

Secretary's Report presented at AGM 5th. March 2020

The past year has been another busy and successful year for the club.

The second edition of Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky's 'Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi' has sold out and the club provided the funding for a new edition of Simon Grove's 'Seashells of Tasmania', which was published in December.

In 2018 the club nominated Simon Grove for the Australian Natural History Medallion organized by the Victorian Field Naturalists. The award that year went to Sarah Lloyd of the Central North Field Naturalists however this year we were delighted to hear that Simon was the winner of the medallion. To have Tasmanians win the award two years running shows the high calibre of our naturalists.

The club also nominated Kristi Ellingson and Tony Daley for the Le Souëf Award for amateur entomologists. Although they did not win there is a strong chance they will be successful in 2020. By coincidence this year's award went to Ken Harris from Victoria who was a member and past president of our club in the late 1970's.

During the year we heard from many interesting speakers, a record number of 75 members and visitors came to hear Stefan Eberhard recount his cave diving exploits. Deep sea corals, sea birds, kelp, bats and mosses were among the other topics covered by our speakers.

In February we had a weekend trip to the Big Punchbowl Reserve, followed in March by a visit to a property at Lonnavale to study the fungi and forest regeneration after bushfires. Twenty six people participated in an Easter Camp at Mole Creek in April, and in October the North East Field Naturalists hosted the Federation Weekend which was enjoyed by eight of our members.

James Wood conducted a tour of the Botanical Gardens Seed Conservation Centre while Rod Hewer demonstrated his lapidary skills and showed his extensive collection of gemstones and fossils.

Sadly one of our life members, Isa Hurburg passed away in June, not long after celebrating her 100th birthday. Isa and her husband Marcus were valuable members of the club for many years.

Recently while walking at Mortimer Bay I was pleased to see a reserve named in honour of Priscilla Park who is another of our life members.

This year we will see some changes in the make up of the committee, Kevin Bonham will step down after being president for the past six years and also continuously on the committee since 1988. Genevieve Gates, another long time committee member is taking a well-earned break, Margaret Williams and Abbey Throssell are also stepping down. We thank everyone for their work and dedication to the club.

We welcome the new president and committee and look forward to another exciting year.

Margaret Warren, Secretary

