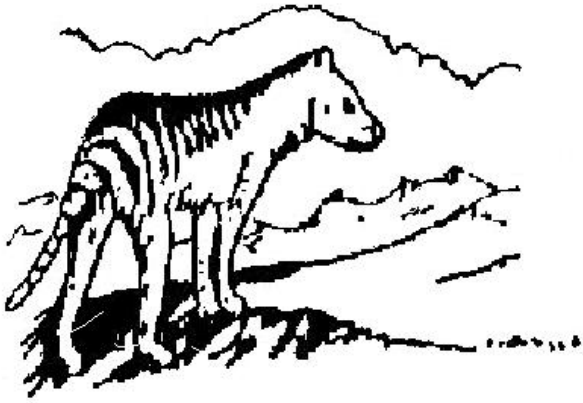
THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

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

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Patron	**:**	**Professor Nigel Forteath**
President	**:**	**Mr T Treloggen, 68 Mulgrave St Launceston, 0408 341 397**
Vice President	**:**	**Ms J Handlinger, 52 Entally Rd Hadspen, 6393 6603**
Hon. Secretary	**:**	**Mr N Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277**
Hon.Treasurer	**:**	**Ms K Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277**
N'letter Co-ordinator	**:**	**Ms K. Manning**
Librarian	**:**	**Ms T McGlynn**
Committee	**:**	**Ms Campbell, Mr Geeves, Ms McGlynn, Mr Ralph, Ms Wright, Mr Warren**

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

PROGRAM

JUNE

Tuesday 2	**Guest Speakers ~Peter Tonelli and Alison Dugand ~ Raptor identification**
Sunday 7	**Field Trip ~ The Steppes, Central Highlands (weather permitting) or Notley Fern Gorge**
Sunday 21	**Skemp Day ~ Ferns and fence removal**

JULY

Tuesday 7	**General Meeting ~ To be confirmed**
	Field Trip
Saturday 25	**Skemp Day ~ National Tree Day**

AUGUST

Tuesday 4	**General Meeting ~ To be confirmed**
	Field Trip
Sunday 30	**Skemp Day**

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	**General Meeting ~ To be confirmed**
Saturday 19	**Field Trip ~ Mt Barrow Interpretation Trail ~ EASY WALK**

Program correct at time of printing, short notice program changes can be viewed at http://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm

SKEMP REPORT

Noel reported that wasps were a problem at Skemps and that he had put wasp dust in six nests. He asked that members report any nests that they see on the property. He would also like to hear from members who could assist with work at Skemps. The tool shed door had been covered in metal to help prevent further break-ins and the insurance monies have come through and losses will be replaced.

High winds are normally a problem although fallen trees are an easy supply of fire wood and we have two sheds, each half full, with a decent supply for the next couple of years.

PUGGLE

May ~ Peter W asked members what was the greatest contributor to the green-house effect. Peter R said methane and Noel suggested CO2. Peter stated that it was actually water vapour and that climatologists can measure the water vapour in the atmosphere by the amount of light reflected onto the new moon from the earth.

SIGHTINGS

May ~ Karen found 30 plus *Cordyceps* fungi at Skemps, Christine saw scarlet robins in her backyard and Tom T an eastern rosella at Connorville and a musk lorikeet at home. While on a boat trip near Tasman Island Peter R saw albatross eating cuttle-fish, many fur seals and other wildlife as well.

GENERAL

Outings alert for the less mobile! Field trips are being specifically planned to include the less mobile and energetic. These will be marked as Easy on the Outings calendar. The first of these is planned for Saturday 19 September and will be based round the Interpretation Centre near Mt Barrow, and the immediate vicinity. There is apparently a lot to see there. We hope this will allow more of our members to enjoy field trips again, so do come along and give us feedback on activities that we can all enjoy.

National Tree Day ~ The Club will register to participate in National Tree Day and hold the event on Saturday 25 July. We will concentrate on maintenance and the tidying up of trees already planted, as well we will enclose one or two triangular patches in wire to hold three trees and some understorey. We need to have wire ready on the day and it will be collected on Skemp Days on 30 May and 21 June from the existing fencing around the Federation Corridor. Noel will slash bracken inside the corridor to facilitate this. Your help on the days mentioned would be appreciated.

Monitoring Saltmarsh Wetlands ~ Prue stated that Vishnu Prahalad, writer of '*A guide to the plants of Tasmanian saltmarsh wetlands*' had contacted her to see if Club members would be interested in helping with the monitoring of saltmarsh wetlands in the north and Tamar River areas during the warmer months. Contact Prue if you would

like to help, Vishnu will accompany us on the first monitoring to show us what is required.

Club Calendar 2016 ~ Members are invited to submit images that meet the Conditions of Entry detailed below for the Club's 2016 calendar. Prue Wright will be compiling the images and accompanying sentence regarding the image content. These should be submitted by 1 August. The final decision will be made by the Committee to ensure a balanced and representative calendar.

Conditions of entry: -

1.Print topics: subjects are to be related to Tasmanian flora, fauna, minerals, Tasmanian landscapes and astronomical events observed in Tasmania. Animals and plants must occur naturally in Tasmania. Introduced species or garden varieties are not acceptable.

2.Photos should be at least 2 megapixels in size so that good quality pictures can be printed.

3.Images to be submitted as per *The Year That Was* information below. Images must be identified and a brief sentence about the content should be submitted with the image either as a Word attachment or clearly marked in the email text. If would be helpful if members could compress their images to a document size.

Send emails to redgum101@gmail.com before 1 August. The subject line of the email should identify the image as an LFNC calendar entry and include your name. Members please support this activity, if there are no images there will not be a fund-raising calendar this year.

The Year That Was ~ At the December General Meeting, Prue Wright will present a slideshow of images from Club activities during 2015. Could members please submit images directly after activities so Prue can start putting the presentation together. Images of people, places and the focus of our activity, should be submitted on either CD or USB or by email to redgum101@gmail.com. Your support for this end of year presentation would be appreciated otherwise it won't happen and we won't be able to reminisce on the interesting activities we have participated in over the year.

Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) ~ This get-together is being held next in Perth Western Australia from Saturday 1 October to Sunday 9 October 2016. They are proposing two optional pre-ANN tours commencing Friday 24 September and one post-ANN tour commencing on Monday 10 October.

At this stage preliminary information has been circulated to LFN club members who receive notices by email, other members who would like to receive the information should contact Noel on 6344 2277 for a copy. The organising committee have asked that field nats interested in attending, complete the Expressions of Interest Table included in the information and return to them by 1 August 2015.

Possible excursions include visits to: Darling Scarp/granites, wetlands, coastal bush-land, Rottnest Island, Jarrah Forest, Wandoo Forests, banksia woodlands and fauna viewing sites. Decisions on the venue will be made in September and they will notify people who have expressed interest, information regarding costs will be available early 2016.

Field Trip to Flinders Island ~ This trip is finally happening in October. Surprisingly 13 members indicated they wanted to visit the island and have since paid a deposit. Bookings have been confirmed for flights and accommodation, and car hire arranged. Brochures show there are many interesting places to visit so we are all looking forward to the trip.

SOCIAL EVENING ~ Monday 14 April ~ Charcoal Fire

An extra social evening was arranged for this month as our usual general meeting was cancelled due to the venue being unavailable at short notice. As we had discussed going to the Charcoal Fire Indian and Persian Restaurant in the past, Tom T made the arrangements.

Arriving at 6.30pm, we entered the restaurant which was very rich in colour with its Indian decorations and it was lovely and warm compared to outside. Our group of eighteen, both adult and junior members and three friends, enjoyed their meals, the butter chicken and marsala prawns seemed to be the favourite dishes at the table and there was lots of rice to soak up all the lovely sauces.

Our junior members appeared to be having a good time together, lots of smiling and giggling. A good time was had by all. Karen Manning

FIELD TRIP ~ Connorville Regeneration ~ Sunday 19 April 2015

Today members of the Australian Plant Society and Launceston Field Naturalists Club had a joint field trip to the Connorville property at Cressy to have a firsthand look at a revegetation project that Tanya had been involved in. Tanya had spoken to Club members late last year about eucalyptus regeneration.

Connorville's owner Roderic O'Connor met us at one of the sites which had been planted in August 2014. He talked about the property and said that in 1972, a very large area was cleared when wood chipping started. This he said was a mistake as the soil was of poor quality and not suitable to grow grasses for the animals. In the late 1990's there had been a severe drought, followed by another in 2005 and again in 2008. The droughts made him question whether he wanted to stay on the property continuing his farming practices as he was or to start doing things differently to improve the property. When the Tasmanian Midlands Restoration project commenced he put his hand up as he wanted to be involved and the project would give him the guidance necessary, to expand the native forest and to grow grasslands to use when he needed them in the future. His goal is to link the current plantings up with O'Connor Peak and convert it all back to native bush and rebuild habitat for animals to move through, reconnecting with other wildlife corridors.

Tanya said there had been some damage to the plantings by deer. They learnt from this there was a need to put up protection for the plants. Sheep have also been a problem and there has also been native animal browsing. Cockatoos have been causing lots of damage in some areas.

The reason eucalypts are used is that they tend to resprout after damage. Tanya

said that UTAS researchers were doing genetic trials and were also looking at the providence of seed.

We were encouraged to look at the planting area and walked out to have a closer look at the growth of *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. pauciflora*, since they were planted August 2014. The area is densely planted. The soil is mounded up, which means softer soil for the plant roots to grow into and run off water staying in the troughs to help keep the soil damp. This area is surrounded by high fences to keep deer and other animals out. Tanya said that all plantings follow the techniques used by the Forestry Department.

We then moved to another area where there were smaller plantings, which are in wire surrounds that are about 6 feet high and different sizes. The tops of these surrounds are wobbly which deters possums climbing on them. In some cases there are only two plants together and in other five or more. Tanya said that due to the cost of the wire and stakes, they want to ensure that something grows, so they put in groups of plant hoping that some of them survive. All the group plantings we saw appeared to be quite healthy and growing well.

Roderic and Tanya were both thanked for their time and information. We hope all goes well with the project.

We then headed back into Cressy and found a quiet spot on the banks of the Macquarie River and had a very relaxing lunch in the sun, listening to the flow of the river and the chirping of the birds. Karen Manning

Photo by Karen Manning

FIELD TRIP ~ Fagus Trip to Crater Lake ~ Wednesday 22nd April 2015

This year's unexpectedly early turning of the Fagus caught us by surprise. However six of us made it to Cradle Mt NP at short notice to search for some fagus colour on April 22, a glorious autumn day: Paul Edwards (LFNC/APSNT), Ann Scott (LFNC),

Janet and Colin Hallam (APSNT), and Melissa and David Ziegeler.

After failing to get beyond the boom-gate by car, Ann walked and the rest of us shuttle-bussed to Ronny Creek Car Park, leaving the Visitors Centre at 11 am. We then walked up to Crater Lake via Crater Falls arriving at the boat shed for lunch about 1 pm.

We came across well-turned fagus by the Falls and shortly before reaching the lake, including numerous branches of the relatively rare red foliage. We saw several examples of partly shadowed single leaves in which the sunlit surface was bright red while the shadowed surface was yellow-green. Paul was particularly pleased to see this evidence of the photo-synthesis of red anthocyanins. (see *The Natural News* Aug & Dec 2014). The orange and yellow fagus covered cliffs on the far side of the lake were a fine sight, rivalling a similar view across Robert Tarn on Tarn Shelf in the Mt Field NP.

After lunch we walked down to Dove Lake via Wombat Pool and Lake Lilla to catch the shuttle back a little after 3 pm. On the way we encountered more fagus, King Billy pines and, as on the 2013 LFNC fagus excursion, some splendid multi-coloured alpine yellow gums (*E. subcrenulata*). The pines were covered with cones, this being a "mast year" *for Athrotaxis seleganoides* and other native alpine conifers. According to David this uncommon phenomenon has been widely observed over the state this year. Paul Edwards

Photo by Paul Edwards

SKEMP DAY ~ WATER MONITORING ~ Sunday 30 April 2015

Thirteen members and three visitors arrived at Skemps to a sunny autumn day to participate in the macroinvertebrate monitoring. While John and Noel headed off to collect the water sample (using the new net for the first time) from the specified

area on Skemp Creek, the monitoring equipment was set up on the table outside the Centre. Two of our visitors had not been to the property before and were shown through the Centre. We were pleased to hear that they had passed the property recently when exploring the area which prompted them to check for a website which they found. Contact was then made with Noel who suggested them to come today so they could participate in the day's activities and meet other members.

With the water sample obtained, members and visitors helped to sort the water bugs into ice cube containers for identification. We were quite excited about the large size of some of the bugs. John confirmed their identification before the water sample was returned to the creek, his report is below.

Following lunch small groups headed off in different directions. One group headed over to the Federation Corridor and up through the Zig Zag track to the 'big tree' where there was a rather large group *of Geostrum triplex* (earth stars). Also seen were puffballs, *Heterotextus peziziformis* (jelly bells), *Clavaria amoena* (yellow coral fungi), *Trametes versicolour*, *Mycena* sp., *Bisporella citrina*, *Hypocrea sulphurea*, a large area of *Cordyceps gunnii* and a delicate white coral fungi during this walk. A very active wasp nest was noted on this track.

Noel, Peter L and another small group went up to the lava flow and other sites as Peter wanted to know of a few places to take a group of young adults who would be visiting the property during the week.

After a pleasant day in good company, we all headed for home.

Karen Manning

John's report : The Signal 2 score is the lowest recorded from the site. This result is, however, consistent with most of the other results from this site, which are either excellent water quality or good water quality. The number of taxa seen is the highest from this site. Higher taxa numbers can reduce the Signal 2 score if the new taxa are not rated highly.

Date Sampled	Taxa	Signal 2	Interpretration	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

The following taxa were seen:

Amphipoda	Sideswimmers
Coleoptera	Beetles
Conchostraca	Clam shrimps
Diptera	True flies
Ephemeroptera	Mayflies
Hemiptera	True bugs (Backswimmers, Veliidae)
Nematoda	Roundworms
Odonata	Dragonflies, damselflies
Plecoptera	Stoneflies
Trichoptera	Caddisflies

The conductivity (salinity) and turbidity testing for Bob's Bog and the Bottom Falls have basically stayed within acceptable limits.

JOHN SKEMP MEMORIAL LECTURE ~ MIKE DOUGLAS
~ *THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS*

Tom gave a brief history of the John Skemp Memorial Lecture before introducing our guest speaker, Mike Douglas, who would speak about the sand in the Bridport area.

Mike started his talk by telling us that sand was important to Bridport as a tourist town known for its beaches and because of the channel to the harbour. This channel is used by fishermen and the ships servicing the Furneaux Group and the sand is building up and threatening to block this important passage. While the sands were a popular topic of conversation in Bridport Mike claimed it was ill informed conversation as people did not understand the dynamics of the sands.

He digressed to tell us of a proposal to mine the sand and ship it to Sydney for concrete. An expensive upgrade of the roads would not be used as it was too expensive to use trucks to move the sand and that he had heard of a proposal to pipe it to ships in the bay.

Mike posed the question of where all this sand comes from and answered that it is an erosion product. He then asked us to imagine standing on the present site of Bridport 20,000 years ago and there would be no sea. We would be looking at a huge sand basin stretching to Victoria at the peak of the last glacial event with the sea level over 100 metres lower. He said that he did not think he was believed when he told this to locals.

In this cold inhospitable era the fierce westerly winds blew sand onto the land forming longitudinal sand dunes in the coastal area at Waterhouse. These 30 metre plus dunes became unstable as they grew and the top fell and they moved inland.

Mike posed the question as to whether the dunes were stable when Europeans arrived and stated that studies suggest they were. Within 50 years of the arrival of Europeans with their hard hooved animals, which eat grasses down to the root, and the continued use of fire stick farming the dunes were destabilised and they started moving again.

Following a brief history about farming in the area, including the problem of coast disease in animals caused by the lack of trace elements in the soil, we heard about the post WWII soldier settlements in the area. By improving soil with trace elements and using mycorrhizal fungi to grow clover these farms thrived with a downside to the environment. The wetlands and the heathlands disappeared and the moving sands threatened the farms. One area to the north of Blackmans Lagoon was left and this Mike described as the nub of the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

As well as blocking drains the shifting sand was threatening to swallow the farms so the government set up the Sand Dune Reclamation Unit. While Australia had little experience of this dune stabilisation it had been going on in Europe for hundreds of years with grasses and trees planted on the dunes. While other plants had been tried unsuccessfully in Tasmania marram grass did the job. The rhizomes spread underground and are not subject to grazing or damage from being driven over or walked on.

Mike told us of the changes which occurred between the 50s and the 80s. Earlier there was, as he described it, a bit of an hiatus with the movement of the dunes. While some were worried about the loss of beaches at this time the channel remained clear of sand for shipping. Later the sand started to move again, the beaches came back but the channel was being blocked to shipping. He noted that these changes can be very quick and that one recently formed spit is 2 kilometres long and is now an important bird habitat.

He mentioned that the introduced marram grass is being replaced by masses of boobialla (coast wattle) at West End Point where it is so thick it is difficult to walk through. He hopes that other species will also move into the area as at the east end where drooping she-oaks (*Allocasuarina*) and *Banksia* are growing amongst the boobialla.

Mike showed us a tree root covered in calcium carbonate and explained that on stable dunes the roots go deep to search for water and the slightly acidic rainwater percolating through the sand carries the calcareous material to the roots of the trees. A lot of these calcareous roots have been collected over the years and you would not find it on the surface these days.

He spoke of what he called spectacular erosions of the coast which over the last 10 years is not being repaired by windblown sand. Although it is storm caused erosion, sea rise is exacerbating the problem. A 3 mm per year sea rise does not sound much but it does not take much to cause problems. The present sea rise is only caused by thermal expansion and we do not know how much it will rise when the ice melts.

Mike wondered what Bridport would look like in 100 years and suggested that places like Adams Beach would still be there but have moved inland as behind it is a fairly flat area with a sandy substrate. Other small beaches of the Bridport area will not survive as these have nowhere to retreat to as behind them is steep rocky country or roads.

We were told of the controversial construction of the new surf lifesaving building in an area where even council environmental studies suggest nothing should be built. To our amusement Mike suggested it would not be 100 years before the boats were being launched from inside the building.

Mike suggested the words Bridport and tsunami would seem an unlikely combi-

nation, yet on 22 November 1998 a tsunami event occurred at Bridport. He read from his notes, obviously a media report of the event, detailing what had happened. A few hours before high tide a resident of East Sandy Point reported that 'the sea level ran out like a low tide for five minutes and then came in very fast, roaring, swirling and bubbling and came up to the bottom of the sand dunes. The water rose above the high water mark, covering the road'. The sea level rose approximately two metres and went in and out several more times with one shack resident fleeing to higher ground. The outgoing flow took trees and debris out into the bay and the phenomenon was also reported at Port Sorell and Stanley.

Mike described this as a meteo-tsunami, a tidal event caused by meteorological changes as the air pressure influences the tide level, and he warned us that there was a low pressure to the south of Tasmania at present. This could produce a king tide of around half a metre above the normal. A thunderstorm moving at the speed of the waves is a factor in these types of event although it is not well understood.

We then heard of tsunami even in November 1953 in which a young boy drowned and fishing boats were washed onto dry land by the three large waves. Although described in the local paper at the time as a possible volcanic event, Mike thought it was a meteo- tsunami and said that you never know what nature has up its sleeve.

He then asked us if we minded a bit of primitive technology as he set up a slide show of real slides. He described his carousel slide holder as having arthritis, it did not work and although he had pulled it apart it still did not work. Amongst the slides was one of the marram grass and we were told that it had stopped the sand from overwhelming Blackmans Lagoon while other slides showed the places covered in his comprehensive talk.

One slide showed sea spurge which Mike described as something from a horror movie, *Day of the Triffids*, and he wondered what could be done about it while another showed the success of revegetation with native spinifex grass, swamp paper barks and ice plant (*Tetragonia implexicoma*) growing. Another slide showed Mermaids Beach which Mike said was doomed as it has nowhere to retreat to.

After such a comprehensive talk on his subject there were no questions and Tom invited Peter Ralph to give the thank you. Peter asked members to show their appreciation with the usual acclamation. Noel Manning

MEMBERS TALK

Prue showed a photo from a field trip to East Beach – strange "pockets" of a semi-transparent substance, about 15mm in height, many attached together and adhered to a rock surface.

She had found this to be egg capsules of the Tulip Shell, *Pleuroploca australasia.* On a subsequent trip to the same area at a very low tide Prue found more, but this time there were many miniature replicas of the tulip shell nearby, each one only 4 or 5mm in size and with a large white "blob" on the top. On closer examination Prue could see more tiny shells still inside the capsules, with each capsule holding several young. It was obvious that they were in the process of "hatching" and the close-up

photos showed the capsules breaking down. It raised many questions as to the process of reproduction in these gastropods.

Photo by Prue Wright

***Pleuroploca australasia* – the Tulip Shell**

Recently I gave a 5 minute talk after visiting East Beach at an extremely low tide and observing miniature Tulip Shells in the process of leaving the most amazing looking egg-capsules. Here is some more information on the subject.

Regarding the egg-capsules of tulip-shells, it seems that each capsule may harbour from half a dozen to perhaps sixty developing larvae (the upper figure is for the family Fasciolariidae, not necessarily this species). While developing within the capsule, they feed on 'food-eggs' – sacrificial eggs that don't go on to produce larvae but are there purely to provide food for those that do. Tulip-shells have what is called 'direct development' – i.e. they don't have a planktonic larval stage but hatch from the capsule as miniature snails, as witnessed. It's quite likely that they would be cannibalistic, given the opportunity, but otherwise they would be looking for other prey items such as tiny worms. Once they're bigger, they tend to eat other molluscs. The Pleuroploca start to develop their adult shells even before they emerge from the capsules: the adult shell is brown and textured, whereas the juvenile shell (called a protoconch) is white and pearly. This protoconch is the first calcified whorl of the shell, and is fragile and generally breaks off as the animal ages. In gastropods the head and the foot is combined into a head-foot (although the term gastropod means stomach-foot). So the exposed part of the animal has a head on it at one end, and the 'tail' of the foot at the other end. The head will have tentacles and a proboscis for seeking out and attacking prey, which is then macerated by means of a chainsaw-like radula within the proboscis/buccal cavity.

Many thanks to Simon Grove and Professor Graham Edgar for providing this interesting information. Prue Wright

FIELD TRIP ~ Bridport ~ Sunday 10 May 2015

Club members met with Mike Douglas at the Granite Point carpark in Bridport on a sunny but windy Sunday morning to look at shoreline erosion which he spoke about during his John Skemp Memorial Lecture talk earlier in the week.

A track from the carpark that we had used during a previous visit had been closed due to the sand further encroaching on the land and washout on the beach side. We used another track which led to the Wildflower Reserve Track and brought us out a little further along the beach. The sand dunes on Adams Beach had certainly receded; Michael had shown us photographs of severe erosion on the eastern end of the beach and tides lapping the dunes. In the distance, he pointed out the dunes at East Sandy Point. The dunes were once bare and over the years have stabilised with the planting of Marram Grass.

Returning along the track we went into Frog Lagoon which until recently had been dry, the rain in earlier in the week had begun to fill the lagoon and we heard several frogs calling. The lagoon also contains swimming tiger leeches. On the left edge of the forest that abuts the lagoon, Michael pointed out the *Baumea tetragona*, square twigrush, *Gahnia radula*, cutting grass and *Gleichenia microphylla*, scrambling coral fern. He also reminded us that during the warmer weather the area sees lots of snakes.

Back at the carpark we decided to head back into Bridport and parked at the rear of the Hall near the Visitor Information Centre. We then walked along the Foreshore Track as far as Eastmans Beach. Along the way Michael talked about the Surf Life-saving Clubrooms that had been built on the foreshore, and some history of the area, for example the track that we were walking on was following the Bridport Railway line which came in from Mt Horror where there was a woodyard in the early 1900's. The sawn timber was transported into the Granite Point Pier and loaded for shipment to Melbourne. Michael also pointed out a dark stain on the lower parts of the white gums along the walk. Following a long dry spell in northern Tasmania a few years ago, it was noted that eucalypts were leaking a red sap which stained the tree a ginger colour. The leaking was due to heat stress and many trees across the north have died.

At Eastmans Beach, Michael made reference to his talk on Tuesday night re-garding the meteo-tsunami in 1953 and pointed out how high the waves came up on bank above the beach. Looking at the water lapping on the beach, it was hard to be-lieve that there had been such an influx of water to reach the spot Michael showed us.

Walking back to the carpark on Goftons Beach, we noticed the foreshore rocks had changed, the dark sedimentary rocks giving way to light igneous granite. For some hundred metres or so, pieces of this dark sedimentary rock could be seen in the large granite boulders. This formation occurs where xenoliths (hard foreign rocks) fall into the magma stage of the igneous rocks development. Mike informed us that the sedimentary rock erodes slower than the igneous rock which is why they are so exposed and noticeable.

Following lunch we walked down to the spit. Michael told us that the rocks were once quarried from the area and the break wall was built to hold the sand back and

produce a scouring effect as water flowed in and out. A sand bar moves across the mouth of the river and has to be dredged out at least once a year.

We walked along the river, crossed Main Street and continued up Elizabeth Street to where we were better able to observe the river and the sand dunes in the distance. Michael mentioned the proposal to mine the sand in the dunes some distance away which we observed through the binoculars. We could also see the Cut where the Forester River was diverted. In the foreground on the edge of the sand dunes we could see Barnbougle Lost Farm and closer the Barnbougle Dunes Golf links clubhouse and cows on the river floodplains. Flying above the beach we could see a sea eagle being harassed by silver gulls.

We continued on through the streets and eventually came out along the Brid River. We crossed over Main Street and walked out onto the pier where we observed a large number of pelicans, a small group of egrets, cormorants and gulls on reclaimed land adjacent to the wharf area, before returning to the carpark.

We enjoyed a hot drink and cake at the Bridport Café and looked over more photographs and information that Michael had brought along for us to see. Tom Treloggen thanked Michael for his time and as usual his very informative narrative during our walk. Karen Manning

Walk from Granite Point carpark to Adams Beach and Frog Lagoon

Acacia melanoxylon, blackwood ; *Acacia sophorae*, coast wattle ; *Acacia verticillata*, prickly moses ; *Allocasuarina verticillata*, drooping sheoak ; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia ; *Baumea tetragona*, square twigrush ; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box ; *Carpobrotus rossii*, native pigface ; *Clematis microphylla*, small leaved clematis ; *Correa alba*, white correa ; *Dianella tasmanica*, forest flaxlily ; *Dichondra repens*, kidney weed ; *Gahnia radula*, cutting grass ; *Gleichenia microphylla*, scrambling coral fern ; *Hibbertia sericea*, silky guinea flower ; *Hydrocotyle* sp., pennywort ; *uncus procerus*, tall rush ; *Lepidosperma gladiatum*, coast swordsedge ; *Lepidosperma longitudinale*, pithy swordsedge ; *Leptocarpus tenax*, slender twinerush ; *Leucopogon parviflorus*, coast beardheath ; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg ; *Melaleuca ericafolia*, coast paperbark ; *Monotoca elliptica*, tree broom heath ; *Olearia axillaris*, coast daisybush ; *Pimelea* sp., riceflower ; *Poa labillardieri*, silver tussock grass ; *Tetragonia implexicoma*, bower spinach ; *Tremella mesenterica*, deep orange jelly fungus ; *Viola hederacea*, ivyleaf violet

Foreshore Track to Eastmans Beach

Acacia sophorae, coast wattle ; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, bull oak ; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia ; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box ; *Cassytha* sp., dodder-laurel ; *Dodonaea viscosa*, native hop ; *Eucalyptus viminalis*, white gum ; *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, native cherry ; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg ; *Leptospermum laevigatum*, coast teatree

Gofton's Beach

Carpobrotus rossii, native pigface ; *Distichlis distichophylla*, salt grass ; *Euphorbia paralias*, sea spurge (intro) ; *Rhagodia candolleana*, coastal saltbush

Track along Brid River to Harbour boat pier and back to carpark along river

Atriplex prostrata, creeping orache (intro) ; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia ;

Baumea juncea, bare twigrush ; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box ; *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, native cherry ; *Leptospermum laevigatum*, coast tea tree ; *Poa labillardieri*, silver tussock grass ; *Tetragonia implexicoma*, sea spinach

Birds

Ardea ibis, cattle egrets (5) ; *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*, silver gulls ; *Egretta novaehollandiae*, white faced heron (1) ; *Haematopus fuliginosus*, sooty oystercatcher (6) ; *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, white-bellied sea-eagle ; *Larus pacificus*, pacific gull (juvenile) ; *Microcarbo melanoleucos*, little pied cormorant (1) ; *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, Australian pelican ; *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*, little black cormorant (1) ; *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*, crescent honeyeater ; *Rhipidura albiscapa*, grey fantail ; *Vanellus miles*, masked lapwings

SKEMP DAY ~ Fungi ~ Saturday 30 May 2015

The weather prediction early in the week for today was not good, and sadly today the prediction was correct, it was overcast, windy and raining. We headed out to Skemps as there were lots of plans for the day, dismantling the fence along the Federation Corridor to re-use during National Tree Day and also to look for fungi.

Arriving at Skemps there were two brave people already waiting to be let in at the boom-gate. In the Centre, the priority was to get the fire going which Noel did. The weather here was worse than what we left in Launceston, apart from being very cold, there were gusty winds and heavy driven rain. Three more members arrived, although two sat in their car for a while to wait for a break in the rain before making a dash to the door.

By late morning the weather was not getting any better so three headed back to Launceston, while four stayed on for lunch and were joined a little later by Peter. The gas BBQ was lit, food cooked and we sat down to eat.

We saw no point in staying late so cleaned up and headed back to our homes, a very disappointing day. Karen Manning

AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY MEETINGS

LFNC members are welcome to attend APS meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month, at Max Fry Hall, Gorge Road Trevallyn at 7.30 pm. The next meeting will be on:

JUNE 16 ~ Guest Speaker Dr Noushka Reiter from Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, "Saving our Native Orchids"

JULY 21 ~ Guest Speaker Anna Povey, "Private Land Conservation"

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 on 6344 9303 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