

10 August 2020

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club Excursion Guidelines

Tasmanian Field Naturalist Club excursions are usually held on the weekend following the monthly Club meeting and are normally advertised in the Quarterly Bulletin newsletter and on the Club website www.tasfieldnats.org.au. Any changes to destination or changes due to weather are notified there.

Club excursions may vary from local slow and steady outings to more strenuous walks, some close to Hobart and others further afield involving longer drives. Please satisfy yourself that the trip is likely to be within your abilities and that you can participate in the excursion without being a danger to yourself or the rest of the group. Participants under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them.

Sharing vehicles on Excursions

- If you wish to share a vehicle this can be arranged privately or at the monthly meeting, when the opportunity is always provided to arrange a lift with other Club members. Please ensure contact phone numbers are exchanged so any late changes to arrangements can be discussed.
- If you do arrange to vehicle share please be ready to leave at the appointed time and remember to pay the driver a reasonable share of vehicle costs at the end of the trip. Please note: this a contribution towards travel costs - it is not a fare. The current recommendation is \$5 per passenger for short trips e.g. Hobart environs up to 50km return and \$10 per passenger for longer trips – e.g. East coast, Tasman Peninsula or excursion greater than 50km return. Please discuss payment with your driver as some trips may be more flexible or longer/shorter.
- Please also respect your driver's vehicle and if the trip is likely to be wet or muddy, bring spare clothes/shoes to change into before travel home and a bag for muddy boots.

On the Excursion

- Our excursions are relaxed events, but will generally have a Club member who will be coordinating the trip. Please respect the coordinator's directions, any group decisions and comply with all reasonable instructions.
- Please arrive by the walk's appointed start time or text someone else attending the excursion if you are delayed.
- The coordinator will have checked the weather forecast, fire danger and maps and will advise participants.
- At the start of the excursion the coordinator will introduce the group and note numbers of participants. A group photo is usually taken at this point as a record. The coordinator will also advise their mobile phone number for use in emergencies. The general aim of the excursion, route to be covered, regrouping points and track junctions, lunch and break times and expected return time will be discussed.
- The coordinator will ask for a volunteer to write up a report on the excursion for the Club Bulletin. Members with expertise/interests will supply lists of sightings to this volunteer whose job is to write an overview of the excursion, collect up the species lists and email the report to the Bulletin editor at TFNC Bulletin Editor (tfn.bulletin.editor@gmail.com) in time for the next edition of the quarterly Bulletin. We request that participants volunteer to either write up the outing overview or contribute to the species lists at least once a year.
- On a longer trip the coordinator will appoint a 'tail-end-Charlie'. If you leave any trip early please report to this person or the coordinator so we are not searching for someone who we think may be lost. If you become separated from the group and cannot make your way back STOP WHERE YOU ARE and try to attract attention by calling, phoning the coordinator, or using your whistle so you can be found.
- It is your responsibility to make sure you have adequate and suitable clothing, water, food and any first aid supplies or medications you need. The Club's recommended 'Carry List' can be found at <https://tasfieldnats.org.au/data/documents/TFNC-Excursion-carry-list.pdf>
- Group numbers will be checked by the coordinator at regular intervals and at the end of the outing.
- It is the responsibility of the last people to return to the carpark at the end of the excursion to check that all participants have returned and that all vehicle engines have started and vehicles are under way. If this is not the group coordinator then they will have arranged with the last groups of walkers to undertake this check.