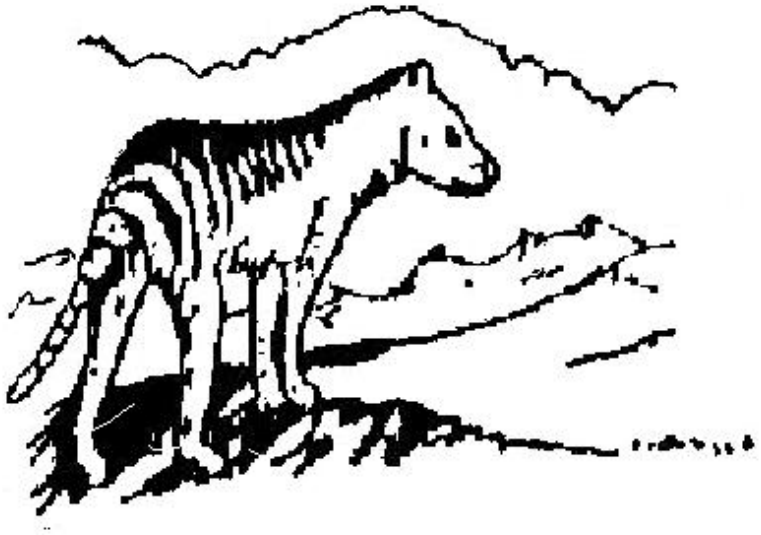
THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

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 XLIII No 4 **April/May 2010**

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

PROGRAM

JUNE

Sunday 6 — **Skemp Day - Fungi search**

Sat 19/Sun 20 — **Skemp Day - Planting on Skemp Creek**

JULY

Tuesday 6 — **Speaker : Lisa Cawthen - *Bats***

Sunday 25 — **Skemp Day - Planting on Skemp Creek**

AUGUST

Tuesday 3 — **Special General Meeting re Constitution & Members Night**

Sunday 8 — **Field Trip : Walk in Trevallyn Reserve**

Saturday 21 — **Skemp Day - Planting on Skemp Creek**

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 7 — **Speaker : To be advised**

Saturday 11 — **Field Trip : To be advised**

Sunday 26 — **Skemp Day**

OCTOBER

Tuesday 5 — **Annual General Meeting**
Speaker : Wendy Potts - *Tasmania's newest threatened plants*

Sunday 10 — **Field Trip : Midlands Reserve**

Saturday 23 — **Skemp Day - Water Monitoring**

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 2 — **Speaker : Erik Wapstra - *Tasmanian Skinks***

Sunday 7 — **Field Trip : Ben Lomond**

Sunday 21 — **Skemp Day**

DECEMBER

Tuesday 7 — **Members' Night**

Saturday 11 — **Christmas @ Skemps**

Above program correct at time of printing, changes can be viewed at
http://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm

COMMITTEE/GENERAL MEETINGS

Skemp Report

April - John Simmons reported on work being done at Skemps and mentioned jobs for members at the next Skemps day including track maintenance and window cleaning.

May - John Simmons reported that work had started on flooring the barn. Grant Hanson was working on tree-guards.

Puggle

May - John Elliott asked members to identify a specimen he had circulated. Michael Clarke correctly identified it as a baleen plate.

Sightings

April - Maureen Johnstone saw the common brown butterfly at the Trevallyn Reserve ; Alison Green saw 30+ galahs at Low Head; Marion Simmons has lorikeets visiting their garden at Legana ; Noel Manning saw native hens in the Launceston area ; Jeff Campbell saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle at Sumac Lookout, Spotted –tailed Quoll at Frankland River Bridge and many coloured fungi at Julius River Reserve ; Elizabeth Montgomery saw ducks, possums and wrens ; Tom McGlynn saw Sulphur–crested Cockatoos and Ravens flying together ; Peter Warren saw Brush Tailed Possums and Bennett's Wallaby at the Gorge ; Prue Wright saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle, Black Faced Cockatoo and Shrike in the Low Head area and Elizabeth Fenton saw Eastern Rosella at Prospect.

May - Alison Green had seen a Mole Cricket in Stewart St on 9 April. It is unusual to see these insects in the open ; Alison had also heard Crescent Honeyeaters in her garden, a sign of Autumn ; While walking on the Overland Track, Louise Skabo had seen a Wedge-tail Eagle attacking a Tiger Snake ; Margrit Korosi reported seeing a White-lipped Snake and a Tiger Snake at Duck Reach ; Jeff Campbell had seen Wedgetails on Targa Hill Rd ; Tom Treloggen reported seeing Eastern Spinebills in his garden.

Library Report

Tina McGlynn tabled the newsletters including Sarah Lloyd's bird newsletter, 'Chirp'. A copy of Peter Manchester's book 'Created from Chaos' was purchased for our Library.

General

Tasmanian Landcare Fund. It was announced that the application for a grant to revegetate Skemp Creek was successful. The Club will receive $5,800 to plant 800 trees over the next 2 years. Volunteers are needed to make 400 wire netting tree-guards by July and plant the first 400 trees between 1 July and 30 September. Members can help on Skemp days or Tuesdays and were advised to take tools including pliers if planning to help with the netting tree-guards.

Digital Microscope. This has been purchased and is currently with Al Pegler who is modifying an existing stand to work with this equipment.

Photo Competition. Members reminded that the photo competition is being held on 15 May at Skemps.

Australian Plant Society . John Simmons reminded members of the plant sale by the Australian Plant Society at the Max Fry Hall on Saturday10 April starting at 10 am.

2011 Calendar. Members who would like to submit images for consideration in the calendar should bring them along to the July general meeting.

New Member - Elizabeth Fenton was welcomed to the Club in April and handed her membership kit.

GENERAL MEETING 6 April - Speaker: Peter Warren 'Telescopes and their uses'

Club member Peter Warren spoke about telescopes and binoculars, providing information on the different types available, magnification, lens quality, pricing and some history of advancements in the field. Peter first started star gazing with 7 x 50 mm binoculars, lying back on a bean bag. As his interest in watching the skies developed, he purchased equipment that provided him closer observation.

He brought two refractor binoculars to the meeting and an impressive refractor telescope used for celestial observations. He also had information on publications about observing the night sky. Star gazing can be done in your own backyard, but the best star gazing is done in a remote area where there is no light pollution.

Peter talked about Galileo and Isaac Newton, and John Dobson who provided telescopes for public viewing of the skies above, on the streets of San Francisco.

Some points Peter made about lenses:

Colour fringes are reduced by multiple lenses
Lenses are coated to stop reflection
Magnification is governed by the length and type of eye pieces

Peter directed members to the following sight for astronomy images : -

NASA http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/index.html

Noel Manning thanked Peter for his interesting talk and reminded members that Peter would have his equipment at Skemps on the evening of Saturday 17 for those who would like to do a bit of star gazing.

SKEMP WEEKEND 17– 18 April

During the weekend members participated in many activities. John Elliott co-ordinated the water-monitoring where members sorted macro-invertebrates from the water samples collected from a riffle area on Skemp Creek in the forest just below Bob's Bog. During the afternoon members viewed the bugs under the microscope and identified them using the Waterwatch Macro-invertebrate (Waterbug) Identification Chart as a guide.

8 species of macro-invertebrate were found. The Signal 2 Score was 5.6 and the Water Quality was good. These results are very similar to those from the same time last year.

Salinity and turbidity testing is conducted monthly and results for both of these tests is within the acceptable limits.

Type		Grade
Acarina	Mite	6
Coleoptera	Beetles	5
Diptera	Chironomids Mosquitoes U-bent larva Blackfly	3
Ephemeroptera	Mayfly	9
Hemiptera	True bugs	2
Oligochaeta	Segmented worms without bristles	2
Plecoptera	Stonefly	10
Trichoptera	Caddis	8

Tina McGlynn continued with some much needed sorting out in the Library, whilst the windows in the Centre where cleaned both inside and out. Late in the afternoon John and Marion Simmons set up an infra-red game monitoring camera borrowed from Tamar NRM on the walkway over the spillway of the Middle Pond. It is hoped that the monitor will record wildlife that trigger the monitor during the night. Staff at Tamar NRM will provide the Club with a report if data is collected. Prior to members cooking up a storm, more stargazers arrived to participate in the evening viewing, following tea.

After dark, Peter Warren set up his 2 telescopes and visitor, John Lewis, set up his homemade reflector. The weather was not on our side, the mist covering and clearing, three attempts at using the equipment were made before everyone considered the star gazing was a success. Seen were the planets Saturn (rings and all) and Mars, stars Alpha Centauri and Beta Centauri, a globular cluster, and the constellations Southern Cross and Iron Pot. We all watched Andre Rieu prior to calling it a night and heading to bed.

The Sunday start was fairly early, a good hearted member decided to stoke the fire, but this triggered the fire alarm, not once but three times, many members were unable to return to sleep so rose and had breakfast.

Today members made tree-guards and machined stakes to be used with the guards. This activity was in preparation for the planting of 400 trees over the next couple of months as the Club had been successful in securing a Tasmanian Landcare grant to revegetate along Skemp Creek from the Top Pond to the forest area along the Creek from Bob's Bog. With many hands at work, the two rolls of wire were finished in a short time and the completed guards were moved to the barn until planting commences.

Following lunch a small group walked around the Federation Corridor to look at the growth of the trees which were planted in 2001. We then followed on to the Zig-Zag Track where we hoped to find some fungi and were amazed at the variety there, some of which were: *Hygrocybe sp. , Geastrum triplex, Mycena interrupta, Mycena sp., Boletus sp., Lycoperdon sp., Cordyceps gunnii, Hygrocybe ? Graminicolor, Marasmius sp.* and *Macrolepiota clelandii.* Karen Manning

Thanks to John Elliott for the species graph.

GENERAL MEETING 4 May - Guest speaker: Peter Manchester presented the John Skemp Memorial Lecture

Peter Manchester was born in Launceston, educated at the University of Tasmania, majoring in geology, geochemistry and education. He has spent 40 years teaching and lecturing in geology, chemistry, photography, multimedia and geoecotourism to people of all levels of experience.

Peter has enjoyed geology since primary school and felt he had a real connection to the John Skemp Memorial Lecture as he was taught by John Skemp at Queechy High School in social studies using the textbook '*Tasmania: Yesterday and Today*' which Skemp had written.

There are only three places in the world which have large amounts of dolerite, Tasmania, Antarctica and South Africa. Tasmania has an unusual and unique geology which is not promoted or sold to tourists.

In 2004, Peter created a geological trail from Devonport to Wynyard which covers 60 kilometres and highlights 13 unique geological features. The trail is self guided and each location has an information plaque giving details of the site. He also mentioned taking

tourists on trips to visit the old volcanic sites on the North-West coast.

Peter lived on the North-West coast but returned to Launceston because of his wife's disability and while as a carer wrote his book; 3 years in the making he collected printed copies last week.

Launceston and the Tamar Valley have many places of interest. Peter takes people on the 'Gorgeous Walks' in the Cataract Gorge where there are many unique features we may not be aware of. The Tamar Valley is a true valley in every sense of the word with geological differences.

Tasmania and Australia are on a tectonic plate. The Bass Strait is shallow. The Eastern edge of Australia is on a fault province, the stress lines of which enter into the Tamar Valley, Mersey Valley, Maria Island and travel as far as the Derwent Valley.

The Tamar Valley was formed by a tremendous earthquake event. The resulting raising and dipping of the fault blocks is called a Horst and Graben Structure. The Horst is a raised fault block and the Graben is dipped fault block. Peter showed a diagram giving us an example of this; the Western Tiers (horst), Cressy (graben), Trevallyn (horst), Tamar Valley (graben) and Mt Arthur to Ben Lomond (horst).

In the Tamar Valley there is a junction of 3 rivers. Each river has different types of materials flowing down it. There are 2 rocks; the igneous rocks, dolerite and basalt and the sedimentary rocks, the sandstone and mudstone.

The First Basin is simply, a large hole in a rock. Three fault lines join at this point in the dolerite and created the basin, the South Esk running through the area removed the rubble leaving the basin. There is no-where else in the Southern Hemisphere that this happens. The Gorge has many faults which can be seen; faults are often covered by soil and vegetation, and not seen. There are many clean cut vertical faults in the Gorge that are not weathered or broken.

The carpark on the Trevallyn side of the Gorge has a large deposit of rock called *pisolitic laterite*. This rock tells us a lot about the history of the Tamar Valley, as it contains a higher than normal amount of the aluminium element, which indicated a warm tropical climate. The rock only occurs in Launceston region and the nearest deposit of this elsewhere in Australia is at Weipa on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland.

Abels Hill Road has a roadside bank of white sand with quartz grains. These are ancient sand dunes on the shoreline of Lake Launceston. Next to this is a pebble deposit (from 18 million years ago) which is the boundary between the sand dune and the shore of the lake. The dunes are 150 metres above the present rivers. There are also unusual deposits of clay and sands in high places in the Victoria Gardens in the Gorge and behind the hotel at Riverside and Dunn's stone yard at Prospect.

Peter finished his talk off with a few more interesting titbits:-

Fossils - in 1825 a *Trigonotreta stockesi* (shell of calcite) was described by Koenig. It was found at Massey's Creek, York Town, and was the first described taxon from Australia sent to England and is from the Tamarian stage (early Permian, 298 – 260 million years ago) of Tasmania. At Craigburn near the Batman Bridge, a *Prophyria johnstoni* (freshwater mussel) was found, which has not been found anywhere else in the Southern Hemisphere and a Leaf Dicot with serrated edges and distinctly veined, indicated high rainfall.

The design of the Batman Bridge reflects the geology of the area. The footing on the West Tamar side was built on dolerite with the large A frame being the main

support as the East Tamar side of the riverbank was basalt on clay and sands and not able to support this structure.

Beaconsfield gold is found in quartz resulting in a high yield of good quality gold.

The weathered dolerite with core-stones that occurs at Breadalbane on the highway to Launceston is a frequently photographed site.

This fascinating talk resulted in many thoughtful questions and much discussion. Al Pegler thanked Peter for his most interesting and well received talk. President, Noel Manning, presented Peter with the John Skemp Medallion.

Noel & Karen Manning

FIELD TRIP 8 May - Significant Geological sites in the Tamar Valley with Peter Manchester

Sixteen members met with Peter Manchester at the Royal Park carpark to look at some significant geological sites in the Tamar Valley. Many car stops were proposed during the day, and with our final destination of Badger Head in mind, we set off to our first stop, the Freelands Lookout Reserve at Trevallyn.

At the Lookout Peter asked what we could see. He said you could look but not necessarily see; seeing understands what you are looking at. To the east he pointed out the lines of ridges each representing the high ground between fault lines. The highest and furthest away featured the mountains east of Launceston including Mount Arthur and Barrow and Ben Lomond, closer to us each one was lower than the previous culminating in the lowest in Launceston. Windmill Hill is a deep bed of Tertiary sediments.

Peter stated that on a world scale Tasmania's geological diversity was second only to the geology of Scotland.

Here Peter also pointed out the Glen Dhu fault which ran behind the Lookout, the Trevallyn fault running along the river and up through the City and the Cataract fault which went up into the Gorge. We then headed to Tamar Island using roads along the Glen Dhu and Trevallyn fault lines.

At Tamar Island we spread a geological map on a picnic table and Peter talked about the major features of the Tamar valley. The west is dominated by dolerite, the east features dolerite, basalt as well as the only granite in the area and the river is dominated by mud and sand which mainly comes from the North Esk. Tamar Island includes dolerites and granites deposited from the east in a delta of the original North Esk where it emptied into the ancient Lake Launceston.

Brady's Lookout gave us a panoramic view of the Tamar to the north where two deltas could be seen on the eastern side of the river, while the peak features basalt columns 60 to 70 cm across suggesting slow cooling. This Lookout is part of the basalt flow which runs to Grindelwald. The main highway between these two areas is often under repair as it is a landslip area.

Following lunch at Beaconsfield, Peter brought out a pre print version of his book, '*Created from Chaos*', to use the pictures and diagrams to better explain the geology of the area and the mine in particular. He explained that the gold bearing quartz seam left traces on the surface to the west of the mine. Further exploration found that it descended in an easterly direction under the Tamar to a depth of over a kilometre. It is surrounded by a variety of rocks including conglomerate and the Gordon Limestone from which the waters leach into the gold mine.

At Bowen's Road Jetty near Beaconsfield we saw tessellations similar to those at Eagle Hawk Neck. There were embedded rocks of different types which Peter said were dropped here from glacier action. Fossil worm burrows were seen and Judith Handlinger located a Bryozoan fossil (coral type).

At Massey's Creek we searched for fossils which were scarce probably due to flooding in the creek since Peter last visited. Noel Manning picked up a rather non-descript rock and a piece broke off to reveal a small fossilised bi valve mollusc called a *Eurydesma*.

At Ilfraville we visited the beach behind the footy oval. It was here we were to see Triassic sandstone. The shore side sandstones were in sections of many colours including some of plain white. Peter explained that these were the purest as originally laid down and that the colours of the others were the result of discolouration by iron in the adjacent rocks called Leisegang Rings. Different temperature, water and salinity conditions affected the colours which leached into the sandstone. We also saw a small area of sandstone on the beach which was full of holes. It appears that periwinkles attach to the sandstone secreted a substance which dissolves the clay matrix in the sandstone. This leaves a hole which is then further eroded by the tide.

Our last stop was Badger Head believed to be where the Tamar River once emptied into the sea. We walked along the tidal area to look at the Badger Head Formation of quartzites and phyllites that had tilted, with intrusion of iron, quartz and slate between the layers and a tilted area of rock that had curved over recumbent fold into a reverse curve.

Noel Manning thanked Peter for leading this field trip enabling members to visit many of the areas in the Tamar Valley which feature significant geological differences.

Noel & Karen Manning

We would like to thank Marion and John Simmons for their assistance with articles relating to Peter Manchester. Also many thanks to Peter Manchester for the final edit prior to publication.

SKEMPS DAY 15 May - Photographic Competition and Tree Planting

We received 43 entries for the photo competition which was pleasing although the number was down on the 61 prints entered last year. The display was put together by a small group of willing members not engaged in digging holes and putting in plants on the bank of Skemp Creek.

The entries were of a high standard and depicted a wide range of field naturalist interests. The size of the prints varied perhaps to the detriment of the smaller prints which were of equal quality if not better than some of the larger ones and were possibly overlooked in the selection process.

Perhaps we could look at a change in the criteria next year if we proceed with this activity also a change of venue might be considered to allow more members to see the display and appreciate the skill of the Club photographers and to also take part in the selection process.

Members present on today each chose 3 photos that they thought worthy of a prize and indicated their choice on the prepared sheet. It really was a difficult task to choose three and I think it will be just as difficult to select prints for the calendar.

Marion Simmons

Photographic competition winners:

1st Prize: Peter Ralph - Black fungus
2nd Prize: Karen Manning - Rock pool at East Beach
3rd Prize: John Elliott - Mycena on moss

Special Prize for photo taken on Club field trip went to John Simmons - Red Sea Biscuit at East Beach

The revegetation project on Skemp Creek started in earnest today. Approximately 100 plants were put in during the day and the staking, bagging and securing of tree-guards kept helpers busy until quite late in the afternoon.

FEDERATION WEEKEND - 21 to 23 May - Hidden Treasures: discovering the fungi of the Blue Tier

Five club members represented the Club at this get-together organised by Sarah Lloyd from the Central North Field Naturalists. During the weekend we would attend forays, lectures and workshops relating to fungi.

The first evening Paul George from Fungimap gave a lecture *Introduction to Fungi* to approximately 40 people. Paul said that fungi were a separate kingdom of life, with 1 million species worldwide. There are many types of fungi – mushroom, puff balls, corals, jellies, stinkhorns to name a few and a fungus is not a plant, animal or bacteria. Fungi predate plants and animals, and are closer to animals, while bacteria predate fungi.

Mycelium threads spread underground and the only evidence that they are there is when the fruiting body such as the mushroom grows. This body is the launching pad for the spores which are microscopic.

Fungi absorb nutrients through cell walls, breakdown surrounding matter, hyphae secrete enzymes and acids, absorb nutrition from dead things (plants and trees), living things (disease parasitic and bacteria killers) and symbiosis (partnerships with plants). An example of symbiosis given was pine trees and fungi, the fungi helps the pines thrive.

Only 10% or less of fungi is named and described and appearances are deceptive. Evolution plays tricks with similar characteristics such as colour, shape and size not being reliable pointers to indicate related species. Moisture is a requirement for fungi; there are fungi that have adapted to dry conditions but even these need moisture for the fruiting body to grow. Disc fungi are often the first thing to grow following a fire; they improve and maintain the soil structure.

Paul went into detail on how many of the different fungi drop their spores. Not all have gills (lamella) the blades or leaf-like plates under the cap on which spores are produced. Boletes have pores (sponge like) under the cap, the spore fall from the pores. Puff balls eject their spores in a puff. Dispersal of spores from truffles is by small mammals digging them up and spreading by their faeces. Spores on the club and pin fungi is formed on the outside of the head. Cups and discs are fertile on the inside, if you blow in them it often releases the spores.

Tom May accompanied us on one of the forays, this to the Goblin Forest walk on the Blue Tiers. He said when collecting and recording fungi, you should always record by specific habitats and if possible record the position with a GPS for future reference. He also reminded us that a permit is required to collect fungi, plants etc.

The walk took us into a forest of *Leptospermum lanigerum, Tasmannia lanceolata and Nothofagus cunninghamii* and engaeus mounds were seen. A few samples were taken for

further observation and a sample of fungi that were targeted species by Fungimap for a later workshop. Target species are easily identifiable; you do not have to be a mycologist to identify them.

The following I recorded but there were many more recorded by the official scribe: *Cortinarius sp., Clavaria miniata, Clavaria amoena, Geoglossum sp., Hygrocybe sp., Cortinarius rotundisporus , Laccaria lateritia, Omphalina sp., Lacterius eucalypti, Psilocybe brunneoalbescens, Marasmius sp. and Mycena interrupta* .

Following lunch Noel, Lynne and I attended the 'identification of fungi' workshop with Pam Catcheside (from the Adelaide Herbarium), assisted by her husband David and Kate Syme (botanical artist from WA).

Pam collects five specimens of a species, of different size and age which enables her to see some characteristics of the species that can disappear as they grow eg veil or ring. When collecting Pam digs up the whole fungi and wraps it up in paper so it does not contaminate other specimens and it is recommended that you do not hold fungi by the stalk. Describing a specimen can take up to ¾ hour and must be done quickly as characteristics disappear when they dry, such as losing colour or stickiness and a spore print is taken as another identification pointer. The microscopic characteristics can be described at a later date (once dried) including the colour of the spores to further help with identification. Pam handed us some sheets which would help us identify the fungi and a key to some genera of gilled fungi. We then tried the identification process ourselves with specimens using the handouts. It was interesting being able to have some hands on experience and this was by no means an easy process.

Pam then prepared a slide by taking a small piece of gill. The piece was mashed between two slides in a small amount of liquid and magnified (approx. 5000x) for us to see the spores on a large screen. Microscopy is only needed when unable to determine the species or when it's a new species. David projected the slide and some other images saved from previously prepared slides, the spore images were amazing.

At the same time workshops were conducted in collecting and describing fungi and another on photographing fungi.

On Saturday evening Tom May, senior mycologist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, gave a lecture '*The importance of Tasmania's cool temperate forests as habitats for fungi*'.

The colour and beauty of the fungi form is misunderstood as there is no known reason for the variety of colours in species. Knowledge, resources and funding are far less on fungi, than native animals and plants although there are far more species than both animals and plants together. *Aseroe rubra* was the first fungi to be described in Tasmania. Very few native Australian plants grow symbiotically with fungi. Networks of mycelium under the soil connecting the trees, is a vital part of forest connections and ecosystem function and woody debris needs to be left in forest for good fungi health.

In cool temperate rainforests with closed canopy, fungus thrives. Some examples given were *Cortinarius metallicus, Cortinarius mariae, Melanotus hepatochrous* (especially around eucalypts and sassafras) *Simocybe phlebophora* and *Psilocybe brunneoalbescens*.

Sampling fungi is difficult as they are not always evident with many not fruiting every year. A diverse range of fungi is found when you are sampling returning year after year. One study in Canada has been going for 20 years. Even with the area being visited every two weeks, there is always something new growing.

Fungimap have a database of species with many registered collectors contributing to the database around Australia. There are hot spots for records as these come from around capital cities or where mycologists live. The information received needs to be interpreted carefully as high numbers of a species does not give a good coverage. South-west Tasmania and Western Australia have good records due to wetter habitats. 80 of the 115 targets occur in Tasmania. The targeted species are chosen because they are easy to identify (distinctive colour and shapes) and include agarics, boletes, puffballs, cup fungi, slime moulds and lichens.

Fewer than 20 fungi have been listed as endangered. It is very difficult to say which are rare and endangered as there is not enough data yet. *Hypocreopsis amplectens* was the first fungi listed.

All threats to fungi need to be investigated and eradicated, as they invade and push out our native fungi. *Amanita muscaria* introduced from the Northern Hemisphere is an example.

The location of the fungi foray on Sunday that we were to attend was combined with another foray. We ended up at the Goblin Forest walk again, but this time went into the forest rather than on the walking track. Here there were large areas of *Geoglossum sp*. and *Clavaria miniata* , only small amounts had been seen the previous day near the track.

Following lunch, Sapphire McMullan-Fisher (Mycologist from Queensland) conducted the final workshop on the *Tasmanian Fungimap Target Species*. Sapphire reiterated the need for volunteers to stimulate and support the study of Australian macrofungi by monitoring and recording fungi population locations. Targeted species are those that can be easily recognised and following a short talk with images we gathered around a table of specimens collected during the weekend forays. Sapphire handed targeted species around discussing each one in detail.

The whole weekend was wonderful. Congratulations to Sarah Lloyd and Ron Nagorcka for organising for the Federation weekend to coincide with the Fungimap expedition. Thank you to the mycologists and others involved who imparted their knowledge; we all came away with a greater appreciation of this fascinating organism. Karen Manning

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 meetings will be on:

June 15 : Robert Barbour - Eucalyptus genetics

July 20 : Members night - Members journeys in photographs

QVMAG EXHIBITIONS

Beneath the Tamar: more than silt **from 1 May – 11 July 2010 at QVMAG at Inveresk**

The exhibition *Beneath the Tamar - more than silt* shows the diversity and beauty of the animals living in the Tamar estuary. With a mix of underwater photography and video this exhibition presents a visually stimulating, informative and educational display of organisms that will surprise you. It shows a side of the Tamar that most people never get to see.

The exhibition is curated by David Maynard and Dr Troy Gaston, both lecturers at the Australian Maritime College at the National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability. Troy has over 13 years research experience in estuarine, coastal and marine biology and ecology. David has been photographing Tasmanian marine life for 10 years. From http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/whatsoninv.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