

THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

Issued to members of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club as a contribution to club activities.



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

Volume XLV No 4

April/May 2012

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Committee	:	E Montgomery, J Handler, P Wright, M Clarke, P Warren, P Ralph

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

PROGRAM

JUNE

- Tuesday 5 **General Meeting - Speaker: James Huggett - *Proposed Involvement of Polytechnic Horticulture Students at Skemps***
- Wednesday 6 **Skemps - Transit of Venus**
- Saturday 16 **Field Trip - Mt Arthur Track - Fungi and Ferns**
- Sunday 24 **Skemps Day - Fungi and Ferns**

JULY

- Tuesday 3 **General Meeting - Speaker: Judith Handler - *Polychelates: their Interaction with Molluscs***
- Saturday 28 **Skemps - Foraging for mosses and liverworts**
- Sunday 29 **Skemps - Lynne Cave, Tasmanian Herbarium will talk on *Mosses and Liverworts*, and will identify specimens found previous day**

AUGUST

- Tuesday 7 **General Meeting - Members Night and the Showing / voting for images for inclusion in 2013 Calendar**
- Field Trip - To be confirmed**
- Saturday 25 **Skemps Day**

The complete July to December program will be on the website shortly

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

GENERAL / COMMITTEE MEETING

Puggle

April - Tina McGlynn asked members to name three Ramsar Convention wetland sites in Tasmania. Alison Green was the first to identify Moulting Lagoon. Pittwater and Orielton Lagoon were also identified by members.

May - A Green asked members how many pairs of appendages there are attached to the cephalothorax of a spider. L Ralph correctly stated that there were 6 pairs. Alison then asked if members could identify these. P Wright correctly named them as 4 pairs of legs, 1 pair of fangs and 1 pair of palps, used for sensory purposes.

Sightings

April - Greer Blanch saw a seal at Home Point, Michael Clarke saw a dead Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus* at Newstead, and Wedge-tailed Eagles *Aquila audax* were seen by Karen Manning at Skemps and Alison Green at Windmill Hill.

May - Michael Clarke reported a common froglet on his doorstep. Tom Treloggen reported a White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* at Marions Vineyard. Jeff Campbell had a Yellow Wattlebird *Anthochaera paradoxa* in his backyard. Prue Wright had seen Crescent Honeyeaters *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera* at Swan Point, they are not common in the north.

Library Report General

A copy of *A Catalogue of the Minerals of Tasmania* and *The Edge, a Natural History of Tasmania's Great Western Tiers* have been purchased for the Library.

General

New members - Greer Blanch and John Pickrell were welcomed to the Club at the April meeting and St Patrick's College were welcomed as an Associate Group in May.

Club Calendar 2013 - Members were advised that in addition to the A5 calendar that has been printed in previous years, they could purchase a high quality, large format calendar for approximately \$25. Orders would need to be prepaid. Expressions of interest to a Committee Members please.

King Island Field Naturalists 50th Birthday - Members have been invited to attend the birthday celebrations to be held 2 - 4 November 2012. If you are interested see Noel for a copy of the invitation.

Annual General Meeting - A venue is required for this meeting. If members know of a venue that has a private room, that can seat up to 35, and has either a reasonably priced fixed menu or a la carte menu, could they please talk to a Committee Member.

Photographic Competition - Members were reminded that this competition would take place later in the year and to start taking photos. Further information at a later date.

Tuesday 3 April - Martin George - *A Little Black Dot, the Transit of Venus*

After the introduction by A Pegler, which included a humorous reference to astronomical tours, Martin explained that these tours were primarily to view total solar eclipses which are only visible from narrow paths across the earth's surface. If you have not seen one you will need to travel because the next total solar eclipse visible from Tasmania will be in June 2131.

Eclipses were not his subject for the night, although it is a sort of eclipse, it is instead a transit which occurs when either Mercury or Venus is seen to cross the face of the sun. The

next transit of Venus is coming up in a few months and will be the last time to see it for a very long time. He explained that the talk was to be on what transits are, the scientific use that was made of them, a few of the interesting stories of people who did or attempted to observe them and what we can expect to see on the 6 June.

The story of the transit of Venus was linked to the quest to find the distance scale of the universe. A slide showed the region of the Milky Way with Southern Cross and the pointers. The pointer furthest from the Southern Cross is the nearest star system to Earth and is 40,000,000,000,000 kilometres away. The other pointer is 110 times farther away.

Up to 200 years ago the earth was generally thought to be the centre of the universe with all the heavenly object revolving around it and the astronomers of the time came up with strange paths for the planets to explain the observed movements. Some planets appeared to move backwards at times and we now know that it is because the sun is at the centre of the solar system and the planets, including the earth, move around it, and that the earth moves faster in its closer orbit. Although we did not yet know the distance from the sun to the earth, we did know the ratio of the planetary orbits. By using trigonometry astronomers knew that Venus was on average 72% of the distance of the sun from the earth, that Mars was 52% further out from the sun than the earth and Jupiter was 5.2 times farther away than the earth. Although even for those who knew the sun was at the centre of the solar system and knew the ratio of the distance the orbits of the planets did not make sense.

Johannes Kepler spent eight years using the large amount of data collected by Tycho Brahe to eventually discover that the orbits of planets are elliptical rather than circular. Tycho Brahe's observations of the planets were basically done in pre telescopic days and yet were both comprehensive, particularly for Mars, and extremely accurate. Unfortunately Tycho Brahe died, from too much beer at a royal dinner party, to know that Kepler had finished his work and discovered the true shape of the orbits of the planets.

For all his work Kepler did not have the knowledge of the scale of the solar system. Multiply the scale by two, four or ten or divide it by 50 and it still makes sense. Mars is still 52% further from the sun than the earth. Once the astronomical unit, the average distance from the sun to the earth, is known we would then know the distance from the other planets to the sun.

There are ways of measuring the distance between two objects without getting out a measuring tape and we would all be familiar with triangulation called parallax by astron-omers. All you need is the base line length and the angle and you know the distance to the tree on the other side of the river.

In 1672, the director of the Paris observatory, Giovanni Cassini, used parallax to estimate the distance to Mars. His colleague, Jean Richter, measured the angle to Mars from South America while he did observations from Paris. As he knew the distance between the two observation points and the different angle from these points when compared to the background stars Cassini estimated the astronomical unit. He came up with an estimate of 138 million kilometres, around eight percent short of the real distance.

Triangulation works best the nearer an object is to us as the greater angle is easier to measure and Venus is much closer to the earth than Mars. Unfortunately it is only close during the day and we cannot see the stars to measure the angle from our two observation points, or can we. There are times, very rare times, when there is a great big star in the background and of cause it is the sun. The first recorded observation of the transit was in 1639 from Lancashire England by Jeremiah Horrocks and Edmund Halley suggested that a transit could be used to find the astronomical unit. Initially he suggested that the planet

Mercury be used as there were about 13 transits per century. It was soon realised that Mercury was too far away, and too small, and that it would be easier if Venus was used and the next few slides used exaggerated angles to demonstrate the method. From two points on the earth the time taken for the full transit was measured as the transit was at different distances from the centre of the sun from each observation point.

A transit of Venus is a rare event. No one noted observing the 1631 transit, only two people saw it in 1639 and there have been only five transits since then. The significance of the transit was well known by the time of the next in 1761 and many expeditions set off to record this event. Martin told us the story of the unfortunate Guillaume Le Gentil who set out for India only to be turned away because of the latest war between England and France. His eventual observations of the transit proved useless as it was from an unknown location on board ship. He stayed in the area awaiting the next transit in 1769 spending time mapping Madagascar then heading for the Philippines to set up for the transit. Due to a dispute with the Spanish authorities he returned to Pondicherry, India, and set up his equipment only to encounter an entire day of cloud and no view of the transit. Ill health and more bad luck dogged his return journey and his reception at home. James Cook observed the transit from Tahiti and the key to using the transit for science is to accurately time the entry and exit of Venus across the face of the sun. Cook and his fellow observers were disappointed due to the difficulty of taking accurate timings of the event. Cook noticed that the black silhouette of Venus seemed to remain joined to the edge of the sun for a few moments and he could not judge the moment that they were separated and Venus was entirely within the disk of the sun. This is called the 'black drop' effect and is caused by the atmosphere of Venus combined with the turbulence in the atmosphere of Earth.

These observations gave an astronomical figure of 153.37 million kilometres and reanalysis by the United States astronomer, Simon Newcomb, gave a more accurate figure of 149.7 million kilometres. For the 1874 transit Simon Newcomb arranged an ambitious United States project in many parts of the world and one was done at a private property in Campbell Town, The Grange, assisted by local school teacher and amateur astronomer Alfred B Biggs who also set up an observatory in Royal Park, Launceston. The other US observatory was at Anglesea Barracks in Hobart and at this stage in the talk there were many slides of photographs taken of observatories and observations around the world for the 1874 transit. Martin also told us of the bits and pieces left at Campbell Town from the observations of that transit and that although no photographs existed of the equipment we know that all the US Navy equipment would have been the same for each site.

Each site was occupied months before the transit to set up the equipment, including accurate clocks and a north south fixed telescope to use the stars to check the time and the longitude, so important for accurate measurements. Today the astronomical unit can be measured very accurately by bouncing radar off objects. Knowing the time it took for the signal to return to earth and the speed of light Martin suggested a back of the envelope calculation would show that the earth is 149,597,870 kilometres from the sun. But what about solving the problem of the universe itself? We can still use the triangulation method and we only need one telescope which will move by itself. After one observation we wait six months and the next observation will give a base line of around 300 million kilometres, the diameter of the earth's orbit, and this and other methods have given a scale to our galaxy and the wider universe. All this was possible by knowing the astronomical unit.

On 6 June we will see the entire transit, if the weather holds, although in 2004 the sun set before the transit had finished. Here in Launceston the transit will start at 08:16:06 and

end at 14:44:36 and there will be a special public observing site at the front of the Inveresk Museum at the southern end near the site of the Launceston Railway Station. If the forecast is better for the midlands there will be another observatory set up in the Campbell Town Show Grounds and people might like to go there.

After many questions and answers A Pegler introduced P Warren to thank Martin followed by the usual acclamation by the members. Noel J Manning

Skemp Weekend - Sat 21/Sun 22 April - Water Monitoring & Astronomy

The weather report was not good, but we headed off to Skemps knowing that even if the weather was bad, the Centre was comfortable and the barrel heater would keep us warm. It was no better at Myrtle Bank, the fog was clinging to the surrounding hills and that annoying fine misty rain was falling.

Once the heater and the combustion stove had been lit, Noel and I headed to Skemp Creek just inside the forest at the Top Falls to get the sample of water for the macroinvertebrate monitoring. It was very cold waiting on the creek bank while Noel obtained the samples from different areas of the creek so I moved around looking for fungi. There were small clusters of brown fungi growing on the ground, and my favourite little blue fungi *Mycena interrupta* and a leathery shelf-fungi growing on fallen branches. And where was my camera, back in my bag of course. Water sample obtained we returned to the Centre and as the rain was being swept in under the verandah areas, we set up a table and additional lighting within the Centre so that all members could comfortably look for the macro bugs. The many hands involved made light work of the searching and sorting of the bugs after which we ate lunch.

During the afternoon some members braved the rain and took a stroll, whilst others stayed at the Centre and using the microscope, worked through the macroinvertebrate key to identify the bugs found in the water sample. Identified were mayflies (Ephemeroptera), waterboatmen (Corixidae), small water strider (Hemiptera – Veliidae), segmented worm (Oligochaeta), cased and uncased caddis (Trichoptera), non-biting midge (Chironomidae), mayflies (Ephemeroptera), blackfly larva (Diptera) and stonefly larvae (Plecoptera – Gripopterygidae).

The fog hanging around closed in on the Centre during the afternoon, looking out the windows you couldn't see across the paddocks to the surrounding hills and members not staying for the evening of astronomy departed. A group of thirteen stayed on hoping the weather would clear enabling viewing of the stars. Following a BBQ tea, we played games of backgammon and Upwords, looked at photographs and read or chatted while waiting for the cloud to clear. Around 11 pm two members headed home when it was agreed that we would not be gazing at starry skies tonight and those remaining headed for bed.

The next morning not a great deal had changed, inside the Centre it was nice and warm, outside it was cold with misty rain or heavy downpours. After a leisurely breakfast the Centre was cleaned and we all headed home before midday.

Karen Manning

Tuesday 1 May - John Skemp Memorial Lecture - Dr James Haddy - *Biodiversity and the Challenges of Living in the Intertidal Zone*

The guest speaker for the annual John Skemp Memorial Lecture was Dr James

Haddy of the Australian Maritime College. He spoke of the challenges faced by animals which live in the intertidal zone of a marine shore. They must cope with two environments' exposure to air and immersion in water. He used a rocky shore as his example.

The intertidal zone is the area between high and low water marks. Above this the supra-littoral zone is affected only by wave splash and by very high tides. Periwinkles, *Austrolittorina unifasciata*, are common there. The adults eat algae and lichen on the rocks and enter water only to breed. The aquatic larva is a veliger, typical of molluscs. In Tasmania the orange lichen common on shore rocks is *Caloplaca* sp.

Below the intertidal area is the sub-littoral zone where everything stays wet. Algae are more prevalent there.

In the intertidal zone there is repeated change between dessication and immersion. Temperature, wave action and salinity are other challenges. Wind or hot sun increases the drying effect. During low tide at night frost increases the cold. Blown sand can be a problem. Movement of water due to wave action is powerful. In a rock pool a high temperature can increase salinity.

The intertidal zone divides into three main regions, each characterised by the adaptations of the residents. During Dr Haddy's presentation his frames of information included photographs of representative species.

The high littoral subdivision spends more time dry than submerged. Its animals can stand long dessication, something which is difficult for those with gills. Limpets and barnacles live here. Barnacles are crustaceans which filter-feed when under water. Only the adults are sessile and attached to rocks; the larvae are free-swimming.

In the mid littoral subdivision times submerged and out of water are about equal. Masses of "coral worms", *Galeolaria caespitosa* (polychaete worms with calcareous tubes) occupy a distinct level in the mid littoral. Small mussels, *Limpoperna pulex*, form dense mats in this region.

The mid littoral is a grazing area for many semi-mobile molluscs, such as chitons (coat-of-mail shells), nerites, *Nerita* spp. and coniwinks, *Bembicium* spp. The chitons avoid sunlight but they have no eyes. Photosensitive structures called aesthetascs are embedded in their shell valves.

While the higher parts of the intertidal zone are the domain of animals, there may be some algae in the mid littoral area, e.g. "Neptune's necklace", *Hormosira banksii*.

The low littoral subdivision is submerged for longer than it is out of water. Here biodiversity is increased by animals which can withstand limited drying. Native crabs are represented by the notched shore crab, *Paragrapsus quadridentatus*. Unfortunately the introduced European green crab, *Carcinus maenas*, may be here also. First collected in Tasmania in 1993, near St Helens, this aggressive predator has since spread considerably. A porcelain crab, *Petrolisthes elongatus*, introduced from New Zealand in discarded ships' ballast, is now common in Tasmania. This is not a true crab. In the latter (Brachyura) five pairs of legs are obvious (with pincer claws counted). In *Petrolisthes* (Anomura) the fifth legs are small and folded close to the body.

Other low littoral inhabitants include sponges, waratah anemone, *Actinia tenebrosa*, sea stars, e.g. *Patiriella* spp., brittle stars, the introduced Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, and the blue-ringed octopus, *Hapalochlaena maculosa*. Sea squirts (Pyuridae) may form a distinct band here.

The bite of a blue-ringed octopus is extremely dangerous. The venom in its saliva

can paralyse muscles and so disrupt breathing. A cone shell, *Conus anemone*, can use its radula to inject venom.

Within the low littoral area, rock pools and crevices which stay permanently moist are biodiversity “hot spots”. A tide pool experiences less variation in conditions than the rest of the rocky coastline so its challenge is less.

After completing his coverage of intertidal zoology in general, Dr Haddy spoke about his research project. With the assistance of students from the Australian Maritime College he is studying the orange-edged limpet, *Cellana solida*, at West Head. Individual specimens are marked by small, numbered tags glued to their shell. When exposed to air, limpets are clamped firmly to rocks. When covered by the tide they move to browse on seaweeds. Questions of interest are how far they move, how fast they grow and how long they live.

Dr Haddy’s very well-organised lecture has been a pleasure to report. Dr Al Pegler gave a vote of thanks and then presented to Dr James Haddy the John Skemp Memorial Medal for 2012.
Alison Green

Fungi Map - Friday 4 & Saturday 5 May - Corinna

Three LFNC members arrived in the early afternoon of the Friday of what was to be a cold and wet weekend on the banks of the Pieman River around 18 kilometres from the west coast of Tasmania. The weekend also stood in for our federation Weekend and after settling into accommodation we took a walk along one of the many nature trails radiating out from this wonderful place, based around the warm and inviting Corinna Tavern.

A small group had been in the area over the previous few days recording an excellent selection of fungi to present to us the following day. The afternoon saw many arrive, including some using the barge to cross the river from the south, and the number plates indicated that Western Australia and Victoria were well represented.

After the evening meal Tom May gave an informative talk on fungi, their importance in nature and named what had been found earlier in the week. He advised that the Fungimap website was currently being updated which would include more information and images of fungi. He also stressed how important accurate identification was in this digital sharing world, showing some examples of wrongly identified fungi images uploaded to creative commons sites like ‘Flickr’, stating that when searching the web to identify a fungi, he recommended information only be sourced from authoritative sites; those of mycologists. He also talked about the Atlas of Living Australia website and encouraged people to register and record their observations of plants, fungi and animals, so that there is a more comprehensive record of where species are located. Around 50 people attended this informative and interesting talk finishing with an opportunity to nominate our preference for the various forays the following morning.

Karen, Noel and Prue joined the Whyte River walk next morning led by Katrina Syme and Paul George which crawled its way only about one quarter of the way around the walk finding many interesting fungi with identification by Katrina while Paul gave tips on photographing fungi. Afterwards the various groups trickled back to the accommodation for lunch and to prepare for further forays and workshops in the afternoon gathering at the BBQ area for our afternoon activities as the rain started.

While Noel retired to his room unwell, Karen, Prue and Jilly (APS member who came with Prue) attended the Slime Mould workshop with Sarah Lloyd. This was conducted in

the hotel dining room where we had warmth, comfort and free hot drinks as well as power for the electronic equipment. Sarah had drawers of slime moulds to show us under the microscope, but with a group of ten it was going to be slow for us to see each specimen, she got her laptop going where we could all gather around and look at the wonderful images. With many of her images, they were of the same mould but at different stages of its life, so we could see the changes which for some were quite significant; you would not have picked they were the same one except for the photographic evidence.

An excellent weekend with the comfortable cabins and beautiful spot well and truly making up for the cold and wet.

Karen & Noel Manning

Field Trip - Sunday 13 May - Badger Head/West Head - Rockpools

Our May field trip began with members heading to Badgers Head to investigate the rock pools at the western end of Badger Beach. Armed with a list of possible sightings from our recent speaker Dr James Heddy, we were also interested to compare this area with the richness of our trip to East Beach (Low Head) last year.

We began our rock hopping in the higher zone and almost at once came across a very thin and fragile bivalve clinging to seaweed. Although not previously known to any of us, it is apparently widespread on Tasmanian shores, - *Electroma georgiana* (Common Butterfly shell). We also noted the Six-plated Barnacle *Chthamalus antennatus*, mat-forming Mussels *Limno-perna pulex* and Black Periwinkles *Nerita sp.* all about us. There were also Star Limpets here. Alison found a very pretty small crab with long legs and black/white tipped pincers. It remains unidentified although it may have been a young decorator crab.

About this time we wondered why Paul was still up on the headland, seemingly chatting up a young lady we noticed on our way down. But on joining us he gave us the news that a marine biologist was “out there” surfing and would come see us later. Meanwhile we kept searching and photographing.

Further on a large chiton later identified as *Sypharochiton pelliserpentis* (Snakeskin Chiton). It is common in the higher zone of Tasmanian waters. Tube worms *Galeolaria caespitosa* were common on the underside of rocks and there was some Neptune’s Necklace, *Hormosira banksii*. We wondered why this was brown/blackish in colour instead of the more usual pale yellow.

Turning over more rocks we found many small crabs scurrying for cover, but we were undecided as to their identification. *Patiriella exigua*, the tiny five-armed Sea Star were also here but not in any great number. We were rather concerned that we were not finding the common red Waratah Anemone *Actinia tenebrosa*.

About this time Ian Jermyn (surfer/biologist) and his partner Mureann joined us, and led us further out to a “headland” of the lower tide area. Ian heaved over larger rocks, and soon we were finding plentiful eight-armed Sea Stars of all colours – red, purple, orange, pink and multicoloured. Various crabs were plentiful, and we noted the NZ Porcelain Crab *Petrolisthes elongatus*, - dark greenish with flattened claws. Apparently it was introduced about 1946, maybe this is Brushtail possum payback.

A yell brought everyone running (rock-hopping) to Ian – he had found a gorgeous decorator crab! Moments later he discovered a very large black Elephant Snail, *Scutus antipodes*. Ugly beautiful would be one way to describe it. We watched fascinated as it heaved itself about and slowly pulled its mantles over to completely cover the elongated limpet-like shell on its back.

Numerous very large chitons were all about us, a different species to the ones seen earlier. Here and there we found a sea anemone – not the red, but other species with beautiful pink, blue or green radial stripes.

Engrossed in the life out here, we suddenly realised the tide was cutting us off and quickly returned toward the mid zone, finding another decorator crab and two more elephant snails on the way. Other gastropods found included various turban-like shells with an operculum of “pearl buttons” – *Turbo undulatus*, banded spiral-shelled *Austrocochlea sp.* and *A. constricta* (Ribbed Top-shell) and *Bembicium sp.* Others had a “leathery” operculum, and included *Thais sp.* and *Morula sp.*

When hunger pangs set in we ate a leisurely lunch on the headland, and watched as Paul, who was keen for a walk, became a tiny dot on the beach as he neared West Head, about 4km distant. This was our planned second stop, so we headed off by car nearly 20km away.

The tide had well and truly covered the lower zone by the time we reached West Head, and we didn't find a lot of interest here, but were very pleased to note the Waratah Anenomes in good supply, and happily noted what we considered to be the “normal” colour of the Neptune's Necklace. Crowds of *Austrolittorina unifasciata* were in little crevices on the higher rocks. We wondered about the whereabouts of James Heddy's numbered limpets, but reasoned that to “turn left and walk 50m south” had to be on the other side of the headland. Back at the cars we enjoyed another cuppa and delicious Mother's Day chocolate cake supplied by Karen, and then made a quick visit to the eastern beach of the headland. Here Tom & Tina noted the particularly interesting geological formations. However, we must have been too late with the tide as the few limpets we found here, although very large, were “clean-skins”. By now it was late in the day and time for home.

Prue Wright

Skemp Day - Saturday 26 May - Fungi

Following the heavy rain of yesterday, we arrived to a mild overcast morning at Skemps with the weather report looking promising for a nice day. The sun started shining as more members arrived and following a brief chat we departed to look for fungi. The first area visited was the North Track where John Elliott reported seeing some interesting fungi recently. We found small groups or individual coral fungi in red, orange and yellow, Golden Jelly-bells *Heterotextus peziziformis*, *Pleurotopsis longinqua*, jelly fungi *Calocera*, Pixie's Parasol *Mycena interrupta* and other *Mycena sp.* Off the track we found a stinkhorn emerging from its encasing sac and not far away, a stinkhorn that was drying up. There was also a large area covered with the slimy green waxcap *Hygrocybe graminicolor*.

Too early to return for lunch, we then went into the forest on the Zig-zag Track where we found a fallen log with large groups of *Gymnopilus sp.* There were also puffballs *Lycoperdon scabrum*, cup fungi, Golden Curtain Crust *Stereum ostrea*, Jellybaby *Leotia lubrica*, coral fungus *Clavulina sp.*, the leathery shelf-fungi *Byssomerulius corium*, bracket fungi *Trametes Versicolour* and when leaving the forest a *Cordyceps gunnii*, a fungi that parasitises insects.

Following lunch we visited the Forest Track after taking a slight detour up the drive to look at puffballs, *Lycoperdon scabrum* and *Scleroderma cepa*. Golden Jelly-bells and Pixie's Parasol were found on this track along with White Brain jelly *Tremella fuciform*, white fan *Crepidotus variabilis*, *Russula sp.*, and discs *Bisporella citrina* and many yet to

be identified fungi. The liverworts, mosses and ferns were lush in this area.

We leisurely strolled back to the Centre along the paddock absorbing the warmth from the sun before packing up and heading home.

Karen Manning

Club Calendar 2013

At the August General Meeting members will help decide on the images for next year's calendar. For member's input, copies of submitted photographs with captions (but without submitter names) will be projected in several subject groups, with sheets for member scoring. The final decision will be made by the Committee to ensure a balanced and representative calendar.

Images should be submitted to a Committee member as soon as possible, but no later than the July meeting. Remember to clearly identify the sender.

Conditions of Entry:

- ◆ Print topics: subjects are to be related to Tasmanian flora and fauna, forests and Tasmanian landscapes. Images of cultivars are not acceptable.
- ◆ All images submitted must be identified and a sentence is required about the content. eg. *The Copperleaf Snowberry is endemic to Tasmania and is found in mountain rainforest and wet eucalypt forests, from sea level to montane forest.*
- ◆ Images to be submitted on CD or USB, or by Email (as below) with accompanying Word document containing the written information required in the previous Condition of Entry.

Each email should contain no more than 2 photos as these should be submitted as high quality (large) files as required for printing. Each email to be labelled as LFN calendar entry – your name, and emailed to handlinj@gmail.com

Written information sent by email can be either as a Word attachment or clearly marked in the email text.

Australian Plant Society Meetings

LFNC members are welcome to attend APS meetings held on a Tuesday at Max Fry Hall, Gorge Road Trevallyn at 7.30 pm. Their next meeting will be on July 17. For further details visit <http://www.apstasnorth.org/pages/program.html>

50TH BIRTHDAY INVITATION - KING ISLAND FIELD NATURALISTS (KIFN)

Members are invited to join the KIFN Club to celebrate their birthday, for a weekend of field trips, dinner, history, photos and reminiscing over 50 fabulous years enjoying King Island's natural treasures.

The celebration will be held on the weekend of 2 - 4 November 2012. Participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Please visit www.kingisland.org.au or Ph. 1800 645 014 toll free. Early bookings recommended to ensure flights.

RSVP October 1 to Carmen Holloway Ph. 64611548 (carmen_james@bigpond.com) or Graeme & Margaret Batey Ph. 64621698 (margiebatey@gmail.com)

Additional Information

Club Outings:

1. All outings depart from Inveresk carpark (near Museum entrance) at 9 am unless otherwise specified. Internet site updated regularly to reflect short notice changes. Saturday all-day parking cost is \$3.00. Sunday parking free.
2. You need to provide your own food and drinks for the outing unless otherwise specified. Morning tea is normally provided by the bus company on bus outings.
3. When travelling by car in convoy, each driver is responsible to ensure that the vehicle behind is in sight immediately after passing each cross road or fork in the road.
4. When car pooling, petrol costs should be shared between all the passengers, including family of the driver, and based on other clubs the Committee suggested \$11 per 100 km. This is a guideline only.

Name Tags: Name tags are to be worn at meetings and on outings.

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

Field Centre: All members have access to the John Skemp Field Centre. Contact our booking manager, John Elliott by telephone on 6344 9303 or email 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>

E.mail : secretary@lfnc.org.au