



**THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST**  
**Volume L No. 1 October/November 2016**

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

President : Mrs J Handler, 52 Entally Rd Hadspen, 6393 6603

Hon. Secretary : Mrs P Wright

Hon. Treasurer : Mrs K Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277

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

**Program:**

**December ~ Tuesday 6**

**John Skemp Memorial Lecture ~ Guest speaker Dr Jennifer Lavers, *Natural and unnatural history of remote Pacific Islands* and Photographic Competition**

**December ~ Saturday 10**

**Christmas get-together at Skemps, including *The Year That Was***

**January 2017 ~ Thursday 12**

**Saltmarsh monitoring at Bakers Beach (meet at 10.45am Ranger's station at Narawntapu, a Parks Pass will be required)**

**January ~ Wednesday 25 to Friday 27**

**Crowded leek orchid monitoring at Surrey Hills, north-west Tasmania with Phil Collier (more information in this newsletter)**

**February ~ Friday 3 to Sunday 5**

**Ben Lomond (more information in this newsletter)**

**February ~ Tuesday 7**

**General Meeting ~ Guest Speaker Dr Nigel Forteach, *Birds***

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

## Skemp Report, October - November

The big item for this report is the completion of the new storage cupboard so eagerly awaited by Tina. John has done an excellent job turning a little used hanging space in the right hand bunk room into a large secure cupboard to give us extra room in the library. I predict a grand opening at the Christmas function as Tina is anxious to free up space in the library and start a reshuffle of our collection.

The other big job was the repairs to a broken window at the front of the building. Peter (W) and I spent some time removing the broken window in windy conditions which threatened to have the entire thing collapse into the Centre. We carefully measured it for a replacement and put a lot of effort into securing the building. Replacing the glass was difficult as I struggled with the putty and the beading which secured the glass from the inside.

After the council graded the road at the top end of Skemps lots of silt and small stones entered the settling tank and the pipe leading into it. The silt caused blockages in the pipe to our main water storage tanks and I spent some time and effort fixing this during four visits, including the Bug Day Out. Hopefully this issue is finally resolved.

The Bug Day Out event sponsored by the QVMAG was a great success except that two of our junior guests were attacked by ants. We have purchased 16 hoola hoops to place over visible ant nests at future events. We are also looking at other issues that occur when hosting large numbers of young guests at Skemps.

Skemps volunteer Grant who lives in Patersonia, expects to record the highest rainfall since 2014, which was a record eclipsing the highest recorded by John Skemp. This follows the 2015 year of record lows. As a result of all this rain we expect to start mowing with the ride on mower which has seen little use since it was purchased.

Recent windy weather resulted in a few blockages along the nature trails which have since been cleared and most were too remote to add to our fire wood stocks. If you walk the nature trails please tell us if you see blockages or other problems.

Noel Manning

### Puggle

**November** ~ John Elliott presented the Puggle by showing images of the three main rock types in Tasmania: granite, dolerite and quartzite. His question was to identify which rock was different from the others and why. Roy Skabo answered saying that quartzite was a metamorphic rock, whilst the granite and dolerite were igneous rocks, i.e formed by lava.

### Sightings

**November** ~ Tony saw two echidnas during his trip to Hobart and members present saw many at Skemps. He also saw a spotted tailed quoll at Ralphs Falls feeding on a dead wombat. Peter and Lois saw two wedge-tailed eagles on the thermals over Legana. Sarah reported seeing two different coloured rosellas in the reserve at Blamey Road and wondered what they might be. John said he had also seen them and suggested they might be an eastern rosella and a green rosella hybrid. Tina reported that the great cormorants seen in large numbers at Queechy Lake last year were now down to only two this year, the spoonbills were nesting, and the geese were not nesting only visiting the lake. Tom T said he had heard what he thought was a reed warbler at Inveresk.

**Library Report** ~ Tina reported she had newsletters from the Burnie, Central North, North-Eastern and Tasmanian field naturalists clubs and that a copy of *The Avon Valley: the Naturalists' View* about the Toodyay Naturalists Club in Western Australia had been received at the ANN get-together and donated to the club.

**New Member** ~ At the November meeting members were advised that Vivien Heyworth had joined the Club. Vivien has attended a club field trip and visited Skemps. We look forward to her participating in future activities.

**A Guide to Flowers & Plants of Tasmania** ~ Club Treasurer, Karen has copies of the guide that would make a great last minute Christmas gift at \$22 each. If you would like to purchase a copy contact Karen on 6344 2277

**Christmas at Skemps** ~ will be held on Saturday 10 December. Members are welcome to invite their family and friends to join them at the end of year function at Skemps. We will not be having a Secret Santa for the adults, but if you would like to bring a gift for a child to place under the tree, wrap it and put their name on it. Any gifts will be given out prior to afternoon tea.

Please bring your own lunch, the BBQ will be lit if you would like to bring something to cook. A plate of food to share for afternoon tea would be appreciated, coffee and tea will be provided. Prior to afternoon tea we will watch **The Year That Was**, a power point presentation of images from field trips and other activities members have participated in during the past twelve months. There will be a lucky door prize, get your ticket on arrival.

### **ANNUAL MONITORING OF LEEK ORCHIDS AT SURREY HILLS** ~ Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 JANUARY 2017

A brochure containing information about this field trip was distributed to members by email and at the November general meeting. They included a tentative schedule and information on accommodation, advise on what food, clothing and other items to bring, training of the participants, meeting time and place, and a map.

Judith has contacted Phil Collier on behalf of members who have expressed an interest in attending. If you hadn't spoken to Judith and still keen to go please contact Phil by email [phil@rubicon.org.au](mailto:phil@rubicon.org.au) or phone 0438 122 110 (please leave a message if no answer) before 1 January 2017 to register.

### **AUSTRALIAN NATURALISTS NETWORK (ANN) GET-TOGETHER** ~ 1 - 10 October 2016, Perth Western Australia

Three members of this Club headed west to attend the ANN. Noel and I left a week early to attend one of the ANN pre tours to the Abrolhos Islands, a chain of islands 80 kilometres off the coast from Geraldton. The islands are an important seabird breeding area, host a large western rock lobster fishery and are the site of numerous, mainly Portuguese, shipwrecks.

We travelled to Perth to meet up with field naturalists from other Australian clubs and bussed to Geraldton, staying overnight on our floating home, before an early departure in the morning. Some found the trip over in windy conditions with rough seas hard going and each morning saw us again in rough conditions heading to the next parking spot for the calm over-nighting near the following days sightseeing. The extensive system of reefs provides calm waters around the larger islands. We spent two night on board at Geraldton and four night at anchor near the islands.

Our five day tour took us to the larger sand and coral islands in the Abrolhos group with visits to many with one where we were required to wade ashore for 50 metres in very cold water. We looked at the bird and plant life on the islands and viewed corals, seaweeds and fish while travelling in a glass bottom boat. We also had the opportunity to try our hand at fishing (the catch was served up as an extra with two meals), scuba dive and check out rocky foreshores and beaches for interesting flotsam and jetsam. We also got very close to many of the friendly sea lions and saw whales and dolphins in the deeper waters. The bird life was impressive with a pair of sea eagles seeming to inhabit each of the larger islands. We saw many osprey and their nests with at least one chick as well as many other birds in large numbers. With encouragement from our guides we were able to get very close to nesting birds in the dense, stunted trees.

We learnt about the most famous ship wreck of the Abrolhos, the Batavia, which was wrecked on the Morning Reef near Beacon Island in 1629. From books and a DVD we learnt of the horrendous

conditions the survivors endured and, to us at least, the inhuman punishment metered out to the perpetrators of the atrocities. The island where the Batavia survivors landed was small, uninviting and provided no water or food. We also visited West Wallabi where a group of unarmed soldiers were sent to find food and water. They found both and on learning of the atrocities on the main island prepared their defences which we were able to see on our visit. We also saw the small defenceless Tammara wallaby which was their major food source.

The weather during this tour was warm with wind most of the time and we could see breakers on the reefs near the horizon. The meals on board were plentiful, varied and of a very high standard and we were well looked after by the wonderful staff, including Captain Jay who was a fountain of knowledge on flora, fauna, fish, birds, geology as well as modern history to supplement the stories of the shipwreck.

Back in Perth we stayed 20 kilometres south at Woodsman Point Recreation Camp. A large number of attendees stayed at this camp, with others in a nearby caravan park. The camp dormitories were comfortable and spacious. It was only a short walk to the recreation hall where we ate and listened to guest speakers or watched other presentations each night.

We were all given a bag of goodies on arrival which consisted of a blue fleecy vest (pre-ordered for size), cups for our hot and cold drinks, a mat to sit on and a booklet containing our program. The booklet was comprehensive and included information for each day's activities; the location of the visit, departure time, map of the area, plant lists and often some history.

Each day we were up for a 6.30am breakfast and departed on buses by 8.00am with two knowledgeable guides accompanying each bus. We travelled to coastal dunes, wetlands, nature reserves and national parks looking at the flora, fauna and bird life. The wildflowers did not disappoint, with the most impressive display being on the Heathland Trail to the lookout in the Ellis Brook Valley Reserve.

A full day trip to Rottnest Island, complete with guided bus tour, was a highlight of the trip and where we saw quokkas, a cute marsupial even smaller than our pademelon. One evening we visited a wildlife rehabilitation centre where we learnt about the care their staff provided to the injured and orphaned animals brought into the centre. The evening meal was an impressive selection of pizza from a mobile pizza van. For the main part of the ANN program the weather was unseasonably cold and very windy with some heavy rain squalls.

We would encourage other club members to consider attending an ANN get-together. The next one in 2018 will be held in Victoria and these trips are a great way to explore new places with people with similar interests, and for others to catch up with old friends and meet other field naturalists.

Noel & Karen Manning

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~ 11 October 2016**

Thank you to the twenty two members who showed their support by attending the AGM dinner meeting at Steve's Grill in Launceston. We all enjoyed our meals and the usual social aspects of the evening.

Tom Treloggen started the evening by presenting his report for 2016.

"I am pleased to report another successful year for the Club.

In October 2015, 13 members went on a field trip to Flinders Island and in November we went to Kelso and also Badger Head. In January 2016 we had field trips to Four Springs Lake, did saltmarsh wetlands monitoring at Bakers Beach and had a weekend on Ben Lomond. In February we went to the Dunbarton property at Nabowla with the Australian Plant Society. In March we had our Federation Weekend staying at Gowrie Park and for April we looked at rock pools at East Beach, Low Head. In June we went to the Cluan Tier for a short field trip followed by a social lunch at Entally Lodge. For July we went to the Meander Forest Reserve, in August we looked for snails at Hollybank and in September we went to the Bridport Wildflower reserve. In October three members attended the Australian Naturalists Network get-together in Perth, Western Australia.

We also had some interesting guest speakers finishing 2015 with Ralph Cooper speaking on wading birds of the Tamar. For 2016 we had Frances Mowling speak on shorelines and estuaries,

Kathryn Pugh on water monitoring, Megan Dykman the soft corals of the Tamar, Mark Wapstra on *Thismia*, Kevin Bonham on Tasmanian snails and finished with Phil Collier speaking on the monitoring of leak orchids at Surrey Hills in the north west.

The 11 Skemps Days included the QVMAG sponsored Bug Day Out, Christmas at Skemps, two water monitoring days and a spring clean.

It is with some reflection that I stand down as president after serving four years in the position but will remain on the new committee and I look forward to the future with the Club's activities for the coming year. I sincerely thank my hard working committee plus the support of our loyal members."

### **Election of Office Bearers for 2016/2017 Financial Year.**

No nominations were lodged prior to the AGM with the Secretary. The following nominations were accepted from the floor and as there were no further nominees, they were declared elected.

President : Judith Handler  
Vice President : Noel Manning  
Treasurer : Karen Manning  
Committee members : Jill Campbell, Tina McGlynn, Prue Wright,  
Stephen Grieve, Peter Ralph and Peter Warren

No nominations were received for the Secretary position, this will be discussed by the committee at their next meeting.

Members approved the motion, that single and junior memberships remain the same at \$30 and \$5 respectively, while the couple and family membership increased from \$40 to \$50 per year.

Nigel Forteath was nominated as Patron and honorary memberships were proposed for G and G Hanson, J and C Green, and N and M Forteath. There were no objections and all were accepted by members.

John Elliott thanked Tom for his time as President.

### **SKEMPS DAY ~ SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER ~ TREE DECLINE MONITORING**

Arriving at Skemps this morning, the boom gate was open and we found Peter had arrived early, had set the fire, made a coffee and was reading his newspaper and the Centre was nice and warm. The morning was overcast with a less than promising forecast and the best we could hope for was that the rains would not start too early.

During our last visit to the property a month ago, logging had commenced on the hill directly out from the Centre and we could see large areas of forest removed. Today it looks like the logging may have finished, time will tell.

Following a coffee and chat, members headed into the forest near the start of the Geoff Martin Nature Trails to identify and assess the health of the eucalypts in the monitoring plot. Placing our first number on a tree, we used the provided Eucaflip and another book on eucalypts, to identify the particular tree. Identifying them was not as easy as we thought, the trees were very tall, and we lacked access to their buds which may or may not have helped with an ID. We could not be sure the buds we were finding on the ground near the trees were from the one above.

After spending an hour and a half in the forest, we became very confused when we came across three *Eucalyptus obliqua* which had been labelled by Geoff Martin many years before. What we had been calling *E. delegatensis* was more likely to be *E. obliqua*, so rather than continue and have the

tree identities wrong, Rhys and I continued on by placing numbers on all the target trees, while other members returned to the Centre.

During lunch we discussed our dilemma, with the final decision being to contact other members with a better knowledge of the species to help with the identification during the next Skemp Day in two weeks' time. The weather during the afternoon was fine and Noel and Peter (W) worked on the damaged window while others enjoyed a chat and a drink and helping out when needed.

Karen Manning



**Jill, Danny and Tom assessing health of eucalypt during Tree Decline Monitoring**

## **SKEMPS DAY ~ SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER ~ WATERMONITORING AND TREES DECLINE MONITORING**

A nice sunny morning with a light wind at Skemps today. Noel and John headed off shortly after arriving to obtain the water sample for the macro-invertebrate monitoring, while I looked for and set up the trays, pipettes and identification keys outside in the usual spot.

Other members started arriving before they returned and I went for my usual walk to the Top Pond to look for platypus. On my way I observed a cute little echidna feeding on ants. It didn't seem to mind me being close and taking photos, after getting a few images, I left it to feed. With no platypus in the pond, I walked up to the grassland between the two sections of the Zig-zag track. From there I could see the mess left from the recent logging above this section of the property. Entering the Zig-zag forest very close to the boundary with the logged area, I came across quite a few pademelon in the scrub and vaguely wondered whether they had been displaced by the recent logging. Exiting the forest to the grassland above Skemps Road the *Epacris gunnii*, Gunn's heath is flower and I noticed another two larger echidnas feeding whilst walking back to the Centre.

Water monitoring had started and members not yet involved were sitting outside with a coffee having a chat. Bugs were being sorted into the trays and John was complaining that he wasn't finding any caddis which are usually common in the sample. Once we had found all the bugs, John and I worked through the identification key to confirm a few bugs before putting them back in the bucket for return to the creek. Another echidna appeared on the grass outside the Centre, so off went John and other members with their cameras.

Following a quick lunch and the arrival of Danny and little Abigail, eight members headed off to the tree monitoring site. We appreciated the help of both John and Danny who had been asked to come along today to give assistance with the identification of the eucalypts. We were in the forest for a couple of hours, the identification and health assessment went along smoothly once we got started, our only problem in the end was finding the last few trees with numbers on them.

With the identification of each tree known, the process will be much quicker during future monitoring days where we will only have to look at the health of each tree.

Returning to the Centre we found a few members had already departed and others were about to leave. Following a tidy up of the Centre, removal of sheets from mattresses for washing and Noel returning the water sample to the creek, everything was locked up and the last four members left for home. We hope that during our next visit to the property we will have the time for our thismia hunt.

Karen Manning

**Tina, John and Noel catching the water bugs during Macroinvertebrate Monitoring**



**Macroinvertebrate Monitoring: Bottom Falls/Below Bob’s Bog**

Sample date	Taxa	Signal 2	Interpretation	Water Quality
27/04/2013	7	5.4	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
27/10/2013	7	5.4	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
26/04/2014	9	5.7	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
20/09/2014	8	6.3	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
26/04/2015	10	4.7	Fair quality. Some degradation due to agriculture	Good
24/10/2015	8	5.8	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
30/04/2016	11	5.6	Good quality. Little or no environmental degradation	Excellent
29/10/2016	6	6.5	Questionable quality, possibly disturbance or poor sampling	Fair

The Signal 2 score is not typical of this site. Most results from this site indicate either excellent water quality or good water quality. This is the latest of a small number of poorer results. Relatively few taxa were seen. This could be due to the unusually high winter/spring rainfall, poor sampling or simply chance variation. Hemiptera (true bugs) are commonly found at this site but this time none were seen. One more taxon (such as hemiptera) would have moved the Signal 2 from fair to excellent.

It is, however, important to continue monitoring at this site.

The following taxa were seen:

- Acarina
- Amphipoda
- Diptera
- Water mites
- Sideswimmers (crustaceans)
- True flies

Ephemoptera  
Plecoptera  
Trichoptera

Mayflies  
Stoneflies  
Caddisflies

### **Conductivity and Turbidity**

This monitoring activity has been discontinued. The EC meter had become unreliable and needed replacement. The cost could not be justified. Over 9 years of testing with basically satisfactory results has established a strong baseline if water quality needs to be reassessed in the future.

John Elliott

### **NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

Our guest speaker was unable to attend this evening and in his absence Noel arranged at very short notice for Rob Mitchelson to show two of his presentations. The first was a trip down memory lane to the Cluan Tier where members visited in June with Rob as leader and the second on Waterfalls in Tasmania. Both presentations were filled with lovely images, some information for us to read and relaxing background music with bush sounds. A big thank you to Rob.

Members were advised that Prue Wright had been appointed to the position of Secretary at the recent Committee Meeting. This appointment had left a vacancy on the committee which was filled by Lois Ralph. Lois was nominated by Jill Campbell and seconded by Stephen Grieve, there were no other nominations.

### **FIELD TRIP ~ Wednesday 16 November ~ Low Tide at East Beach**

An unusually low tide (.07) attracted a small group of our field natters, along with several Girl Guides from Exeter, back to the rock pools at East Beach (Low Head). The previously best low tide we had experienced was around .25, so this chance to see some unusual creatures was not to be missed.

With the tide reaching the lowest point at 8pm, some of us arrived early for a picnic tea. At around 6pm we gathered up and after a quick look in the nearest pools we set out over the small headland for the usually interesting pools on the other side. As the tide receded we followed it out, carefully turning rocks to check the undersides, and searching any likely looking pools. Early on we noted the lack of crabs this time – a smaller number of the NZ half crabs and only a single other species was seen (he ran too fast to be identified).

We gradually spread out over a wider area, and pretty soon calls of “Come quick”, “Hey, come and see this”, “Look at this, it’s really weird” were flying about. We topped our previous seastar list this time (9 species) by finding a beautiful Tasmanian feather star, *Comanthus tasmaniae*. The Guides in particular were fascinated by the speed with which a Schayer’s brittle star could travel to get away from them.

Other creatures of particular interest were the sea urchins. The egg urchin, *Amblypneustes ovum* – we found that when placed in the water we could easily see their dainty tube feet protruding from the test plate. In very large numbers, particularly at the lower tide area, were *Heliocidaris erythrogramma*, the purple sea urchin. A swimming flatworm was amazing to watch also.

At around eight we made our way back over the headland to the beach. Some had to leave at once, but those lingering managed to find a *Ceratosoma brevicaudatum* – the beautiful and elusive, but apparently quite common, nudibranch we had found on a previous visit. There were many other species as well; it was a very interesting visit, and unusual to have such a low tide.

If you are sorry you missed this trip, try around 8.30pm on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, and same place.

Prue Wright



*Nectria* sp., seastar



*Amblypneustes ovum*, egg sea urchin

**Anemones** ~ *Actinia tenebrosa*, waratah anemone;  
*Aulactinia veratra*, green anemone

**Barnacles** ~ *Austrominius modestus*, Darwin's barnacle;  
*Tetraclitella purpurascens*, purple barnacle

**Birds** ~ *Haematopus fuliginosus*, sooty oystercatchers;  
*Haematopus longirostris*, pied oystercatchers;  
*Larus novaehollandiae*, silver gull; *Vanellus miles*,  
masked lapwing

**Crustaceans** ~ *Petrolisthes elongates*, NZ half crab

**Fish** ~ *Callorhynchus milli*, elephant fish (ghost shark) egg  
case; *Parablennius tasmanianus*, Tasmanian blenny;  
*Platycephalus* sp., flathead

**Marine worms** ~ *Galeolaria caespitosa*, calcareous tubes  
polychaete worms

**Nudibranch** ~ *Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*, short tail ceratosoma



*Tethya bergquistae*,  
golfball sponge

**Sea snails and shells** ~ *Astralium aureum*, golden star-shell; *Austrocochlea concamerata*, wavy top-shell; *Austrocochlea constricta*, ribbed top-shell; *Austrolittorina unifasciata*, banded australwink; *Cellana solida*, orange lipped limpet; *Chlorodiloma adelaidae*, Adelaide top-shell; *Conus anemone*, anemone cone; *Haliotis* sp., abalone; *Ischnochiton australis*, southern chiton; *Limnoperna pulex*, flea mussel; *Mitrella* sp., dove shell; *Nerite atramentosa*, western black nerite; *Phasianella australis*, painted lady pheasant shell; *Pleuroploca australasia*, Australian tulip-shell; *Scutus antipodes*, elephant snail; *Siphonaria diemenensis*, common siphon shell; *Sypharochiton pelliserpentis*, snakeskin chiton

**Seastars and allies** ~ *Comanthus tasmaniae*, Tasmanian feather star; *Coscinasterias muricata*, eleven armed seastar; *Meridiastra calcar*, eight armed seastar; *Meridiastra medius*, southern six-armed star; *Nectria* sp., seastar; *Ophionereis schayeri*, Schayer's brittle star; *Parvulastra exigua*, rockpool star; *Plectaster decanus*, mosaic seastar; *Tosia australis*, southern sea biscuit; *Lipotrabeza vestiens*, shellgrit sea cucumber

**Sea Squirt** ~ *Ascidian* sp

**Sea Urchins** ~ *Amblypneustes ovum*, egg sea urchin; *Heliocidaris erythrogramma*, sea urchin

**Seaweeds and seagrasses** ~ *Caulerpa brownii*, brown's caulerpa; *Celleporaria cristata*, lace coral; *Codium fragile*, velvet codium; *Cominella lineolata*, lined cominella; *Corallina officinalis*, tufted coralline; *Cystophora expansa*, expansive cystophora; *Cystophora moniliformis*, zigzag cystophora; *Cystophora torulosa*, club-leaved cystophora; *Ecklonia radiata*, common kelp; *Gloiosaccion brownii*, poseidon's fingers; *Hormosira banksii*, neptune's necklace; *Leathesia difformis*, leatherweed; *Ulva* sp., sea lettuce; *Zostera nigricaulis*, sea grass

**Sponges** ~ *Aplysilla rosea*, rose rock sponge; *Tethya bergquistae*, golfball sponge; Brown sponge non encrusting; Purple sponge encrusting



*Ophionereis schayeri*,  
Schayer's brittle star



*Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*,  
short-tail ceratosoma

#### QVMAG's BUG DAY OUT AT SKEMPS ~ SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER

Nine members and seven QVMAG staff and assistants entertained 55 visitors on a hot late spring day at Skemps. Simon arrived early to look for the many bugs stirred up by the heat while inside the field centre we also helped with the hunt. During a quick clean of the building we found a click beetle not recorded before at Skemps as well as a colourful moth.

Peter's signs made it easier than previous years to find the property and we soon had a good crowd of excited children and parents.

Not long after arriving the children were enthusiastically hunting for bugs and excitedly bringing them in for identification. Kathryn went off to the top pond and brought back a bucket of pond life to examine which appeared to have different creatures and more of them than what is usually found in the creek during our water monitoring days. This included a tiny aquatic snail. There was no evidence of a platypus in the pond although there were many echidna seen.

John was soon on the trail of the spiders and eventually caught a fast moving huntsman to add to his growing collection.

Judy and Helen manned a popular craft table with pictures to colour in. The children could also colour in, then cut out, butterfly wings which were glued onto a plastic bottle top and strung from an oversized straw. I am sure I have never seen a butterfly to match the imaginative colour combinations the children chose.

Unfortunately two children received ant stings and we were lucky to find something to soothe the hurt. This year was a quieter event than the previous two which allowed David to get out and about instead of spending all his time with the usual meet and greet.

Another successful Bug Day Out at Skemps and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Noel Manning



**Children looking for water bugs at  
Top Pond during  
Bug Day Out at Skemps property**

**FIELD TRIP ~ Ben Lomond National Park  
~ Friday 3 to Sunday 5 February 2017**

Members are invited to attend this two day field trip to Ben Lomond National Park 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 an unusual terrain and the wildflowers will hopefully be looking good at this that of year. If an overnight stay is not for you, come for the day and explore this wonderful area.

Please contact Peter Warren on 0409 685 835 if you would like to reserve a bed. You will need to bring a sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillows and enough food and drink for your stay, the closest shop is approximately 50 kilometres away.

The cost of a day visit is \$4 and an overnight stay is \$16 per night. The temperature and weather can change quite quickly, so be prepared for all types of weather and don't forget your camera.

As this visit is to a National Park, all cars need to display a current Parks Pass.

**NRM NORTH EVENTS**

**Tamar Saltmarsh Surveys** - NRM North is seeking individuals and community groups interested in being involved in surveys of Tamar estuary saltmarsh habitat this summer. Saltmarshes are wetland habitats which occur in sheltered coastal environments. These surveys are part of an ongoing project to map and monitor Tasmanian saltmarsh habitats and their bird and plant inhabitants. For further information contact Megan Dykman (NRM North Facilitator) on 6333 7775 or email [mdykman@nrmnorth.org.au](mailto:mdykman@nrmnorth.org.au)

**Tree Decline Monitoring** - Have you noticed changes in the local landscape? Are you concerned about the loss of healthy eucalypts on your property? Would you like to monitor your property to capture these changes? Join NRM North with the support from local experts, Dr Tanya Bailey and Anna Povey to set up a broad scale tree decline monitoring program in Northern Tasmania. Landholders will monitor tree health in small plots on their properties over an extended period of time. To register your interest in the program contact NRM North on 6333 7777 or email [admin@nrmnorth.org.au](mailto:admin@nrmnorth.org.au)

## WILDLIFE SPOTTER ~ ONLINE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

Australia is a vast country. Researchers have set up automatic cameras that are snapping wildlife day and night. We need your help to analyse the millions of photographs captured in tropical rainforests, the dry rangelands, and around our cities.

From emus to superb lyrebirds, from bettongs to bandicoots, from brush turkeys to Tassie devils, and even feral cats and foxes—scientists want to know which species are roaming both in the wild and in urban areas.

The research will help answer questions including: how many endangered bettongs are left; how well native predators like quolls and devils are competing with cats for food; and how common are common wombats.

So join in and help save threatened species and preserve Australia's iconic wildlife! Visit <https://wildlifespotter.net.au/about/> if you would like to get involved in this interesting project.

Source: <https://wildlifespotter.net.au/> accessed 13/9/2016

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### 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. Provide your own food and drinks for the outing and wear/take clothing/footwear suitable for all weather types.
3. When travelling by car in convoy, each driver is responsible to ensure that the vehicle behind is in sight immediately after passing a cross road or fork in the road.
4. When carpooling, 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:** 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 our booking manager, John Elliott on 6344 9303 or [skempbookings@yahoo.com.au](mailto:skempbookings@yahoo.com.au) regarding availability and keys.

**Field Centre Phone Number** - 6399 3361

**Postal Address:** PO Box 1072 Launceston 7250

**Internet site :** <http://www.lfnc.org.au>

**Email :** [secretary@lfnc.org.au](mailto:secretary@lfnc.org.au)

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