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Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club Quarterly News.

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EASTER CAMP ACTIVITIES.

This year the Easter Camp was held at Kallista under the leadership of our President, Dr. A. N. Lewis. About twenty eight senior and junior members attended. The camp was a great success, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the rambles through the magnificent bush country, and many interesting fossil, insect and plant specimens were collected. Kallista proved a wonderful place for fungi of all kinds. About thirty different species were found, including the bright red *Polyporus pulcherrimus*, *Polystictus versicolor* growing on logs, *Lycoperdon* or "Devils Snuff Box", *Boletus*, many of which are edible, *Peziza* or "Elf Cuf" toadstool. Lichens in fruit were also gathered, some of these "Fairy Cups" are very beautifully coloured. Dr. Lewis found a few fragments of Tasmanian Trilobites and other fossils.

At the General Meeting held at the Tasmanian Museum on May 12th Dr. Lewis gave a talk on Kallista and the surrounding country illustrated with lantern slides. Specimens collected during the camp were on view and included cave-spiders, beetles, fungi, etc. Supper was served afterwards

GROUND BEETLES.

One of our members, Mr. Hewer, writes "Some ground beetles I have seen have no wings, their wing covers are fused to form a carapace to protect the soft parts of their bodies. To compensate for the lack of wings, they are able to run very fast."

The Ground Beetles belong to the family Carabidae and are very numerous in Australia and Tasmania. Many of them have specialized fore-legs for burrowing (Scaritinae, for instance), and several are beautifully coloured or sculptured. The "Bombadier" belongs to this family, and lives under stones; it is black with orange-red spots on its elytra, when disturbed it discharges a cloud of vapour with a distinct report. Many of these "ground beetles" do not live on the ground, but spend most of their time hunting under the bark of trees; the little Lebiae, shiny brown or black, often with reddish markings, are an example, also the small black beetle with orange-brown markings, which are swift runners. Some of the small bark hunting beetles of this family are thought to prey on ants. A peculiar genera of the Carabidae is Illaphanus; the minute *I. stephensi* and *I. macleayi* live under stones in association with ants, and are quite blind. Although the Carabidae are the "ground beetles", there are many others that live on the ground, amongst them the Tiger Beetles (Cicindelidae) are active runners and mostly capable of rapid flight. Their larvae make cylindrical burrows in the soil.

3.

THE WANDERER BUTTERFLY.

(*Danaida plexippus*)

This butterfly is now common in Australia and is rapidly extending its range, but as yet has not been reported in Tasmania, although it is expected to arrive sooner or later. Will members please keep a look out for it and report its arrival to the Secretary, the Biological Survey. It is a large tawny orange butterfly with black margins carrying white spots, and veins black. Underside is similar to the upper. Both male and female are much alike. This butterfly originally came from America where it is known as "The Monarch". It belongs to the genus *Danaida*. The sex mark of the male is a dull patch on the hindwing close to vein 2.

The Lesser Wanderer, *Danaida Chrysippus* Petilia, has occasionally been taken in Tasmania but it is smaller than *plexippus* and has white spots and patches on the underneath of the hind wing, also its wing veins are not marked out with black as those of *plexippus*.

MEETINGS.

The following meetings will be held during the quarter :-

Junior Meeting, July 8th 7.30. Dr. Lewis, The Geography of Tasmania (North and North East)

Senior Meeting, August 11th, 8 p.m. J.W.C. Wyett, B.Sc., Talk on Evolution.

4.

WILD FLOWER SHOW.

The Tasmanian Wild Flower Show will be held in the Town Hall, Hobart about the middle of October. Members are requested to send in collections of plants and flowers to the Hon. Secretary. Offers of help in arranging the show will be welcomed. Details will be published in our next issue.

GUIDE TO COLLECTING.

This little Guide, which has proved of great assistance to many, is obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, C/- Sargison's, Jeweller, 21 Elizabeth Street, Hobart. Price 3d.

GEOLOGY CLASS.

Dr. Lewis has offered to take a class of Junior Members in Geology. Any Junior wishing to join must let the Secretary know at the next meeting. It is no good anyone joining this class unless he is prepared to attend all lectures.

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