

THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

Volume LII No. 5 June/July 2019

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 : Mr Tom Treloggen, 0408 341 397
Hon. Secretary : Mr Phillip Brumby, 0407 664 554
Hon. Treasurer : Mrs Karen Manning, 0363 442 277

**Meetings 1st Tuesday of month, February to December
in Briggs House at Scotch-Oakburn Senior Campus, Penquite Rd Newstead**

Program:

August – Tuesday 6

General Meeting Guest Speaker – Perpetua Turner – *Bryophytes*

August – Saturday 10

Field Trip - Notley Gorge to find Bryophytes

August – Sunday 25

Skemps Day - Tree maintenance on Skemps Creek

September – Tuesday 3

**General Meeting Guest Speaker – Nic Haygarth – *H.J. King's Photography*
(in Don Wing Lecture Theatre)**

September – TBA

**Field Trip – Campbell Town golf links & cemetery, Tunbridge Nature Reserve to
look for native orchids**

September – Sunday 29

Skemps Day

October – Sunday 6

Annual General Meeting at Skemps commencing 10.30 am.

Occasional address will be presented by Janet Smith - *Conservation*

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

A Guide to Flowers & Plants of Tasmania

We owe a debt of gratitude to the late John Simmons who had the foresight and courage to undertake the production of the first edition of this well received book. Over the years many have contributed to subsequent editions by undertaking the proof reading, updating the botanical names, revising the descriptions and providing photographs of the plants included.

The fourth edition saw a complete makeover of the book and we now have the fifth edition and a new team who have worked hard to improve it yet again. This team has included John Elliott, Karen Manning, Marion Simmons, Roy Skabo and Prue Wright.

Karen started the process by suggesting a subcommittee be set up so that we would not be caught unprepared when the publishers asked for a new edition. She also started the arduous task of checking and updating the names of the plants and the families to which they belong. Roy suggested adding some common plants not included before and wrote the descriptions of the new plants. Marion, there from the first edition, provided historic context and applied her patience to proofreading. John and Prue shared the considerable task of selecting the final images from the large number kindly offered by members and friends of the LFNC. While some images have stood the test of time you will see many new ones and all contributors have been acknowledged. Prue also acted as the liaison between the team and the publisher.

Mark Wapstra also gave very generously of his time and expertise in making suggestions to ensure the new descriptions are accurate, and he and Miguel de Salas of the Tasmanian Herbarium have given expert advice on the more technical aspects of plant nomenclature and classification.

I thank the team for a job well done and recommend this book to those who love the Tasmanian flora and wish to identify what they see.

Tom Treloggen

See Karen our Treasurer if you would like to buy a copy of the 5th edition, they are available for \$25 each.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us at the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club which will be held at the John Skemp Field Centre, Myrtle Bank, **Sunday 6th October, commencing 10.30 am.**

Agenda

- Welcome from President, Tom Treloggen
- Apologies
- Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM
- President's report
- Receive and accept the Financial Report from the Treasurer
- Set the amount of the subscription to be paid for 2019/2020 financial year
- Appoint an Auditor for the term until the conclusion of the AGM in 2020
- Janet Smith will give the Occasional Address on Conservation
- Election of Office Bearers namely: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 Committee members

Expressions of interest to other positions are also requested.

These include: Skemps Bookings Officer, Librarian, Newsletter Editor, Program Coordinator (arrange & advertise speakers etc.), Club Promoter, Social Organiser (arrange venues for social outings), Assets Manager (mainly looking after Skemps), Public Officer, and volunteers to write up field trips, talks by guest speakers and other events, and the *Year That Was* (powerpoint display).

Please consider one of the above roles. It would be wonderful to have some new blood on the Committee to help with the running of the Club bringing with them new ideas and perspectives.

Nominations for the positions should be submitted to the Secretary no later than 10 days prior to the AGM using forms accompanying this newsletter. Electronic newsletter recipients can download the nomination form from the [Additional Program Details](#) page.

It would be appreciated if members could bring along slices, sweets or cakes to share following lunch which will be provided by the present Committee members.

Please advise Rhys Manning on 0400 378 811 or email secretary@lfnc.org.au by Thursday 26 September if you are attending or offering an apology.

The Year That Was

A reminder to members that images from club activities for inclusion in this presentation to be shown at the December General Meeting, should be submitted to photos@lfnc.org.au or place on a USB storage device and give to Rhys Manning, as soon as possible after the event.

Federation Weekend Get-together - Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October

A reminder to put the above dates in your diary. The weekend is being hosted by the North Eastern Field Naturalists Club. Members who attend will have the opportunity to meet members from other clubs and be guided to interesting places in the north east. Further information will be distributed when it is available.

Skemps Report – June/July 2019

Not much activity at Skemps with the new wood shed being the biggest task and nearly finished. Rob and I looked at the battery power in the barn as the lights had stopped working. One battery appears to have failed and has been removed from the system and the charging attached to the remaining battery. I will be doing further maintenance soon and hope to have it fully working although I noted that the remaining battery was first set up 15 years ago and may need replacing.

At John's suggestion the wildlife camera was moved to the far side of the over flow car park where an eastern barred bandicoot was seen a few years ago. The Tasmanian subspecies is considered vulnerable to extinction and is being studied by Natural Resource Management (NRM) North with a request for sightings. With the camera deployed for one week between Tuesdays 9 & 16 July I caught an animal five times on Saturday 13 July, between 7 pm and 9:30 pm. The camera has been moved to another place where the animal was seen, the start of the Zig Zag nature trail just above the boggy ground where *Engaeus* chimneys are found. Unfortunately when I checked it on Tuesday 23 July it had been stolen, probably broken off the chain to hide the identity of trespassers on the property. I have searched and not found it thrown nearby as I had hoped.

Rob suggested using a crow bar to remove the wire mesh from where it is trapped in the grass after nearly 18 years of growth near the fence which we started to dismantle during the previous Sunday's Skemps Day. This worked and the wire is partially free and we hope that it will be relatively easy to finish the task and roll it up to be stored for future use.

I expect that bracken and grass growth will be an issue in the next few months and we will again be busy and I am asking for volunteers to assist with the work at Skemps. If you can help, especially on a Tuesday, please contact me.

Noel Manning

Fundraising BBQ's at Bunnings – Tuesday 4 and 25 June

Another big thanks to the many members who manned our June fundraiser barbecues at Bunnings in north Launceston. The weather was quite a bit cooler than the first fundraiser so the heat from the BBQ was most welcoming. Both June days were successful, although we found that a warm drink on sale would have been preferred to our cold cordials which only worked on our Saturday barbecue when the weather was warmer.

Over the three barbecues we raised \$1800, which will help to cover costs of travel for our guest speakers.

Image (CM)



General Meeting - Tuesday 4 June

Guest Speaker – Genevieve Gates - *Ecuadorian Days and Nights: A Field Naturalist in the Amazon*

Tom introduced Genevieve who talked about her trip to an eco-lodge with a sustainable farm (permaculture principles) called Finca Heimatlos, 28 kilometres south east of Puyo, Ecuador and included what she found there to interest naturalists.

Genevieve started by telling us that she received an invitation to visit the eco-lodge to deliver her fungi book, to teach the owner about mycology and how to use his new microscope. The property consists of 50 hectares of pristine land at the edge of the Amazon Rainforest at 1,000 metres altitude on the slopes of the Andes. Paying guests were expected to work about four hours per (week) day on the farm and received food and lodgings while Genevieve's job was to teach, agreeing to go when she found that she had a private room with incredible views.

The slideshow included an image which showed a map with the location of the farm with their internet site followed by further images of the lodge, the amenities, activities, rooms, some of the guests, the owner, Ferhat, and manager, Patricio.

This was followed by impressive images of what she discovered starting with species from the *Hydnopolyporos*, *Cookeina*, *Russula*, *Auricularia*, *Favolus*, *Aquascypha*, *Ealiella*, *Camillea*, *Marasmius* and *Entiloma* (largest she had ever seen) families of fungi as well as what she thought was a *Mycena*. Next we saw what Genevieve described as a small sample (over 20) of her many images of the moths to be found there showing incredible variety of form, colour and size (mostly large), including one which imitates a wasp. To add a little variety we also saw a rainbow boa wrapped around a hand and what Genevieve described as the very soothing greenery to be found there, the leaves of which could be used to wrap her samples.

Other images were of bugs, insect, a huge leaf mimicking katydid, a palm size millipede, locust, a variety of spiders (she described a tarantula as cute) and a movie of a very spiky lichen katydid (*Markia hystrix*).

Genevieve described her next trip there in July this including the many students she would have followed by the penultimate slide showing a beautiful sunrise then she finished with her acknowledgments.

After the questions and answers Peter Warren thanked her and led the acclamation. Noel Manning



["Lichen Katydid, *Markia hystrix*"](#) by [Ecuador Megadiverso](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

Field Trip – 15 June – Holwell Gorge

Seven members met at Holwell Gorge on a cool overcast morning. We had been told that the southern end of the walking-track through the gorge was still closed, so met at the Beaconsfield end knowing that it had been cleared recently of some tree falls. Bushes overhanging the track had also been cut back and the trimmings had been cleared away making for easy walking. There were many small colonies of the orchid *Pterostylis grandiflora* in flower and *Corybas* heads emerging on the upper banks of the track.

It was a very pleasant walk with great photographic opportunities of the ferns that covered the banks above the track as we headed down to where the tannin coloured waters of Andersons Creek flowed. Due to the fantastic array of fungi, ferns and mosses, it took us a couple of hours to walk the short distance to our lunch spot on the large boulders at the top of the Holwell Falls. All too soon the sun disappeared behind the hills to the west making the return journey colder than expected. After a short lunch we headed back, spotting more species of fungi taking more photos.

Returning to Launceston we stopped at the Blue Berry Barn Café at Frankford and enjoyed a warming drink and treats, along with a chat, before heading home.

Karen Manning

Plants - *Acacia verticillata*, prickly moses; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, black oak; *Aristotelia peduncularis*, heartberry; *Atherosperma moschatum* subsp. *moschatum*, sassafras; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bedfordia salicina*, Tasmanian blanketleaf; *Beyeria viscosa*, pinkwood; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Coprosma hirtella*, coffeeberry; *Coprosma quadrifida*, common native-currant; *Correa lawrenceana*, mountain correa; *Epacris impressa*, common heath (white & pink flowered species); *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitar plant; *Muehlenbeckia gunnii*, forest lignum; *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, myrtle beech; *Olearia argophylla*, musk; *Pimelea* sp., riceflower; *Pomaderris apetala*, common dogwood; *Pomaderris elliptica*, yellow dogwood; *Viola hederacea*, ivy leaved violet; *Zieria arborescens* subsp. *arborescens*, stinkwood

Ferns - *Blechnum nudum*, fishbone water-fern; *Blechnum watsii*, hard water-fern; *Dicksonia Antarctica*, soft tree-fern; *Grammitis billardierei*, finger fern; *Hymenophyllum* sp., filmy fern; *Phymatosorus pustulatus*, kangaroo fern; *Polystichum proliferum*, mother shield-fern; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken; *Sticherus tener*, silky fan fern

Fungi - *Artomyces austropiperatus*; *Byssomerulius corium*; *Clavaria amoena*; *Cortinarius austrovenetus*;

Cortinarius persplendidus; *Cortinarius pseudorotundisporus*; *Discinella terrestris*; *Entoloma* sp; *Fistulina hepatica*, beefsteak fungus; *Ganoderma australe*; *Gymnopilus ferruginosus*; *Hydnum repandum*; *Hygrocybe chromolimonea*, yellow navel; *Laccaria* sp; *Lactarius eucalypti*; *Marasmiellus affixus*; *Marasmiellus candidi*; *Mucronella pendula*, icicles; *Mycena cystidiosa*; *Mycena interrupta*, pixies parasol; *Mycena subgalericulata*; *Mycena toyerlaricola*; *Mycoacia subceracea* ; *Phellodon niger*; *Podoserpula pusio*, pagoda fungus; *Ramaria capitata* var.; *Russula* 'red-yellow'; *Stereum ostrea*, golden curtain crust; *Trametes versicolor*; *Tremella fuciformis*

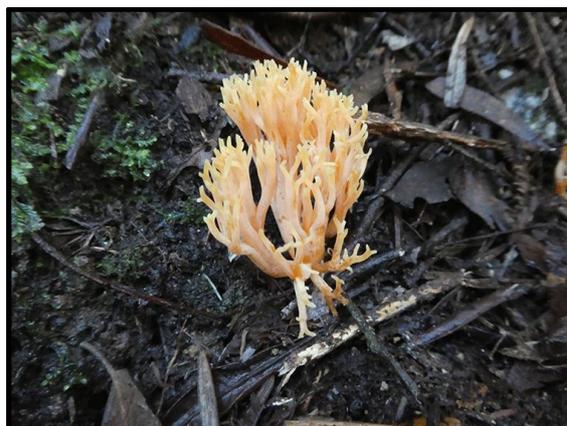
Orchids - *Corybas aconitiflorus*; *Pterostylis grandiflora*, superb greenhood

Lichen - *Cladonia pleurota*; *Usnea* sp.

Monocots - *Dianella tasmanica*, forest flaxlily; *Lepidosperma* sp; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg



Phellodon niger (KM)



Ramaria sp. (KM)



Sticherus tener (KM)



Plasmodium (KM)

Social Outing – 29 June – Christmas in winter at Poatina Chalet

Sixteen members and visitors arrived at Poatina for the Christmas in winter luncheon on a cold and wet winter's day. Dave had a log fire going and served hot drinks while we chatted and warmed up while waiting for the late arrivals as we were anxious to start the meal.

When the last arrived we quickly moved into the dining area and didn't wait long for our large meals consisting of three meats, an assortment of baked and steamed vegetables, with gravy and apple sauce followed by a choice of Pavlova or Christmas pudding for dessert.

Over hot drinks Prue started the Christmas themed quiz. We were split into five groups of three and each group was given a question with a point value attached depending on the difficulty. The group could keep their question (if they knew the answer) or pass it on hoping to get an easier question or one of a higher point value that they could answer. After three rounds the winning group was Tina, George and Karen.

Well done to Prue who had obviously spent many hours putting the quiz together which was both entertaining and informative. It certainly got us thinking and we all had a good laugh. Karen Manning



All fed, now the quiz (KM)

Skemps Day – Sunday 30 June

Four members arrived for this cold and rainy Skemps Day. The wood heater kept the Centre and us warm, with Tina spending time sorting items in the Library, Tom and Karen cleaned and tidied the outside storeroom, following a visit from our friendly field mice, and Noel did a few maintenance tasks. After lunch we all walked down to the barn and assisted Noel with placing a wedge between the foundations and the floor boards as there was an issue with shutting the barns door. It was also noted that the battery power in the barn seems to have failed and will be looked into.

General Meeting – Tuesday 2 July

Guest speakers – Darcie Leong – *Saltmarsh Wetlands Monitoring on the Tamar River*

Tom introduced Darcie who would update us on the progress of the Saltmarsh Wetlands monitoring.

Darcie started by saying that she had only recently taken over from Megan Dykman doing the monitoring and that this year's survey was finished in March and April with the help of Launceston field naturalists and that for the first time the data had been analyzed.

She then gave a background to the monitoring stating that it started in January 2016 with the aim of engaging citizen scientists, checking on what was happening in these areas and to collect data to inform management. Of the original six sites on the Tamar, Middle Point and Kelso are no longer monitored as these are on private properties leaving Long Tom Reef, West Arm North and South and Swan Point still being monitored and pointed out these areas on an aerial photo.

We also learnt that the survey varied each year with birds (abundance and diversity), plants (species lists) and human impacts being common to all four years, based on checklists put together by Vishnu, while photo point records only started in 2017. The vegetation transects (quadrats) were only done in 2017 and 2019 and these provide the best data to analyze and Darcie would concentrate her talk on these and the photo point pictures as these would show a lot as well.

Darcie told us that she had divided the vegetation into four categories, introduced (weed or invasive), native (to Tasmania), rare (considered rare or uncommon in Tasmania) and unknown (unable to be identified) as well as areas of nil vegetation, i.e. being either bare ground or water. With an increase in native or rare vegetation getting a tick and an increase in introduced or nil vegetation getting a cross it was noted that of the seven quadrats (only one at Long Tom Reef and two at each other site) Darcie gave five crosses and 16 ticks. There were seven instances where nothing was recorded for introduced and/or rare vegetation types.

Next Darcie showed the three photos, taken from the same point at each of the seven sites over the three years, on the screen for comparison, although 2019 is missing from West Arm South transect 2. Long Tom Reef showed a marked improvement with the bare areas reducing and being replaced by *Sarcocornia* while *Tecticornia arbuscula* is also increasing. At Swan Point transect 1, while a foreground shrub is losing foliage, the distinct delineation between road and edge is disappearing and *Limonium australe* is starting to grow on the road. Transect 2 vegetation is increasing although this includes some gorse.

At West Arm North transect 1 the bare patches (water) is reducing although this may be due to a different tide while the colour and height of the *Sarcocornia* has changed, possibly due to a change in the ratio of *S. quinqueflora* to *S. blackiana*. Transect 2 shows a slight reduction in smaller shrubs while at West Arm South transect 1, little has changed and at transect 2 the ratio of *Juncus* to other grasses may have altered. This year's photo was not from the correct position and therefore not included.

After all these positives Darcie showed a slide with four pictures of the rubbish collected by the volunteers during the monitoring and told us that there would be a cleanup of the Tamar foreshore on 10 November; a joint venture between NRM North, Tamar NRM and the city of Launceston. This was still in the planning stage with a flyer coming out in July and members agreed that Darcie could give us advance warning of the event.

Darcie had looked at the rubbish to draw conclusions about it noting that Long Tom Reef and Swan Point were easily accessed and the items picked up looked new and, as well as the smaller stuff collected and on view, both sites had garden and household rubbish. To the amusement of her audience she noted that there were 133 pieces of glass picked up at Swan Point, yes she had counted them.

Neither West Arm site is easily accessed and the rubbish seemed to be older stuff sitting around for some time while West Arm North featured rubbish which had washed or blown in. Darcie finished the talk on the monitoring telling us that this analysis had only just been done and that she and Toni would be looking to incorporate the results into the Tamar report card or as a fact sheet.

As one last item Darcie said that she could not resist the opportunity to remind us about *Gambusia*, an introduced pest species of fish. She described it as awful due to its impact on native species, its ability to survive in such diverse environments and its ability to breed so voraciously. We were asked to notify inland fisheries if we saw this 2 cm long fish, not move it if we found it and to clean our boots and fishing gear before moving between water ways. Cleaning gear is also helpful for other problems.

During questions and answers Darcie told us that we would be advised of the 2020 saltmarsh monitoring in December.

Roy thanked Darcie on behalf of the members followed by the usual acclamation.

Noel Manning



Sarcocornia quinqueflora, beaded glasswort (KM)



Limonium australe, yellow sea-lavender (KM)

Skemps Day – Sunday 28 July – Tree Maintenance & Corridor Fence Removal

Twelve members and a visitor arrived at Skemps to provide maintenance to trees for Planet Ark National Tree Day and to remove the fence on the northern boundary of the Federation Corridor. The corridor was put in to revegetate the open grasslands between the Watergate Track to the south and the Loop and Zig Zag Tracks to the north as a wildlife corridor. John, Tina, Claire, Noel and I undid the wires holding the various parts of the fence together and Noel removed the star pickets.

Meanwhile Tom T worked in the patch of trees below us removing the many guards around the mature trees, with them all done in that area by the time we left. Prue and Helen worked on removing guards from the trees along the creek near the bottom ponds with still much to do during a future Skemps Day.

Noel barbecued the sausages left over from our fundraiser at Bunnings for a late lunch and afterwards we returned to the corridor to roll up the many strands of wire from the fence to make the area safe for wildlife or walkers using this area.

Next month on Skemps Day we will continue removing guards from trees along the creek. Your help would be appreciated.

Karen Manning



Members removing wires and star pickets (CM)

Additional Information

Club Outings:

- 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.
- Provide your own food and drinks for the outing and wear/take clothing/footwear suitable for all weather types.
- 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.
- 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, Phil Brumby on 0403 845 000 or bookings@lfnc.org.au regarding availability and keys.

Field Centre Phone Number: (03) 6399 3361

Postal Address: PO Box 1072 Launceston 7250

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

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

Emails: secretary@lfnc.org.au

newsletter@lfnc.org.au

treasurer@lfnc.org.au

Find us on 

