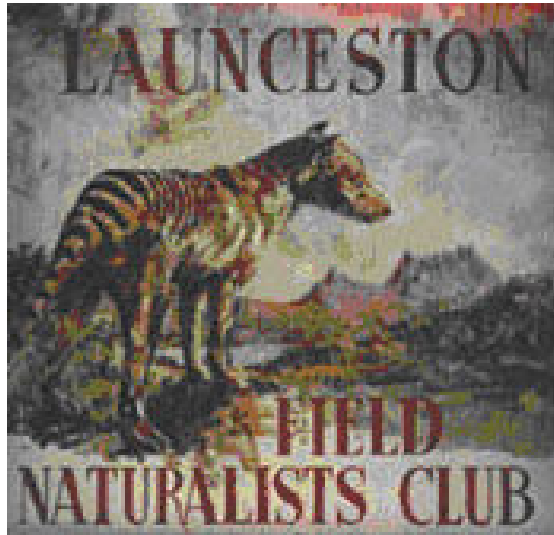


The Launceston Naturalist

60th ANNIVERSARY



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 XLIII No 1

October/November 2009

- Patron** : Mr Chris Tassell, AM
- President** : Mr N Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277
- Vice President** : Ms E Montgomery, 6 Cleary Ave Young Town, 6344 3989
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- 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** : G Cameron, L Mockridge, A Pegler, J Simmons,
M Simmons, R Skabo

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

**60th Anniversary Civic Reception held at
Launceston Town Hall on 6 October 2009**



Geraldine Cameron,
Shirley Graham and
Tom Treloggen

John Simmons, Alma McKay
and Tina Pinkard



Sarah, Michael, Mark and
Lee Brient

Sue Madden,
Bob Montgomery and
Alderman Jeremy Ball



PROGRAM

December

Tuesday 1 Members Night

Saturday 5 Christmas at Skemps

January 2010

23 - 24 Ben Lomond Weekend (see additional information in newsletter)

February

Tuesday 2 General Meeting - Speaker to be advised

Saturday 6 Seed collection at Skemps

Sunday 21 Seed collection at Skemps

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**All membership subscriptions are due and payable on or before
2 February 2010.**

\$25 Single, \$30 Family, \$2.50 Junior, \$35 Associate.

**Cheque payments should be sent to P.O. Box 1072, Launceston 7250 made
payable to the 'Launceston Field Naturalists Club'**

**New members who paid their membership after 1 July 2009 are not required to
renew their subscriptions. If you are not sure if this applies to you, please contact the
Treasurer, Karen on 6344 2277**

COMMITTEE/GENERAL MEETING

Skemp Report

October : John Simmons reported that the track between the road and the Fern Gully had been improved and several creek crossings installed. A large tree that had fallen across the entrance road had also been removed. A feral cat had been trapped and destroyed.

November : John Simmons reported that all planned tracks had been completed. Since Jeff Campbell had returned, a number of trees had been cut down and cut up. Grant Hanson was making tree guards for next winter's planting. Lining and insulating the bunk room has begun.

Puggle

October : there was no puggle this month due to the Civic Reception

November : John Elliott asked if anyone could identify the plant specimen depicted in the statue of Ronald Campbell Gunn in City Park. Graeme Briton correctly identified it as *Nothofagus gunnii*.

Sightings

October : there were no sightings this month due to the Civic Reception

November : Peter Warren had seen a Blue Wren in his garden, Magpies near the K-Mart, and a Flame Robin at Woodsdale. Chris Gleeson and Liz Duck had watched a cuckoo in a Wattlebird nest. Prue Wright was hoping to see White Goshawk chicks in a nest she knew. Jeff Campbell said that the Brown Falcons at Skemps were mating. Tom Treloggen had seen a Scarlet Robin at Pipers Brook. Prue Wright thought, and the meeting was inclined to agree, that Galahs could be more numerous. Alison Green reported a pied Blackbird at Windmill Hill. Lynne Mockridge had found a Stick Insect on her Dianellas.

Library Report

Purchase of *Wildlife of Australia* and the *Botanical Field Guide* for Skemp Library approved. These books have arrived and are now available in the Skemp Library. Donations were received from Pat Castley (*Australia the Beautiful Wilderness*) and Jeff Campbell (*Introduction to Australian Insects*). Thank you Pat and Jeff. A copy of the CD-ROM *Key to Tasmanian Dicotyledons* was also received.

Review of Constitution : the Secretary, John Elliott, reported that the comparison of the constitution and the Model Rules was complete. A number of items in the Model Rules could be addressed in the redraft of the constitution. A discussion paper setting out the differences between the redrafted constitution and the Model Rules would be considered at a Committee meeting.

New Member : we welcomed Shirley Anthony to the club at the November meeting when she was presented with her members kit.

Calendars : they are available at \$5.00 each from the Treasurer.

Guide to Flowers & Plants of Tasmania : copies are available for \$21.00 (members price, recommended retail \$29.95) from John Simmons or Karen Manning.

Annual Maintenance Statement : This statement is now displayed in the John Skemp Field Centre. No major changes were needed. The door locks have been replaced with locks that can be opened easily in an emergency.

Ben Lomond weekend : The meeting was told that the Club might be able to use a ski lodge in January when the alpine environment is at its best. Nothing had been finalised but anyone interested could give their contact details to the Secretary.

Field Day at Skemps follow-up: Following the success of the field day, it has been proposed to have activities for children 2 – 3 times a year, which could include archeology, geology, waterbugs and fungi. Contact will be made with the schools.

Christmas at Skemps : will be held on Saturday 5 December. Members and friends are welcome, please bring your own lunch and a plate of food to share for afternoon tea.

CIVIC RECEPTION - LFNC 60TH ANNIVERSARY - 6 October 2009

Elizabeth Montgomery and I met the Mayor, Albert van Zetten, and his wife Lyndel in his office for a pleasant chat about ourselves, the council, the club and Launceston generally. We were then shown upstairs to the reception room with the four of us welcoming the guests. A slow start led to a mini flood and by half past 5 around 60 of us were chatting amiably and catching up with those unable to attend recent meetings. Drinks and great finger food were being served with Rosemary Armitage and Elizabeth Clark, the Mayor's Secretary, joining the other staff to see that the catering ran smoothly. The Mayor gave an excellent speech indicating that he had researched the Club well and included birthday wishes for a young member, Mark Brient. I gave a short speech, thanked the Mayor and introduced founding member Bob Montgomery who gave us anecdotes of the early days of the Club. The Mayor said a final few words and invited us to enjoy the rest of the reception and the formalities ended with a round of happy birthday for Mark. We left the warm friendship of the reception to a cool and windy late afternoon in Launceston. A big thank you to Albert, Elizabeth Clark and the Council for the reception.

Noel J Manning

FIELD TRIP - Mt Barrow Discovery Trail - 10 October

The Trail trip with about ten members attending proved to be an interesting one from a botanical and historical point of view.

Many stops were taken on our way up the hill and although we had visited the area several weeks earlier on a previous occasion, there were plenty of flowers to be seen. These included numerous *Bedfordia salicina* (tasmanian blanketleaf) *Olearia lirata* (forest daisybush) as well as several other daisy bushes, *Pimelea nivea* (bushmans bootlace) an endemic, *Epacris impressa* (common heath), *Comesperma volubile* (blue love-creeper), *Viola hederacea* (ivy-leaf violet), *Pelargonium australe* (southern storksbill), *Lomatia tinctoria*, (guitar plant) another endemic, *Clematis aristata* (mountain clematis), *Acacia genistifolia* (spreading wattle), *Acacia myrtifolia* (redstem wattle), *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood), *Diplarrena moraea* (white flag-iris), *Pultenaea juniperina* (prickly beauty), *Stackhousia monogyna* (forest candles), *Veronica formosa* (speedwell bush), tons of mountain berries, *Hakea lissosperma* (mountain needlebush) in bud. Of course we saw waratahs too but they were only just starting to bud. There were many orchid leaves to be seen with some of the plants in bud.

The historical part of the excursion included a walk a short distance into the bush to see the remains of the old tramline that was used to cart logs to the old timber mill at the bottom of the mountain. Horses were used to cart the logs.

Further up we found a newish boardwalk heading off into the rainforest following a small creek. We started off with much interest only to find that it stopped rather suddenly in the middle, although it goes in a short distance from the other end. Funds must have run out at this stage it seems. Remains of an old tramline were seen.

A well constructed information and barbeque building is available to the public at the top where the story of timber getting in the area was well presented. We had lunch there and while there walked up an old road and inspected an old woodcutters hut that was still there which had been partly vandalised.

When we returned to the bottom of the trail we wandered in the bush and located the old mill site and found a few remnants to remind us of what was once there.

Marion Simmons

John Elliott compiled the following list of flora and fauna identified during the Mt Barrow Discovery Trail field trip

Animals

Macropus rufogriseus (Bennetts Wallaby)

Birds

Strepera fuliginosa (Black Currawong), *Cacomantis flabelliformis* (Fantailed Cuckoo), *Cacomantis pallidus* (Pallid Cuckoo), *Dacelo novaeguineae* (Laughing Kookaburra), *Pardalotus sp* (Pardalote), *Cacatua galerita* (Sulphur-crested Cockatoo), *Malurus cyaneus* (Superb Blue Wren), *Anthochaera paradoxa* (Yellow Wattlebird)

Ferns

Histiopteris incisa (batswing corallfern), *Blechnum nudum* (fishbone waterfern), *Polystichum proliferum* (mother shieldfern), *Asplenium flabellifolium* (necklace fern), *Blechnum spp* (waterfern)

Gymnosperms

Lycopodium spp (lycopodium)

Herbs

Acaena novae-zelandiae (common buzzy), *Comesperma volubile* (blue lovecreeper), *Senecio linearifolius sp.* (fireweed), *Stackhousia monogyna* (forest candles), *Viola hederacea* (ivyleaf violet), *Clematis aristata* (mountain clematis), *Geranium potentilloides* (mountain cranesbill), *Pelargonium australe* (southern storksbill), *Veronica formosa* (speedwell bush)

Monocotyledons

Dianella tasmanica (forest flaxlily), *Gahnia grandis* (cutting grass), *Lomandra longifolia* (sagg), *Drymophila cyanocarpa* (turquoise berry), *Diplarrena moraea* (white flag-iris)

Orchids

Caladenia alpina (alpine finger-orchid), *Chiloglottis spp* (bird orchids), *Pterostylis melagramma* (blackstripe greenhood), *Caladenia spp* (caladenias), *Corybas spp* (helmet orchids), *Pterostylis pedunculata* (maroonhood), *Pterostylis nutans* (nodding greenhood)

Shrubs

Pimelea nivea (bushmans bootlace), *Pimelea drupacea* (cherry riceflower), *Prostanthera lasianthos* (Christmas mintbush), *Coprosma hirtella* (coffeeberry), *Epacris impressa* (common heath), *Correa lawrenceana* (mountain correa), *Coprosma quadrifida* (native currant), *Myoporum insulare* (false boobyalla), *Olearia lirata* (forest daisybush), *Persoonia gunnii* (geebung), *Lomatia tinctoria* (guitarplant), *Pultenaea gunnii* (golden bushpea), *Aristotelia peduncularis* (heartberry), *Hibbertia spp* (hibbertia), *Leptecophylla spp* (pinkberry), *Coprosma nitida* (mountain currant), *Hakea lissosperma* (mountain needle bush), *Pimelea pauciflora* (poison riceflower), *Pultenaea juniperina* (prickly beauty), *Bursaria spinosa* (prickly box), *Acacia verticillata* (prickly moses), *Acacia myrtifolia* (redstem wattle), *Micrantheum hexandrum* (rivertrident bush), *Nematolepis squamea* (satinwood), *Acacia genistifolia* (spreading wattle), *Telopea truncata* (Tasmanian waratah), *Leptospermum lanigerum* (woolly teatree)

Trees

Eucalyptus amygdalina (black peppermint), *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood), *Bedfordia salicina* (Tasmanian blanketleaf), *Eucalyptus obliqua* (stringybark), *Pittosporum bicolor* (cheesewood), *Pomaderris apetala* (coast dogwood), *Tasmannia lanceolata* (mountain pepper), *Olearia argophylla* (musk daisybush), *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (myrtle beech), *Exocarpus cupressiformis* (common native-cherry), *Notelaea ligustrina* (native olive), *Atherosperma moschatum* (sassafras), *Acacia dealbata* (silver wattle), *Banksia marginata* (silver banksia), *Eucalyptus viminalis* (white gum), *Eucalyptus delegatensis* (gumtopped stringybark)

INVITATION FIELD DAY AT SKEMPS – 18 October

As part of our 60th anniversary celebrations it had been decided to invite targeted members of the public to share a day of nature study at Skemps, the idea being that

both LFNC and our lovely field centre deserve to be more widely known.

To keep numbers manageable we invited several schools to nominate students who might be interested in the sorts of activities we can offer at Skemps and we invited them and their families to join us for a day. We had organised a number of experts including Elizabeth Daley, author of the excellent book "*Wings*" and Jim Nelson who is an expert on Tasmania's burrowing crayfish to lead sessions on their areas of expertise. Members Alison Green and John Elliott (water monitoring) and Jeff Campbell (native plants) also led sessions. Geraldine Cameron led a team which fed our visitors while Elizabeth Montgomery organised publicity through the Examiner.

We were delighted that nearly 80 visitors accepted our invitation and grateful that something like a score of our members turned up to help with all the tasks that hosting this number of guests entails. Our guests included several staff members from the schools involved and their reaction to the day suggests that Skemps will see a lot more school groups in the future. (One group with 50 children is already booked in for January 15th next year.) The sale of several copies of both "*Wings*" and our own native plant book suggest that some of our attendees will maintain their newfound interest in nature.

The committee will now follow up with schools and attendees to encourage them to make use of our expertise and facilities. Hopefully there will be benefits to our club and newfound or heightened interest in things natural among a lot of young people.

Roy Skabo

EAST COAST WEEKEND – 23 - 25 October 2009

A group of over 20 people, members of the LFNC and of the northern group of APST, journeyed to Orford for three days of nature study.

Arriving at Orford on the Friday, most of us got into the bush with as little delay as possible. The largest group drove into the Wielangta State Forest where we walked along the Sandspit River through wet sclerophyll and then rain forest for a few kilometres. We returned by the same route because the alternative, of parking cars at both ends of the walk, was made impossible by recent rain and wind damage to the road. It was a pleasant walk and the group was able to spot a number of orchid species, some in flower such as *Chiloglottis triceratops* and *Pterostylis pedunculata* and others just showing leaves e.g. a *Corybas* species.

Some of us decided to quit the river walk about half way along the track and do the Three Thumbs walk, in the hope of finding a greater variety of flora. The Thumbs are a series of hills west of Orford and the track provides spectacular views over the east coast and Maria Island. The walk is fairly steep but offers a variety of plant species in flower including large numbers of *Caladenias* (possibly *fuscata* and/or *carnea*) as well as *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *P. Nutans* and one that we had not seen before, *P. foliata*. The track is lined with colourful *Cyathodes glauca* covered in purple fruit and *Pultenaea juniperina* with their plentiful golden pea flowers. Skinks enjoying the warmth were everywhere, some being quite prepared to pose for photographs. A delightful walk which offered everything from views, through nature, to vigorous exercise.

Returning to the accommodation we found a large group enjoying the contents of a flagon of sherry as well as several other varieties of liquid refreshment. It looked very

unlikely to me that Saturday's 9am start would be a goer.

However, my doubts proved to be completely without foundation; all 21 of us were assembled, bright eyed and bushy tailed, at the designated time and by 9.30 we had driven via Buckland to the start of our walk in the Bluff River Gorge.

Part of the plan for the day was that people would turn back at various points in the walk, according to their fitness levels. However, most of the group reached a plateau above the Gorge, about 3km from the start, where there was a carpet of flowers including *Tetralochea labillardierei* and *Euryomyrtus ramosissimus* plus *Hibbertias*, *Oxylobium ellipticum* and lots of orchids in flower. An interesting shrub, *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, not seen in northern Tasmania grew in abundance here.

The descent into the Gorge was on a steep but well-defined track past displays of colourful shrubs including *Boronia anemonifolia* and, surprisingly, an old van which had been driven over the cliff for reasons which aroused a certain amount of speculation. Having descended about half way to the river we passed some striking sandstone caves which were obviously the homes or resting places of numerous animals. An hour or so later a few of the Bluffers were starting to ask where the lunch stop was, so I thought it wise to call a halt before full scale rebellion erupted and we parked ourselves in a magnificent cave with fantastic shapes and colours. During this lunch stop a trio of walkers overtook us and, during the brief conversation we had with them it transpired that they were former Field Nats.

A short way along the track we took a small diversion up hill to look at the rare endemic *Cyphanthera tasmanica* plants which I had seen on a previous walk and which had been the source of cuttings for an ex situ planting as part of a conservation plan for that species.

By this time it was beginning to drizzle and people were getting tired. As we had seen virtually all of the plant species on our list (plus a few new ones) and because the recent heavy rain made the planned river crossings uncertain, we decided to climb out of the Gorge at this point and navigated our way back to the cars using a handheld GPS. Social activities resumed that night with dinner at the local motel, a well patronised and noisy establishment which managed to satisfy our hunger and thirst with food and beverages of a reasonable standard and price.

Sunday morning's walk along the old convict road beside the Prosser River took us through some beautiful bush with a number of interesting species not seen in our part of the state. *Ozothamnus lycopodioides* was the dominant shrub at the beginning of the old road which passes through dry sclerophyll bush containing the usual well known species, but also the unusual *Spyridium obovatum* which many of our group had never seen before. Another striking feature of this stroll was the huge size of the *Pimelea nivea* plants, some of which grew to about 4m in height and considerable width.

The final item on the program was a visit to the Australian Bushland Garden, next to the Pulchella Nursery about 5km west of Buckland on the Tasman Highway. This is the project of a hardworking team of people, many of whom are members of the APST. The garden is a credit to them and a must-see for anyone interested in our native plants. The various beds are "themed", one being a collection of *Epacris* species, another containing species which thrive on granite country (granite rocks having been carted in for this bed!) and so on. The gate to the garden is kept locked but a key can be obtained from the nursery or you can climb the gate/fence.

Overall, a great weekend which demonstrated yet again what a nice bunch of people we have in these two clubs.
Roy Skabo

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 3 November 2009

President's speech

“Good evening and welcome members and guests. Another great year has come to an end for our wonderful club.

Mentioning no one in particular I would like to thank our dedicated committee for a job well done....

Skemps not only well maintained but improved as well with new tracks, better water supply and new markings for the tracks.

Our internet site has been vastly improved and is kept up to date.

The library is an under utilised resource that is constantly being added to.

But what makes this club a success is the program with a year of interesting guest speakers, field trips and other excuses to get together. Here are some highlights;

Shore birds of northern Tasmania – Eric Woehler

Caring for orphaned animals – Patsy Campbell

Tasmanian Climate – Brendan McMahon

John Skemp Memorial Lecture on Jelly Fish – Lisa Gershwin

With outings to....

Winifred Curtis Reserve to look at the remarkable recovery

Tunbridge Township Reserve

George Town Foreshore Reserve

Narawntapu N/P

Cradle Mountain to look at the glaciology with Michael Thrush

Twice to Bridport with Mike Douglas

Again this year we took part in the Heritage Festival, there was a photographic competition and a calendar for next year which is for sale at \$5 each.

And one more remarkable thing...our book is the best selling Tasmanian publication.
Enjoy the rest of the evening”
Noel J Manning

Election of Office Bearers - the following people were elected from the floor, as no nominations had been received by the Secretary prior to the meeting.

President	- Noel Manning
Vice President x2	- Elizabeth Montgomery & Tom Trelloggen
Secretary	- John Elliott
Treasurer	- Karen Manning
Librarian	- Tina McGlynn
Newsletter Editor	- Karen Manning
Committee	- Marion Simmons, John Simmons, Geraldine Cameron, Roy Skabo, Lynne Mockridge

Club Subscriptions - it was recommended by the Treasurer that subscriptions for this financial year remain at the 2008/09 amounts of \$25.00 Single, \$30.00 Family and \$35.00 Associate Groups. This recommendation was accepted by those in attendance.

GENERAL MEETING - SPEAKER Douglas Kershaw - *Dung Beetles in Australia*

At the LFNC meeting on 3 November 2009 Douglas Kershaw presented the success story of biological control using dung beetles. (These belong in Family *Scarabaeidae*).

Initially a video entitled "*Dung Down Under*" gave background information. Early British settlers in Australia introduced domestic grazing animals without, also, the beetles which could remove the latter's deposits of dung. Native Australian dung beetles are adapted to the smaller, drier droppings of marsupials. Accumulation of cow pats soured pastures and provided breeding sites for pest insects.

After the mid-20th century a solution was devised and led by beetle specialist Dr George Bornemissza. The CSIRO Division of Entomology formed a research group which, from 1970, spent several years in southern Africa seeking scarab species suited to various Australian conditions (e.g. different climates).

Quarantines rules banned the transfer of live adults so Australian stocks were bred from imported beetle eggs. Gradually specimens were released by CSIRO in co-operation with people knowledgeable about local environments.

Douglas Kershaw followed the video with an account of the part played by himself and his wife Dawn. In 1982 the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture brought introduced dung beetles to be tried out on the Kershaw's dairy farm at Tulendeena, in NE Tasmania.

By the 1990's foreign beetle sites spread right across northern Tasmania, with others further south. As well as giving some of their own specimens to Tasmanian properties the Kershaws have collected beetles on mainland Australia on behalf of CSIRO. Also they have shared information with schools and other groups here.

Two kinds of dung beetles were introduced to Australia. The tunnelling kind digs nest cavities directly under pads. The rolling kind forms dung into balls which are laboriously rolled away. Both lay eggs in the dung which then feeds their larvae. Their speedy removal of manure which native Australian species can not handle definitely has improved pasture quality and reduced insect pests.

Our visitors have given the club a reference book:- "*Common dung beetles in pastures in south-eastern Australia*", by Dr Marina Tyndale-Biscoe, published by CSIRO in 1990. This contains photographs, texts and distribution maps for the relevant introduced species and for native Australian species of *Onthophagus*.

Thank you to Douglas and Dawn for their coverage of a project very valuable to Australia.
Alison Green

FIELD TRIP - BEETLES ALIVE

On 8 November, ten LFNC members and one from NEFNC met Douglas and Dawn Kershaw at Roger and Wendy McLennan's property near Bridport. On the previous day Douglas had placed traps in two paddocks near the road to ensure that we would see dung beetles at work. (The farm's cows were grazing further away).

Initially we were shown a box containing a mixture of three species suited to the area:- *Onthophagus binodis*, *Onthophagus taurus* and *Euoniticellus fulvus*. When exposed to the day's hot sun beetles soon warmed up and began to fly out to seek the scent of fresh manure.

Each trap comprised a plastic box covered by wood-framed wire netting, with fresh horse manure spread on the wire. (Horse dung is easier to handle than new cow droppings). Every trap had attracted many beetles. One yielded a specimen of *Bubus bison*.

Douglas moved some old cow pats to show that each was then just a dry crust; its bulk removed by scavenging beetles. These bury their eggs and a dung supply in the ground where larvae develop and then pupate. The holes caused when adult beetles surface improve the penetration of water and nutrients into the soil.

The good work of the introduced dung beetles was demonstrated well.

Tempted by its menu the excursion group had lunch in 'The Flying Teapot' and some picnic food went home to be eaten later.

After thanks and farewells to Dawn and Douglas Kershaw and to Wendy McLennan the Launceston people detoured through Bridport to 'Brewers Marsh', the home of NEFNC member Lou Brooker. Here we saw the early stages of her native garden and heard of her future plans. Brilliant sunshine added to overall enjoyment of the day.

Alison Green

FEDERATION WEEKEND - 13 - 15 November - Mount Cameron

Five LFNC members made up a group of near forty field naturalists from around Tasmania joining the north east group hosting the Federation Weekend at Mt Cameron based at the Scottsdale School Camp. This well set up building featured two large and one small bunk room, a kitchen with a gas stove and a large BBQ and a huge dining/lounge room as well as a big veranda. John, Jeff and I looked for orchids and other interesting plants on the way to the centre and did small walks in the late afternoon. I walked to the waterfall below the centre with Debbie Searle while John and Jeff walked further looking for more plants. Friday evening Craig Searle gave an interesting talk on the Field Study Centre and the area in which it is situated.

After an earlier than expected rise on Saturday many of us took short walks waiting for the big walk with Craig Searle. The main walk went to the Maze, a large number of rocks with passage ways between, some of which only small children could navigate. The hardy amongst us continued on to hanging rock, enticingly close to the summit of Mt Cameron, with just a valley and the promise of a very steep climb to finally reach the trig point at the top and, although tempted, no one went.

Saturday evening we enjoyed a self catered meal followed by Sarah Lloyd and Ron Nagorcka giving a talk on bird calls with those in attendance asked to identify sometimes six or more birds in one recording. James Wood, from the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre at the Royal Botanical Gardens Hobart, gave an interesting talk on the seed collection. This ambitious project aims to collect seeds from all plants in Tasmania in case any disappears from the wild. The difficult part is experimenting to find the conditions under which these seeds germinate. With temperature, moisture, acidity and various time factors being only some of the variables to affect the results. Janet Fenton followed with a general talk including pictures and movies of trips with the North East Field Naturalists, including one to Flinders Island.

The very interesting Sunday walk was to the Cameron Regional Reserve with Michael Douglas who gave a running commentary on the natural history including plants and

geology as well as the characters and human history of the area.

On the way home Jeff, John and I visited Waterhouse to look for the rare *Microtis orbicularis* and also found *Microtis atrata* and then went to the Carr Villa reserve area to look for *Caladenia transitoria*.

The highlight for me was the incredible granite rock formations of the Mount Cameron area and especially those with a heavy covering of the Tasmanian rock orchid, especially those in flower.

Noel J Manning

Jeff Campbell has provided the following list of plants that he identified during the weekend get-together.

14 November

Caleana major (flying duck-orchid), *Dockrillia striolata ssp chrysantha* (yellow rock-orchid), *Thelymitra ixioides* (spotted sun-orchid), *T. juncifolia* (large-spotted sun-orchid), *T. carnea* (tiny sun-orchid), *T. aristata* (great sun-orchid), *T. pauciflora* (slender sun-orchid), *T. xtruncata* (truncate sun-orchid), *Caladenia carnea* (pink fingers), *C. cracens* (elegant finger-orchid), *Pyrorchis nigricans* (fire orchid), *Simpliglottis grammata* (small bird-orchid), *Eriochilus cucullatus* (autumn orchid), *Dipodium roseum* (rosy hyacinth-orchid), *Acianthus caudatus* (mayfly orchid), *Corybas sp* (helmet-orchid), *Microtis sp* (onion-orchid), *Glossodia major* (waxlip orchid), *Calochilus platychila* (purple beard-orchid), *Pterostylis nutans* (nodding greenhood), *Epacris graniticola* (granite heath), *Goodenia lanata* (trailing native-primrose), *G. ovata* (hop native-primrose), *Dampiera stricta* (blue dampiera), *Kunzea ambigua* (white kunzea), *Bedfordia salicina* (Tasmanian Blanketleaf), *Calandrinia calyprata* (pink purslane), *Stackhousea monogyna* (forest candles), *Viola hederacea ssp hederacea* (ivy leaf violet), *Pimelea humilis* (dwarf riceflower), *Pultenaea daphnoides var. obcordata* (heartleaf bushpea), *Daviesia ulicifolia ssp ruscifolia* (orange spiky bitterpea), *Pentachondra involucrata* (forest frillyheath), *Dillwynia glaberrima* (smooth parrotpea)

15 November

Kunzea ambigua (white kunzea), *Boronia pilosa sp* (boronia), *Patersonia fragilis* (short purpleflag), *P. occidentalis* (long purpleflag), *Hibbertia hirticalyx* (bassian guineaflower), *H. empetrifolia ssp empetrifolia* (scrambling guineaflower), *Bedfordia salicina* (Tasmanian blanketleaf), *Caladenia carnea* (pink fingers), *C. mentiens* (lesser fingers), *Thelymitra ixioides* (spotted sun-orchid), *T. juncifolia* (large-spotted sun-orchid), *T. sp* (blue column), *Melaleuca squarrosa* (scented paperbark), *Goodenia ovata* (hop native-primrose)

JEFF CAMPBELL

Committee members were very sorry to hear that Jeff had decided not to nominate for a further turn on the committee, as well as resigning from his longtime association with the Federation of Field Nat's group, because of his long absences during the year. His contribution to the Club has been enormous since he first joined in 1984. This includes two terms as President, three years as Treasurer, seven as Newsletter Editor and his active involvement with the building of Skemps. He

has been a longtime member of the Tuesday group who maintain Skemps, until trips to Queensland intervened. He continues to join the group and works very hard as well as joining and supporting all Club activities whenever he is home.

***ACACIA VERNICIFLUA* LOST!**

A change in the name of what we knew as Varnish Wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*) has occurred and it is now known as *A. leprosa* var. *graveolens* (Cinnamon Wattle). This wattle occurs on Skemp property.

A comprehensive taxonomic revision and re-assessment of the two species was undertaken by Acacia expert botanists, Bruce Maslin of WA Herbarium and Daniel Murphy of Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne and published in *Muelleria* Journal of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, that resulted in number of new species being described with several name changes.

The complex variation within the species had led to the confusion. Forms of both species are found in Eastern Australia from Queensland to Tasmania, although most of the variation in *A. leprosa* is found in Victoria.

There is only one variety of *A. leprosa* occurring in Tasmania and that is var. *graveolens*. This variety also occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. It is the most common and widespread form of *A. leprosa*. This, of course, means that we no longer have *A. verniciflua* in Tasmania.

Marion Simmons

SKEMPS DAY - 21 November

Thirteen members arrived to an overcast day at Skemps. The weekend forecasts had predicted cooler temperatures than we had endured through the week and rain. The usual morning ritual coffee and a chat, a shower of rain or two, with some members donning the wet weather gear and going for a walk whilst other stayed in the Centre and chatted. Tina our new Club Librarian familiarised herself with the Library, whilst new members Mike and Judy got to know other members, looked over the Centre and the books in the Library. We noted on arrival that a bough had broken off the large pine just outside the Centre fence line so Jeff Campbell temporarily tidied up the area with his chainsaw until arrangements can be made to have the area cleared properly. We also took a look at the work of the Tuesday crew who have been repairing the roof of the lean-to on the barn that was badly damaged in the winds recently.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT SKEMPS - Saturday 5 December

This year committee and club members who attended the November General Meeting decided that the 'Secret Santa' of previous years would not be held this year. Please bring your lunch (the BBQ will be available) and a plate of food to share for afternoon tea. Members are welcome to bring friends.

BEN LOMOND WEEKEND—23-24 January 2010

We are looking at a weekend trip to Ben Lomond staying at Borrowdale Ski Lodge (aka The Hut, which is apparently what the sign says) on the Australia Day weekend 23-24 January.

The one bunk room sleeps 35. Bring bedding, pillows etc and your own food and drink. Facilities include a kitchen with 3 hotplates, oven for reheating casseroles (but not for cooking), crockery and utensils. There is no refrigerator and limited electric lighting. \$5/person/night. Other people might be there but not many skiers use it during summer.

Members receiving email updates will automatically receive information on this. Interested people who do not receive email updates should contact John Elliott on 6344 9303 advising their contact details and updates will be send by mail.

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

The Launceston Planetarium reopened at the Inveresk site in October. Show times at present are:

Tuesday to Friday 2.15 pm and 4.15 pm

Saturday 2.15 pm and 3.15 pm

Closed Sunday, Monday and public holidays

Admission prices are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, and \$13.00 for families of up to four people (maximum two adults per family ticket).

Due to the nature of the show children under 5 are not admitted.

TAMAR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM) CHRISTMAS PARTY

LFNC members have been invited to attend the Tamar NRM's Christmas Party which is to be held at the BBQ area, Heritage Forest, Invermay on Thursday 10th December from 6.00 pm—8.30 pm. The most festive Christmas outfit will win a prize. Please RSVP by Monday 7th December on 63233310 or to amanda.bruce@launceston.tas.gov.au



Old Tramline seen during field trip to the Mt Barrow Discovery Trail

There were many sandstone cliffs in the gorge at Bluff River near Buckland



Grevillea at Bushland Gardens near Buckland

Bedfordia at Mt Cameron during Federation Weekend



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 : lfnc@bigpond.com