berries of *Coprosma quadrifida*, native currant, the violet berries of the *Dianella tasmanica* and *Atherosperma moschatum*, sassafras also had tiny little white flowers.

Lunching before we left, a group of little fairy wrens hung around in the hope of some crumbs.



Karen Manning

Ferns - *Asplenium flabellifolium*, necklace fern; *Blechnum nudum*, fishbone water fern; ***Blechnum watsii*, hard water fern (pictured left, image KM);** *Dicksonia antarctica*, soft treefern; *Histiopteris incisa*, bats wing fern; *Hymenophyllum flabellatum*, shiny filmy fern; *Hypolepis rugosula*, ruddy ground fern; *Microsorium pustulatum*, kangaroo fern; *Notogrammitis billardiarei*, finger fern; *Polystichum proliferum*, mother shield fern; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken; *Tmesipteris obliqua*, common fork fern

Plants - *Acacia* sp., wattle; *Aristolelia peduncularis*, heartberry; *Atherosperma moschatum*, sassafras; *Clematis aristata*, mountain clematis; *Coprosma quadrifida*, native currant; *Dianella tasmanica*, forest flaxlily; *Eucalyptus obliqua*, stringybark; *Gonocarpus*

micranthus, creeping raspwort; *Muehlenbeckia gunnii*, forest lignum; *Monotoca glauca*, goldey wood; *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, myrtle beech; *Olearia argophylla*, musk daisybush; *Pimelea drupacea*, cherry riceflower; *Pittosporum bicolor*, cheesewood; *Pomaderris apetala*, dogwood; *Zieria arborescens*, stinkwood

Fungi - *Australoporus tasmanicus*; *Bisporella citrina*; *Byssomerulius corium*, leathery shelf fungi; *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*, blue wood staining fungi; *Geostrum triplex*, earth star; *Hypocrea sulphurea*; *Hypoxylon* sp.; *Lycoperdon pyriforme*; *Mycena interrupta*, pixie's parasol; *Mycena* sp.; *Podoserpula pusio*, pagoda fungus; *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*, toothed jelly; *Stereum ostrea*, golden curtain crust; ***Trametes versicolor* (pictured right, image KM)**; *Tremella* sp., jelly fungus; *Tremella globispora*



Grass - *Carex appressa*, tall sedge; *Isolepis* sp., clubsedge

Birds - *Malurus cyaneus*, fairy wren

Skemps Day – Saturday 31 July

Eight members and a friend arrived at Skemps after the drive out in light rain with a big downpour soon after arrival.

The first job for the day was getting a warming fire going to greet members as they arrived including the first visit for new members Peter and Lini who were eager to look around the property.

With no further rain, Jeff, Peter, Lini, Tom and Tina headed to the Top Falls to see the water flow going over, with Jeff declaring it the best flow he had seen. Jeff and Peter returned to the Centre along the roadway with Peter impressed enough to take many photos. Tom, Tina and Lini left the falls and made a detour through the Bedfordia Track on their return. Jill and Carol walked the Watergate Track with no reports of any blockages on the many tracks walked on the eastern side of the property.

In the Centre a few small jobs were done, including replacing a bolt in the new storage cupboard and the re-attachment of the ANN picture and plaque on the wall.

I walked to the Loop Trail to see if the new boardwalks had fully fixed this boggy track and unfortunately a section was so waterlogged, I feared slipping and didn't proceed further. The paddock between the two entrances to the Loop Trail is boggy in wet weather and there is a limb down near the start of the western entrance to this track which requires chainsaw work.

Another excellent day at Skemps with the weather on our side. K & N Manning

Sunday 22 August – Field Trip to Native Point Nature Reserve, Windermere

Join with Club member Angela Hansen and BirdLife Tas. members to explore this little known reserve on the Tamar River near Windermere on the East Tamar. We will assist with the recording of birds in the area and explore the native bush. If you are interested in attending please email Angela for additional information.

Weekend Field Trip – Friday 22 to Sunday 24 October – Mt Cameron Field Study Centre

The Club's booking has been confirmed for this weekend. The Centre is approximately 140km from Launceston and Google maps indicates travel time to be approximately 2 hours, via Bridport on the Waterhouse Road turning off at Boobyalla.

The cost will be \$25 per person per night. We have been advised that there are two bunkrooms of 14 and 16. There is a fully equipped kitchen with large gas stove and oven, large gas bbq, microwave, fridge and all utensils. The Centre runs on 240 volt electricity generated from a solar system backed up by a diesel generator. There are two bathrooms with toilets, showers and hand basins. All hot water is through a gas system. There is a large verandah and a campfire area at the front of the building. Heating if needed, is provided by a large wood heater in the main room. We will need to bring our own bedding and pillows, as they only provide mattresses. Bring along any food and drinks that you require for the weekend, there are no corner shops in the immediate area.

Email Helen Tait on program@lfnc.org.au to book your bed.

Promotional videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMkSxrID1lg> (6 min) – view the accommodation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CASGews6hVA> (1 min 10)

Some members will go to the centre on the Friday night. Other members who wish to come on Saturday will need to allow a travel time of about 2 hours from Launceston to meet up at the field centre around 10:00 am for a walk starting at 10:30 at the Whale Rock track.

Mike Douglas UTAS lecturer and Field Naturalist who is generous with his time and knowledge as we know from past field trips with him, will lead us on the walk to Whale Rock in the granite country as we take in the botany and the geomorphology of the area near to the Mt Cameron Field Centre.

On Saturday night we can share a meal-time and perhaps some photos, film or impromptu talks. On Sunday morning we hope to have Scottsdale locals Craig and Debbie Searle join us; Craig to speak about arrangements for off grid services at the Centre and Debbie to show local fauna and the orchids, and the myriad of other plants that we expect to be in flower at that time.

Additional Information

Club Outings:

- Until further notice, members should make their own travel arrangements to participate in club outings, contact the Program Manager at the email address below, if you required further details.
- Provide your own food and drinks for the outing and wear/take clothing/footwear suitable for all weather types.
- When travelling by car in convoy, each driver is responsible to ensure that the vehicle behind is in sight immediately after passing a cross road or fork in the road.
- When carpooling, petrol costs should be shared between all the passengers, including family of the driver, and based on other clubs the Committee suggested \$11 per 100 km. This is a guideline only.

Name Tags: Please wear your name tags to meetings and on outings.

Tea/Coffee: A levy of 50c is currently charged for supper provided at meetings.

Field Centre: All members have access to the John Skemp Field Centre, but should contact our booking manager, Phil Brumby on 0407 664 554 or bookings@lfnc.org.au regarding availability and keys.

Field Centre Phone Number: (03) 6399 3361

Postal Address: 23 Skemps Road, Myrtle Bank 7259

Internet site: <https://www.lfnc.org.au>

Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/527797787360157/>

Emails: secretary@lfnc.org.au

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