

THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

Volume LVIII No.1 October/November 2024

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 Forteach
President : Andrew Smith, 0402 893 378
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: November

Tuesday 5 General Meeting - Member speaker Jeff Campbell – Native Orchids
Thursday 7 Monthly Short Walk – APS Garden at Heritage Forest
Saturday 9 Field Trip – Powranna Nature Reserve – Native Orchids
Saturday 23 Excursion - 40th Anniversary at the Arboretum at Eugenana
Saturday 30 Social Meal – Club’s 75th Anniversary Dinner at Olde Tudor Hotel

December

Sunday 1 Skemps Day – Spring Clean at the John Skemp Field Centre
Tuesday 3 General Meeting – Member Presentations
Thursday 5 Monthly Short Walk – Windsor Garden Precinct
Sunday 8 Skemps Day – Members Christmas Get-together

For further program details visit <https://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm>

SKEMPS REPORT - October/November 2024

For some reason the water supply in the barn is from a header tank over the toilet and recently it started to leak. It is a large copper drum, like a 44-gallon drum, and it was leaking at the outlet. When I touched it in the hope of removing the poly pipe and doing repairs the whole thing fell apart. The large screw in cap had rusted out.

Ian told me he had a plastic one at home and we were soon working on replacing the plug, a difficult task with the fitting so close to the lip of the drain tray. I removed the old one and with much effort Ian installed the new one and attached the outlet pipes. Surprisingly, there was no cursing. Another tap connected to this system was also leaking and took some effort to first isolate, to reduce wastage of our precious water, and then get spare parts to repair. Heavy rain causes issues at the settling tank and this often needs cleaning. Plumbing at Skemps is the bane of my life.



Many hours were spent tidying up around the barn and Karen and I took a load to the tip. There is still a lot of rubbish lying around and another trailer load, at least for the tip run.

Rob used his Prado and a heavy tow-strap to dislodge a hangup to the east of the Centre followed by a few hours of chain sawing to clear the road to the federation Corridor. Ian used the same

technique, with his Land Rover, to clear a hangup in the paddock to the west of the Centre with him and Rob cleaning up and chain sawing. These heavy 4WD and AWD vehicles are handy. All volunteers, including new member Anne, have been involved in clearing falls as the wild weather dropped a few trees. Surprisingly it seems to be mainly eucalypts rather than the expected silver wattles that are coming down. While the firewood is much appreciated, the work to clear these falls is demanding of our time and energy.



On our way home Karen and I usually remove weeds along Targa Hill Road and Karl has joined in getting down the bank with the help of ropes attached to our tow ball, which he likens to abseiling. Steve (G) and I spent half a hot day removing foxgloves along Targa Hill

Road and yet looking there later we always find more, some hard to get at when down the bank. The Spanish Heath is creeping up the hill and we are removing many along the property line.

After some years, blackberries returned to the loop track in one small area. It was tangled up with shrubs and ferns and was difficult to get at. I cut and pasted what I could reach and returned with Ian, and we spent an hour or so slashing the undergrowth so we could more easily get at it. We will need to keep an eye on this area as I am sure it will return.

Most of us have been involved in



cleaning up, slashing ferns as well as cutting, splitting and carting firewood with the larger eucalypt rounds being difficult to move due to the weight. John (E) had suggested buying a hand trolley, with pneumatic tires, using some monies from a grant and this has been handy for moving the heavier rounds to Skemps Road to then be trailered to behind the Centre ready to split.

Most trails have been checked and cleared except for those in the southeast of the property, and these have been neglected for so long some cannot be easily found. If you can help contact me and I will add you name to the contact list. All images Karen Manning Noel Manning

Tuesday 1 October - Annual General Meeting - President's Report

When I took on the role of president at the last AGM, I had two goals; 1) to improve governance and 2) to identify and implement strategies to make the LFNC more focused on natural science. With your support, and with the help of many of you, we have made progress on both goals, but there is still work to do.

Strategic planning commenced with a members' workshop to identify what we want the LFNC to be. It turns out that we want to observe and learn about nature, balancing science with social activities in an organized way, and we want to hear and learn from experts. The Strategic Planning subcommittee identified 7 interrelated threads to concentrate on: scientific, social, membership, branding, PR, Skemps and governance. Recognising that most planning fails at the execution stage, we took a pragmatic, practical approach; the Bioblitz at Skemps and targeted recruitment came out of this planning. There will be more to come.

It was particularly encouraging that one of our newer and younger members, Katie Fuller, emerged as the capable and natural leader of the planning subcommittee.

Assisting our patron, Nigel Forteach, with the publication of his book was another high point in the club's year. The Club is proud to be associated with this book on Dragonflies and Damselflies. It is a beautiful, interesting educational work, perfectly aligned with the Club's goals and principles. Not only have we benefited from the exposure it has given us, but Nigel has generously decided that the proceeds from the book will go to Club funds. We thank Nigel for his generosity, and we also thank the sponsors, some of them Club members, who funded the publication. No Club funds were spent on this project.

Membership has grown over the year, widening and deepening the field of knowledge in the Club. This has been one of our strategic focus points and it is bearing fruit; we hope that, as knowledge and enthusiasm within the Club grows, we will naturally attract more knowledgeable members. Twelve new members signed up at the Bioblitz alone, demonstrating how the threads of our strategic planning are interrelated and interdependent.

A list of our interesting speakers and excursions can be found on our website, including a memorable excursion in April, when Kristen Lang showed us the places where she has been observing wildlife on Mt Roland and we also visited the beautiful home property of John and Gail Dennett at Erriba. It was inspiring to see what they have achieved in restoring previously cultivated land. Over lunch, John and Ben Richardson (visiting as a guest from UTAS in Hobart) explained to us how conservation covenants operate.

Our strategic planning recognizes the potential of Skemps. We aim to use it to raise the profile of the LFNC and to further interest in nature and conservation. We also aim to make more use of it for long term observations and for our own learning. Financially Skemps pays for itself – the income from short rentals covers its maintenance expenditure. This is only possible, however, because of huge amounts of work put in by a small number of members who keep the buildings and property in prime condition, the whole Club is in their debt.

Which brings me to the people I wish to thank for their services to the Club. Thank you to the Skemps team, Karen & Noel Manning, Caitlin Lowe, Rob Mitchelson, Jeff Campbell, Ian Cameron and Jon Metcalf. Without this group, and especially the Mannings, the Club simply could not keep Skemps.

Thanks too to the strategic planning committee: Katie Fuller, Roy Skabo, Geoff Shannon, Karen Manning, Helen Tait and, until she left our fair island, Rowan Eisner.

To Helen and Karen, thank you for the work you have done putting together and organizing the program.

Louise Skabo, our membership officer – it was Louise's idea for a recruiting drive at the Bioblitz, and Lynne Mockridge who ensures we have suppers at general meetings. These are two jobs that are often invisible and hence unnoticed – thank you both.

And thanks too to all members who attend activities, share their knowledge, promote the Club in the community and participate in many ways. Without you there would be no Club at all. Finally, Nigel Forteach, we are indeed lucky to have you as our patron; you are interesting and interested, and generous with your time and knowledge. Thank you. Andrew Smith

Nominations for committee positions followed with Roy Skabo acting as Returning Officer assisted by Karen Manning as she had been the only nominee for Treasurer. After the votes were counted, Andrew Smith was re-elected President, Jeff Campbell re-elected as Vice President, Noel Manning re-elected as Secretary, and Geoff Shannon, Stephen Grieve and Tom Treloggen were elected as non-executive committee members, with Professor Nigel

Forteach agreeing to continue as Patron. We will however be looking for a new Auditor as Jeff Battersby who has examined and reported on our bookwork for the last 20 years, has retired.

Thursday 3 October - Monthly Short Walk – Old Mac’s Farm

Twelve members attended the Thursday monthly walk at Old Mac’s Farm. Heading off around the wetlands near the Animal Farm, we followed the trail which took us under two Sea Eagle nests high in the trees. Melaleuca and Blackwood trees surrounded the banks of the wetland areas, from where we could hear the brown tree frog and the common froglet calling. We then walked along a roadway between the wetlands to the far end of the camping area. We could see many newly born chicks keeping close to mum. We followed up with a coffee and chat in the Apricus restaurant from where we had great views over the birds on the pond and could see the animals in their farmyard, before heading homewards.

Karen Manning



Birds - Australian Magpie, *Gymnorhina tibicen*; Australian Wood duck, *Chenonetta jubata*; Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus*; Chestnut Teal, *Anas castanea*; Common Blackbird, *Turdus merula*; Common Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*; Dusky Robin, *Melanodryas vittata*; Dusky woodswallow, *Artamus cyanopterus*; Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra*; European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*; Great cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*; Grey fantail, *Rhipidura albiscapa*; Grey Butcherbird, *Cracticus torquatus*; Grey teal, *Anas gracilis*; Hardhead, *Aythya australis*; Laughing Kookaburra, *Dacelo novaeguineae*; Little Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*; Little Wattle Bird, *Anthochaera chrysoptera*; Pallid Cuckoo, *Cacomantis pallidus*; Purple



swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio* (image above Tom McGlynn) ; Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx lucidus*; Silvereyes, *Zosterops lateralis*; Striated Pardalote, *Pardalotus striatus*; Superb Fairy-Wren, *Malurus cyaneus*; Swamp Harrier, *Circus approximans*; Tasmanian native Hen, *Tribonyx mortierii*; Tasmanian Wattle Bird, *Anthochaera chrysoptera*; Welcome

Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*; White faced heron, *Egretta novaehollandiae*; Yellow throated honeyeater, *Nesoptilotis flavicollis*

Frogs - Brown tree frog, *Litoria ewingii* and the common froglet, *Crinia signifera*

Sunday 13 October – Field Trip – North-East covenanted property

On a pleasant, cool, mid spring day twenty people found their way to Scott's NE property to see what he has done to restore it after various uses and a major fire in 2008. We parked just inside the gate in an old quarry covered with a regrowth of native plants. Our group was made up of Launceston field naturalists (LFNC) and Wilderness Society (WS) members.

Helena (WS) gave the Acknowledgement and our host Scott a brief overview assisted by Anna (Tasmanian Land Conservancy) who explained some environmental ideas used in the restoration of large bare areas such as encountered on this property. Also joining us was Michael, an environmental scientist, who had managed the restoration work.

We sorted a ride in a small number of cars to be driven further onto the property, with our first stop being the site of another quarry. While there were extensive areas of bare soil, there was also regrowth and several ponds, the main one featuring two islands. Three species of native galaxias and an eel species had been found occupying the ponds. Frogs were heard in all the ponds we visited hinting at a healthy ecosystem. Is it a Tasmanian thing for people living on an island to add islands to their dams, is it from an aesthetic viewpoint or is it some innate, primitive need for the sanctuary and privacy provided?

While here it was pointed out that when clearing land for reshaping you should push aside and save the topsoil and use it to recover the reclaimed land, giving a better outcome by promoting native plants and suppressing weeds. During one walk we overlooked the devil enclosure while standing on bare soil near a small pond. Scott pointed out that this pond, with frogs and apparently healthy, was the only one with a thick brown alga. An excavator had become bogged here and it was dug out and the water table was reached, hence the pond.



Anna and Scott pointed out another environmental concern when digging deep into some areas and we were standing on one. If the sub strata features dead plant matter, in an anaerobic environment, exposing it to air and water will produce sulfuric acid with devastating results for the immediate area and possibly the water table or nearby water courses.

Our next stop was for a bush walk where, as typical for Tasmania, we found that small plants, including orchids, were of the greatest interest. Our last place visited before lunch was a small deck over an ephemeral pond featuring four blue balls on post sticking out of the water. These were one of the many eclectic art instalments adding a whimsical touch to the property. There were many decorative items spread about made of wood, metal or stone and some were monumental in scale. Lunch was back at the house, a work in progress, with a wonderful view over Bass Straight and, I think, Waterhouse Island.

Next, we visited the devil enclosure, with an inner sheet metal fence and an outer wire fence, about two kilometres long, both with an underground element to discourage digging. This was to keep the healthy devils in and the diseased ones out. Scott has allowed these 24 hectares on his land as a designated bio-secure breeding enclosure for Tasmanian devils.

We thanked our host and his special guests, with Helen being quietly acknowledged for suggesting and arranging this visit. We then headed back to our car and the gate asking where we might find the rare Tasmanian endemic *Xanthorrhoea bracteata*.



(all images thanks to Karen Manning)

We were told to head further along the road and struggled until we realised just how much smaller it was compared to the very common *X. australis*. Once we found our first, we soon saw many more, sometimes in small clusters seemingly growing as one.

Thanks to Helen, Scott and friends, this was an impressive day.

Noel Manning

Saturday 26 October – Field Trip – Tom Gibson Reserve

Only 5 members turned up for the field trip to Tom Gibson Reserve on Saturday 26 October. After botanizing in the general area in the vicinity of the entrance for some time, recording many plants and an odd bird or two, we set off on a bush track that followed the fence line westwards, intending to get to the shearing shed. More plants and birds were recorded as we went. Throughout the morning *Caladenia gracilis* were seen in abundance with flowers ranging from singles to 2, 3 and 1 with 4 flowers. In one spot on the day, we upset the Sulphur crested cockatoos that set up quite a racket as we passed, probably a nesting area.

We turned back before reaching the shearing shed as it was getting very close to lunch time. After lunch near the entrance gate three of us checked the *Spyridium* enclosure and were concerned at the big reduction in plant numbers from previous visits. Fortunately, there were quite a lot of young plants coming on. Karen made her usual rubbish collection

in the reserve and after lunch the three of us that were left, crossed to the other side of the road and started collecting in the narrow shelter belt where I left Karen and Noel to it and they filled the bag before departing, concluding a very good day botanically. Jeff Campbell

Plants: *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, common buzzy; *Allocasuarina* sp., sheoak; *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Chamaescilla corymbosa*, blue stars; *Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Coronidium scorpioides*, button everlasting; *Daviesia latifolia*, hop bitterpea; *Dianella revoluta*, forest flaxlily; *Drosera peltata* subsp. *auriculata*, tall sundew; *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, black peppermint; *Goodenia lanata*, trailing native-primrose; *Hibbertia riparia*, erect guineaflower (image right KM) ; *Leptorhynchus squamatus* subsp. *squamatus*, scaly buttons; *Leucopogon virgatus* sp, beardheath; *Lissanthe strigosa*, peachberry heath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Oxalis purpurea*, largeflower woodsorrel; *Persoonia juniperina* sp., prickly geebung;



Pimelea humilis, common rice-flower (image left KM); *Platylobium triangulare*, arrow flatpea; *Poranthera microphylla*, small poranthera; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken; *Pultenaea prostrata*, silky bush-pea; *Ranunculus* sp, buttercup; *Siloxerus multiflorus*, small wrinklewort (threatened species); *Spyridium vexilliferum*, helicopter bush; *Stenanthemum pimeleoides*, propeller plant; *Tetratheca* sp, pinkbells; *Thysanotus*

patersonii, twining fringe lily; *Viola hederacea* ssp, ivyleaf violet

Orchids: *Acianthus pusillus*, small mosquito orchid; *Caladenia prolata*, white fingers; *Corybas* leaves, helmet orchid leaves; *Diuris orientis*, donkey orchid/eastern wallflower orchid; *Glossodia major*, waxlip orchid; *Pterostylis* sp., greenhood, *Thelymitra ixioides*, spotted sun-orchid (image right KM)

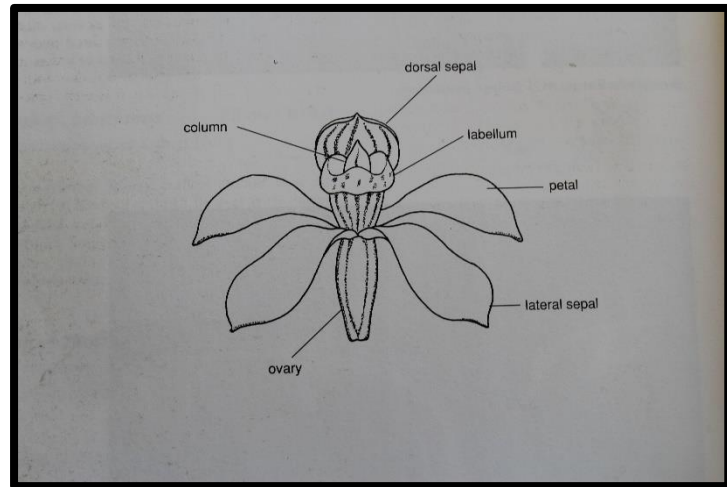
Birds: Black currawong, Fan tailed cockatoo, Golden whistler, green rosella, Striated pardalote, Sulphur crested cockatoo, White faced heron, White throated honeyeater



Tuesday 5 November - Meeting speaker – Jeff Campbell – Native Orchids

Andrew introduced member Jeff Campbell and his talk on the meaning of orchid genus names, something that was all Greek to most of us.

Jeff started by explaining that most plant names are derived from Latin, while orchids, if not named for a person, have a Greek descriptive derivation. This goes back to 2300 BCE when a Greek named them using the Greek word orchis, meaning testicle, for the shape of the tubers. He also had a diagram (image above) to show the various parts of an orchid.



To do justice to Jeff's talk, and for future reference, I will list all the genera he mentioned. To set it out I started with the number of species in that genus, then the genus name, followed by the meaning.

- 2 - Acianthus - Acis, point & Anthos, flower
- 1 - Burnettia - after Burnett
- 36 - Caladenia - Calos, beautiful & Adenos, land
- 1 - Caleana – after Caley (**duck orchid - image right JC**)
- 5 – Calochilus – Calos, beautiful & Cheilos, lip
- 8 – Chiloglottis – Cheilos, lip & Glottis, mouth of the windpipe



- 7 – Corybas – Korybas, drunken man or dancing priest of a goddess in Phrygia
(**image right slaty helmet orchid - JC**)
- 9 – Coronastylis – Coryne, clubbed & Stylos, column
- 2 - Cryptostylis – Cryptos, hidden & Stylos, column
- 2 – Cyrtostylis – Cyrtos, curved & Stylos, column
- 1 – Dipodium – Dis, two & Podion, little foot
- 1 – Disa – Introduced
- 7 – Diuris – Dis, two & Oura, tail
- 1 – Dockrillia – after Dockrill
- 1 – Eriochilus – Erios, wool & Cheilos, lip



- 3 – Gastrodia – Gastrodes, pot-bellied
(image right (potato orchid - JC))
- 1 - Glossodia – Glossa, tongue & Odes, like
- 1 – Hydorchis – Hydor, water & Orchis, orchid
- 1 – Leptoceras – Leptos, slender & Cera, horn
- 1 – Lyperanthos – Lyperos, mournful & Anthos, flower
- 1 – Microtidium – Micros, small & Idium, short habit and small flowers
- 4 – Microtis – Micros small & Otis, ear
- 1 – Orthoceras – Orthos, upright & Cera, horn
- 1 – Paracaleana – Para, near, alike, similar to Caleana
- after Caley
- 25 – Paraprasophyllum – Para, similar to Prason, leek & Phyllon, leaf
- 1 – Pheladenia – Phelos, false & Aden, gland
- 1 – Xphelodia – X, cross & Phelos, false & Odia, Glossodia – natural hybrid with Pheladenia
- 7 – Prasophyllum – Prason, leek & Phylon, leaf
- 37 – Pterostylis – Pteron, wing & Stylis, column
- 1 – Pyrorchis – Pyr, fire & Orchis, orchid
- 1 – Sarcochilus – Sarcos, fleshy & Cheilos, lip
- 2 – Spiranthes – Speira, spiral & Anthos, flower
(image above right – pink spiral orchid JC)
- 38 - Thelymitra – Thelys, female & Mitra, cap
(image right – tiny sun orchid JC)
- 2 – Thinninorchis – Thynnae (sub-family contains Thinnin wasps) & Orchis, orchid
- 1 – Townsonia – after Townson



Andrew thanked Jeff for this informative talk and led the acclamation before inviting us to supper supplied by himself and Karen. Noel Manning

Thursday 7 November – Monthly Short Walk – APS Garden at Heritage Forest

Seven members attended this short walk on a fine, late spring day.

Starting from the car park below the Plant Societies Native Garden, we walked through the bush winding our way up to the garden. We strolled through the garden, observing various plants and noting the flourishing flowers and the overall well-maintained condition of the garden, except for the occasional weeds present on the paths.

At the end of our walk, we sat around near the furthest, bottom corner discussing field naturalist business including the program and future walks.

We slowly made our way back to the cars, picking up rubbish as we went and noting that a few trees had been felled by the recent winds. This garden is always worth a visit.

Noel Manning

Saturday 9 November – Field Trip – Powranna Nature Reserve

Eight members met at the roadside of the B53, the road to the right just past Simmons Plains Raceway, for a look at the local reserve and were quickly finding much on the wide verge where we parked, a prelude to the treasures within. A man stopped in his Ute wondering why we were on his private property, yes, we were mistakenly on the land next to the reserve. This turned out to be a friendly encounter when A Smith (Anthony) the owner of the land found he was talking to A Smith (our president). He approved of our purpose for being there and we promised a plant list for his land. He was also impressed that we were picking up rubbish as we walked through the property. By the time we moved to the reserve we already had a long list of plants and did not spend as much time there.

As usual we did not wander far, and Roy's sharp eyes were soon finding interesting plants including the vulnerable (Tasmanian listed) *Pultenaea humilis* with both a beautiful flower and leaves of an unusual shape and shade of green.

With many of the group feeling hungry, we left and went to the other end of the reserve for lunch. Along the way I saw a dead bettong on the side of the road and a wedge-tailed eagle heading north with a forest raven in hot pursuit.

After a lazy lunch and with most having other things to do and the weather not looking the best, we called it a day and went home after a most successful field trip. Karen and I had a coffee in Perth and delivered a few Club letters on the way.

Noel Manning

Birds: Butcherbird, Forest Raven, Striated pardalote, Wedge tailed Eagle

Insects: Satin-green forester moth, *Pollanisus viridipulverulenta* (image right KM)

Flowering plants: *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, buzzy; *Allocasuarina verticillata*, drooping she-oak; *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily;



Bossiaea prostrata, creeping bossiaea; *Brunonia*

australis, blue pincushion; *Caesia calliantha*, blue grass lily; *Chamaescilla corymbosa*, blue stars; *Chrysocephalum*, everlasting daisy; *Comesperma volubile*, blue love creeper; *Coronidium scorpioides*, everlasting daisy; *Daviesia latifolia*, hop bitterpea; *Dianella revoluta*, blue flax-lily; *Epacris impressa*, heath; *Goodenia lanata*, native primrose; *Hibbertia ericifolia*, thyme guineaflower; *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman; *Leptorhynchus squamatus*, scaly buttons; *Leucopogon virgatus*, common beard-heath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Luzula densiflora*, dense woodrush; *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf rice flower;

Poranthera microphylla, small poranthera; *Pultenaea humilis*, dwarf bush-pea; *Pultenaea*

pedunculata, matted bushpea; *Styphelia humifusa*, native cranberry; *Thysanotus patersonii*, twining fringe-lily; *Wahlenbergia* sp., bluebell; *Wurmbea dioica*, early Nancy – both male and female plants

Orchids: *Caladenia* sp., *Caladenia gracilis*, musky finger-orchid; *Dipodium roseum*, rosy hyacinth-orchid; *Diuris sulphurea*, tiger orchid (image previous page KM); *Pterostylis nutans*, greenhood; *Thelymitra rubra*, sun orchid; *Thelymitra ixioides*, spotted sun orchid

Carnivorous plant: *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *Drosera gunniana*; *Drosera peltata*, pale sundew

Saturday 23 November – Excursion - Arboretum Anniversary

Eugenana Arboretum 40th Anniversary celebration, and mini nature-expo, arranged by Philip Milner and members of Central North Field Naturalists Club. Eight LFNC members, attended the day.

At the expo tables: Dr Jen Sanger and Steve Pearce - the Tree Project; Sarah Lloyd - Cryptic Wonders -The Slime Moulds; Geoff Shannon - Birdlife Tasmania; Shaks Johnson - Forth Valley Bush Nursery; Iona Flett - Cradle Coast NRM; Deb Cross - Devonport City Council NRM rep., and Anna Povey - Tasmanian Land Conservancy

Speakers of the day

1. Martha Howell, President of CNFNC introduction the day's event with a reminder that, as field naturalists we were together to enjoy celebration, and education on the science and art of natural history.

2. Forest Ecologist, Dr Jennifer Sanger spoke on her studies into the ecology of tropical tree canopies. She introduced us to dimensions of the treetops, where specific soil ecologies and associated plant communities exist high in the forest right out along the tree branches. Sometimes host trees are found to be sending secondary roots into the moisture and soil gathered in the big bowls of growths like stag and elk-horn ferns. Dr Sanger further spoke of the significance of standing old growth forest as key life giving and lifesaving elements of the planet. And she provided facts in tables, graphs and diagrams to amply demonstrate the points on the extent and importance of carbon storage in forests. For a similar presentation see ABC iView The Forest

<https://iview.abc.net.au/video/ZW4137A001S00>

3. With Jennifer's enthusiasm in mind we were fascinated, in the next session to hear from her partner Steve Pearce on the big tree projects in Tasmania and around the world. Steve's passion for trees was evident in all his details about climbing big trees, about loving big trees, protecting big trees, and the technical business of photographing trees up to 85 m high.

As if that wasn't enough, Steve fascinated us all with a demonstration of the set-up of a tree climb



in a big *Eucalyptus viminalis* on site, explaining the rope placements, the knotting and the relay systems. I found his skills in the trees mesmerising, and his movement up and out along the branches akin to a magician generating in him the litheness of the ring-tail possums who glide along and around and across the treescape with uncanny ease.

4. After lunch Prof Peter McQuillan honorary entomologist of UTAS brought us back to the details and characteristics of the butterflies of bushlands and gardens. He spoke of the expertise set up for them to be consummate honey seekers with long specialised mouth parts, proboscises, that reach deep into wells of nectar within their specifically selected flowers.

Good liaison was set up with members of CNFN for future engagement. And the end of the day Karen, Noel and Andrew observed some platypuses in the dams of the Arboretum, and Tom and Helen stayed on to chat with other locals who were also enjoying the peaceful evening in this place.

Helen Tait

Saturday 30 November – 75th Anniversary Lunch for LFNC



Earlier in the year, Jeff Campbell reminded Committee members that this year would be the 75th Anniversary of the Club. Stephen put his hand up to help Jeff to organise an event.

After shortlisting a few venues, Stephen recommended the Olde Tudor Hotel in Prospect advising that their restaurant had delicious meals at a reasonable price, even if we could not secure a private area.

As well as the current members it was suggested we endeavor to contact as many

past members of the Club as possible, inviting them to join us for this special occasion. Over thirty attended the lunch, including twelve, either former members or their partners.

On the day, it was overcast and spitting with rain, while inside a good crowd enjoyed fine food as talking and laughter filled the room. Andrew said a few words while Noel did not give his brief history as the room was too noisy and far from private.

Karen Manning



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/>

Emails: president@lfnc.org.au secretary@lfnc.org.au

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