

1956 - Pre-Circular No. 1.

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

The Annual Meeting of the Club will be held in the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 16th February, 1956, at 8 p.m.

After the election of officers for the ensuing year the President, Mr. M.S.R. Sharland, will deliver the Presidential Address illustrated with lantern slides.

Subscriptions become due on the night of the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer, Mr. Craike, will be pleased to see any members either before or after the meeting.

If you cannot attend the meeting, subscriptions may be paid to Mr. H.F. Sargison in Elizabeth Street.

Easter Camp. To be held this year at Safety Cove. Mr. Sargison will be happy to receive advance bookings.

Maria Island trip. Those members who have booked to go on this trip are advised that they may board the s.s. "Sorrento" at Franklin Pier any time from 8.00 p.m. on Friday night, March 2nd. The steamer will pull out between 4.00 and 5.00 a.m. on Saturday morning and travel via the Dunalley Canal, berthing at Darlington, the northern end of Maria Island.

Members may live on the boat for the whole period, in which case if they have a primus it would be a good idea to bring it.

While on the boat the skipper would prefer members to wear shoes or sandshoes, not boots.

It is anticipated that we will arrive back in Hobart by 6.30 on Monday.

^{SAT 18.2.56}
Outing. Catch Fern Tree bus 10.00 a.m. Walk to Springs and then along track to Organ Pipes. At this time of the year, gentians will be in full bloom as well as other late flowering plants.

A. M. Hewer,
HON. SECRETARY.

This is an excellent ~~camp~~ site with attractive coastal scenery ^{and} a fine bathing beach.

CIRCULAR

Pre-Circular 1 B

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB.

EASTER CAMP 1956

Rheban April 15th
AT SAFETY COVE, NEAR PORT ARTHUR, MARCH 30th
to April 2nd, 1956

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Rheban Oxford
The Camp Committee has selected Safety Cove, near Port Arthur, for this year's Camp. ~~Safety Cove has been visited by the Club several times and will be remembered as the site of the Jubilee Camp.~~ The area is rich in fauna and flora and has many possibilities which have not been explored by the Club in the past. ~~It is hoped to arrange boat trips to "The Isle of the Dead" and possibly a cruise out to Tasman Island.~~

Seaford & Badhampton - both of which would be very good development of J.S.

Little time remains to make arrangements, place orders for stores and engage camp staff. Therefore members will doubtless recognise the urgency of making bookings. Bookings should be made at once with Mr H. F. Sargison, 21 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, accompanied by a deposit towards camp fees and transport.

Camp fees (payable in advance) are the same as last year:-
ADULTS - £6.10.0; SCHOOL CHILDREN (over 12 years) £5;
SCHOOL CHILDREN (under 12) £3.10.0;

Transport of baggage and costs of bus are included in the above. Boat trips are likely to be extra.

The Club has invited Mr Ellis Troughton, F.R.Z.S., of Sydney, to attend this year's Camp. Mr Troughton, an eminent Zoologist, is famous for his book "Furred Animals of Australia" - the most comprehensive book of Australian Animals. We look forward to meeting Mr Troughton who has agreed to give several talks in Camp. Whilst in Hobart he will address a meeting sponsored by the Royal Society of Tasmania and all members of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club will be invited to attend.

The Club usually relies on a small team of willing workers to get the Camp ready, but would appreciate more workers in the advance party and therefore hopes other members this year may be able to accompany this party. Advance party members should see Mr Sargison regarding arrangements, as soon as possible.

DATES AND TIMES:

Friday afternoon

april 1st
~~Saturday, March 24th~~, 8.00 a.m., at 33 Mortimer Avenue, New Town, hands wanted to help load equipment on lorry;

~~Monday, March 26th~~, Advance Party leaves for Safety Cove;

~~Thursday, March 29th~~, 7.00 p.m., Main party leaves by bus for Safety Cove. (Assemble at Franklin Square 15 minutes beforehand). Camp should be reached 4 hours later. *19th*

~~Tuesday, April 3rd~~, Camp ends; depart for Hobart 2.30 p.m. (Approx.)

Heavy Baggage (suitcases, rucksacks, blankets, camp beds) must be delivered to 33 Mortimer Avenue ~~NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, March 23rd~~. This must be labelled with owner's name and marked "Field Naturalists Camp." Tie labels on strongly. Light luggage (toilet gear, toothbrush, etc.) can be brought by bus on the Thursday night.

DON'T FORGET THE DATES AND THE NECESSITY FOR EARLY BOOKING AT MR SARGISON'S SHOP.

The success of this camp depends on the loyalty & support of club members

23rd February, 1956.

KELSEY AVES (Hon. Secretary)

March 8th '58

MEETING: The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 15th March, at 8 p.m. We had hoped to have an illustrated talk by Mr David Elliott on caves, but owing to his convalescence it has been necessary to postpone his talk.

In place of this we propose to have three short talks:-

"Birds of the Midland Lagoons", by Mr L. Wall
"Richeas Re-Visited", by Mr K. Aves
"Frogs I have Known", by Mr A. Hewer

OUTING: Saturday, 17th March. It is proposed to visit South Arm with the object of studying the Gulls of the area.

Twice since Christmas a large gull, believed to be a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), has been seen in the South Arm area, and we are hoping that a thorough search can be made in an endeavour to confirm the reports.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull is a resident of New Zealand, but in recent years it has been reported in New South Wales and Victorian waters, so there is a decided possibility that our reports are correct.

We plan to organise at least six separate parties, each of which will be asked to cover a particular stretch of coastline so that a complete survey of the peninsula can be made, and to re-assemble at a central point by 3 p.m. From there any possible records for the day can be investigated.

Will all those who would like to participate in this search, and particularly those who could supply car transport, please let us know at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 15th March.

EXTRACT: - from W. B. Turrill's "British Plant Life" -

"Whether one wants 'to learn more about plants' or to sample the exhilaration of discovering about plants facts 'new to science' it is essential to go to the plants themselves. Books, lectures, and advice have their place, but they cannot replace actual first-hand contact with living organisms. Get out into the woods and fields, wander along rivers and streams, climb mountains, paddle over salt-marshes, fool about in a garden, as you will, but get amongst the plants and see them, examine them, concentrate on them, and make them answer the hundreds of questions you ask them. All the time you must think and plan. Do not be discouraged by botanical terms or Latin names. They are not difficult to understand if taken a few at a time. They have, or should have, the great advantage of precision - of enabling a great deal to be said in few words...

Two requisites are essential for success: utmost care in observing and experimenting, including record-keeping; and infinite patience and persistence. Given these, the investigator is bound to make worthwhile discoveries which will be the more important in proportion to the ingenuity with which the scheme of observations and experiments has been thought out beforehand."

Surely good advice to a field naturalist and equally applicable whether his interest is plant life, birds, insects, reptiles or rocks!

PERSONAL: The Club's best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Mr Alan Brownell, who was injured on the Maria Island trip.

MEETING

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 17th May, at 8 p.m. It will be the Easter Camp Review. Members who have slides please contact the President or Secretary before 11th May.

OUTING

Saturday, 19th May - Rocky Whelan's Cave, near the Lea Farm, on Proctors Road. Catch Dynmyrne bus to terminus, leaving Franklin Square 10.02 a.m. Leader: Mr A. Hewer.

HISTORICAL NOTE

During the past few years many people - visitors, immigrants and native Tasmanians - have said to us, "Can you recommend a good book on Tasmanian flowers?" "Alas", we have said "there is no such book generally available. Rodway's 'Tasmanian flora' and his 'Some Tasmanian Wild Flowers' have been out of print for years and are now collectors' pieces."
But now, things are different.....

BOOK REVIEW

Part 1 of 'The Students Flora of Tasmania', by Dr Winifred M. Curtis - one of our own members - is now available. There is an exceptionally complete glossary, diagram of leaf shapes, inflorescences and floral parts being included - even a scale in inches and mms! The key has been divided into lettered groups according to the primary anatomical differences in the flowers. The body of the book contains many beautifully drawn and helpful sketches, and vernacular names have been included with the description of each species. Another useful feature is that introduced species are treated equally with natives in the key and body of the book.
No field naturalist family should be without this book - it will be needed constantly for reference, no matter what your pet branch of natural history may be (fairy and mermaid fanciers please note!)....

SECRET WEAPON

Also, the more copies of Part 1 sold, the greater the encouragement to the authorities to publish Part 2 as soon as possible. The price of the book is 14/- or 21/-, according to Binding.
INVEST IN A 'FLORA'!

A LECTURE

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which should be of great interest to members will be given by Dr H.R.Lillie, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.M.I.C.E., M.B., Ch.B., at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th May, at the Royal Society's Room. Dr Bryden will be in the chair. The talk, which will be illustrated with colour films taken by Dr Lillie, is entitled "From Pack-Ice through the Wilderness", and is the story of sealing, whaling and fur trapping in Canada. Dr Lillie, a pleasant-voiced Scotsman, has had a fascinating career as civil engineer, doctor, humanitarian and conservationist and is at present engaged on making a documentary film on conservation in Australia and New Zealand.

Admission is by ticket, available from Collins Booking Office, 61 Murray Street, and the price is 4/-.

PERSONAL

Best wishes and congratulations to Miss Margaret Elliott and Mr Edward Shaw on their engagement.

During the past month the Club has suffered great loss in the death of several members and friends - Mr F. A. Peterson, Colonel C. H. Elliott (life member), Miss J. A. Fletcher, and Mr H. Walker. Our deep sympathy is extended to their relatives.

KELSEY AVES (Hon. Secretary).

MEETING

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 21st June, at 8.00 p.m. The speaker will be Dr E. R. Guiler, Senior Lecturer in Zoology at the University of Tasmania, and a past president of the Club. His subject will be "How Fish Swim". Dr Guiler's normally racy style has been still more enriched by recent South American experiences and our ears flap in anticipation.

OUTING

Owing to the recent wet weather, a decision regarding the next outing of the Club will not be made until after discussion by members at the next meeting.

OPPORTUNITY

The meeting in July will be a Members' Night. It is hoped that a number of members will volunteer to give 5 to 15 minutes talks, illustrated or not. The talk need not necessarily be entirely on natural history, but should have some bearing on it. One of the charms of a members' night is the variety of subjects and another is the great pleasure of hearing members who perhaps have never, or rarely, spoken before. Will volunteers please see either the President or Secretary as soon as possible.

EXTRACT

"Men that undertake only one district are much more likely to advance natural history knowledge than those that grasp at more than they can possibly be acquainted with: every kingdom, every province, should have its own monographer..... It is, I find, in zoology as in botany: all nature is so full, that that district produces the greatest variety which is the most examined." (Gilbert White, 1720-1793).

SHOTS

While the influence of many films shown in cinemas today is certainly not good, on the other hand there has been an evolution of a type of popular nature film which is almost beyond criticism. 'Nature's Half Acre', 'The Living Desert' and the recent Russian film on the Arctic have been as entertaining as they were instructive. 'The Vanishing Prairie' perhaps surpasses even these. Apart from the lovely scenic and habitat shots and the life stories of the fauna there is surpassing technique in editing and cutting slow and rapid motion shots to music. And even the most enthusiastic naturalist with binoculars and all could hardly see the grace of the grebe's courtship 'dance' as revealed by Disney's slow motion. The sequence of the birth and first hours of the buffalo, like almost all of the episodes, was extremely well handled. After a feast of such quality the extravaganza of the butting of bighorn rams to the accompaniment of the Anvil Chorus from 'Il Trovatore' may be permissible!

But Disney is often serious. "Nature knows neither good nor bad animals" says the commentary, "the preservation of all species is equally important."

When we compare this film with some of those of yesterday in which intrepid sportsmen with rifles often shot practically everything they saw, we may feel that the cause of conservation has materially advanced.

LOST AND FOUND

Found by Mr Fox of Arlington, after the Maria Island trip, a watch. Owner please apply to Mr Fox.

PERSONAL

Congratulations to Bob and Susanne Geeves (nee Sargison) on the birth of their son..... and to Edward and Margaret Shaw on their marriage.

MEETING

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 19th July. It will take the form of a Members' Night. It is very pleasing to report that in response to the request for volunteer speakers no less than 12 members came forward. As it would be impossible to do justice to all of these in one evening it is proposed that six members speak at this meeting and the other six at another Members' Night, probably in September.

OUTING

On Saturday, 21st July, to South Arm by private car transport, if sufficient members have sufficient passenger space. Depending on weather and tide, birds, beaches and probably some flowers will come under observation. Meet outside the "Mercury" office at 9.30 a.m.

NATURAL HISTORY EXHIBITION

The Committee has considered the matter of our own exhibition in conjunction with the concurrent Floral Festival to be held in Franklin Square. It feels that to arrange both at the same time would be straining the available time of members at the expense of one or the other project. Since the scope for presenting the State's natural history to Festival visitors is naturally much greater in the Town Hall, the Committee feels that it is best to concentrate on this and not take space in Franklin Square. It hopes, however, that if the Floral Festival becomes an annual event, as seems likely, the Club may then participate.

"THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE SPRING, TRA-LA....."

Now, and for the next few weeks, is the time to record in your nature journal the first of this and that - the first silver wattle bloom in your district, the first flowering or leafing of any of a hundred and one other plants around you - the first sight of returning migrant birds. It is also worth recording that the season around Hobart has been the wettest for years. Your subsequent notes on these subjects over the years will make interesting reading and may lead to useful conclusions. At any rate, such simple pleasures are relatively free from C.O.L., re-assessment, import restriction and wharf fatigue worries.

Kelsey Aves (HON. SECRETARY).

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10th August, 1956.

MEETING

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 16th August. The speaker will be Mr A. M. Olsen, M.Sc., and he will speak on "Some results of C.S.I.R.O. investigations on scallops."

OUTING

Negotiations are proceeding for a dredging trip on Saturday, 18th August. If we are successful in chartering a suitable boat this will be announced at the meeting on Thursday, and final arrangements made then. On several occasions during the last few years such trips have been made and have been very popular. It is hoped that Dr Guiler will direct operations.

THANK YOU

to those who provided transport for the South Arm outing last month. All comers were taken and seemed to enjoy the day. The ornithologists noted 35 species of birds while orchid hunters had a good time by the roadside near South Arm. Several species were in flower and one member collected quite a swag of orchid logs for some obscure scientific purpose. A small 'beach ball' was collected at the lunch site at Roaring Beach, reminding us of the giant specimen shown at the last meeting by Mr Swann. There is nothing new under the sun, but even wattles were new to one or two members who are recent arrivals in Australia. *Acacia stricta* was seen in flower but during September we should see almost all of our wattles in full blossom.

In Japan the flowering of the cherries is a national festival. Perhaps in Australia we should make a festival of the flowering of the wattle - a recognition of beauty as such.

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MEETING

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 20th September, at 8.00 p.m. More members will speak in the continuation of Members' Night.

OUTING

On Saturday, 22nd September. 10.00 a.m. bus from Franklin Square to terminus at Fern Tree, thence to High Peak.

FEDERATION
CAMP

Advance notice is to hand that the combined Christmas Camp of the Tasmanian Federation of Field Naturalist Societies will be held from 26th December, 1956, to 3rd January, 1957, at Liena, near Croesus Caves. Members will arrange their own catering and tents, etc.

A GOOD THING

While we do not advocate what might be termed 'bush kleptomania', we suggest that the collection and preservation of specimens for a particular purpose is a Good Thing for field naturalists. Quoting from the pamphlet "A Guide to Collecting and Preserving Plants, Shells, Seaweeds, Insects, etc." issued by the Club some years ago - "To possess a collection of natural objects, most of which have been found by the owner, is a lasting pleasure, reminding one, as it does, of happy excursions to the bush or sea shore.

If, in addition to the gathering together of interesting specimens, care is taken to label them correctly, the collection at once becomes of scientific value. In the past, amateur collectors were content to collect just for the sake of owning the objects, but today they go further, studying, classifying, and recording life histories. We wish to urge collectors to carry out this useful work as thoroughly as time will permit. Tasmania offers exceptional opportunities, so little research has been done, and many new forms await discovery".

This interesting and instructive pamphlet is available from the Librarian at meetings, or from the Secretary at 15, Elizabeth Street.

We might add that a modern method of 'collecting and preservation' is the absorbing and inoffensive one of colour photography. Apply to the President for information.

A BAD THING

Collections obviously should not extend to birds' eggs. There is absolutely no justification for taking these, and it is here that the colour film is particularly useful since the record can be kept without the nest being disturbed. A habitat shot can also be included, increasing the value of the record.

S.O.S.

The Editor of the Circular (Mr Kelsey Aves) has appealed to the Contributor (Mr Kelsey Aves) for more variety and interest in the Circular. The Contributor has suggested that this would be obtained if notes were sent in to the Editor by other Contributors (YOU!) Seriously, though, we receive most valuable help from several members in the typing of stencils, addressing and stuffing of envelopes, but would appreciate something to work on from members - observations, comments or suitable extracts.

MEETING

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 18th October, at 8.00 p.m. Mr J. Picone will speak on a trip to Mt Anne and the talk will be illustrated with the very fine colour photographs for which Mr Picone is well known.

OUTING

On Saturday, 20th October. Bus to Cascades leaving Franklin Square at 10.10 a.m. The party will go via McRobies' Gully and across the lower mountain slopes to Pottery Road. Mr Wall will lead, and the objects will be bird observation and flowers.

FESTIVAL
SHOW

The Club is holding an exhibition of Tasmania's natural history in the Mayor's Court Room on 6th and 7th December. It will be very much appreciated if members who have ideas as to unusual or interesting exhibits would communicate with the President or Secretary. As flowers will not be very prolific at this season it is desirable that other exhibits should be featured.

JUNIOR
MEMBERS
PLEASE
NOTE

For display in the Festival Show a Junior Exhibit competition has been arranged. The display should be arranged for a space of not more than 3 feet square and it should illustrate some aspect of Tasmania's natural history. A Club member has kindly offered a prize, "The Vertebrate Animals of Tasmania", by Lord & Scott. Any junior member is eligible and should inform the President or Secretary at the November meeting of his or her intention to compete.

HOME CHAT

A pied oyster catcher's nest seen at Carlton last Saturday lay at the centre of four pieces of wood which certainly made an obvious recognition mark such as Mr Sharland has suggested that beach nest-builders use. Even so the two eggs were only seen by accident.

GAD SIR!

For the second year starlings are building their nest in our roof gutter. Every time we go out into our garden they scream and snarl at us. They pay neither rent nor H.P. nor rates. Is this justice? Is it even cricket?

PERSONAL

We are glad to hear that Mr Max Banks is home again and hope that we may hear from him soon about his experiences in America.

Kelsey Aves (Hon. Secretary).

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MEETING The last general meeting of the year will be held at the Tasmanian Museum on Thursday, 15th November, at 8.00 p.m. Mr J. Davies, Senior Lecturer in Geography at the University of Tasmania, will speak on 'Seals'.

NATURAL HISTORY EXHIBITION

The assistance of all members is hoped for in the collection of flowers and other exhibits for the Festival Show on 6th and 7th December. Your collection should be brought or sent to the Town Hall on Wednesday, 5th December, from 7.00 p.m. Assistance will also be needed to set up the exhibition on that evening and a roster for a small number of attendants during each day and evening will be required.

JUNIOR COMPETITION

Junior members are reminded that they are requested to advise the President or Secretary at Thursday's meeting of their intention to compete. The space allotted is 3 ft square for each exhibit and the subject should illustrate some phase of Tasmanian natural history.

LECTURE

The W.E.A. announce that Mr A.M.Olsen will give an illustrated lecture on "The Biology of the Scallop" at the A.E.B. Rooms (next Commonwealth Bank) on Tuesday, 13th November, at 8.00 p.m. Members who missed Mr Olsen's talk to our Club recently may like to have this opportunity to hear it at the W.E.A..

FEDERATION NEW YEAR CAMP

The combined camp of the Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs of Tasmania will be held at Liena from 26th December, 1956, to 3rd January, 1957. The annual meeting of the Federation will be held at the Camp. The Federation's Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Wall, says "This Combined Camp is a new venture and we hope that it will lead to greater understanding, fellowship, and co-operation between people from varied parts of the State who have the same interests at heart, as well as proving an enjoyable holiday in itself." Members wishing to attend should see Miss Wall at the meeting on Thursday.

STOP PRESS!!!!!!!

At the last moment, the Town Hall have informed us that the Mayor's Court Room is required by the City Health Department for polio injections on the Friday of our Show. As the room has been double-booked there seems no alternative but for us to have the room on Tuesday evening for preparation and hold the Show on Wednesday and Thursday, instead of Friday - or to cancel the Show altogether. The matter will be discussed on Thursday at the meeting.

Kelsey Aves,
Hon. Secretary.

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