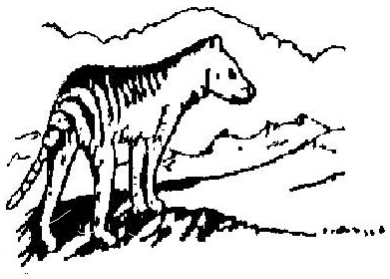


THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

LVI No.1 October/November 2022

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

Patron : Prof. Nigel Forteath

President : Jeff Campbell, 0432 470 311

Hon. Secretary : Noel Manning, 0458 030 767

Hon. Treasurer : Karen Manning

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

Program:

December

Tuesday 6

Club night - The Year That Was presentation

Saturday 10

Christmas Get-together at the John Skemp Field Centre

Wednesday 14

Trevallyn Reserve for wildflowers. Meet at Hoo Hoo Hut at the Village Green, Duck Reach Road off Reatta Road Trevallyn at 12 noon, for lunch and walk. Please RSVP to Karen 0419 596 261 if you are attending. If there is a need to cancel or postpone due to poor weather you will be contacted.

The following field trips are proposed, subject to expressions of interest from members, please contact Helen Tait on 0429 293 647

January

Central Plateau – later in the month

East Beach for Rock pools (low tides - Sat28th 12 noon 0.56m, and Sun29th 1pm 0.56m)

February

Boullanger Bay to view Migratory Birds and Penguins at the new Burnie Penguin Observation Centre – early in the month, two day field trip

Program details for 2023 will be updated on **https://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm** as they are confirmed early next year

Skemps Report October/November 2022:

The new heater is installed and I made a simple catch for the child safety surround so it can be opened in a more convenient way by adults. Some of the fire wood already cut and stored away is too long for the new heater and Jeff has been working on this ably assisted by Karen and Caitlin. After testing by us and a group of hirers it appears the new heater will not burn overnight with at least one refill required.

Prompted by Karen and using a sheet of laminate found at Skemps I put a permanent easy to clean splash back behind the gas barbecue, put the kitchen implement holder back up and added a new shelf. This was after Caitlin and Karen did a thorough job of cleaning the wall, the implement holder and the barbecue itself. It all looks good with the shelf receiving three coats of the varnish used on the kitchen bench tops.

During the recent heavy rains the top pond overflowed and the centre of the dam wall partially collapsed. Over two Tuesdays we dug out the overflow channel lowering the pond level and cleared the water weeds growing in the channel which had caused the blockage. We then started to fill the hole with the rock from the pile at the end of the drive way and dirt dug up near the pond. We also took clods of grass from near the pond to cover the infill and hopefully stop it from washing away again. Caitlin, Jeff, Karen and I worked very hard on this ending up quite dirty as the material we moved was wet and muddy. There is still more work to do to get the rhizomes out of the overflow channel to stop future regrowth and then to finish filling the hole. When digging in the loose rock Jeff found a feisty little copper head snake of about 150mm in a small hollow in the rocks and after a few quick photos a new cave was made for it while we continued to dig up the rock.

The mouse problem has impacted our storage cupboard in the bunk room making it a little smelly and we lost a packet of Tim Tams to the greedy little things. Caitlin and Karen emptied and cleaned the cupboard, cleaned the contents, put them in plastic containers and returned these to the cupboard. Jeff made it more mouse proof and also took some items home to wash and ending up taking a dead mouse home with him, the cause of the smell no doubt. Karen cleaned the kitchen window blind and we took it home to repair the tears at the bottom and it looks a lot better.

While thistles are less of a problem of late, foxglove is a huge issue especially along Myrtle Bank Road up past the boom gate and Caitlin and Karen have been working hard on these. I will follow up soon by spraying the ones on the road verge while those on the property have been removed by hand.

I recently did the first mow for the season cutting the grass around the Centre to remove the fire hazard and mowed most of the tracks leading away from there. As well as a few minor repair the usual Skemps tasks have been taken care of over this time and a major tree fall near the settling tank was dealt with. While someone had cleared the road the remaining spars blocked our parking spot when accessing the tank and some were in the drain where our main water supply comes from. Four people spent a half day on this task with two chainsaws and the large loppers in action with us.

With no flow into our water tanks recently, I checked the pipe finding it cut and a connection undone. At a suggestion from Jeff it was quickly fixed with materials at hand.

If you can assist with track maintenance or join us of a Tuesday please contact me and I will add your name to the list of those I text each Monday. Noel Manning

Meeting - Tuesday 6 September – Guest speaker UTAS – *Eastern Barred Bandicoots*

Helen introduced our guest speakers and their talks on threatened species the day before the official Threatened Species Day, which is the 7 September.

Joanna started by telling us that she and Bridget were studying different aspects of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (EBB) for their PhDs before giving us some information on these animals. The EBB has the shortest gestation period of any mammal at about 12.5 days, they wean at about two months, are fertile after three months and can have up to five litters per year. While this suggests the EBB can breed up quickly they do not in Tasmania and their study was to find out why.

Joanna's part of the study was to look at where the bandicoots are in Tasmania using the Atlas of Living Australia, the NRE (formerly DPIPWE) database and spotlight surveys done since 1975. Also how the bandicoots use their habitat and whether habitat restoration work done in the north of the state is doing any good or not. Maps showed the pre and post 2000 distribution with not much seen in the far west and the distribution dropping off in the middle of the state after 2000. This may be due to loss of habitat from agriculture or the rise of feral cats with the reduction of the devils.

With a reasonable population of the animals around the west Tamar the focus of her study was 66 random sites and 38 restoration sites in this area. Cameras were set up for two months at each site during winter and summer without baits and a map had dots representing each site. She concluded they prefer open grassed areas for feeding with scrub areas nearby for security. Joanna suggested the winter diet is perhaps grubs and worms when the soil is moist while in the summer when the soil is hard the diet is spiders, grasshoppers and crickets.

The 2.5 million images from these cameras were assessed by MegaDetector software to eliminate blank images caused by grass movement and shadows. With around 95% accuracy this software can scan images to recognise chosen animals and bandicoots were present at 41 sites in winter and 36 in summer while 76 sites had cats in winter and 71 had them in summer. Most sites with cats had more than one individual with one near George Town having nine cats. There were many other native animals captured by the cameras, including devils, bettongs, pademelons and possums with more brown bandicoots seen than the EBB and many deer were recorded as well.

The next stage was to capture individual animals, study their scats and track them with a GPS attached to their tail. With not much of a neck the animal could be strangled by a collar GPS if it gained weight or get its feet caught if the collar became too loose. Using the GPS the animal is tracked for three weeks to see where it is moving, foraging and nesting and how often it uses the nest.

The study will move to farms as there is a high mortality rate during farm operations and this has not yet been studied in Tasmania. In Europe, due to larger and faster machinery, there is a high mortality of small animals during harvesting and studies show that susceptible animals try to hide instead of fleeing. This is particularly so where harvesting is done from the outside to the middle of an area and the situation is improved where the harvesting starts in the middle and works outwards. This helps to flush the animals away though it is not known if this would help with bandicoots in Tasmania.

Another part of the study is looking at the restoration sites to see whether the animals like a mosaic of grasslands and woodlands. Also the study is looking at the ratio of females to males as populations under stress have more males and males are aggressive and will push the females out.

Bridget's half of the project is looking at the effect of cats, landscape and diseases, mainly toxoplasmosis on the seriously declining bandicoot population, a decline which has been quite bad recently, and follows similar trends on the mainland. The Eastern Barred Bandicoots started to go extinct in the wild on the mainland in the 70s mostly attributed to predators, mainly foxes. Cats, which introduced diseases such as toxoplasmosis, are also a problem with habitat loss and degradation of the farmlands being an issue as well.

Bridget's presentation detailing three questions she researched about the survival of the bandicoots. Question one, how do landscape features promote or inhibit gene flow and dispersal. An area is divided into a grid and each has landscape features such as mountains, vegetation corridors, rivers or degraded land. Our Tamar stops the movement of bandicoots completely from west to east and other features will stop or restrict the movement of the bandicoots and the diversity of the gene pool. A map showed sites where animals had been caught, where trapping had been unsuccessful and sites yet to have traps set. The aim is to eventually have over 40 sites with 60 individuals captured and so far 15 sites have delivered 34 bandicoots to the study. A movie showed the handling of a recently captured animal.

Question two looked at how the bandicoots interact with cats. To see if the bandicoots recognise cats as a threat an experiment called 'giving up density' is used. Feeding trays of soy and sunflower seeds are set out in different situations including varied distances to cover, differing moon phases and different cat densities. The experiment is being done in the Water Works Reserve Hobart where there is a cat eradication program. The feeding dishes attracting other animals is an issue for the study. Rats, bettongs and pademelons eat the food while devils scent mark near the trays and cats walk past, sniff the tray and then move on.

With cameras deployed around the feeding trays Bridget got to see strange behaviour and animal interactions starting with bettongs wriggling their tails. It coincided with the animals concentrating on something and may have been a warning or nervous behaviour. To our amusement she described bandicoots and bettongs chasing each other around, taking turns at the feeding trays and sneaking up on each other with both scuttling off when discovered. While black rats are aggressive at the trays and will bite bandicoots, pademelons will feed happily next to other animals.

The next part of the experiment will be to use scent from predators such as devils, quolls and cats to see if the bandicoots can detect it, then a more active predator response. This will involve a stuffed cat wheeled into the experiment, again using cat scent to make it more realistic and different environments will be tested such as open areas or varying distance to cover.

The third question was the effect of toxoplasmosis on the bandicoots with a brief description of the disease. Toxoplasmosis is a cat born parasite which enters the environment from their faeces and the cysts can survive in soil for up to two years in the cool, moist climate of Tasmania. It affects all warm blooded animals, including humans, causing a range of symptoms. In bandicoots this includes blindness, erratic behaviour, daytime activity and death after about two weeks, yet not always. The bandicoots appear to have developed immunity to the parasite as there are still many in the suburban areas even though the animals almost certainly come in contact with cats and their toxoplasmosis.

Bridget showed a prediction of what we might see when a population is exposed to toxoplasmosis. The juveniles may not have toxoplasmosis, older ones start to die off, some show symptoms and then with the few left having immunity. After a question from a member we were told immunity was not passed to offspring and blood samples would show seroconversion, indicating the animal had caught the parasite and was now immune.

Bridget promised to return with a follow up talk when the study showed good results.

After around 15 minutes of comments, questions and answers Jeff gave the vote of thanks, presented our speakers with a copy of the Club's book and led the acclamation. N Manning

Meeting - Tuesday 4 October – Members presentations – *"Let's talk about our favourite native orchid"*

The October general meeting was a member's night on favourite orchids.

Jeff started by telling us about his favourite Tasmanian orchid, *Orthoceras strictum*, the horned orchid followed by his favourite Western Australian orchid *Caladenia x spectabilis*. This is a natural hybrid between the *Caladenia flava* subspecies and *Caladenia latifolia*. He also told us that if the millions of seeds in an orchid were to find their particular fungus, orchids would be more common than grasses. Each species mentioned was accompanied by an image.

Having heard Kim Nielsen-Creeley read a poem she had written on *Prasophyllum taphanyx*, the Graveside leek-orchid, Helen invited her to our meeting to read the poem for our member's night. This orchid is a rare species found only in a cemetery in Campbell Town and is under threat from the general management of the grounds, particularly the mowing. Kim's interest stemmed from the number of her antecedents buried there.

Kim then gave a reading about elvers, eel young and Jeff had an anecdote about the large number of eels seen in a creek near Killafaddy when he was growing up, numbers no longer seen in the area.

Karen gave a presentation on *Spiranthes australis*, the Pink Spiral orchid with excellent images showing the unusual spiral form of these orchids. She had seen one at Four Springs Lake during a field trip at first assuming it to be a weed. She was corrected by Prue and realised that she had seen something special in this unusual species.

Louise gave a presentation on behalf of Neil and Priscilla Hardstaff on their favourite exotic orchids with information on growing exotics in Tasmania.

I gave a short presentation on *Dockrillia striolata*, Tasmania's only rock orchid which I had recently seen on a walk up Mount Strzelecki admitting that the images, although mine, were from a field trip to the Scottsdale High School camp at Mount Cameron where this orchid is also found.

Those present showed their appreciation for each presentation. Noel Manning

Field Trip – Saturday 8 October – Powranna Nature Reserve for Wildflowers and Native Orchids

Five members travelled to Powranna Nature Reserve to look for emerging wildflowers and native orchids on a warm sunny day with a light breeze.

As we entered the highway end of the reserve we could see lots of colour from the flowering plants. A blue lovecreeper was draped over a silver banksia and white flowers of a common beard-heath nearby, which was followed by the blue waxlip orchid, sundews and pink heath. We spent a lot of time looking for species on our plant list and also added to the list.

Andrew was using a new stand to hold his phone falling well behind the rest of us as he tried to get good photos of specific plants. He hoped this stand would eliminate the shake that normally caused blurring when using his phone camera.

We walked further into the reserve along the fence line to an area that becomes boggy following rain where Roy suggested there could be some interesting plants. Not finding anything we headed further into the middle of the reserve looking for other plants in flower, before heading back to the cars for lunch. The only thing marring the day,

was the constant roar from the Symmons Plains Raceway where a Ride Day was being held for motorcycle riders.

Noting that rain was expected during the afternoon, we drove towards Cressy to the furthest point of the reserve in the hope of finding other flowering plants. Just before we got there, two deer hopped the fence on our left and ran across the road in front of Roy's car and then jumped the fence into the reserve. At the parking area, we collected many bottles and cans that had been tossed onto the grass verge. Over the fence we saw a few clusters of greenhoods growing. We hadn't been there very long before the birds started squawking, the temperature dropped and the sky darkened, so we headed back to the cars rather than get soaked.

Powranna Nature Reserve is a relaxing place to go. The terrain is very flat, a little uneven in places where the animals have been digging and has a few boggy areas after rain, where you will see lots of tadpoles. There is approximately 276 hectares so still much to explore.

Another enjoyable day on the outlook for our native flowers in one of the many accessible reserves in the Launceston area.

Plants - *Acacia dealbata*, silver wattle; *Acaena echinata*, spiny sheepsburr; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, black sheoak; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bossiaea prostrata*, creeping bossia (in flower); *Brunonia australis*, blue pincushion flower (? in flower or just leaves); *Cardamine* sp., bittercress; *Centrolepis strigosa* subsp. strigosa, hairy bristlewort; *Chamaescilla corymbosa* var. *corymbosa*, blue stars (in flower); **Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper (in flower*); Coronidium scorpioides*, curling everlasting; *Crassula decumbens* var. *decumbens*, spreading stonecrop; *Daviesia latifolia*, hop bitterpea; **Dianella revoluta*, forest flaxlily; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *Drosera hookeri*, grassland sundew; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, black peppermint; *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp *viminalis*, white gum; **Exocarpos cupressiformis*, common native-cherry; *Goodenia lanata*, trailing native-primrose; *Hibbertia riparia,* erect guineaflower; *Hyalosperma demissum*, moss sunray; *Hydrocotyle* sp., tiny spleenwort; *Hypoxis hygrometrica*, golden weatherglass; *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman (in bud); *Leucopogon virgatus*, common beardheath; *Lissanthe strigosa* subsp. *subulata*, peachberry heath; *Microseris lanceolata*, highland yam daisy; *Millotia tenuifolia* var. *tenuifolia*, soft bowflower (in flower); *Oxalis perennans*, grassland woodsorrel (in flower); *Pauridia vaginata* var. *brevistigmata,* sheathing yellowstar (in flower); *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf riceflower (in flower); *Platylobium triangulare*, arrow flatpea (in flower); *Poranthera microphylla*, small poranthera; *Pultenaea humilis*, dwarf bushpea (in flower); *Siloxerus multiflorus*, small wrinklewort (in flower); *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrow leaf trigger plant; *Styphelia humifusa*, native cranberry ; *Thysanotus patersonii*, twining fringelily*; Viola cleistogamoides,* shy violet; *Wurmbea dioica* subsp*. dioica*, early nancy (in flower, both male & female plants)
Ferns - *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken fern

Graminoids - *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Lepidosperma gunnii*, narrow swordsedge
Orchids - *Caladenia clavigera*, clubbed spider-orchid (in flower); *Caladenia pusilla*, tiny fingers (in flower); **Chiloglottis triceratops*, three-horned bird orchid; *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, small gnat-orchid; *Diuris sulphurea*, tiger orchid; *Glossodia major*, waxlip orchid; *Pterostylis nutans*, nodding greenhood; *Thelymitra* sp., sun orchid (in bud)
Not on Powranna Reserve list *
Birds - *Cacatua galerita*, sulphur-crested cockatoo; *Colluricincla harmonica*, grey shrike-thrush; *Coracina novaehollandiae*, black-faced cuckoo-shrike; *Pardalotus* sp (striated or spotted); *Rhipidura albiscapa*, grey fantail; *Strepera fuliginosa*, black currawong
Mammals - *Macropus rufogriseus*, kangaroo
Insects - Grass cricket

Skemps Day – Saturday 29 October - Macroinvertebrate Monitoring on Skemps Creek

On arriving at Skemps the sun was shining, the promise of a nice day, considering all the recent rain. Noel and I headed to the creek where the water sample is taken at the riffle, a section in the stream where the water is shallow and fast moving, and where the bank has overhangs. The freshwater animals live amongst the rocks in the stream, and the woody debris and leaf litter from logs and overhanging vegetation, provides good habitat for them. Noel appreciated the new waders. With the sample collected and returned to the Centre, we waited for the sediment to settle and then Caitlin, Claire, Helen, Karl and I started looking for critters. There didn't seem to be much in the way of movement in the samples, but we were surprised to find quite a few large dragonfly and stonefly nymphs, along with the usual beetles, caddis and worms.

The following orders were found in our water sample: (Coleoptera) Beetle larvae, (Gyrindae) Whirligig beetle, (Odonata) Dragonflies, (Oligochaeta) Segmented worms, (Plecoptera) Stoneflies, (Trichoptera) Cased Caddis.

Today with 6 Taxa, we have a signal 2 score of 5.3 which indicates the water in our creek is of fair quality.

Dragonfly nymph

Stonefly nymph

Segmented worm

We were pleased to see new members Monica and Anthony attending today to familiarise themselves with the property and the Centre, and to meet other members. The afternoon was warm with little wind, so many took walks along the grasslands below the forest, and down along the creek and up to the Top Pond. Karen Manning

Helen reading up on the *Key to Macroinvertebrate Groups and Identification*

Community Volunteering – Sunday 30 October – Catch-it-in-the-Catchment at Kings Meadows Rivulet

Club members again participated in Tamar NRM's *Catch it in the Catchment* event for our fourth year, cleaning up the Kings Meadows Rivulet and adjoining car parks.

With all the cancellations and postponements due to the recent unseasonal weather conditions, it was a relief that our chosen day for the clean-up came as a warm sunny day, with

little or no wind. With gumboots on, Noel, Karl, Caitlin, Helen and I headed off through the hotel carpark and along the golf course side of the rivulet. We appreciate the support given by the Manager at the Golf Course who arranges the closure of the fairway nearest the rivulet and the large water catchment area whilst members are collecting rubbish. A large focus is made on removing the plastics caught in the rocky spillway.

Karen remained at the carpark registration site and cleaned up the immediate grassy area which has in past years had large quantities of cigarette butts, broken glass and plastic pieces, unfortunately it was the same again this year. Under the bushes along the roadway into the Woolworths Centre there were many cans and plastic and glass bottles, plastic bags and food wrappers. Today there was also a few little fluffy surprises, a family of baby ducklings were nesting under these bushes.

It also gave Karen the chance to chat with walkers about what club members were doing and generally provided assistance to the group when it was needed, by jogging down to provide additional bags required in areas being cleared of rubbish.

On the day we collected 22 kilos of plastic and general waste, seven kilos of recyclable plastics, bottles and cans, and seven milk crates. This is the first year where we have not had to pull trolleys from the rivulet, a task which has proved rather difficult in the past when they have been stuck in the mud, even with many helpers.

It's always lovely to see the swans in the rivulet, today we were lucky to see a cygnet being carried on its mothers back whilst the rest of the family swam along behind.

Thanks to member Irmgard who was in the area at the time and took our group photo at the end of the cleanup.

Claire Manning

Annual General Meeting of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club 2022

With flooding restricting access to the John Skemps Field Centre the committee decided to postpone the AGM in October, eventually scheduling it before the November general meeting at Scotch Oakburn College, allowing for the mandatory fortnight's notice.

The meeting opened with 23 members in attendance along with a visitor and our patron, Professor Nigel Forteath, as guest speaker for the subsequent general meeting.

Jeff Campbell gave his President's Report, thanked the outgoing committee and Louise Skabo (Membership Officer), Caitlin Lowe (Club Librarian) and Lynne Mockridge (Supper Co-ordinator) for their support during 2022.

The minutes of the previous AGM and Karen's audited financial report were both accepted. Karen stated the Club started the reporting period with $23,949 and ended it with $16,404. Other than the year we purchased the Imlach land near Skemps, this was our worst financial result ever. This was due to the works carried out to satisfy the Council's requirements for the Occupancy Certificate for the Field Centre.

The important duty of voting for the committee commenced with Roy marking off members as Louise handed out voting slips. The voting commenced with Roy first explaining the rules then acting as Returning Officer ably assisted by Andrew, Kirstin and Stephen.

Your committee for 2023 is as follows; the President is Jeff Campbell, Secretary Noel Manning, Vice President Andrew Smith, and Treasurer Karen Manning with Stephen Grieve, Helen Tait and Tom Treloggen forming the rest of the committee. Nigel Forteath has agreed to continue as Patron and Jeff Battersby as Auditor. Noel Manning

A Note from the Committee

The committee looks forward to serving the Club in the coming year by providing an interesting and varied program of guest speakers, field trips, Skemps Days and extra-curricular activities.

Members can contribute to the work load of the committee by suggesting places to visit for field trips as well as guest speakers or a subject that interests you and we will attempt to find a suitable speaker. Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome, especially writing up an official Club event you attend. Ideas for improving the Club or Skemps in some way are welcome as well and can be submitted in person, by e-mail or letter.

The current constitution is proving problematic and we will be updating it in the coming year and invite you to participate in the process. Please read the changes carefully when these are sent to you and make suggestions so that we can finally get this right. Signed: Your 22/23 committee

Professor Nigel Forteath - Address to Members at the meeting after the A.G.M.

Nigel thanked those present for the honour of electing him Patron for 2022-2023.

He then started what appeared to be his resume which morphed into an incredible story of his life, educational pursuits and environmental snippets from many places.

Nigel gave an over-view of his University days and recounted how he had once been called to rescue a flamingo which had become trapped in the ice covering the Loch of Strathbeg in the northeast of Scotland. The macro-invertebrate fauna of this unique sand dune lake was the topic of his PhD studies. The loch was formed following a great storm which blew tons of sand across what was previously a sheltered bay. It is now Britain's largest sand dune lake (220 ha).

Nigel then went on to inform the members that his 4½ year study of the odonates in and around Launceston had come to a sudden and unexpected halt. He is unable to publish the intended book that he had been asked to undertake the work for, which he fully expected to have published by Christmas. The book would have described 22 species and their larvae plus a great deal of information about their natural history.

Finally, Nigel produced a jar of specimens and asked the audience to identify the invertebrates therein. They were tadpole-shrimps or notostracans which he has sampled in a lake near Launceston while photographing dragonflies. These crustaceans are considered living fossils dating back some 300 million years. Their extraordinary survival over this period is attributed to their means of reproduction: some individuals are male or female and reproduce sexually, others are hermaphrodites, while others reproduce by parthenogenesis. The eggs are able to withstand drought, lying dormant in the mud until development commences following rain. In Tasmania only one species of tadpole-shrimp has been recorded, namely *Lepidurus apus viridis*.

His talk was well received by those present who clapped heartily. Members then retired to our venue's kitchen and feasted on the healthy and varied supper provided by Kirstin.

Field Trip - Friday 11 to Sunday 13 November – Based at Snug

Braving the predicted poor weather six members travelled to the Channel area south of Hobart for a field trip weekend looking at local reserves. Following member advice we stayed at the Snug caravan park with two camping and four in old fashioned though comfortable cabins.

On a cool, windy Friday evening we took a stroll along the beach and after crossing a foot bridge headed to a wooded headland on the far side of the Snug River. Just as we were returning Jeff and Tom joined us and we went back to do a survey of the headland finding *Bedfordia salicina, Leptomeria drupacea* **(pictured right)**, *Banksia marginata, Allocasuarina, Eucalypt* species, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Pimelea* sp., *Stackhousia monogyna* and *Craspedia* sp. there.

With the cold wind blowing up the river we cut our walk short and returned to our warm cabins surprised to see four hardy people swimming in the Channel.

The following morning we headed in convoy to Hawthorn Drive to meet up with Prue Wright who was our guide for the weekend, helping us to appreciate

some of the reserves in the area starting with Hawthorn Reserve. Eddie Gall from the Tasmanian Field Naturalists also attended adding to Prue's knowledge of these reserves and helping with plant identification. Prue and a friend had recorded the plants they found in the reserve, which was helpful, and we did find a few others to add to their list.

There were a few species of wattle, eucalypts and oaks, intermingled with *Banksia marginata*, *Pomaderris elliptica* and the colours of the small plants, heath, daisies, grasses, reeds and ferns, and smaller herby ground covers and a good selection of orchids. Prue was pleased to see a Mountain Dragon **(pictured right – can you see it)** in the undergrowth and we managed to obtain an image for her to confirm the identity. One strange find was a four petal *Patersonia fragilis* on a single bush with normal three petal ones as well. We spent three hours exploring the reserve before heading to Blackmans Bay to lunch at the beach finding little respite from the persistent, cool wind.

A short walk at the end of the beach took us to the Blackmans Bay blow hole, a sea arch. We continued on above the blow hole along the edge of the cliff. We noticed a stand out white patch on a rocky outcrop, identifying it as a nesting gull and eventually deciding it was a Kelp Gull.

After lunch we moved to the Peter Murrell Reserve with Eddie choosing the area to explore. We were on the edge of the reserve in a grassy part not touched by a planned burn. The low intensity fire was from a few weeks before, leaving a small untouched grassed area where we looked for orchids finding again a variety of species. Here we said our goodbyes to Eddie thanking him for his time with us sharing his knowledge of the reserves and the plants therein. We then headed back to the caravan park planning to meet Prue at the Snug Tavern for what proved to be an enjoyable evening meal.

The next morning we met with Prue at Boronia Hill Reserve in Kingston, another area of interest in her plans for the weekend, choosing the Hutchins Street entrance to commence our walk. We were also joined by Marilyn a field naturalist, who had recently relocated to Hobart from Western Australia and was already known to many of the members in attendance. We headed to our right along a track in open woodland again seeing orchids and other smaller plants in flower and either hearing or seeing little wattlebirds, currawong, cuckoo and a pair of eastern rosella.

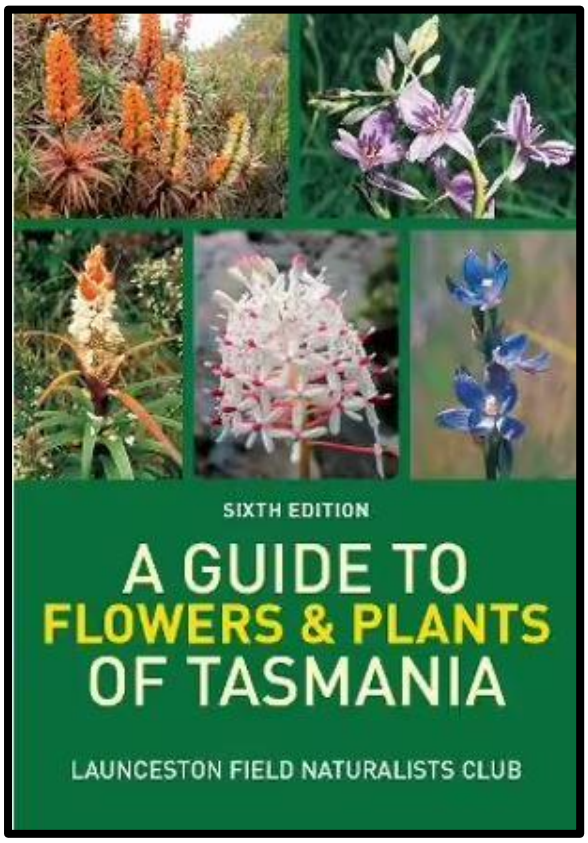
We circled our way through this side of the reserve and after disposing of collected rubbish we headed in the other direction up a hill past two water reservoirs for a look at another part of this reserve. Finding this area a bit steep and with a light drizzle starting we returned to our entry point. From there we continued towards the Royce Thompson Track adding *Epacris impressa*, *Wahlenbergia* and *Carpobrotus rossii* to our growing plant list as well as brown thornbill and striated pardalote with its repetitive “pick-it-up” call to the bird list. The rain then started in earnest, so we said our goodbyes and thanks to Prue for hosting us and goodbye to Andrew and Helen who were heading back to Launceston.

The remaining members moved to Kingston Beach looking for a sheltered place for lunch having to cross the Browns River pedestrian bridge to the only available shelter. It was an uncomfortable lunch in the cold wet conditions and by the time we finished and decided to leave the rain had become worse. After a wet dash to the cars we dropped Marilyn off at her accommodation and the four remaining members returned cold and wettish to the cabins in Snug for our last night, it being too wet for further exploration.

The following morning remaining members headed home in the rain after a very enjoyable weekend.

Karen & Noel Manning

A Guide to Flowers & Plants of Tasmania, 6th Edition



Earlier this year the Secretary was contacted by our publisher New Holland to advise that they wanted us to revise the book again, with the last revision five years ago.

Since then taxonomic research has resulted in Genera and Species name changes. These changes have been incorporated in the new edition.

A sub-committee of Jeff Campbell, Karen Manning, Roy Skabo, Andrew Smith and Noel Manning were appointed to organise the updates.

Rob Mitchelson, Brian O'Byrne and Jeff Campbell reviewed images in the book and advised on those that needed replacement. Contact was then made with previous providers of images and others who we thought could assist. Images were received, reviewed and selections made, that was the easy part.

It was noted that "The Vegetation" section of the book had not been updated for some time. Roy contacted the Bureau of Meteorology who were only too happy to assist. We thank Jonathan Pollock for his time and effort for providing us with more accurate details of the State's weather as it is now.

We then had to await the 2022 Census of Vascular Plants available in early July before being able to check for any updates to the genera and species names, which there were. Details were sent off to the publisher to update, from which we received proofs that had to be checked. It has been a long process yet we submitted it to the publishers in the timeframe required.

Additional Information

Club Outings:

- Are held during a weekend following the General Meeting. Until further notice, members should make their own travel arrangement to participate, contact the Program Coordinator if you require further details or wish to share a lift.

- Provide your own food and drinks for the outing and wear/take clothing/footwear suitable for all weather types.

- The program is subject to alternation at short notice. Notification of changes to field trips will be advised at the General Meeting prior to the event. Please contact the Program Coordinator to confirm details if you are unable to attend the meeting.

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

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

Field Centre: All members have access to the John Skemp Field Centre, but should contact secretary@lfnc.org.au regarding availability and keys.

Field Centre Phone Number: (03) 6399 3361

Postal Address: 23 Skemps Road, Myrtle Bank

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

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

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