



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

BULLETIN

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Quarterly Bulletin

No 361

January 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 11 March 2016.

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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.

Thurs Feb.4th.	Meeting: Guest Speaker: James Wood (RTBG) presents 'Tough Nuts to Crack' about his germination work and difficult plant families.
Sun 7th Feb.	Excursion: To be announced
Mon Feb 22	Deadline for nominations for elections at AGM (see Page 7 for nomination form)
Thurs March. 3rd.	AGM and President's Address
Sat. March.5th.	Excursion: To be announced
March 11-14	Federation Weekend 2016 , Gowrie Park. See draft program page 6-7
March 25-28	Easter Camp , possibly to West Coast but to be decided
Thurs April 7th.	Meeting: Guest Speaker to be announced
Thurs May 5th.	Meeting: Guest Speaker to be announced
Thurs June 2nd.	Meeting: Guest Speaker: Gintaras Kantvilas from the Herbarium will present 'Lichens'.

For details of talks and excursions, please check the website at <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>

Subscriptions

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

Excursion to The Thumbs, East Coast

8 November 2015

Attendees: Ruwanga visiting from Srilanka, Genevieve Gates, David Ratkowsky, Kevin Bonham, Don Hurd, David Hanlon, Amanda Thomson, Mick Brown, Deirdre Brown, Kay Wilson, Fiona Walsh.

We met at the carpark on the Thumbs track road at about 10.30am. The day was beautifully sunny and warm, and flowering shrubs and singing birds were immediately obvious before we had even parked on the roadside.



The excursion group

Photo: Amanda Thomson

We walked up the hillside track through dry sclerophyll admiring the colour variations on *Cyathodes glauca* berries ranging from pale pink right through to deep purple.



Cyathodes glauca

Photo: Amanda Thomson

The group soon became strung out along the track as members stopped to photograph flowers, including some orchids, and to marvel at the truly prodigious number of skinks sunbaking on logs and stones. Three species were seen at various places through the day. Some members also had to stop to remove leeches – those large black ones that inhabit drier forests. Mick and Fiona enjoyed brushing up on their botany, although Mick lamented that he is a 20th century botanist and that many names have changed in the last few years.

We took the wet gully loop on the track and the party became even more spaced along the track as some

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club

stopped to try to photograph a flock of about 12 strong-billed-honey eaters feeding in the wet sclerophyll.

We veered off to the left to take the forest loop and moved into wet sclerophyll, albeit rather dry. At this stage the party became very separated as there was so much to examine, and Amanda was left well in the rear when we heard a horrified cry from her, 'I've nearly been bitten by a copperhead!' Some panicked as they didn't hear the 'nearly'.

Amanda was crouched down to photograph something interesting in the leaf litter when she saw the snake at close range and fell back in shock. The snake kept approaching! Mick went back to assist and the snake slithered off into the scrub, but not before Amanda managed, in true Field Nats style, to take a photograph.



Copperhead snake

Photo: Amanda Thomson

Further up the hill we thought we could discern a feathered body in a high tree hollow, and surmised that it could be an owlet night-jar. Our binoculars weren't quite strong enough to get a good fix on the lighter object in the hollow. Mick took photographs with his big lens, but when he examined them at high magnification at home it was apparent that we were getting excited about a lighter coloured shard of wood!



View south from The Thumbs

Photo: Deirdre Brown

The party regrouped at the point where the forest loop rejoined the main track and as it was now well after midday we had lunch. Some energetic souls continued to the top of the big thumb (another km on up a steep hill) while others enjoyed the sun and fed or observed the skinks. Genevieve tried them out with grated carrot

(licked it) a salty chip (also licked), but the little reptile preferred a passing ant. Genevieve was amazed at its hunting prowess – ‘one second the ant was there, then it was gone!’ We noticed that many skinks had climbed into the cyathodes bushes and were fighting the bees for the nectar.



Skink taking nectar from cyathodes flowers

Photo: Mick Brown

We returned via the regular track which winds its way up over the rocky dolerite hill of the second thumb. The change in vegetation was noticeable here with the lack of soil and moisture on the rocky outcrops. Some species such as *Pelargonium australis* were miniaturised. Several endemics cling to the hill.



Don and Mick climbing the rocky hill

Photo: Deirdre Brown

We were back at the cars by 3.00pm and then Amanda spotted a sloughed snake skin by the road, and Kevin was hopeful of finding a moth for Abbey. No luck but he did find a miniscule peripatus under the litter – only a few mm long – he has sharp eyes. Amanda also noted a devil scat and a beefly.



Snake skin

Photo: Amanda Thomson

Birds

Grey fantail
 Striated pardalote
 Grey currawong
 Kookaburra
 Brown thornbill
 Strong-billed honeyeater (flock of 12)
 Eastern spinebill
 Black cockatoo
 Green rosella
 Brown goshawk
 Yellow throated honeyeater

Fungi (Compiled by Genevieve)

Bovista sp

Mycena carmeliana

Slime mould – *Fuligo septica*



Slime mould

Photo: Amanda Thomson

Plants (Compiled by Mick)

Acacia genistifolia

Acacia melanoxylon

Acaena novae-zelandiae

Argyrotegium mackayi

Asplenium flabellifolium

Banksia marginata

Bedfordia linearis

Bedfordia linearis x *B. salicina*

Bedfordia salicina

Blechnum nudum

Blechnum watsii

Bursaria spinosa

Caladenia carnea

Callistemon pallidus

Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia

Clematis aristata

Coprosma hirtella
Coprosma quadrifida
Coronidium scorpiodes
Cyathodes glauca
Dianella tasmanica
Dichondra repens
Diplarrhena moraea
Drymophila cyanocarpa
Epacris impressa
Epacris marginata
Eucalyptus delegatensis
Eucalyptus globulus
Eucalyptus obliqua
Eucalyptus pulchella
Eucalyptus viminalis
Gahnia grandis
Galium albescens
Geranium potentilloides
Gonocarpus teucrioides
Hakea lissosperma
Hibbertia riparia
Kennedia prostrata
Lepidosperma laterale
Leptecophylla juniperina
Leptospermum scoparium
Lomandra longifolia
Lomatia tinctoria
Microsorium pustulatum
Monotoca glauca
Notelaea ligustrina
Olearia argophylla
Olearia lirata
Olearia phlogopappa
Olearia viscosa
Pelargonium australe
Pimelea lindleyana
Pittosporum bicolour
Plantago hispida
Polystichum proliferum
Pomaderris apetala
Pteridium esculentum
Pultanaea juniperina
Senecio linearifolius
Spyridium obovatum
Tasmannia lanceolata
Veronica formosa

Veronica gracilis
Viola hederacea
Wahlenbergia gracilis
Zieria arborescens

Orchids (Compiled by Kevin)

Chiloglottis grammata
Caladenia carnea
C. cracens, probably *C. vulgaris* in bud
Thelymitra sp in bud (probably *pauciflora* or similar), *Pterostylis* (melagramma group) finished
Corybas sp finished.

Snails (Compiled by Kevin)

Tasmaphena ruga
T. quaestiosa
Prolesophanta nelsonensis
Caryodes dufresnii
Bothriembryon tasmanicus
Paralaoma sp "Knocklofty"*
*P. discors**
P. hobarti
*Trocholaoma parvissima**
Punctidae sp "Micro Cripps"*
Planilaoma sp (unallocated)
"Allocharopa" sp ("legrandi" group)
Elsothera sp "Orford"
Thryasona diemenensis
Helicarion cf cuvieri

Note from Kevin:

The four marked * were new records for the Thumbs, taking my total from there to 19 species, a surprisingly long list given recent dry conditions.

Some other invertebrates: Millepedes were very scarce, but the centipede *Cormocephalus westwoodi* and the scorpion *Cercophonium squama* were very common. One *Lissotes* stag beetle was seen (but it wasn't the threatened species *L. latidens*) as was one very young velvet worm.

Deirdre Brown



Leech – Ugh!

Photo: Amanda Thomson

End of year gathering, Mt Misery

5 December 2015



The gathering at Mt Misery carpark

Photo: Geoff Carle

Twelve Field Nats went on the Mt Misery walk with another four joining for the BBQ afterwards. With a shorter time window for the walk this time, most of us walked up to Flat Rock, while a few walked to the forest loop and “the so-called waterfall” instead. After recent rains conditions were quite damp despite the dry spring, and fungi were prolific. Geoff Carle has posted an excellent montage of shots of them on the club Facebook page.



Fungi at Mt Misery

Photo: Geoff Carle

On the May outing to Mt Misery, I had thought the plateau near Flat Rock might be interesting for orchids. We only saw one species in flower there – *Prasophyllum concinnum*, a common southern Tasmanian leek orchid that a few decades back had been feared extinct! About 15 plants in flower, with a lot of variation in flower colour from pale green through to dark brown were seen. There was quite a display of flowers generally on the heathland attracting many different moths.

The Mt Misery BBQ is not only covered but well equipped with plates and tools. We were joined for lunch by a cute pademelon carrying a joey.



Pademelon and Joey

Photo: Geoff Carle

I recorded seven species of snail:

Caryodes dufresnii, *Tasmaphena sinclairi*, *Allocharopa* sp “Wellington”, A sp “Junee”, *Paralaoma discors*, *Pernagera kingstonensis* and a charopid I’m calling *Planilaoma* sp “Lake Esperance”, though it will be described in a new genus.

The last three were new records for Mt Misery and the last was especially odd. Its previous records come from Hartz Mountains, Mt Wellington and near Lake Skinner, and were all either in alpine areas or high-altitude rainforests. To find it at only 480 m on a musk tree near the rainforest platform was a big surprise, but may at least explain its dispersal between mountain areas.

Kevin Bonham

Fungi (Compiled by Genevieve Gates)

Amanita umbrinella group

Bovista brunnea

Byssomerulius corium

Calocera guepinioides

Clitocybula ‘brick red’

Coprinellus sp.

Descomyces albus

Discinella terrestris

Entoloma conferendum

Ganoderma australe

Hygrocybe arcohastata?

Hygrocybe chromolimonea

Hypoxylon aff. *placentiforme*

Hypoxylon howeanum

Inocybe ‘bruising orange red’

Laccaria sp.
Mycena subgalericulata
Panellus longinquus
Pholiota squarrosipes
Porpolomopsis lewelliniae
Psathyrella sp.
Scutellinia scutellata
Xylaria castorea
Xylaria hypoxylon
Xylaria tuberiformis

Plant List (Compiled by Annabel Carle)

Plant family-species name	Common name
RAINFOREST	
Lichens – <i>Pseudocyphellaria billardierei</i> possibly	
Ferns – <i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft tree-fern
Monocotyledons	
Orchidaceae – <i>Chiloglottis gunnii</i>	Bird Orchid
Orchidaceae – <i>Corybus</i> sp	Helmet orchids - leaf only
Orchidaceae – <i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	Potato Orchid – in bud
Dicotyledons	
Asteraceae – <i>Bedfordia salicina</i>	Tasmanian Blanketleaf
Atherospermataceae – <i>Atherosperma moschatum</i>	Sassafras
Elaeocarpaceae – <i>Aristotelia peduncularis</i>	Heartberry in flower
Ericaceae – <i>Cyathodes glauca</i>	Purple Cheeseberry
Escalloniaceae – <i>Anopterus glandulosus</i>	Tasmanian Laurel
Fagaceae – <i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i>	Myrtle Beech
Luzuriagaceae – <i>Drymophila cyanocarpa</i>	Turquoise Berry
Myrtaceae – <i>Eucalyptus delegentensis</i> ssp <i>tasmaniensis</i>	Gum-topped Stringybark
Myrtaceae – <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Stringybark
Myrtaceae – <i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>	Giant Ash
Rhamnaceae – <i>Pomaderris apetala</i>	Common Dogwood
Ranunculaceae – <i>Clematis</i> sp	Clematis
Rubiaceae – <i>Galium</i> sp (poss <i>G. australe</i> ?)	Bedstraw
Rutaceae – <i>Nematolepis squamea</i>	Satinwood/Tallow-wood
Rutaceae – <i>Zieria arborescens</i>	Stinkwood
Thymelaceae – <i>Pimelea drupacea</i>	Cherry Riceflower
Urticaceae – <i>Urtica</i> sp (<i>incisa</i> ?)	Stinging Nettle (Scrub Nettle?)
PLATEAU/HEATHLAND	
Lycopodiaceae – <i>Lycopodium deuterodensum</i>	Bushy Clubmoss
Monocotyledons	
Hemerocallidaceae – <i>Thelionema caespitosum</i>	Tufted Lily
Orchidaceae – <i>Pterostylis</i> sp	Greenhood sp
Orchidaceae – <i>Prasophyllum concinnum</i>	Trim Leek Orchid
Orchidaceae – <i>Thelymitra</i> sp	Sun Orchid in bud
Restionaceae sp.	
Dicotyledons	
Cunoniaceae – <i>Bauera rubioides</i>	Wiry Bauera
Dilleniaceae – <i>Hibbertia procumbens</i>	Spreading Guineaflower
Droseraceae – <i>Drosera</i> sp (<i>peltata</i> ?)	Pale Sundew
Ericaceae – <i>Epacris lanuginosa</i>	Swamp Heath
Ericaceae – <i>Richea sprengeliioides</i>	Rigid Candleheath
Myrtaceae – <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Common Teatree
Fabaceae – <i>Oxylobium ellipticum</i>	Golden Shaggypea
Myrtaceae – <i>Melaleuca squamea</i>	Swamp Honeymyrtle
Proteaceae – <i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
Stylidiaceae – <i>Stylidium graminifolium</i> ?	Narrowleaf Triggerplant
BBQ AREA	
Asteraceae – <i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Dolly Bush
Asteraceae – <i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisybush
Ericaceae – <i>Monotoca glauca</i> possibly	Broomheath

2016 Federation weekend

Notice & Preliminary Program from Launceston Field Naturalists Club: Gowrie Park, March long week-end (Friday 11th-Monday 14th).

Launceston Field Naturalists Club will be hosting the next Federation Weekend. This is being held early in the year (on the long week-end in March 2016 - Friday 11th-Monday 14th), to avoid clashing with ANN in spring. Given the time of year, the main theme of the weekend will be environmental interactions and drivers of diversity, but we will also delve a little more into the undergrowth, and into methodology of investigation and classification of what we find.

We will have the Gowrie Park Wilderness Village as accommodation and base, from which we can access excursions to a wide range of climatic zones containing a variety of geological features. These include open sclerophyll, rainforest, and alpine. The preliminary program includes one day comparing diverse habitats in the Mole Creek area, and one day visiting Devil's Gullet and the associated alpine flora, with stops to compare the flora and associated micro fauna as we climb.

Draft Itinerary

- **Friday afternoon** arrive, byo dinner and refreshments.
- **Friday evening:** welcome and discussion on objectives and methodology (details to be advised).
- **Saturday:** Field trip as above (probably Devil's Gullet)
- **Saturday or Sunday evening dinner:** (depending on numbers): BBQ or dinner at the function room of the Old Black Stump Restaurant (Formerly Weindorfers Restaurant)
- **Saturday evening guest speaker:** Bob Mesibov*. "Taxonomy Ain't What It Used To Be".
- **Sunday:** Field trip as above (probably Mole Creek)
- **Sunday evening dinner:** BBQ or Black Stump Restaurant

- **Monday:** Book out, with optional activities to be advised for those not travelling far.
- We look forward to hearing from any one attending who can lead brief field discussions on any of the flora or fauna groups we will encounter.

Note: Bob Mesibov is an Honorary Research Associate at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. He has described or redescribed more than 170 species of native millipedes from NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic and the NT, and is the compiler of the millipede section of the Australian Faunal Directory and the online catalogue, 'Millipedes of Australia'.

The talk will look back at the remarkable changes in zoological taxonomy over the past 15 years, plus Bob's adventures chasing small creatures in out-of-the-way places.

Accommodation

The Gowrie Park Wilderness Village has variety of accommodation options. We will have exclusive use of the bunkhouse, with large communal dining / meeting room and communal kitchen.

- The bunk-house contains 14 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, \$25 / adult / night. Bedrooms contain a mixture of bunks and single beds, but

all providing 2 or 3 singles without the use of top bunks.

- For those who may want a more self contained option, there are also 4 self-contained cabins that sleep 6 (queen + 2 sets bunks). These are \$110 night including linen, but will not be held, so first in, first served.
- There is overflow backpackers accommodation if we fill up the bunk-house (\$35 / night, bring or hire linen).
- Powered & unpowered camping sites also available.

Booking can be made directly with the park on 03-64911385 (be sure to mention LFNC group booking).

To view accommodation options, go to

<http://www.gowriepark.com.au/tasmanian-accommodation.html>

For menu of Black Stump Restaurant see

<http://theoldblackstump.com.au/our-menu/>

(For an organised function involving larger numbers and a dedicated function room there will be a more limited choice arranged beforehand, such as alternate drop, to facilitate timely delivery of all members.)

Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers

Annual General Meeting Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc. GPO Box 68, Hobart, Tas. 7001

The 2016 AGM will be on Thursday 3rd March in the Life Sciences Lecture Theatre at the University of Tasmania. The President's talk will be at 7:30pm, followed by the AGM, then a General Meeting. All positions are vacant.

Nominations are called for the following office bearers:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, Walks and Talks Coordinator, Librarian, Naturalist Editor, Three (3) Committee Members.

Below is a nomination, but any written nominations will be accepted provided they contain the same information as contained in the official nomination form. Nominations can also be emailed to secretary@tasfieldnats.org.au and the agreement of the nominee will be confirmed prior to the AGM.

Nomination Form

Nomination for _____ (position) Name: _____

Nominated by: _____ Seconded by1: _____ Accepted2: _____

Nominations **must** reach the Secretary at the above address by **Monday 22 February**. If no-one has nominated for a position by this time then nominations can be delivered in person prior to the AGM.

The person being nominated must indicate their consent in writing or by email by **Monday 22 February**, however this does not have to be on the nomination form.