



Bulletin

Editor: Deirdre Brown

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Program

Thursday 6th. April - Meeting

Guest speaker: Els Wakefield "A glimpse into the unique natural history and people of Madagascar."

Easter Camp at Ben Lomond - 14-16 April

There will be no separate excursion for April as there will be an Easter Camp.

Thursday 4th May - Meeting

Guest speaker: Mick Brown "Some conservation issues for birds".

Saturday 6th. or Sunday 7th. May - Excursion

Possibly Alum Cliffs track starting from Kingston Beach. Excursion day decision will be made at May meeting, or see our website closer to the date.

Thursday 1st. June - Meeting

Guest speaker: Peter Last "A new global compendium of the world's rays".

Saturday 3rd or Sunday 4th. June - Excursion

Date and place to be decided at June meeting, or see our website for information closer to the date.

Thursday 6th. July - Meeting

Guest speaker: To be announced.

Rheban Spit

Excursion Sunday 5th. February

Attendees: Kevin, Abbey, Amanda, Simon, Luna, Geoff, Annabel, Ainslie, Ashley, Mick, Bob, Sue, Genevieve, David, Lynne Maher and our visitor Suha.

Rheban Beach is about 20 km east of Orford. "It is a curving, then convex 3.5 km long sandy beach. It commences at the base of the gently sloping farmland adjacent to Rheban farm and trends to the southeast, before curving round at Sandspit Point and trending south to terminate at the dynamic mouth of Earlham Lagoon. Sand has been moving onto and along the beach for several thousand years slowly building out the barrier-spit system, which is largely in a natural state. The beach receives lower refracted waves, which maintain a reflective to low tide terrace system, with rips usually absent. It is backed by the foredune ridges, which widen from 300 m in the north to 700 m at the point, then the shallow lagoon. There is public access at the northern end of the beach adjacent to the farm" (beachsafe.org.au/beach/tas/glamorgan-spring-bay/rheban/rheban-beach).



On Rheban beach
Photographer: Genevieve Gates

It was an idyllic day for a beach excursion, fortunately overcast, as when the sun did come out it was unbearably hot, so armed with cameras, insect nets and insect repellent (which was a bit odd as we wanted to find insects not repel them), and the guide 'Seashells of Tasmania' we took off. We soon broke up into the slow, slower and slowest mini groups.

There was an abundance of shells to investigate at three levels: those newly deposited at the wave front, those higher up the beach deposited from the high tide and those highest up the beach from some very high tides and which, although more weathered and

bleached than the fresher specimens, nevertheless had a beauty of their own. In a previous life I was a shell collector and they soon worked the old magic even if a certain shell expert present later described them on Facebook as 'Just the common stuff really as far as shells go'.



'Greek amphora'
Photographer: Genevieve Gates

I marvelled at the ancient Greek amphora helmets half buried in the sand, the carved Indian talismans of oyster shells, the spindle remains of the whelks, the internal spiral staircases exposed in perfect bisection, a blue mussel with lilac trimming resembling a giant winged insect, whelks wearing designer barnacle studs, chunky volutes in changing patterns and colours depending on the degree of weathering, delicate, fragile cockles often with a perfectly round hole where they had been perforated by some predatory whelk that sucked out the living organism, flat fans of scallops, long thin Chinese fingernails, shells growing on other shells forming weird and wonderful sculptures, glistening mother of pearl turbans, flat white angel's wings, shells dotted in code. They may have been 'run of the mill' species but what tales they could tell.

Dragging my eyes from the sand I saw a very impressive example of beach coarse woody debris. A very large pine tree growing right on the edge of high tide mark had been uprooted in some recent high winds or storm and it is surprising it had attained such a size and survived other storms given its very shallow

root system which was now exposed.

A female inflorescence of *Spinifex sericeus*, commonly known as hairy spinifex, rolling spinifex, beach spinifex or coastal spinifex, a dioecious perennial grass native to Australia and New Zealand danced along in the breeze. This important pioneer species colonises coastal dunes, binding loose sand with its horizontal runners.



Rheban Beach
Photographer: Amanda Thomson

By about midday the little groups had turned into a straggle of persons heading for the lagoon end of the beach which was also the lunch spot. The lagoon, not surprising, was bone dry but Annabel was determined to find something growing there.

The insect pursuers had a remarkably successful day, the birdos were rewarded with some breathtaking shots; there would have been fungi present associated with the grasses and pine tree but not obvious at our level of observation. Kevin even found some land snails.

Genevieve Gates

Snail list (Kevin Bonham)

Scelidoropa officeri
Laomavix collisi
Magilaoma sp. "Tasmania"
Paralaoma cf. hobarti.

All native.



Rheban storm damage
Photographer: Mick Brown

Plant list (Annabel Carle)

FERNS

Pteridium esculentum Bracken

CONIFERS

**Pinus radiata*, Radiata Pine

MONOCOTYLEDONS

ASPARAGACEAE

Lomandra longifolia, Saggs

CYPERACEAE

Ficinia nodos, Knobby Club-sedge

Isolepis platycarpa, Flat-fruit Club-sedge (in swale behind the dune)

Schoenus apogon, Common Bog-rush (in swale behind the dune)

JUNACEAE

Juncus kraussii ssp. Australiensis, Sea Rush

Juncus pallidus, Pale Rush

POACEAE

Ammophila Arenaria, Marram Grass

Distichlis distichophylla, Emu or Australian Salt-grass

**Lagurus ovatus*, Hares Tail-grass

Poa billardieriei, Coast Fescue

Poa poiiformis, Coast Tussock-grass

DICOTYLEDONS

AIZOACEAE

Carpobrotus rossii, Pigface

Tetragonia implexicoma, Bower Spinach

ASTERACEAE

**Cirsium sp. (Basal rosette)*, Spear Thistle

**Hypochaeris radicata*, Rough Cat's ear

**Sonchus oleraceus*, Common Sow-thistle

BRASSICACEAE

**Cakile maritima*, Sea Rocket

Campanulaceae

Lobelia anceps, Angled Lobelia (in swale behind the dunes)

Wahlenbergia gymnoclada, Naked Bluebell

CHENOPODIACEAE

Atriplex prostrata, Hastate Orache

Einadia nutans, Climbing or Nodding Saltbush

Rhagodia candolleana ssp candolleana, Seaberry Saltbush

ERICACEAE

Leucopogon parviflorus, Coast Beardheath

Monotoca glauca, Goldy wood

FABACEAE

Acacia longifolia ssp. sophorae, Coast Wattle

GENTIANACEAE

**Centaurium erythraea*, Common Centaury

MYRTACEAE

Eucalyptus viminalis ssp viminalis, White Gum, Manna Gum

Leptospermum sp., Tea tree

PLANTAGINACEAE

**Plantago Coronopus*, Buck's horn Plantain

PRIMULACEAE

Samolus repens ssp. Repens, Creeping Brookweed
(in swale behind the dune)

PROTEACEAE

Banksia marginata, Silver Banksia – with signs
of salt necrosis where exposed at the top of the
beach.



Winged ant of genus *Amblyopone*
Photographer: Amanda Thomson

Arthropods observed

(Simon Grove and Amanda Thomson)

COLEOPTERA

Buprestidae Cyriodes imperialis Banksia jewel-beetle
Cerambycidae Phoracantha species Longhorn
beetle

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Galerucinae Blue flea-beetle

COCCINELLIDAE

Hippodamia variegata Variegated ladybird
Oedemeridae Copidita maritima Seashore
oedmerid beetle
Scarabaeidae Acrossidius tasmaniae Black-headed
pasture-scarab
Scarabaeidae Pimelopus porcellus Scarab beetle
Scarabaeidae Telura vitticollis Scarab beetle
Staphylinidae Rove-beetles
Tenebrionidae Ecnolagria rufescens Honey-brown
beetle

DIPTERA

Platystomatidae Rivellia sp Fly
Poecilohetaerus sp. Lauxanid fly
Sarcophagidae Promiltogramma sp Miltogram-
mine parasitoid fly
Syrphidae Eristalis tenax Dronefly
Syrphidae Melangyna collina Hoverfly
Tabanidae Dasybasis vetusta Dune marchfly
Therevidae Stiletto-fly
Tipulidae Leptotarsus costalis (Crane Fly, its re-
mains, being eaten by isopods on the beach)

HEMIPTERA

Cicadellidae Ledromorpha planirostris Under-bark
hopper
Coreidae Agriopocoris species Leather-bug
Lygaeidae Nyssius sp Seed-bug
Pentatomidae Anaxilaus vesiculosus Plantain stink-
bug
Pentatomidae Tinganina dimorpha Stink-bug

HYMENOPTERA

Apidae Apis mellifera Honeybee
Apidae Bombus terrestris European bumblebee
Crabronidae Bembix furcata Digger-wasp
Formicidae Amblyopone australis Ant
Ichneumonidae Ichneumon promissorius Parasit-
oid wasp
Mutillidae Ephutomorpha subcristata Velvet-ant
Pompilidae Turneromyia sp Spider-hunting wasp
Sphecidae Podalonia tydei Sand-wasp

LEPIDOPTERA

Arctiidae Asura cervicalis Spotted lichen-moth
Hesperiidae Taractrocera papyria White-banded
grass-dart
Lycaenidae Theclinesstes serpentata Saltbush blue
butterfly
Nymphalidae Vanessa kershawi Painted lady
butterfly
Pieridae Pieris rapae Cabbage white butterfly

ORTHOPTERA

Trigonidiidae Bobilla sp Coastal pygmy-cricket

SPIDERS

Araneidae Cyclosa sp perhaps trilobata Lobed
orb-weaving spider
Araneidae Eriophora pustulosa Orb-weaving
spider
Salticidae Helpis minitabunda Jumping-spider
Araneidae: Plebs bradleyi Enamelled spider
Salticidae: 2 different Opisthoncus sp.



Hooded plovers
Photographer: Mick Brown

Bird list (Mick Brown and Amanda Thomson)

Australian pelican
Black swan
Black-faced cormorant
Brown falcon
Caspian tern
Crested tern
Dusky woodswallow
Eurasian skylark
Forest raven
Great cormorant
Green rosella
Hooded plover
Kelp gull
Laughing kookaburra
Little wattlebird
New Holland honeyeater
Noisy miner
Pacific gull
Pied oystercatcher
Red-capped plover
Silver gull
Sooty oystercatcher
Superb fairy-wren
Welcome swallow
White-bellied sea-eagle
White-faced heron
Yellow-tailed black cockatoo



Yellow-tailed black cockatoo
Photograph: Mick Brown

Sandfly Oval to North-west Bay River Excursion Saturday 4th. March

Attendees: Erica and Chris, Ainsley and Ashley, Amanda, Mick and Deirdre, Genevieve, David, Sabine and John, Bob and Sue, Hani and Suha, Jean, Mike, Jane, Don, Kevin and Abbey, Anna.

We met at Sandfly oval at 9.30 under a cloudless blue sky and in warm weather.

The walk begins with a pleasant level path through woodland with an overstorey of *Eucalyptus ovata*, *E. viminalis*, *E. obliqua* and *E. amygdalina* and heathy understorey.

We were accompanied by the strident calls of yellow-throated honeyeaters for most of the way, although these small birds were not spotted until later in the walk. About 500 m along the track we came to an old field site which appeared to have been rehabilitated with plantings of native species. We speculated that this may have been the work of a land care group, possibly up to 20 years ago, but resisted the suggestion to carry out an 'archaeological' investigation to see if there were remnants of tree guards and stakes around the trunks.

The bush was very dry and some shrubs, in particular the *Bedfordias*, were displaying wilted leaves.

The path began a gentle slope towards the NW Bay river, and the ground became slightly less dry. Mike heard the faint 'tinkling' of a cricket serenade and whipped out his net and specimen jars and fell to his knees in a grassy area (an old and overgrown paddock). He caught 2 specimens, a male and female cricket of the *Bobilla* genus, later identified as *Bobilla tasmani*, and a wingless grasshopper *Phaulacridium vittatum*.



North-west Bay River
Photographer: Ainsley Cooper

The group reached the flood plain of the North West Bay river, scattered with water worn stones and many introduced invasive species of plants. Here also it appeared that a Landcare group may have been at work in the past, with the even spacing of trees giving away their planted origins.

The rocky shores of the NW Bay river made a pleasant

place to enjoy morning tea, and we watched small fish (galaxids?) swimming in the shallows. While some of us drank coffee and ate an excellent apple cake (made by Amanda) Abbey swung her net in search of moths, and Kevin carefully turned stones and debris in search of snails.



Tracking moths
Photographer: Ainsley Cooper

On the return journey some of the party was rewarded with the sight of a pair of Beautiful firetails and their nest, well concealed in a Hakea shrub.



Yellow-throated honey-eater
Photographer: Ainsley Cooper

Ainsley also spotted a pair of Satin flycatchers.

Eventually we all ambled back to the cars, which were parked beside the Sandfly oval, and headed home for lunch.

This walk is a pleasant short walk (less than 30 minutes to the NW Bay river for ordinary walkers) along a mostly level path, through dry woodland, and the river banks make a nice picnic spot and would be a suitable place for children to paddle and play.

Deirdre Brown

Plant list (Mick Brown)

Acacia genistifolia
Acacia melanoxylon
Acacia verticillata
Acaena novo-hollandiae
Acrotriche serrulata
*Anagallis arvensis (Scarlet pimpernel)**
Astroloma humifusum
Banksia marginata
Bedfordia salicina
Callistemon pallidus
Carex appressa
Cassinia aculeata
Cassytha pubescens
*Chamaecytisus palmensis (Tree lucerne)**
Coprosma quadrifida
Correa reflexa
*Cotoneaster sp.**
*Crocasmia sp.**
*Cytisus scoparius (broom)**
Danthonia sp.
Daviesia ulicifolia
Dianella tasmanica
Dillwynia glaberrima
Diplarrena moraea
Dodonaea viscosa
Epacris impressa
Epacris virgata ('Kettering')
Eucalyptus amygdalina
Eucalyptus obliqua
Eucalyptus ovata
Eucalyptus viminalis
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Exocarpos strictus
Gahnia grandis
Gonocarpus teucrioides
Hakea nodosa
Juncus pallidus
Juncus sp.
Lepidosperma sp.
Lepidosperma elatius
Lepidosperma lateralis
Leptospermum lanigerum
Leptospermum scoparium
Lomandra longifolia
Lomatia tinctoria
Melaleuca squarrosa
Notelaea ligustrina
Olearia ericoides
Olearia viscosa
Pimelea nivea
*Plantago lanceolata**
Poa labillardierei
Pomaderris apetala

*Prunella vulgaris**
Pteridium esculentum
Pultenaea juniperina
Rubus fruticosus (blackberry)*
Sebaea ovata
Senecio linearifolius
Viola hederacea

*introduced species

Bird list (Mick Brown)

Green rosella
Yellow-throated honeyeater
Silvereye
Yellow wattlebird
Brown thornbill
Grey fantail
Superb fairy-wren
Strong-billed honeyeater
Striated pardalote
Grey currawong
Beautiful firetail
Satin flycatcher
Forest raven
New Holland honeyeater



A reflective moment by the river
Photographer: Erica Shankley

Snails (Kevin Bonham)

Caryodes dufresnii
Planilaoma sitiens
Allocharopa sp "Wellington",
Paralaoma sp "Knocklofty" (probable – odd looking specimen)
**Oxychilus cellarius*
**Lehmanna nyctelia* (slug)
**Deroceras reticulatum* (slug)

*Exotic species

Insects (Mike Driessen)

Bobilla tasmani
Phaulacridium vittatum

Miena Jewel Beetle Excursions 2017

Two unofficial club trips to look for Miena Jewel Beetles (*Castiarina insculpta*) were undertaken on 15 Jan and 8 Feb, each trip attracting about seven takers. On the first the season was just getting started but two MJBs were found at Liawenee junction and another at a very pretty moorland site near Lake Augusta. On the second trip another two MJBs as well as a small *Castiarina* that was probably an unusually coloured *C. virginea* were found at Liawenee junction despite strong wind. Unfortunately after that drizzle came in and further jewel beetle sorting was unproductive. It has apparently been another good season for the beetle and Karen Richards and Chris Spencer have achieved some notable range extensions for it.

Other highlights of the trips included a close encounter with a large eagle, moths at the Lake Augusta plain site and three adult specimens of the "Lake Augusta carpark snail", a small high-altitude Central Plateau species in the family *Punctidae*. Only five previous specimens were known although it is possible I saw others in the same area before I realised the species was distinct.

Thanks again to Don Hird for his help in organising these trips, including the one he couldn't go on!

Kevin Bonham

Library Corner

The TFNC Library book catalogue has been updated and includes our recent acquisitions. It can be found on our website at

<http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/library/>

Book Accessions since January 2017

Over the years past member Marjorie Wall cut out "Peregrine's" articles (aka Michael Sharland - past TFNC President) from "The Mercury". After her death TFNC inherited the bag of these cuttings and three empty scrap books. We are very grateful to Fiona Walsh and daughter Erika who sorted these cuttings into chronological order as far as possible and then pasted them into the albums. These three volumes have now been accessioned into our library and

are available for loan. As a member recently wrote [they are] "a great resource." These volumes record a fascinating social history of changing attitudes over the years.

"Peregrine" newspaper cuttings as published in "The Mercury"

Vol 1: 20/5/1922-4/3/1958

Vol 2: 28/11/1961 to 28/2/1987

Vol 3: undated cuttings

What books should we buy?

We welcome recommendations of books which should be purchased for our Library.

Borrowing books

Whenever possible the Library cupboard will be open for book loans/returns by 7.15pm before each monthly meeting.

New books acquired for the Library since the last meeting will also be displayed.

An email to librarian@tasfieldnats.org.au will ensure any books you wish to borrow are ready and waiting for you.

Book returns

Please remember books are available for loan for two months. Please return any outstanding books to the next meeting, so others can read them too!

Book sales

The books that TFNC has for sale can be found on our website at <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/bookshop/>

Annabel Carle, TFNC Librarian

World's greatest shave

Well known TFN members Simon Grove and Don Hird have selflessly given up their locks and facial hair once again to benefit the Leukaemia Foundation.

Although they lost those curls and beards a week or so ago now, it is not too late to donate to this worthy cause. You won't have to lose hair, just donate some money to the campaign.

For more information and how to donate see:

<http://worldsgreatestshave.com>

Easter Camp, 14-16 April

If you have booked to attend Easter Camp at Rover Lodge at Ben Lomond, here is some information provided by the management about facilities.

'All beds are bunk style. When one single is mentioned, this means a trundle bed on the floor. All rooms have an en suite, and the hostel provides bottom sheets, pillows and pillow slips. Guests are expected to bring their own sleeping bags and towels.

The standard rooms have two double beds bunk style, and a single pull-out trundle and would be suitable for a couple who want their own room.'

See Rover Lodge website here:

<http://roverskiclub.com/>

Club T-Shirts

Last year club t-shirts were ordered, in a range of colours and sporting the club platypus logo.

Stocks are now nearly exhausted, and it will be possible to order another batch if there is sufficient interest.

Please send an expression of interest if you think you may like to purchase a club t-shirt to:

treasurer@tasfieldnats.org.au

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Inc.

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

This Bulletin is published quarterly. The deadline for the August Bulletin is July 13th, 2017.

Articles, photographs and items of interest are always welcome. Please email them to: tfn.bulletin.editor@gmail.com

or post to The Bulletin Editor, Deirdre Brown, 211 Channel Highway, Taroona, Tas, 7053

Annual Subscriptions

Family: \$35 Single:\$30 Single Junior or concession: \$25

Subscriptions are due at the start of each calendar year and can be paid by cheque to the club address, by PayPal (follow the links on our website) or by EFT to the Club account:

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