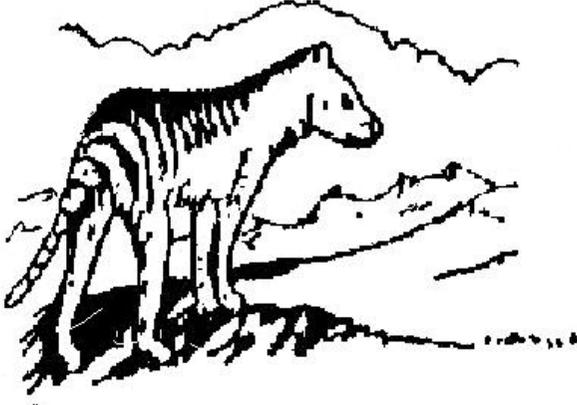


THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

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 XLVI No 1

October/November 2012

Patron	:	Mr Chris Tassell, AM
President	:	Mr T Treloggen, 68 Mulgrave St Launceston, 6343 4043
Vice President	:	Ms J Handler, 52 Entally Rd Hadsphen, 6393 6603
Hon. Secretary	:	Mr N Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277
Hon.Treasurer	:	Ms K Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277
N'letter Co-ordinator	:	Ms K. Manning
Librarian	:	Ms T McGlynn
Committee	:	E Montgomery, T McGlynn, P Ralph, P Warren

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

PROGRAM

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 4** **Members Night - Photographic competition and *The Year That Was***
- Sunday 9** **Christmas at Skemps**

JANUARY 2013

- Monday 7** **LFNC representatives at Guides Jamboree**
- Tue 15-Wed 16** **Overnight on Ben Lomond (see further details)**

FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 5** **General Meeting Guest Speaker Simon Fearn - *Snakes***
- Sunday 10** **Field Trip with Simon Fearn**
- Sunday 24** **Skemps Day - Seed and Insect Collection**

MARCH

- Tuesday 5** **General Meeting Member's Night**
- ? Fri 15-Sun 17** **Field Trip - West Coast**
- Saturday 23** **Skemps Day - Time Team dig**
- Monday 25** **Social Night - venue to be advised**

For short notice changes to the program visit

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

COMMITTEE/GENERAL MEETING

Puggle - November

John Elliott asked members what group the Banjo Frog belonged to and for the scientific name. Prue Wright stated the group was Marsh frogs. No one knew the scientific name which is *Limnodynastes dumerilii*. Prue will provide the next Puggle question.

Sightings - November

Peter Longman reported 3 herons nesting in his garden at Dilston. Peter Warren saw a Red Wattlebird at Wilmot which is not normally seen in Tasmania and a Wedge-tailed Eagle. John Elliott said there were Onion Orchids growing on the nature strip at the corner of Abbott and Walden Streets in Newstead. He also reported that he found a leech on his dog this morning and this was prior to taking the dog for a walk. Peter Ralph reported a huge Echidna walking on the bitumen road at Legana and Margrit Korosi saw an Echidna at the Casino Golf Course.

Library Report

Approval was given for a copy of *Pathfinders in Tasmanian Botany* by Dick Burns to be purchased for the Club's Library.

General

Membership renewal Members were reminded that all memberships were due for renewal following the AGM. They were informed that unfinancial members following the November meeting would receive a letter in the mail as required by the Club's Constitution reminding them their payment was overdue. The letter would include payment options.

Non-Committee Positions At the Committee Meeting on November 1st, these positions were discussed with the following decisions made:

Noel Manning - Publicity

Tina McGlynn - Librarian

Karen Manning - Newsletter Co-ordinator

John Elliott - Federation Representative

Program Committee - Prue Wright, Peter Ralph and Peter Warren

Asset Managers (Skemps) - To be advised

Spring Clean at Skemps - members were invited to come along and assist with the spring clean on Saturday 24 November.

Club Calendars - Two different calendars have been printed for 2013. There are only a few calendars left, so see Karen if you would like to make a purchase. They are \$5.00 each.

Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania - see Karen if you would like to purchase, these guides make nice Christmas gifts. They are \$22.00 each.

December Meeting - members were reminded that the photographic competition would be judged at this meeting; entries to be brought in on the night. As this is the last Tuesday meeting for the year a plate of food to share for supper would be appreciated.

Christmas at Skemps - Members, their friends and family are invited to join in the end of year function at Skemps, which will be held on Sunday 9 December.

If you and your guests would like to participate in the Secret Santa (optional), please provide an appropriate wrapped gift up to \$10 to put under the tree and ensure your name is placed on Santa's list when you arrive at the Centre. Please label your gift 'male' or 'female' if the gift is gender specific. Everyone attending will go in the draw for the lucky door prize so get your ticket on arrival. If you bring a child you are invited to bring a gift for them, well labeled with their name, which will be given out separately. Santa will make an appearance prior to afternoon tea.

Please bring your own lunch, the BBQ will be lit if you would like to bring something to cook, and a plate of food to share for afternoon tea would be appreciated.

Girl Guides Jamboree Club representatives will be involved with a nature presentation at the Jamboree on Monday 7 January. Peter Ralph and Peter Warren will provide a rock display and we have been asked to set up and man a display of native animals. If you could help on the day please contact Prue Wright.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday 2 October 2012

Presidents Report

"At the 2011 AGM I once again assumed the role of President, actually by default, as there were no nominations or volunteers for the 2012 President's position.

As I was no longer physically able to take part in walking programs I had to avoid that part of the normal activities, also those of maintenance work at Skemps. So I really had to just be Chairman of meetings and to be involved as much as possible in other Club business. At my age of just on 90 this is not really so surprising, even to me.

I acknowledge the work done and support by all members socially and at Skemps, and particularly by the committee members. I particularly refer to Noel Manning as Secretary, Karen as Treasurer and compiler of the Newsletter, Prue Wright, Peter Warren and Peter Ralph as the Programs sub committee, Tina McGlynn as our Librarian, Tom Treloggen as Vice President and committee members, Michael Clarke and Elizabeth Montgomery. It is indeed regretted that John and Marion Simmons, and John Elliott were not able to continue as committee members. John Elliott's work as Secretary up until the end of 2011 is gratefully acknowledged. Noel has had a hard standard to follow. I also thank our relatively new committee member Judith Handler for her work in the photographic entries for the 2013 calendar. Have you all seen the construction of that sad old shed which once contained firewood etc, etc. John and his helpers have reconstructed it inside to form a complete habitable room. Get John Simmons to show it to you. Those who have not yet seen it are in for a real surprise. John is not able to attend this meeting. We sure hope that he will be better soon.

I thank two other members for the contribution to the Club, Grant Hanson and Geraldine Cameron. Grant has worked at Skemps for several years now as an unpaid field man in a way that we owe him a great deal. Geraldine has allowed the Committee to meet in her lounge for our meetings for a long time and even provided supper. Then later when not a Committee member still welcomed us for regular meetings.

A special thanks is due to Mr John Green, Solicitor, who has not only advised us on matters of the vexing problem of a particular group of weekend renters and persuaded them to pay for the damage created at Skemps but also without charging our Club for his help. John and Mrs Green are here with us tonight as our guests.

As we now continue into 2012/2013 I hope that there have been adequate nominations from members to reappoint the committee, all current members of which now step down and most are available for re-election, as well as other members who might wish to serve on the committee if there are vacancies, according to our constitution. I will continue to serve as Immediate Past President during the tenure of the next President, which means technically I don't have to do anything, but to be there when I feel like it unless someone leans on me for something. I thank you all for your support."

Al Pegler (President 2010 - 2012)

Election of Office Bearers

The following nominations had been submitted to the Secretary.

President - Tom Trelloggen

Vice President - Judith Handler

Treasurer - Karen Manning

Secretary - Noel Manning

Committee Members - Peter Warren, Peter Ralph

The following committee members were nominated from the floor

Tina McGlynn, Elizabeth Montgomery

As there were not other nominations the above were declared elected.

It was resolved that members subscriptions would increase -

Juniors \$5.00, Single \$30.00, Family \$40.00

Associate Groups \$45.00.

AUSTRALIAN NATURALISTS NETWORK GET-TOGETHER held in Canberra 13-20 October

The biennial Australian Naturalists Network get-together was held in Canberra hosted by the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra attended by seven members from the LFN club. On Saturday 13 October, sixty five participants registered and made destination choices for the Friday program, attended an afternoon tea followed by a program explanation and in the early evening a welcome reception.

Day One (Sunday) we arrived at one of two bus collection points for a geology tour. Our first destination was Mount Ainslie where our guide pointed out areas of interest and talked about the Canberra basin. We then went to the State Circle to look at an exposed rock wall where a roadway had been carved out. Here we could see the layers of sediment that had been deposited over the years, and how these layers had lifted and tilted. Limestone deposits were viewed at a site near the Museum and lunch was provided at the Black Mountain Peninsula picnic area.

During the afternoon we strolled through a eucalypt forest at Aranda Bushland reserve where we saw lots of *Glossodia Major*, Waxlip Orchid, *Diuris sulphurea*, Donkey Orchid, *Dillwynia phyllicoides*, Parrot Pea, *Leucopogon virgatus*, Beard Heath and *Grevillea alpina*. The National Arboretum was our next stop. A “Friend” of the Arboretum joined our bus group and gave us a guided tour of the area explaining what they were doing to assist with the revegetation of the area following the devastating fires of 2003 after which all the dead plants had to be removed. Replanting on the 250 hectare site has been planned; the 100 Forests 100 Gardens design will feature 100 types of trees with 100 of each planted across the arboretum site. These will be made up of Australian natives and various types of rare and endangered trees from around the world and sections of fire resistant plants are being added which will slow the progress of a fire (should there be one in the future) and therefore help with fire control. Water is also stored on the site should it be required. Our last stop for the day was at the Yacht Club on Lake Burley Griffin for a relaxing boat cruise before we all headed back to our accommodation for the evening.

Day Two (Monday) this was one of our early pickups, so we could bird watch in the Australian National Botanical Gardens. We were broken up into small groups with a ‘host’ expert on birds and all went to different areas of the gardens. In our part of the garden were many grevilleas and we were not disappointed with the amount of birds seen. We then joined with the other groups for a leisurely outdoor breakfast, visited by some of the birds that we had been watching earlier. We were again put into small groups and escorted into specific parts of the Gardens; our group visited the alpine section which included a range of Tasmanian plants and then onto their Seedbank. We then returned to our pickup point, to enjoy a free afternoon. In the evening we were bussed to the CSIRO Discovery Centre where they had many interesting interactive displays. To our surprise attendants got out a variety of stick insects which we were able to handle. Following the evening meal that was provided, we listened to two talks in the Theatre the first given by Ian Fraser titled “*Why the ACT is a great place to be a naturalist*” followed by Dr Gavin Young who gave a very interesting talk on fossils.

Day Three (Tuesday) we visited Mulligans Flat which was on the edge of the suburb Forde. The ranger talked about the vision for the nature reserve to recover some of the woodlands and return some of the native animals that have not been seen there in over 100 years. The reserve had very high electric fences designed to keep feral animals out and all entrances are monitored and if the gate does not close within a specified time a message is sent via mobile phone and a ranger will check the situation via the CCTV. They have introduced Tasmania’s bettong into the reserve as they are considered to have a restorative effect on their environment. There were many walks available of different length and difficulty, so after making our choice and collecting the lunch provided, set off in groups of 10 to enjoy the flora and fauna for a couple of hours. During the afternoon we were transported to the Canberra Reptile

Sanctuary where we could look at their many reptiles on display in cages. Then the keeper gave a talk about reptiles and we had a close up encounter as he bought out a blue tongue and ridgeback lizard for us to hold and be photographed with.

Day Four (Wednesday) This morning we headed to the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex about an hour out of Canberra at Tidbinbilla. A young lady gave a history of the complex and then told us about their involvement in the 1969 landing on the moon and more recently the landing of Curiosity, NASA's Mars rover. We saw a video from the control area of NASA taken during Curiosity's landing including some of the first images sent back to Earth and a simulation of the landing detailing the separation from the spacecraft, the decent and parachute deployment and the craft getting ready to take images.

Back to the buses we travelled the short distance to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve where we had a picnic lunch supplied by our hosts. Following lunch and a talk by a staff member at the Visitors Centre about the endangered thumbnail sized local Corroboree Frog, we were given two options. I chose the first option which was a guided walk of the Sanctuary, a fenced area of the reserve. The volunteers who guided us talked about the devastating fires in 2003 and the effect it had on the plants and wildlife, including wiping out the population of Rock Wallaby. The second choice was a longer walk exploring both the Fishing Gap Track and the Sanctuary. We saw many different water birds at the wetlands, a tortoise, broilgas, emus, platypus and eastern grey kangaroos. The groups re-joined for afternoon tea and then proceeded to a lookout which gave a great view of the reserve and as well we saw the regeneration since the fires.

Day Five (Thursday) another early start and depending on your departure point we were bird watching in either Campbell Park or Brae Nature Reserve. It was an overcast morning and we saw quite a few birds in the open forest at Campbell Park. There were lots of *Bulbine Lilies* and *Wurmbea dioica*, and large groups of Eastern Grey Kangaroos. After morning tea, the two groups met at CSIRO's Geoscience Centre where we were given a talk about CSIRO followed by a look at the displays of rocks and minerals, images from a recent Australia wide photographic competition and a visit to the Education Centre to watch 3D simulations, including one showing how the volcanic regions and the tectonic plates on Earth related. Many visited the shop for souvenirs before our bus drivers took us, via the diplomatic residences, back to our departure point for our free afternoon. Our evening program saw us return to CSIRO's Discovery Centre theatre where we heard Don McGregor give a very interesting talk on his study on Lyrebirds. This was followed by a supper.

Day Six (Friday) was our destination choice day and involved a very complex shuttle bus arrangement to get everyone where they should be on time. The choices in the morning had been the herbariums at CSIRO or ANBG, and the CSIRO Australian Wildlife Collection, with everyone being collected again and deposited at the National Library for lunch after which the afternoon choices would commence, including some at our leisure. In the Parliamentary Triangle there were many places to visit; the only organised visits were to view natural history collections by Ellis Rowan, John Gould, Ferdinand Bauer in a secure area of the National Library with curators. At the Library there was also a display of John Lewin's natural history works in the form of manuscripts, etchings, pencil drawings and watercolours which was open to the general public. Other venues were the National Archives for the display of natural history

images entered for the Waterhouse Prize and the National Gallery of Australia to see Fiona Hall's Leaf Litter, a collection of bank notes from around the world, on which Fiona had drawn the leaf that represented a native plant from the country of the notes origin. The National Portrait Gallery was close by and many chose to visit it.

Day Seven (Saturday) our final day was to Namadgi National Park where there was a range of walks in two separate areas of the park. First we stopped at the Visitors Centre to look around and sort out who was going where, our bus went to the Honeysuckle Creek camping ground where many explored the alpine walking track and continued the steep climb up Booroomba Rocks where we lunched on big boulders with great views back toward Canberra. The climb back down to the carpark seemed to take no time at all, declining a car ride back to the bus we walked the 3 kilometres back to the camping ground for more opportunities to photograph the wildflowers. On our return to Canberra, we called back in to the Visitors Centre where they did a roaring trade on Magnum and other ice creams.

The final dinner was held at the Canberra Institute of Technology restaurant with a delicious meal and fine wines included. Many participants spoke to the question posed earlier in the week "why did you become a naturalist?" There were many thankyou's followed by Simon Grove from the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club giving a promotional presentation for the 2014 get-together which their Club will host. The evening came to a close and after saying our goodbyes we headed back to our accommodation.

This was my first interstate get-together and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The Canberra Field Naturalists group can be congratulated on providing a wide range of experiences and interesting places to visit in their program.

Karen Manning

SKEMPS DAY - Sunday 28 October

Sixteen members and three visitors arrived at Skemps to a beautiful sunny day with the biannual macroinvertebrate monitoring our main focus today. With the water sample obtained from a special area on Skemp Creek we checked for water bugs. They were sorted into ice cube containers and later identified. See John Elliott's report next page.

A small group then walked the Forest Track, looking for flowering shrubs and trees, and mosses and liverworts as there had been quite a bit of rain recently. Along the way we saw *Pultenaea juniperina*, Prickly Beauty and *Zieria arborescens*, Stinkwood in flower. A large *Olearia argophylla*, Musk Daisybush was in bud and there were many *Caladenia carnea*, Pink fingers and *Pterostylis* sp., Greenhoods.

At the exit of the Forest Track to the grassland, we walked down into the Top Falls to collect samples of mosses and liverworts near the falls. Bryologist Lynne Cave, who had visited the property in September, had recommended that samples were obtained from a splash site to add to the collection of those already obtained on the property. At a glance there appeared to be quite a few different ones in the small area and Prue got samples of each. On the return trip to the Centre a circular flat moss was obtained from a tree trunk as it was considered different to any collected previously. Walking back along Skemp Creek we saw an Echidna and noted that many of the shrubs and trees planted in 2011 were out growing their plant guards.

Following a late lunch, groups went for walks, kindling was gathered and the water

sample was returned to where it had been taken. Over coffee we discussed the program, and the mosses and liverwort samples were placed on the table for all to view. The ‘circular flat moss’ was identified as the lichen, *Coenogonium implexum*.

After an enjoyable day we all headed home.

Karen Manning

Results of Macroinvertebrate Monitoring: Bottom Falls/Creek below Bob’s Bog

The Signal 2 score is the lowest since monitoring started. The number of taxa seen is satisfactory, however. Overall, this result is consistent with most of the other results from this site, which cluster around the boundary between excellent water quality and good water quality.

Date sampled	Taxa	Signal 2 score	Interpretation	Water Quality
14/04/2010	8	5.6	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
23/10/2010	6	6.5	Questionable quality, Indications of disturbance or poor sampling	Fair
20/11/2010	7	5.9	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
10/04/2011	9	5.3	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
23/10/2011	8	5.8	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
21/04/2012	6	5.7	Questionable quality, Indications of disturbance or poor sampling	Fair
28/10/2012	8	5.1	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good

The following taxa were seen:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Amphipoda | Side-swimmers |
| Coleoptera | Beetles |
| Diptera | True flies |
| Ephemeroptera | Mayflies |
| Hemiptera | True bugs |
| Plecoptera | Stoneflies |
| Polychaeta | Bristleworms |
| Trichoptera | Caddis flies |

GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 6 November - SPEAKER Simon Cameron

Simon’s property Kingston is 50 km SE of Launceston in a place originally called Lagunta at the end of the beaten track. It once had a post office and a thriving community, including soldier settlements.

The property was settled from the south in the early 1820s by John Batman who did not have it for long before heading off to Melbourne to do his real estate thing eventually selling it in 1838.

At this stage Simon introduced his colleagues as the property manager, Lyndel Poole, Michael Bennett as someone with the most knowledge of the bugs, birds and botany of the property and Hugh (worker?).

Simon talked about major gaps in the history of the property highlighted by an unused irrigation ditch comprising kilometres of hand shaped channel bringing water near to the home site with mention of hundreds of acres under irrigation.

Simon mentioned other owners such as Edmund Bryce then Roderick O'Connor (the first) followed by a checkered history with lots of owners before it was bought by his great grandfather Cyril Cameron in 1905. The map he showed us, which had caused so much technical difficulty at the start of the talk, was the survey map done the year before which contained some interesting details to add to his knowledge of the history of the property. There is little evidence of Aboriginal activity because it was on the edge of the east coast and the Ben Lomond tribal groups.

The property comprises 3125 hectares with 300 of improved pasture, 1400 of native grasslands and the rest is lightly timbered hills. The property is between 250 & 500 metres above sea level and water comes from the Ben Lomond rivulet. The production is given over to super fine wool, popular in quality Italian suits, some fat lambs and there were cattle before the drought of 2006 to early 2009. Recently a trial crop of poppies has been added and in partnership with Greening Australia the property is producing *Themeda*, a native grass and each of these endeavours comes with its own problems.

A slide had a map by DPI/PWE with coloured areas showing the different conservation values of Kingston and these seemed to cover quite a large area of the property. Simon pointed to a part of the map where he said you would find 70 species of herbs and grasses compared to 10 in a normal paddock. There followed a reading of a report by a Bush Heritage ecologist detailing the natural values of Kingston. Of particular importance was that the property retains 8% of the remaining kangaroo grasslands and 1% of the tussock grasslands. The tussock grasslands on Kingston are some of the largest tracts left in Tasmania and occur in the valley floor just as they would before white settlement. Those throughout the rest of Tasmania are mostly fragmented pockets with poor buffering from surrounding intensive agriculture. The reading finished with the quote by the ecologist 'The natural values on Kingston justifiably rank as one of the most important sites for protecting native communities and species of national significance'.

Simon talked of areas of the property which were not necessarily significant but were of particular interest to him. These included an elevated wetlands where geographical features kept the area relatively wet even though it was above the plains. He also talked about what he described as a dry rainforest, where a forest on the south slope of a hill allowed it to be described as such.

He has entered into a 12 year conservation covenant on 900 hectares, more than a quarter of the farm, and he spoke of the difficulties and issues flowing from the restrictions on the use of this land.

The property received an Envirofund Grant and a Caring for our Country Grant which were used to get rid of woody weeds such willow, hawthorn, briars, blackberry and gorse. There is a 15 year plan to get rid of all woody weeds which are mapped and monitored.

Simon called the project a work of discovery and a slide showed an unnamed small

lily (half the size of a gorse lily) growing in a shallow pool of soil in a rock which was flush with the ground.

For conservation projects he stated that they did the obvious such as tree preservation, plantings and shelter belts trying to recreate the landscape, although not in the usual way. Instead they used individual plantings, especially on hill tops, which are good for the ecosystem while providing shade for the sheep. He then described an innovative erosion project for sediment reduction. In an area of a creek which broke its banks during flooding 60 to 80 tonnes of rock, hessian covering and regrowth planting reduced the erosion while posts reduced the turbulence during the flooding. Although much had been done he estimated that between 12,000 to 15,000 hours of work remained which equated to one person working full time for between three and five years.

The presentation included many slides showing sweeping vistas of the property, most with extensive grassy plains surrounded by lightly wooded hills while others showed before and after views. Some of these featured the improvements as areas of grasslands were better managed or areas before/after or during times of drought. Other slides showed problem areas, particularly of weeds, which have been managed while another showed the property flooded in by a very swollen rivulet. He finished by saying ‘that’s Kingston and my aspirations for what we are trying to do’.

During the extensive question and answer time Simon confirmed that stock were run on the covenanted area and was asked about using fire on the property. Unfortunately that first attempt to use fire was followed by a drought and was a failure while a recent accidental burn had produced a small patch with quality regrowth. He amused us with the comment that ‘the crazy stuff about this is you work really hard and spend lots of money to make it look like nothing had happened’.

Liz Bond gave the vote of thanks followed by the usual acclamation by the members.

Noel J Manning

FIELD TRIP Saturday 10 November - Simon Cameron’s property *Kingston* at Nile

Following the interesting talk given by the owner of “Kingston”, Simon Cameron, at the November meeting 20 members and four guests made their way out past Nile to see firsthand the covenanted native grasslands which form part of this superfine wool property in the Northern Midlands.

We were welcomed by Simon himself, as well as property manager Lyndel Poole and Michael Bennett, then all travelled by FWD’s to the covenanted area. This area of 900ha of unimproved native pasture is carefully managed to maintain the integrity of the covenant, with the sheep being allowed to graze on it once a year.

With it being classic grassland there is not much over ankle height other than Eucalypt paucifloras, which dominate the landscape with their gnarled bodies, so it was a lot of bending over or hands and knees investigation. Kangaroo grass was beginning to seed, (although first to catch our eye were the abundant billy buttons) – there is a significant percentage of the *Themeda* remaining in Tasmania to be found on “Kingston”.

Cameras clicked while Karen ably noted down the plants called out, she was hard put to keep up at times. One of the floral highlights was a very showy area of *Euryomyrtus ramosissima*, but often identification of the plants without further checking was made difficult with the constant grazing by the feral deer on the property.

The hunt was on for flowering *Arthropodium minus* known to be in the area; alas, we had to be content with catches such as *Thysanotus patersonii*, *Glycine latrobeana*, and *Ptilotus spathulatus*. We “bagged” around 60 species in all. On top of that the sun shone (as it does everywhere we go except that place we won’t mention) and we had an amazing day out – Many thanks to Simon, Lyndel, Michael and Eliza for their wonderful hospitality.

Prue Wright

Fauna and flora seen at Kingston

Birds - *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, Richard’s Pipit; *Aquila audux*, Wedge-tailed Eagles (x5); *Cacatua galerita*, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo; *Chrysococcyx basalis*, Horsfield’s Bronze Cuckoo; *Corvus tasmanicus*, Forest Raven; *Cuculus pallidus*, Pallid Cuckoo; *Dacelo novaeguineae*, Laughing Kookaburra; *Gymnorhina tibicen*, Australian Magpie; *Hirundo neoxena*, Welcome Swallow; *Pardalotus striatus*, Striated Pardalote; *Petroica phoenicea*, Flame Robin; *Platycercus caledonicus*, Green Rosella
Frogs - *Crinia signifera*, Common Froglet; *Geocrinia laevis*, Tasmanian Smooth Froglet

Snail - *Lymnea tomentosa*

Flora - *Acaena echinata*, Spiny Sheeps-burr; *Acacia dealbata*, Silver Wattle; *Acacia mearnsii*, Black Wattle; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, Bull-oak; *Arthropodium minus*, Small Vanilla-lily; *Arthropodium pendulum*, Drooping Vanilla-lily; *Arthropodium strictum*, Chocolate Lily; *Asperula conferta*, Common Woodruff; *Astroloma humifusum*, Native Cranberry; *Bossia prostrata*, Creeping bossia; *Brachyscome aculeata*, Hill Daisy; *Bulbine bulbosa*, Golden Bulbine-lily; *Bursaria spinosa*, Prickly Box; *Caesia calliantha*, Blue Grasslily; *Carex* sp., Sedge; *Cheilanthes* sp., Rockfern; *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, Common Everlasting; *Convolvulus erubescens*, Blushing Bindweed; *Craspedia glauca*, Common Billy-buttons; *Dichondra repens*, Kidneyweed; *Drosera peltata* subsp *auriculata*, Tall Sundew; *Drosera peltata* subsp *peltata*, Pale Sundew; *Drosera* aff. *peltata*, Grassland Sundew; ? *Drosera pygmaea*, Dwarf Sundew; *Epacris* sp., Heath; *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, Cabbage Gum; *Euryomyrtus ramosissima* subsp. *prostrata*, Creeping Heath-myrtle; *Geranium potentilloides*, Mountain cranesbill; *Glycine latrobeana*, Clover Glycine; *Hibbertia riparia*, Erect Guineaflower; *Hibbertia serpyllifolia*, Thyme Guineaflower; *Hypericum* sp., St Johns-wort; *Hypoxis vaginata*, Sheathing Yellow Star; *Juncus* sp., Rush; *Lagenophora stipitata*, Blue Bottledaisy; *Leptorhynchos squamatus*, Scaly Buttons; *Leptospermum* sp., Teatree; *Lissanthe strigosa*, Peachberry Heath; *Lomandra longifolia*, Sagg; *Mazus pumilio*, Swamp Mazus; *Melicytus dentatus*, Spiky Violetbush; *Microtis unifolia*, Common Onion-orchid; *Microseris lanceo-lata*, Yam Daisy; *Oxalis perennans*, Grassland Woodsorrel; *Phragmites australis*, Southern Reed; *Pimelea curviflora*, Curved Riceflower; *Pimelea humilis*, Dwarf Riceflower; *Poa* sp., Tussockgrass; *Ptilotus spathulatus*, Pussytails; *Pultenaea prostrata*, Silky Bushpea; *Scleranthus biflorus*, Cushion plant; *Sphagnum* sp., Moss; *Thelymitra pauciflora*, Slender Sun-orchid; *Themeda triandra*, Kangaroo Grass; *Thysanotus patersonii*, Twining Fringelily; *Veronica gracilis*, Slender speedwell; *Villarsia reniformis*, Running Marshflower; *Viola betonicifolia*, Showy Violet; *Viola hederacea*, Ivyleaf Violet; *Wahlenbergia* sp., Bluebell

VALE - John Simmons OAM - 23 November 2012

The Passing of a Great Bloke

What can one say about someone like John Grant Simmons, OAM, one of nature's true gentlemen?

In earlier years John was known to hop on a motorbike or two. He served in the RAAF during WWII, spending time in the Islands.

It is difficult to write about John without including Marion as they did nearly everything together. Between them they amassed many well deserved awards and recognition for their work not only on Acacias but on many environmental projects all around the country. They travelled extensively throughout Australia over more than 30 years, photographing and collecting Acacias, amassing an enviable herbarium of specimens which has been left to science. *Acacia simmonsiana* was named in their honour.

Despite deteriorating health in recent years, John continued to work on his favourite project, Skemps, climbing ladders and roofs with various tools to fix or add something, working hard and getting jobs done, putting the younger members to shame. He worked tirelessly for the various organisations to which he belonged, having that rare talent of being able to turn his hand to just about any job that needed doing, often being able to scrounge the materials required as well.

John had a great sense of humour together with a great sense of timing and appropriateness, and was extremely proud to announce when he achieved his OBE – Over Bloody Eighty!

Farewell old friend, you will be sorely missed.

Jeff Campbell

A Brief History of a Dedicated Field Naturalist

It is not known when John and Marion Simmons joined the Launceston Field Naturalists Club but it was a few years prior to John Skemp passing away in 1966.

John was appointed to the Committee in 1966 serving as Honorary Secretary from 1969 to 1975, Vice President from 1976 to 1978 and 1983 to 1991, President from 1978 to 1981 and 1995 to 1997, Federation Representative 1967 to 1968 and Newsletter Editor briefly in 1975 and later in the mid 1990's. John retired from the Committee in September 2010 although he was often consulted on Club matters until quite recently.

John's outstanding contributions did not go unnoticed and he was awarded Life Membership in 1976. As well as leading excursions and other activities and giving many illustrated talks, he also reintroduced the November Wild Flower Shows to Launceston in 1968 which operated for several more years. In 1971 it was held in conjunction with the Institute of Parks and Reserves at the Albert Hall and drew high praise from those who attended. In the early 1970's John initiated Naturama, a film and photographic display, which became an annual event with contributions from other field naturalists clubs. In 1970 a junior field naturalists club called Noorumba was formed and this operated for a few years under the supervision of John with Mary Cameron.

In the late 1970's John proposed a book to raise funds to place a building on the

property that John Skemp bequeathed to the club. The book was to be on Tasmanian flora and using many of his and other club member's photographs, the book was published in 1981, which we know as *A Field Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania*. The book has had four major revisions, the most recent early 2007 where John organised for many new photographs and a revision of the botanical information. In 2012 there were some additional updates.

In 1985 he presented the Skemp Memorial Lecture and did a talk on spiders.

John was a pillar of strength to the Club in matters of policy and business dealings. As Chairman of the Skemp Committee he has supervised the management of the property and applied his many skills to the development of the Field Centre which was constructed during the 1980's with the official opening in May 1989.

He was also on the Sub-Committee formed to organise the programme for the very successful 2nd biennial Australian Naturalist Network Get-together held in Launceston in November 2002.

John belonged to the Tuesday group and no matter what the weather they were at Skemps maintaining the Centre and the property. On his last day at Skemps John participated in one of his favourite tasks and put a match to his last rubbish pile.

There is not enough space to do justice to his contribution to the Club and the wider community and we hope there are not too many important omissions.

The committee and members offer their condolences to Marion and family.

This information is taken from the official Club History, Minute Books and a few ageing memories

SKEMPS DAY - Saturday 24 November - Spring Clean Day

On the program today was a spring clean of the Centre and thirteen members came prepared with buckets and cloths. After discussing what we hoped would be accomplished before the end of the day, members volunteered for the jobs and we worked solidly until lunchtime.

During this time the kitchen cupboards were tidied and cleaned, items that were broken or chipped were disposing of and items were rewashed as necessary. In the bunkrooms and anti rooms, curtains and sheets were removed for washing, cobwebs and dust removed, walls wiped, the sleeping areas and the carpets vacuumed, and the windows cleaned. Both bathrooms were thoroughly cleaned.

Externally the windows were being washed and the removal of cobwebs from the eaves and entrance ways had commenced, and John E could be heard in the distance splitting the much needed firewood for next winter.

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch outside the Centre in the sun.

In the afternoon external cleaning was continued, while inside the Centre the last of the carpeted areas was cleared and vacuumed in preparation for steam cleaning by members. This was a very noisy task and took quite a while, so as we

waited for our turn to use the machine, Prue showed some of her photos from the recent field trip to *Kingston*. The afternoon ended late, with the job of moving the furniture back into position left to the Tuesday crew to give the carpet time to dry.

A big thank you to all whose great effort contributed to another successful spring clean.
Karen Manning

OVERNIGHT AT BEN LOMOND - Tuesday 15/Wednesday 16 January

Members are invited to attend an overnight field trip to Ben Lomond in January, where we will be staying at the Borrowdale Ski Chalet. This is a very interesting place to visit with many walks varying in length and difficulty, great photographic opportunities of the unusual terrain and the wildflowers should be looking good at this time of year. If an overnight stay is not for you, come for the day and explore this wonderful area.

Please contact Peter Warren on 63392671 or by email pjwarrenjp@hotmail.com who will provide information about the accommodation, cost for stay and items to bring.

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. Their first meeting for 2013 will be held on 19 February. For further details of their program visit <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