Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

BULLETIN

Editor: Deirdre Brown bul.editor@tasfieldnats.org.au

Quarterly Bulletin **No 362** **April 2016**

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members.

For more information, visit website **http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/**; email info@tasfieldnats.org.au; write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001; or phone our secretary on (03)62278638.

We welcome articles and interesting photos for the Bulletin. If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please email the editor with your article or photos by 15 June 2016.

Program

General Meetings start at **7.15 pm** for 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month and feature a guest speaker on natural history (no meetings or excursions in January). Meetings are held in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania.

Excursions are usually held the following Saturday or Sunday, meeting at 9.00 am outside the Museum in Macquarie St, Hobart. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear. If you are planning to attend an outing, but have not been to the prior meeting, please confirm the details on the club website as late changes are sometimes made.

Fri 25th- Mon.28th.	Easter. Possibility of an excursion. Please check website: www.tasfield nats.org.au
Thurs April 7th.	**Meeting:** Guest Speaker: Kristi Ellingsen will present 'The evolution of the Insects of Tasmania website, an unexpected journey of a citizen scientist.'
Sun April 10th.	**Excursion:** To be announced
Thurs May 5th.	**Meeting:** Guest Speaker to be announced
Sat. May 7th.	**Excursion:** To be announced
Thurs June 2nd.	**Meeting:** Guest Speaker: Gintaras Kantvilas from the Herbarium will present 'Lichens'.
Sun June 5th.	**Excursion:** To be announced
Thurs July 6th.	**Meeting: Guest Speaker to be announced**
Sat July 8th.	**Excursion to be announced**
For details of talks and excursions, please check the website at http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/	

Subscriptions – overdue NOW!

A reminder that 2016 subs were due on 1 January, and can be paid by cheque to the Club address, by Paypal (follow the links on our website http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/) or by EFT to the Club account BSB 067 102 A/c 2800 0476. Please identify your payment with your name and initial.

Family $35 Single $30 Single Junior or Concession $25

Annual General Meeting Report

Thursday 3rd March 2016

Members who attended the meeting were treated with an interesting address titled 'Extinction Rediscoveries' from the outgoing (and incoming) President Kevin Bonham.

The following office bearers and committee members were elected unopposed:

President: Kevin Bonham

Vice-President: Genevieve Gates
Secretary: Margaret Warren

Treasurer: Anna McEldowney

Naturalist Editor: Mick Brown

Bulletin Editor: Deirdre Brown

Walks and Talks: Amanda Thomson

Librarian: Annabel Carle
General Committee members:
Jane Catchpole
Abbey Throssell
Jean Rothero

Financial Report for 2015

The financial report for the TFNC was presented at the AGM held in March and shows the Club is in a strong financial position. This has resulted from book sales over the last few years with Genevieve and David's ***Tasmanian Fungi*** book returning a significant amount during 2014/15 and sales of our other books, particularly ***Butterflies of Tasmania***, ***Tasmanian Seashells*** and ***Between Tasmanian Tidelines*** making a consistent contribution to the Club income.

In 2016/17 the Club will be looking at using our funds to support other publications of interest to field naturalists.

An audit of our book stocks is underway and our thanks go to those club members who safely store our books for us.

At the end of December the Club had a membership of 125 and in 2015 we welcomed 23 new members (as single and family memberships).

We have been able to continue the high quality production of the ***Tasmanian Naturalist*** and are grateful for the financial support Mark Wapstra, our former editor, was able to attract from the Forest Practices Authority for the latest edition.

Please contact treasurer@tasfieldnats.org.au if you would like a copy of the accounts and treasurer's report.

Anna McEldowney

Easter Camp postponed until 2017

The Club had planned to visit Ben Lomond for the 2016 Easter Camp but difficulties with ski lodge operators being able to find caretakers over Easter and the numbers of our members required to make venue hire viable meant that we reluctantly cancelled the Easter Camp for this year. It was a pity as we had rather set our hearts on visiting Ben Lomond but having done the research on the accommodation we may look at making a much earlier booking for a 2017 Easter Camp.

If people are interested please let us know. An outing over Easter may be scheduled instead – watch the website for any details.

Excursion to Marion Bay

Sunday February 7th

Attendees: Amanda, Geoff, Annabel, Vicki, Sabine, John, Grahame, Kate, Fiona.

The weather was great, if not a little bit hot for my liking, when a group of Fieldnats headed out for a wander around the Marion Bay area.

We walked out to the spit alongside the saltmarsh area where we found numerous insects, spiders and a small pond, kind of a puddle which had a lot of activity. The sounds of frogs were heard, but they could not be spotted. I believe they were Pobblebonk frogs, well, that is what my memory is telling me.

Plenty to see here! Fiona at Marion Bay

Photo: Amanda Thomson

A trip with Amanda doesn't seem complete without a snake sighting, although this sighting was of a squashed one. A small white-lipped snake had obviously been run over by a 4wd along the track so had been rendered quite dead. Around its carcass were numerous beetles which had also been flattened.

When we got to the beach at the end of the trail there were quite a decent number of dead Starry Toadfish. They were scattered right along the beach, appearing to have washed up and come to rest at the high tide mark. We are still unsure as to what could have caused these deaths. A few living ones were spotted splashing around in the shallow parts. At first they seemed stuck, yet after watching them for a bit they clearly weren't, and swam off seemingly quite happy.

Puffer fish

Photo: Fiona Walsh

We had our lunch while we waited for Geoff and Annabel to catch up. Annabel was in charge of the species list, so was doing a very thorough job. Then we headed off along the beach heading back to where we began. As we neared the tip of the beach we spotted the soldier crabs. This reminded me of my childhood playing on beaches in Dunalley; thousands of little scurrying crabs racing along and occasionally drilling themselves into the sand if they felt threatened.

On Marion Bay Beach

Photo: Fiona Walsh

Slowly we ambled our way along the beach, watching the pacific gulls glide above the waves and marveling at the size of the bull kelp which had washed ashore. It's bull kelp, we know it is big, but to lift up a single holdfast you really appreciate how big this algae gets. It also makes for a nice addition to a beach landscape photo.

It was a gorgeous day wandering along the coast, spotting bright green spiders, white rush moths, biting march flies and trying to remember the difference between the Juncus and Ficinia.

White rush moth

Photo: Fiona Walsh

I love a Field Nat outing, so many different people with so much varying knowledge, opening your eyes to things you may never have noticed before.

Fiona Walsh

Green spider

Photo: Fiona Walsh

Amanda's observations

I was really pleased to find a Chequered Blue butterfly *Theclinesthes serpentata* in the dunes on the way back. It is listed as uncommon and rare in Tasmania where it is smaller and bluer and race "lavara". Its food plant is *Rhagodia candolleana*, the coastal Saltbush.

There was also a nice collection of spiders including:

Eutichuridae (Prowling spider) *Cheiracanthium mordax,*

Miturgidae *Miturga agelenina (*Railway track spider), found in large silken retreat among Juncus stems.

Salticidae Opisthoncus sp

Unknown green spider

Another ? male and female unknown spider in Juncus ? Kraussii.

Miturga agelenina in juncus stems

Photo: Amanda Thomson

Plant list: Annabel Carle

TFNC Marion Bay 7 Feb 2016 – PLANT OBSERVATIONS (there were many more we did/could not name!)	
Plant family-species name	**Common name**
Ferns	
Pteridium esculentum	Bracken
Monocotyledons	
Asparagaceae – Lomandra longifolia	Saggs
Cyperaceae – Ficinia nodosa	Nobby Club-sedge
Cyperaceae – Lepidosperma concavum	Sandhill Sword-sedge
Cyperaceae – Lepidosperma gladiatum	Coast Sword-sedge
Juncaceae – Juncus kraussii ssp. australiensis	Sea Rush
Juncaceae – Juncus pallidus	Pale Rush
Poaceae – *Ammophila arenaria	Marram Grass (on beach)
Poaceae – Distichilis distichophylla	Australian Saltgrass
Poaceae – Poa poiformis var. poiformis	Coast Tussockgrass
Restionaceae – Leptocarpus tenax	Slender Twine-rush
Dicotyledons	
Aizoacaea – Carpobrotus rossii	Native Pigface
Aizoaceae –Tetragonia implexicoma	Bower Spinach
Amaranthaceae – Hemichroa pentandra	Trailing Saltstar
Apiaceae – Centella cordifolia	Swampwort
Asteraceae – Cassinia aculeata	Dollybush
Asteraceae – *Cirsium vulgare	Perennial or Californian Thistle
Campanulaceae – Lobelia anceps	Angled Lobelia
Caryophyllaceae – Scleranthus biflorus	Twinflower Knawel
Chenopodiaceae – Rhagodia candolleana ssp. candolleana	Seaberry Saltbush (on beach)
Chenopodiaceae – Sarcocornia blackiana	Thick-head Glasswort
Ericaceae – Leucopogon parviflorus	Coast Beardheath (on beach and track)
Fabaceae – Acacia longifolia ssp. sophorae	Coast Wattle
Fabacaeae – Acacia suaveolens	Sweet Wattle
Fabaceae - *Lupinus arboreus	Tree Lupin
Gentianaceae - *Centaury sp. ?erythraea (basal leaves present at flowering)	Common Centuary
Geraniaceae – Geranium potentilloides ssp.?	Soft Crane's-bill?
Malvaceae – Lawrencia spicata	Candle Saltmallow
Myrtaceae – Eucalyptus ovata possibly	Black Gum, Swamp Gum
Myrtaceae – Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. viminalis	White Gum
Onagraceae – Epilobium billardiereanum ssp. billardiereanum	Robust Willowherb
Oxalidaceae – *Oxalis corniculatus	Creeping Wood-sorrel
Pittosporaceae – Bursaria spinose	Sweet Bursaria
Polygonaceae – *Acetosella vulgaris	Sheep Sorrel
Primulaceae -*Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
Primulaceae – Samolus repens	Creeping Brookweed
Rosaceae – *Acaena nova-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee/Buzzies
Rosaceae - *Rubus fructicosus ssp. agg.	Blackberry
Rutaceae – Correa alba	White Correa (on beach)
Santalaceae – Exocarpos cupressiformis	Cherry Ballart

Excursion to Waterfall Bay/Clemes Peak

March 5th 2016

Attendees: Don, Gen, David, Amanda, Kevin, Abbey and Anna.

Clemes Peak is at an altitude of about 407m above sea level within the Tasman National Park in southeast Tasmania. We had no special reason for visiting the peak other than it was an area that Kevin wanted to explore for snails and although the Club has walked from the Waterfall Bay carpark to the Camp Falls picnic area and Waterfall Bluff several times in the past two decades this was the first time that we could remember that the Club had climbed the peak.

Amanda taking photographs on the track

Photo: Genevieve Gates

We set off on an almost cloudless day with no wind and a very warm autumnal sun. Given the dry conditions around Hobart, I had no great fungal expectations and I thought the huge *Amanita* pushing its way out of the dry soil and litter in the carpark was going to be the only species on the fungal list, but we had only gone two metres when I found a very beautiful group of 3 *Austroboletus* specimens and a *Phylloporus* 'brown velvet' with its velvety brown cap and bright yellow gills nibbled by something which Kevin confessed was probably one of his snails.

View from the peak

Photo: Genevieve Gates

The group soon divided into the forward scouts who were keen to actually reach Clemes Peak, and the rest who were waylaid by the many species of fungi needing photographing.

We regrouped at the bridge before the serious part of the walk began. Yes, it was relentlessly uphill but the track is well made and goes through beautiful wet sclerophyll forest alongside a creek for a fair while so with the frequent stops to take photos of fungi we didn't really notice the steepness which wasn't that terrible anyway.

There were a few leeches around so when it is wet there would be a lot! We were very taken with the large diameter eucalyptus trees on the forest floor (coarse woody debris) and there were some quite tall standing live ones.

Nothofagus cunninghamii started appearing along the track about half way up and then Kevin came back to tell me and Amanda where to turn off otherwise we could have ended up at Tatnells Hill.

The view from the peak is spectacular especially on a day like the Saturday we did this trip, and as the climb takes one through such beautiful forest it is certainly 'vale la pena'(worth the pain).

Boletellus cf. occidentalis

Photo: Genevieve Gates

List of fungi (Genevieve)

Agaricus sp.
Amanita luteolovelata
Amanita ochrophylloides group
Amauroderma rude
Armillaria novae-zelandiae
Aurantiporus pulcherrimus
Austroboletus occidentalis sensu Bougher & Syme
Austropaxillus muelleri
Bolete 'Stephen'
Bolete 'sunburst'
Boletellus obscurecoccineus
Cantharellus concinnus
Clitocybula 'streaky yellow'
Coltricia australica
Cortinarius '*Telemonia*'
Cortinarius 'very large brown'
Cortinarius archeri
Descolea recedens
Discinella terrestris
Entoloma austroprunicolor
Entoloma melanophthalmum
Inocybe 'blondie'
Lactarius clarkeae
Lycoperdon perlatum
Phellinus 'resupinate'
Phellinus wahlbergii
Phellodon niger
Phylloporus 'brown velvet'
Phylloporus rhodoxanthus
Polyporus melanopus
Pulveroboletus ravenelii
Ramaria anziana
Russula 'red-yellow'
Russula marangania
Simocybe phlebophora
Stropharia formosa
Sutorius australiensis
Trogia aff. *straminea*
Tylopilus brunneus
Xerocomus aff. *Subtomentosus*

Bird list

Silvereye
Grey shrike-thrush

Some interesting plant notes

Cyathodes platystoma, which looks like a larger version of *Cyathodes glauca* and was only described as distinct from *Cyathodes glauca* in 1996.

A scrubby plant with what looked like reduced *Pomaderris* leaves turned out to be *Spyridium obovatum* possibly var. *obovatum* and the other one Anna found was probably var. *velutinum*. Nothing was flowering and identification is difficult without flowers.

Genevieve Gates

Kevin and Abbey examine the undergrowth for interesting specimens

Photo: Genevieve Gates

Snail results from Clemes Peak excursion

All up Abbey and I found 15 species of snails between us on this trip. There was one new record for the Peninsula in the unusual habitat close to the top of Clemes Peak.

The other highlight was finding three juvenile/subadult specimens of the rare *Allocharopa* sp. 'MacGregor' on the Clemes Peak track. This species is endemic to the Peninsulas and the specimens found here show that juveniles have an open umbilicus, which closes as the shell matures.

Caryodes dufresnii,
*Bothriembryon tasmanicus**
Helicarion cf *cuvieri*
Tasmaphena sinclairi
Prolesophanta nelsonensis
Paralaoma discors
*Paralaoma halli**
Paralaoma sp '*Knocklofty*'*
*Planilaoma luckmanii**#,
Allocharopa sp. 'MacGregor'
Pernagera sp 'Waterfall'
*Pernagera tasmaniae**
Thryasona marchianae
Thryasona diemenensis
Roblinella curacoae

#=new record for Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas.

* new record for Tatnells Hill area.

Kevin Bonham

Federation Weekend meeting at Gowrie Park

11-14th March 2016

This year's Federation Weekend meeting of the members of the Tasmanian Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs was hosted by the Launceston Field Naturalist Club. We were based at Gowrie Park with field trips to Dove Lake, Cradle Mt on the Saturday and Lemonthyme Lodge on Sunday. David and I were the only representatives from the TFNC. We had a leisurely drive to Gowrie Park on the Friday stopping off at the Kimberley Warm Springs Reserve to see what they were all about. It is a picnic reserve with a clean toilet and an undercover BBQ and if someone removed the pondweed and bulrushes from the constructed pond it would be a very pretty little reserve.

A very familiar view-Cradle Mt

Photo: Genevieve Gates

A small group of 13 gathered at Gowrie Park on the Friday night; maybe the low number of participants was due to the meeting being held on a long weekend which meant that people had 'better offers' like chess championships or bushwalking to take up. However, we had an unexpected talk from Dr Erika Cox, a medical doctor who had a career as a microbiologist and now in retirement is pursuing her interest in *Rickettsia* species on Tasmanian ticks.

Rickettsia is an organism that phylogenetically sits between a bacterium and a virus. It is an obligate parasite and there are three closely related species known to date that live on ticks and cause 'Lyme Disease'. It is a complicated issue as people may have individual allergic reactions to tick bites, or the tick itself

may have a venom. Therefore, separating the effects of a tick bite is difficult especially as symptoms of 'Lyme Disease' may take a while to appear. Erika's research is looking at ticks in Tasmania to see if they carry *Rickettsia* species and if so, what these species are.

Saturday was a perfect day to visit Cradle Mt National Park and do the Lake Dove circuit. We arrived back at Gowrie Park late in the afternoon just in time to welcome the guest speaker for Saturday night, Dr Bob 'Spider' Mesibov. As his nickname implies Bob was interested in spiders but now his overwhelming passion is millipedes.

Milipedes
Photo: Genevieve Gates

Bob's talk, entitled 'Taxonomy ain't what it used to be' was an insight into publishing new species online and the way in which digital photography has speeded up the process. For example, he can view a whole drawer of millipede specimens from a museum in another country while sitting at his computer in Tasmania.

The need to examine type specimens has also been abolished with the advent of using medical imaging techniques such as CT scans on specimens and sending digital images of organs needed for identification purposes (usually the gonads in millipedes) to the investigator.

Bob Mesibov talking to the crowd
Photo: Genevieve Gates

We were fortunate to have Bob with us for the field trip to Lemonthyme Lodge on Sunday. We found 4 of the 5 native millipede species common to the area which had some very complicated scientific names; one common name sticks in my head – Stinky Pinky, although on the day it only lived up to the Pinky part of its name. The fungi did not disappoint in this very wet lush rainforest area and in fact I found a new *Entoloma* species which was cause for excitement. After this heady millipede- and fungi-finding walk we had afternoon high tea at the Lodge and I also did some business with the staff of the Lodge over the newly published FungiFlip.

On Monday, David and I returned to Hobart but the others visited the Mole Creek caves.

It was a wonderful weekend and a pity that more people couldn't take advantage of the opportunity to explore this part of Tasmania with fellow naturalists. Our own TFNC is hosting the next Federation Weekend in 2017 and I hope with careful planning and plenty of advance advertising we can get more people attending. There was talk of these meetings being held every two years but it would be a pity as they have already gone from two per year to one.

Fungi List:

Agaricus 'white, shaggy, 10cm across'
Armillaria novae-zelandiae
Aurantiporus pulcherrimus (Dove Lake)
Calocera guepinioides
Chlorociboria aeruginascens
Entoloma sp. 1 (sp. nov.)
Entoloma sp. 2
Entoloma sp. 3
Flammulina velutipes
Ganoderma australe
Gymnopilus junonius
Gymnopus aff. *dryophilus*
Hygrocybe schistophila (Dove Lake)
Lepiota 'creamy yellow with brown scales'
Lepiota fuliginosa
Lepiota haemorrhagica
Leucoagaricus aff. *rubrotinctus*
Leucocoprinus sp.
Limacella pitereka
Mollisia cinerea
Mycena 'brown cap, slender stipe, bleach odour, on soil'
Mycena 'white with decurrent gills'
Mycena austrofilopes
Mycena mulawaestris
Mycena subgalericulata

Mycena viscidocruenta

Oudemansiella gigaspora

Rigidoporus laetus

Millipede list:

Gasterogramma psi (Stinky pinky) http://www.polydesmida.info/tasmanianmultipedes /milli-pod-gas.html

Lissodesmus perporosus:

http://www.polydesmida.info/tasmanianmultipedes/milli-pod-lis.html

Paredrodesmus taurulus:

http://www.polydesmida.info/tasmanianmultipedes/milli-pod-not-par-pro.html#pared

Large black species (abundant)

Amastigogonus sp., no map yet:

http://www.polydesmida.info/tasmanianmultipedes/milli-jul-nat.html

Genevieve Gates

Snails in the mail

Kevin Bonham

On 11 March I was contacted by Tasmanian Biosecurity to confirm that a snail caught in an incoming Australia Post package was, as they suspected, a 'giant panda snail' (*Hedleyella falconeri*). The interception was reported by ABC News later that day.

This species lives in the wet forests of southern Qld and northern NSW, and looks like an enormous garden snail. It is Australia's largest native land snail, with a shell 9 cm wide. Its size makes it attractive to the exotic pet trade, and although as a species it isn't threatened, it is nonetheless a banned import into Tasmania unless the importer has a permit. Only a small number of large mainland snail species, generally those known to be sold as pets, are on the banned list.

Why 'panda'? The species was originally placed in a genus that was for whatever reason called Panda, though it was later discovered that that name was taken. Hence the change to *Hedleyella*, after the great malacologist Charles Hedley, (whose other useful contributions included adopting my grandmother.)

It's not known whether *Hedleyella* would survive and become a pest in Tasmania if released, but it's not safe to assume it wouldn't. There have been many cases of mainland Australian snails becoming established in parts of Australia way outside their natural range. In any case a large snail could be carrying parasites that could be a problem for local snails and other fauna.

Although the snail's capture and impending demise have led to unkind suggestions Australia Post should use it as a mascot for their service, this is one of many species best kept out unless the person bringing it in knows what they're doing.

Kevin Bonham

Panda snail, courtesy of Australian Museum via Google

Insects of Tasmania at our April meeting…

Don't miss our April meeting when one of our own members, Kristi Ellingsen, will give a presentation entitled

The evolution of the Insects of Tasmania website, an unexpected journey of a citizen scientist

Metallic shield bug

Braconid wasp

Red ant

Photos: Kristi Ellingsen