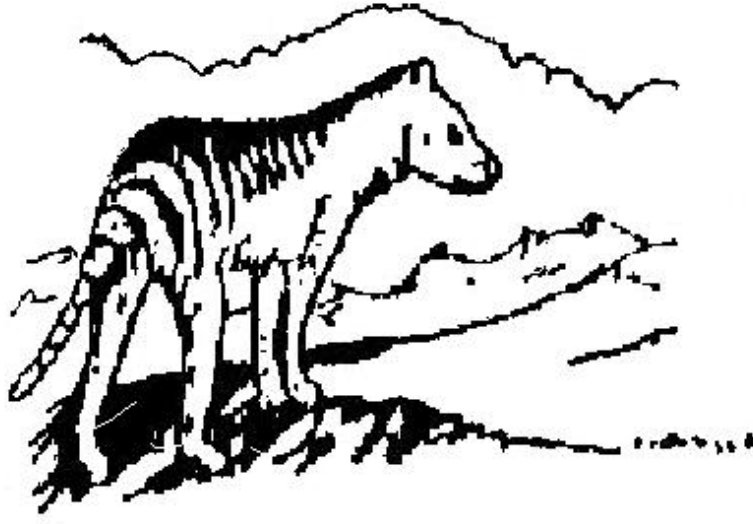


# THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

Issued to members of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club as a contribution to club activities.



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

**Volume XLIV No 1**

**October/November 2010**

- Patron** : Mr Chris Tassell, AM
- President** : Mr A Pegler, 37 Maroney St Kings Meadows 6344 1076
- Vice President** : Ms E Montgomery, 6 Cleary Ave Young Town, 6344 3989  
Mr T Treloggen, 68 Mulgrave St Launceston, 6343 4043
- Hon. Secretary** : Mr J Elliott, 64 Penquite Rd Newstead, 6344 9303
- Hon. Treasurer** : Ms K Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277
- N'letter Co-ordinator** : Ms K. Manning
- Librarian** : Ms T McGlynn
- Committee** : M Clarke, L Mockridge, J Simmons, M Simmons,  
R Skabo, P Warren, N Manning

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month, Feb-Dec at Scotch-Oakburn College, Penquite Rd Newstead

## **PROGRAM**

### **DECEMBER 2010**

**Tuesday 7**                      **Guest Speaker : Erik Wapstra ‘*Tasmanian Skinks*’**

**Saturday 11**                    **Christmas at Skemps**  
**(see additional information this newsletter)**

### **JANUARY 2011**

**Friday 21 -**                    **LFNC hosting Federation Weekend at Ben Lomond**  
**Sunday 23**                    **(see additional information this newsletter,**  
   **bookings for accommodation essential)**

### **FEBRUARY**

**Tuesday 1**                    **General Meeting - Butterflies, speaker to be confirmed**

**Sunday 6**                    **Field Trip**

**Sunday 27**                    **Skemp Day - Seed collection**

### **MARCH**

**Tuesday 1**                    **General Meeting - Member’s Night**

**Sunday 6**                    **Field Trip**

**Monday**                    **Evening Meal**

**The full January to June 2011 program will be available shortly at**

**<http://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm>**

## **COMMITTEE/GENERAL MEETING**

**Skemp Report** - John Simmons is looking into the possibility of putting a covenant on the new land. Work in the barn continues. Some large pieces of pine remain following the recent burning of the piles. A Conservation Volunteers group will be at Skemps the week after Christmas to install additional boardwalks on the Zig-Zag track.

**Puggle October** - Alison Green reminded the meeting that the names “starfish” and “jellyfish” were not correct as these animals were not fish. She then asked the members to name another marine invertebrate that is wrongly called a fish. Roy Skabo correctly identified the cuttlefish.

### **Sightings**

**October** - Maureen Johnstone had seen a Spotted-tail Quoll between Strahan and Queenstown. She also saw exotic Radiata Pines in the rainforest there. Peter Warren said that there were plenty of Bennetts Wallabies, including females with young, on Ben Lomond. Jeff Campbell saw a Grey Goshawk at Skemps. Shirley Anthony reported that Greenhood Orchids were flowering in the Punchbowl. Tom Trelloggen had seen Galahs, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Magpies in South Launceston. Margrit Korosi had also seen Sulphur-crested Cockatoos at Trevallyn Dam. Alison Green said that Swallows were at Woolmers. Jean Harvey had seen Cattle Egrets. John Elliott described seeing Nankeen Night Herons on Queechy Pond.

**November** - Maureen Johnstone had seen six pelicans feeding in the Trevallyn Tail-race, cygnets at Tamar Island and sawfly larvae at St Helens. Irmgard Rosenfeldt had found a hermit crab on Hazards Beach. Jeff Campbell said that a Striated Pardalote was calling in his yard and nesting next door. Lisa Gershwin had seen canary worms, scorpions and earth-tongue fungi in Notley Fern Gorge and a large colony of Maroon-hood orchids in the Gorge. Prue Wright reported seeing Dusky Wood Swallows near her home. On 31 October Alison Green had seen an Australian Admiral butterfly feeding on parsley in her garden. She had also heard butcherbirds calling on Windmill Hill since early October. Tom Trelloggen had watched Butcherbirds hunting skinks in his backyard. Michael Clarke had seen a Swamp Harrier near Henry Street.

**Library Report** - Tina McGlynn reported that the frog CD had been bought. Tina also moved that “*Tasmanian Plant Names Unravelling*” be bought for the Library.

### **General -**

**Revegetation on Skemp Creek** - The 60 more seedlings bought with the Fill-a-Gap money have been planted. This finishes planting for the year. Stakes for sharpening and netting for tree-guards will be bought so they can be prepared for the planting of a further 400 trees next year.

**Seed Collection** - Another collection day has been scheduled for 27 February 2011.

**Club Calendar** - The calendar will be shelved for this year due to printing problems.

**Program Sub-Committee** - Roy Skabo, Peter Warren and Prue Wright have volunteered to arrange the club’s program of speakers and outings for 2011.

### **Ben Lomond Federation Get-together - 21 to 23 January 2011**

The LFNC will be hosting this get-together during the wildflower season on Ben Lomond and we look forward to members joining with those from other field naturalists for this weekend event.

Accommodation is available at Borrowdale Lodge (\$12.00 per person/night) and Rovers Lodge (\$35.00 per person/night). Borrowdale is similar to Skemps with share bunkroom and bathroom facilities, a fully equipped kitchen (no refrigeration) and a comfortable dining/lounge area. The Rovers Lodge provides rooms with ensuite facilities that accommodates four people. There is a fully equipped kitchen with refrigeration and dining/lounge areas. Bring your own sleeping gear and food for the weekend. The program is currently being organised. Elizabeth Daley the author of 'Wings', has confirmed she will be attending.

Contact John Elliott by email at [secretary@lfnc.org.au](mailto:secretary@lfnc.org.au) or by phone on 6344 9303 for more information or to book accommodation.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 5 October**

### **The following were nominated for the positions available:**

**President:** Al Pegler

**Vice President:** Elizabeth Montgomery

**Vice President:** Tom Treloggen

**Treasurer:** Karen Manning

**Secretary:** John Elliott

**Newsletter Editor:** Karen Manning

**Librarian:** Tina McGlynn

**Committee Members** John Simmons, Marion Simmons, Roy Skabo, Michael Clarke, Peter Warren and Lynne Mockridge

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR RENEWAL**

Members are advised that all membership subscriptions are due for renewal. Family memberships are \$30.00 and Single memberships are \$25.00. Please pay the Treasurer at General Meetings or on field trip/Skemp days. Cheques payments should be made payable to the 'Launceston Field Naturalists Club' and can be mailed to:

Launceston Field Naturalists Club, PO Box 1072 Launceston 7250

## **GENERAL MEETING - 5 October - Guest Speaker Wendy Potts**

Wendy Potts has been a Botanist in the Threatened Species Unit of DPIPW for 15 year and at the October general meeting spoke to members about threatened plant species on Macquarie Island and in Tasmania.

The Threatened Species Protection Act of 1995 was established to provide protection of Tasmania's threatened native flora and fauna. At this time 465 flora species were listed by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). Since 1995, 100 new species have been listed and 16 species have been delisted, with some status changes to existing species listed.

Flora and fauna species can be listed as either Endangered, Endangered (presumed

extinct), Vulnerable and Rare. Guidelines were prepared by the SAC as to how the criterion is applied to the taxonomic groups.

**Endangered** – there is a danger of extinction because long-term survival is unlikely while factors causing it to be endangered continue to operate.

**Endangered (presumed extinct)** – it is presumed to be extinct on the grounds that no sightings of the taxon in the wild can be confirmed during the past 50 years.

**Vulnerable** – if it is likely to become endangered while factors causing it to be vulnerable continue to exist.

**Rare** – if there is a small population in Tasmania that is not endangered or vulnerable, but it is at risk.

Flora and fauna can also be listed at a Commonwealth level, but this takes into account species in all States and something endangered in Tasmania may be abundant in Australian states and not listed. Although very few flora species change status, reasons for change include: taxonomic changes, species and groups escaped attention previously, improved information now available on species - [Natural Values Atlas](#), reduction in forest clearing and climate change is implicated in the decline of some species.

Wendy talked about some plants that had been listed as endangered on Macquarie Island (MI)

- *Azorella macquariensis* (Macquarie Cushions) 90% of this endemic plant has died. Isolated plants in swampy areas are surviving. The plant is not well adapted to drought stress and is now critically endangered.
- *Polystichum vestitum* (Prickly Shieldfern) this endemic fern is threatened by rabbits who damage the ferns by frond grazing and burrowing.
- *Poa cookii* (Cooks Tussock Grass) is not an endemic plant, but there has been a decline in numbers and the plant now only survives where rabbits can't get to it.
- *Nematocerus Sulcatum* and *Nematocerus dienemum* (listed as vulnerable), both are endemic to Macquarie Island and have been listed due to rabbit grazing.
- *Galium Antarcticum* (Subantarctic Bedstraw) is found in Australia and endemic to MI, once again rabbit activity, both grazing and burrowing has caused a decline in this herb.

The following Tasmanian plants were listed last year.

- *Pomaderris pilifera ssp talpicutica* (Moleskin Dogwood) – endemic to Tasmania, small populations at East Risdon and Tamar River (on the road verge near Gunn's Pulpmill) and one plant at Fingal. There are fewer than 250 plants in total and it has been listed as endangered.
- *Asplenium trichomanes ssp trichomanes* (Maidenhair Spleenwort) - (Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) priority species). Found in three locations in restricted areas. This plant is considered a stochastic risk.
- *Thelymitra atronitida* (Black-hooded Sun Orchid) – this plant had been listed due to taxonomic change. It is found in two locations, Kingston and Coles Bay, where it is at risk due to urban development. There are fewer than 50 plants.
- *Epacris moscaliana* (Seepage Heath) – endemic to Tasmania. Found in ten locations and at risk of weed invasions, inappropriate fire regimes, dams and

changes to water flow.

#### Rediscovered

- *Myosurus Australis* (Southern Mouselily) – listing has changed from presumed extinct to endangered. One small population has been located.
- *Corunastylis nudiscapa* (Dense Midge Orchid) – presumed extinct to endangered. There are fewer than 50 plants in Southern Tasmania. It is a stochastic risk and at risk of weed invasion.
- *Hibbertia Rufa* (Brown Guinea Flower) – rediscovered in 2008 by Roy Skabo. It was presumed extinct and is now listed as rare. It has a restricted distribution, there are 28 sites in 15 locations. This plant is at risk from *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a fungus-like organism that causes root rot.
- *Wumbea latifolia* (Broadleaf Early Nancy) - last seen in 1836, rediscovered in 2010 at Woolnorth and is the only known location. There are 500 – 800 plants, but these are threatened by exotics. This may be a Tasmanian endemic.

#### Change to listing

- *Sowerbaea juncea* (Rush Lily) – was uplisted from rare to vulnerable. There are nine sub-populations, with 500 – 1000 flowering per year. Most are on private land and inappropriate disturbance will continue the decline in populations.
- *Pterostylis Atriola* (Snug Greenhood) – endemic to Tasmania. Was listed as endangered but now rare. There are 15 sub-populations, many of which are in State Forests and reserves which are protected by the RFA, so are no longer under threat. Fewer than 2500 enable it to be listed, but more work will probably find additional plants.
- *Epacris Acuminata* (Clasping-leaf Heath) – now delisted. There are 56 sub-populations, with 500,000 mature plants.
- *Brachyscome perpusilla* (Tiny Daisy) – Rare. Was discovered by Rodway on the Queens Domain in Hobart 1901. The next sighting was at Waterhouse in 1995. But as recently as September 2010 it was located at Tom Gibson Reserve. Populations have probably been overlooked in the past due to the size of the flower and that it flowers earlier than most plants.

The DPIPWE site has a wealth of information for people interested in [threatened species](#) whether it be, flora or fauna, with many publications available for download. DPIPWE is currently undertaking a new project; the *Threatened Species Advisor* which is a web-based management information service.

If you are interested in helping to locate threatened plants [Wildcare](#) has a group, Threatened Plants Tasmania, that encourages community members to be involved in field trips to find, monitor and protect vulnerable species.

Enquiries regarding membership and field trips should be made to [threatenedplantstas@gmail.com](mailto:threatenedplantstas@gmail.com)

Karen Manning

## FIELD TRIP - TOM GIBSON RESERVE - Sunday 10 October

Fifteen club members and a guest visited Tom Gibson Reserve at Epping Forest following Wendy Potts interesting talk on threatened flora. The Reserve is run by the Parks and Wildlife Service and was the site of recently discovered rare plant, *Brachyscome perpusilla* (Tiny Daisy) , which we hoped to see for ourselves.

The weather was perfect for wandering in the Reserve identifying and recording the many plants that we saw in three separate locations. We were all looking forward to going to the site of the daisy so decided to have a late lunch. Roy had the GPS co-ordinates so off we went in convoy. Many opened gates later, we arrived at a large paddock hopeful that we would also find the tiny daisy. From the recorded GPS point we spread out and looked for quite sometime but unfortunately did not find the tiny daisy. We were interested in the large holes in the ground presumably a spider's. Alison Green was brave and coaxed a large mean looking Wolf Spider (*Tasmanicosa tasmanica*) from the hole long enough for it to be photographed.

A little disappointed at not finding the tiny daisy, we returned to the cattle-yard area for lunch, which was followed by another wander in a bushy area near some ponds . We left the Reserve about 4 pm and returned to Launceston.

During the day we observed the following:

Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) , Pink Fingers Orchid (*Caladenia carnea*), Small Spider-orchid (*Caladenia clavigera*), Musky Finger-orchid (*Caladenia gracilis*), Lesser Fingers (*Caladenis mentiens*), Hairy Bristlewort (*Centrolepis strigosa*), Blue Stars (*Chamaescilla corymbosa*), Blue Lovecreeper (*Comesperma volubile*), Small Gnat-orchid (*Cyrtostylis reniformis*), Common Golden Moths (*Diuris chryseopsis*), Leopard Orchid (*Diuris pardina*), Pale Sundew (*Drosera peltata*), Dwarf Sundew (*Drosera pygmaea*), Black Peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*), Earthstar (*Geastrum triplex*), Waxlip Orchid (*Glossodia major*), Curling Everlasting (*Helichrysum scorpioides*), Erect Guineaflower (*Hibbertia riparia*), Golden Weatherglass (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*), Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*), Coarse Bottledaisy (*Lagenophora huegelii*), Common Beard-heath (*Leucopogon virgatus*), Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*), Peachberry Heath (*Lissanthe strigosa*), Sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*), Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*), Common Onion-orchid (*Microtis unifolia*), Soft Bowflower (*Millotia tenuifolia*), Adders-tongue (*Ophioglossum lusitanicum*), Prickly Geebung (*Persoonia juniperina*), Slender Riceflower (*Pimelea linifolia*), Common Flatpea (*Platylobium obtusagulum*), Small poranthera (*Poranthera microphylla*), Blackstripe Greenhood (*Pterostylis melagramma*), Dwarf Greenhood (*Pterostylis nana*), Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*), Maroonhood (*Pterostylis pedunculata*), Bearded Greenhood (*Pterostylis plumosa*), Matted Pea Bush (*Pultenaea pedunculata*), Small Wrinklewort (*Siloxerus multiflorus*), Hairy Pinkbells (*Tetratheca pilosa*), Twining Fringelily (*Thysanotus patersonii*), Dwarf Sunray (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*), Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*)

Bennett's Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*), Satin-green Forester Moth (*Pollanisia viridipulverulentus*), Wolf Spider (*Tasmanicosa tasmanica*), Dung Beetle

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*), Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*), Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*), Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), Green Rosella (*Platycercus caledonicus*)

## **A GUIDE TO FLOWERS AND PLANTS OF TASMANIA, 4th Edition**

Just a reminder that copies of the above Club guide is available to members, from John Simmons or Karen Manning for \$21.00 each, normal bookshop price is now \$29.95. They would make an ideal gift for Christmas or other occasion.

## **KING ISLAND FEDERATION GET-TOGETHER 15 - 17 October**

Nine members from the Launceston Field Naturalists Club attended this get together, all but two members travelling to King Island a few days prior to the event to spend extra time exploring this interesting island. Members of the King Island Field Naturalists Club (KIFNC) hosted those travelling from Tasmania.

The meet and greet BBQ was held on the Friday night in The Boathouse at Currie harbour, where we dined on King Island steaks and other fine fare. This was followed by an interesting presentation by Kevin Bonham (Tas Field Nats) on snails. This was truly an enlightening talk as they are amazing little creatures.

Saturday morning was an early start, meeting at Currie at 8 am, today's field trips were to be on the west coast of King Island and we were heading north for our first stop at Quarantine Bay for a four kilometre beach walk to Yellow Rock River. On the beach we were buffeted by very strong wind and we watched with interest the birds struggling to fly, they must develop powerful wing muscles with the strong wind being a regular occurrence. Carmen told us the story of the shipwreck of paddle-steamer *Shannon*: the remains of the boiler, the engine and the drive shafts can still be seen in the shallow water on the beach.

At a small lookout on the walk from the beach, Carmen talked about the revegetation project that KIFNC had been involved with in the area as it was a flight path for migratory birds to and from Tasmania. Following a short morning tea, and Carmen's blast on her trumpet to indicate we had five minutes before leaving, we were on the road to Cape Wickham Lighthouse for lunch, with many stopping at a site on the way to view a rare orchid.

At Cape Wickham Reserve the KIFNC have fenced and revegetated the area around the picnic shelter and toilets. Following lunch we had the opportunity to walk about the remains of the settlement, visit grave sites of ship wreck victims and read the information boards about the many wrecks in the area and of course take a few photos of the tallest lighthouse in Australia.

Our next car trip was from the far north of King Island to the south west (some 80 kilometres) to the Seal Rocks State Reserve. Here we took a short walk to the 7000 year old calcified forest, the remains of the root systems of an ancient forest encrusted in salt; it was as if you had stepped back in time. The wind must have been close to gale force and thankfully the recently installed viewing platform had large



flat pillars at the corners, giving photo takers a rest for their cameras whilst they hung on to the guard rails.

Our next supposedly short walk was from the car park near the Calcified Forest out to the coast and across the cliff tops to the Seal Rocks car park. This was grossly underestimated as once on the coast our guide pointed to a small dot in the distance that was our destination and asked if anyone wanted to turn back, no-one did. About an hour and a half later, we arrived after making our way through some very rough terrain with very thick under growth and no visible walking tracks. The wildflowers were very pretty here and some stops were made for photos, even though the wind was very strong; pushing you on or even over if you stopped too long in the one place. We all agreed that the walk was well worth taking. The lookout at Seal Rocks was new, the scenery breath taking, but once again taking photos was difficult due to the wind. From here participants retired to their host's home to relax and tidy up in preparation for the evening meal at Grassy.

At Grassy we were joined by other KIFNC members who had been unable to join in the day's activities. The meals were delicious, our entrees, mains and desserts all featured local King Island produce and whilst we ate a slide show of images from King Island FNC activities and previous Federation meetings were shown. The meal was followed by a short presentation by Jeff Campbell about the history of the Australian Naturalists Network and he talked about each of the bi-annual meetings, while images from the most recent event held in August at Chinchilla in Queensland played in the background.

Sunday's field trips were on the East Coast of the island. We met at Naracoopa and headed along Sea Elephant Road to explore sites where there were orchids and wildflowers. Next stop was at Sea Elephant which is at the southern end of the Lavinia State Reserve; the Orange Bellied Parrot visits this area of the Island in autumn and spring. Shelley Davison, Ranger for Parks and Wildlife Services, talked to us about the significance of the Reserve being listed under the Ramsar Convention as a 'Wetlands of International Importance'. We walked to a lookout where we should have had a good view north over the Reserve, but we struggled to see anything much as the trees had grown and obscured the views.

We travelled south again and arrived at the Pegarah State Forest for lunch. The leeches were out for lunch too so we didn't stand still for too long. We explored the flora near our lunch area and then headed into the forest where we saw the Blue love-creeper (*Comesperma volubile*) providing a beautiful display draping itself over many ferns along the way and the endangered Bootlace bush (*Pimelea axiflora*) in flower. A White-bellied Sea-eagle (*Heliaeetus leucogaster*) was nesting in the forest and we were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of it resting on a tree branch close to its nest high in the trees. We observed large numbers of orchids in this area and also just off Mucronata Road where we took our last walk together.

This was an activity packed weekend which was a very enjoyable experience. The only downside to the trip is that many of my flora photos are blurry as I wasn't able to hold the camera still or the flora wouldn't stay still long enough for me to take the shot. I'm also sure the Cape Wickham lighthouse is on a lean, well my photos certainly depict this.

Many thanks to Carmen and her team for putting together a wonderful program, to our hosts who provided bed, breakfast and lunches and transport during the stay, and to everyone else involved for being there and making it a very memorable visit.

Karen Manning

**SKEMPS DAY - MACROINVERTEBRATE MONITORING - Saturday 23 October**

Twelve members and four visitors arrived at Skemps for macroinvertebrate monitoring. The water sample taken near the Top Falls today contained a larger than expected species, an *Astacopsis franklinii*, an endemic freshwater crayfish. Once the species had been sorted we identified them using the macroinvertebrate key, microscope and hand lenses. A report of the findings follows.

At the Top Pond our visiting Platypus was seen and a 30 second movie of it was taken fossicking in the reeds for food. The movie was shown to other members who arrived at the Centre, which prompted them to take a walk over to the pond to see for themselves.

Following lunch, we walked the new track which has been marked down through the recently purchased land and meets up with the Fern Gully track. We expected the track to have been steeper, but there was a gentle slope which will be good for members who are unable to access the Fern Gully from the steeper track. There is still quite a bit of work to be done at this stage.

Karen Manning

**MACROINVERTEBRATE MONITORING REPORT**

**Types found:**

Group	Common names	Grade
Coleoptera	Water Penny and other unidentified beetle larvae	5
Decapoda	<i>Astacopsis franklini</i>	4
Diptera	Chironomids, blackfly larvae and other unidentified fly larvae	3
Ephemeroptera	Mayflies	9
Plecoptera	Stoneflies	10
Trichoptera	Caddis flies, including one uncased caddis.	8

**Results**

The Signal 2 score is calculated by totaling the grades for the groups found and dividing by the number of groups found. The Signal 2 score for the six groups found is therefore 6.5.

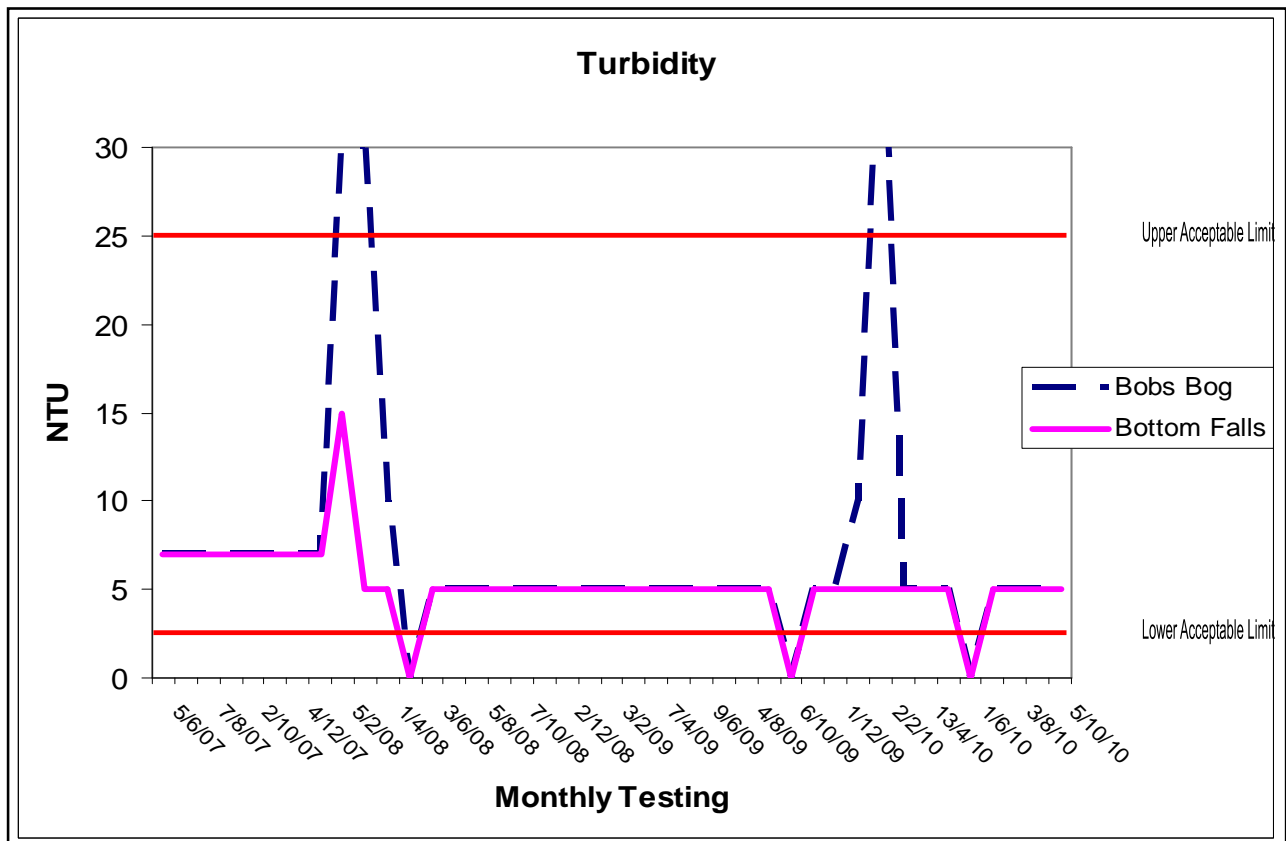
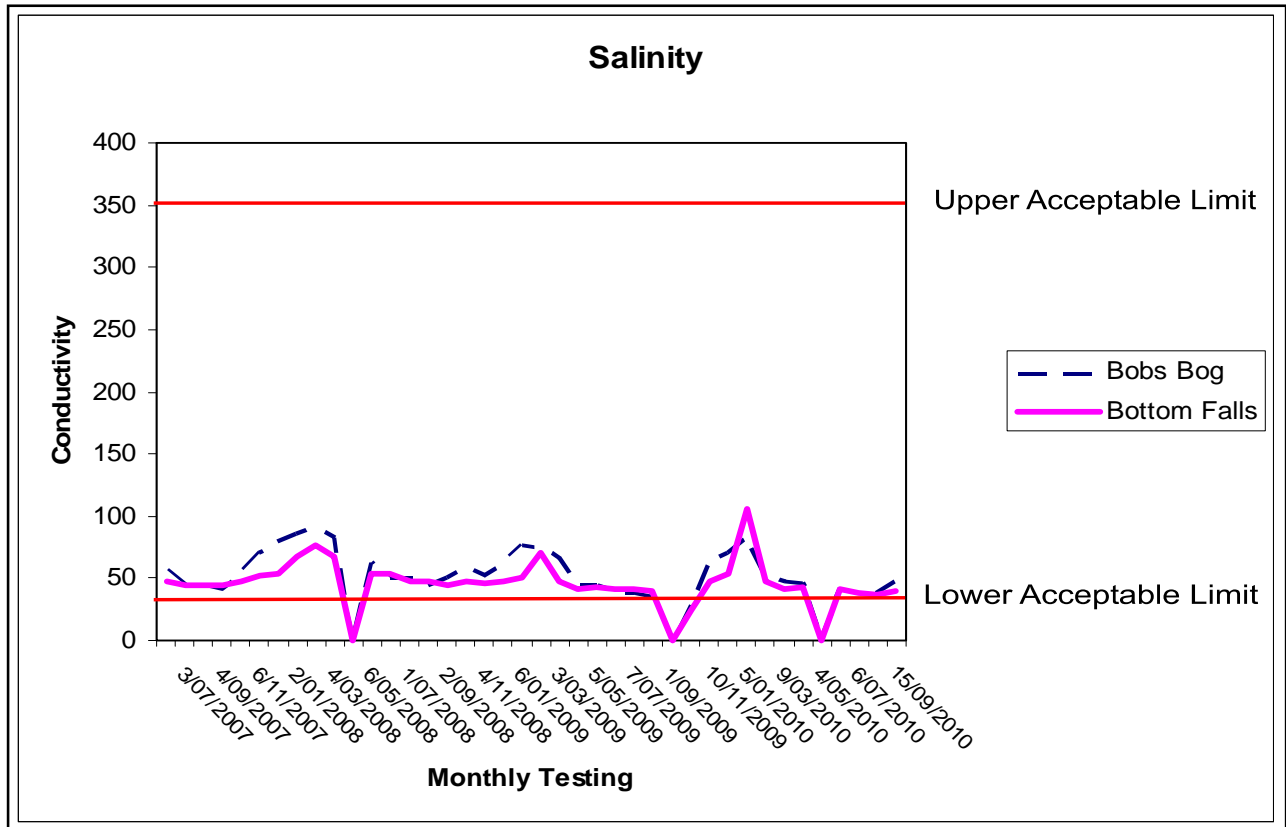
This is a relatively high Signal 2 score. Unfortunately the number of groups is a

little low so the plot of these results is in Quadrant 3, which can indicate relatively poor water quality. The following table shows, however, that this latest result is not all that different from previous results from this site.

<b>Sample date</b>	<b>Types</b>	<b>Signal 2</b>	<b>Quadrant</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Water Quality</b>
31/10/2005	9	6.2	1	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
22/04/2006	8	5.5	1	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
22/10/2006	8	6.2	1	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
21/04/2007	8	5.8	1	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
14/10/2007	9	5.4	2	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
19/04/2008	8	5.4	2	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
25/10/2008	7	6.3	1	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
17/05/2009	8	5.8	1	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
18/10/2009	8	5.8	1	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
14/04/2010	8	5.6	2	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
23/10/2010	6	6.5	3	Questionable quality, Indications of disturbance or poor sampling	Fair

Quadrant 3 plots can be associated with poor quality water due to acid mine drainage or toxic chemicals. They can also, however, be due to recent disturbances such as floods or to sample variations. The monthly salinity and turbidity readings have been consistently good and there has been no recent spraying on the neighbouring plantations. There have been some recent heavy falls of rain. It is worth noting that finding one more group, even a low-scoring group such as Hemiptera (water boatmen, back-swimmers), would put this month's result into Quadrant 1 which indicates good water quality. It might be worth sampling the site again on the next Skemps day in a month's time.

## Salinity and Turbidity Testing



## Follow-up Testing 20 November 2010

### *Types found*

Group	Common names	Grade
Acarina	Water mite	6
Amphipoda	Sideswimmers	3
Diptera	Chironomids, blackfly larvae and other unidentified fly larvae	3
Ephemeroptera	Mayflies	9
Hemiptera	Water Striders	2
Plecoptera	Stoneflies	10
Trichoptera	Caddis flies, including uncased caddis.	8

These give a Signal 2 score of 5.9, with seven groups. This is in Quadrant 1, which is more consistent with previous results. The site may have recovered somewhat from earlier heavy flows. More effort was put into sampling and classifying, so this could have contributed to the poorer result last month. It is worth noting that two groups (Coleoptera and Decapoda) were found last month and not found this month. These two samples were only a month apart. If the two sets of results were combined, there would be nine groups and a Signal 2 score of 5.6, suggesting that this site is basically healthy.

John Elliott

### **GENERAL MEETING 2 November - Members Night**

Philip Brumby's presentation was a timely reminder to members that during the warm weather we will inevitably see a snake while in the bush and what we must do in the unlikely event that we are bitten. He talked about Tasmania's three snakes, the Tiger Snake (*Notechis ater*), Lowland Copperhead (*Austrelaps superbus*) and the White-lipped snake (*Drysdalia coronoides*).

Daphne, a visitor to the meeting volunteered to be the victim, to enable Philip to demonstrate the method of applying a pressure bandage to a bite area, and how to immobilise the limb.

Lisa-ann Gershwin spoke briefly on her health and current situation.

Roy Skabo's presentation was on the recent King Island Federation Get-together. He talked about the meet and greet evening at the Boathouse, the trips to Cape

Wickham, Calcified Forest and the Seal Rocks cliff walk and orchid hunting to name a few, and showed images that were taken by some of the members present.

Al Pegler showed a picture made from butterfly wings.

Karen Manning presented a short movie of the Platypus which was seen in the Top Pond on Skemps Day by many members. Also a photograph of an *Astacopsis franklinii*, an endemic freshwater crayfish, that John Elliott found in the water sample he had collected for macroinvertebrate monitoring.

### **FIELD TRIP - FOOTHILLS OF BEN LOMOND AND ROSES TIERS - 7 November**

Sixteen members headed to Carr Villa reserve on the lower slopes of Ben Lomond on an overcast morning. At the Ben Lomond Road the fog hung low before us, but we proceeded to the Carr Villa car park and as there was no shelter from the misty rain and cold, we returned downhill stopping at four sites on the roadway to look for orchids and wildflowers.

Plants seen from Ben Lomond foothills to the Blessington Road turn-off. Most prominent were the eucalypts especially gum-topped stringybark (*E. delegatensis*) and with silver wattles and blackwoods still in flower at the higher elevation.

Many plants of the understorey were in flower as well. Including several species of the famous mountain berries, some of which bore red berries and tiny white flowers. Scattered brightly flowered pea plants of smooth goldentip (*Goodia lotifolia*) and hop bitterpea (*Daviesia latifolia*) were present as well as a white flowered *Leucopogon montanus*. Lower down the road we found patches of blackeyed susan (*Tetratheca labillardierei*) and several lots of along stemmed Ranunculus .

Orchids spotted in flower and identified thanks to Jeff Campbell included bird orchids *Chiloglottis triceratops* and *C. grammata*, pink fingers (*Caladenia carnea*) and the mountain *C. alpina*, waxlip orchid (*Glossodia major*) and a number of greenhoods including *Pterostylis melagramma*, *P. pedunculata* and *P. nutans*. Other plants included several native violets, *Viola hederacea* and *V. betonicifolia*, dwarf riceflower (*Pimelea humilis*), *Pelargonium australe*, common heath (*Epacris impressa*), and white or cream flowering *Hakea microcarpa*, dollybush (*Cassinia aculeata*) and many plants of forest daisybush (*Olearia lirata*).

At Roses Tier we found Tasmanian endemic acacia (*A. pataczekii*) in flower as well as Stinkwood (*Zieria arborescens*) and varnish wattle (*A. leprosa* var. *graveolens*).

During the day some insects that were noted thanks to Alison Green included a native snail (*Helicarion cuvieri*), a small colourful Hobart Brown butterfly (*Argynnina hobartia*), a black native cockroach (*Platyzosteria* sp.) and a leech (*Phailaenon tungens*).

Marion Simmons

### **SKEMPS DAY - 20 November**

Today was spring cleaning day at Skemps and nineteen members came prepared for the task. Following a cuppa and discussion of who would do what, everyone got

busy. Our aim was to clean the Field Centre from top to bottom, inside and out.

In the kitchen the cupboards were cleaned, crockery and plastics sorted and culled, and items used regularly were rewashed. The main room was de-cobwebbed, especially around the edges where the building and the roof come together and along the ceiling joists.

The mattresses were moved to air in the warm sunshine, while the bunkrooms and anti rooms were dusted and had cobwebs removed, walls wiped and windows washed. All bench surfaces, tables and chairs were wiped over and for the final job all the carpets were vacuumed and steam cleaned. Externally the building eaves, entrance ways and barbecue area had cobwebs removed and the windows were cleaned.

Meanwhile, John Elliott did another sampling of stream water for macro-invertebrate as he was not satisfied with results from the previous month (results from this sampling have been added to the end of the original report in this newsletter) and Peter Warren machined points on the first 300 sticks to be used next year in second planting on Skemp Creek.

In the middle of all this, we had lunch which was followed by everyone singing happy birthday to John Simmons and the cutting of his cake.

A big thank you to all who contributed to this very successful day. K Manning

## **CHRISTMAS AT SKEMPS - Saturday 11 December**

Members and their friends and family are invited to join in this end of year function. A guided walk through the recently acquired adjoining piece of land will leave from the Field Centre at 11.00 am sharp, the walk is on a gentle slope and will suit most people.

Please bring your own lunch, the BBQ will be lit as usual, and a plate of food to share for afternoon tea.

If you would like to participate in the Secret Santa (optional), please bring a gift valued at no more than \$5.00. Santa has promised to make an appearance prior to afternoon tea to pass out the gifts.

## **AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY MEETINGS**

LFNC members are welcome to attend APS meetings held on a Tuesday at Max Fry Hall, Gorge Road Trevallyn at 7.30 pm. The next meeting is on 15 February 2011.

Further details of their program can be obtained early next year from their site <http://www.apstasnorth.org/pages/program.html>.

## **Additional Information**

### **Club Outings:**

1. All outings depart from Inveresk carpark (near Museum entrance) at 9 am unless otherwise specified. Internet site updated regularly to reflect short notice changes. Saturday all-day parking cost is \$3.00. Sunday parking free.
2. You need to provide your own food and drinks for the outing unless otherwise specified. Morning tea is normally provided by the bus company on bus outings.
3. When travelling by car in convoy, each driver is responsible to ensure that the vehicle behind is in sight immediately after passing each cross road or fork in the road.
4. When car pooling, 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:** Name tags are to be worn at 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. Contact our booking manager, John Elliott on 6344 9303 regarding availability and keys.

**Field Centre Phone Number - 6399 3361**

**Postal Address:** PO Box 1072 Launceston 7250

**Internet site :** <http://www.lfnc.org.au>

**E.mail :** [secretary@lfnc.org.au](mailto:secretary@lfnc.org.au)