



Bulletin

<https://tasfieldnats.org.au>

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Field Nats at the Annual Christmas excursion and BBQ, Randalls Bay

In this issue...

November excursion to TMAG collections.....2
 Excursion to Randalls Bay and Echo Sugarloaf.....2
 Library Corner5
 AGM notice and nomination form.....6

Annual subscriptions are now due

Please pay your 2019 sub promptly as delay complicates the auditing and finalising of books for the AGM in March.

Three ways to pay:

- *cheque to the Club address,
- *Paypal (see website <https://tasfieldnats.org.au/>)
- *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

2019 Program	
Thursday 7th. February - Meeting	Guest speaker: Sue Robinson will present: "Crabs of Christmas Island"
Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th February - Weekend excursion, Big Punch Bowl East Coast.	This excursion will replace the usual February excursion. Accommodation and options for travel will be discussed at the February meeting and posted on the Club website from 8th February.
Thursday 7th. March- Annual General Meeting	Elections of Office bearers and committee. President's Address
Thursday 4th April - Meeting	Guest Speaker to be announced
19-21 April: Easter Camp at Mole Creek	Details of accommodation and travel options will be posted on the Club website closer to the date.

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.

Visit to the TMAG Fauna Collections

Saturday 3rd. November 2018

Thirteen of us met at the Rosny site of TMAG and were kindly shown around the zoology collection of the Museum by Cathy Byrne, the Senior Curator. Cathy explained that in the past, museums were designed to entertain and amaze the general public by displaying exotic wonders of the world. “John Burns” the ferocious man eating lion which escaped from a touring circus, was one example. He became a much loved exhibit with local children who rode on his back and rubbed his nose, until he was put into this storage whilst he still had some fur left!

We also saw a very elegant bird of paradise mounted on his perch in the dry store. Specimens such as these were traded between museums. Apparently thylacines were valued as they were a very tradeable commodity.

These days the museum has more focus on scientific research, one aim being to get a specimen of every species of Tasmanian fauna. These specimens are collected for classification purposes for future validation, and the museum holds many “type” specimens. Fauna that is illegally smuggled into the State is also sent to the Museum to be recorded and analysed for biosecurity purposes.

We had a look around 3 labs. The wet lab is for tissue sampling and recording and where specimens are taken before maybe being made into “skins”. This is where, rather than using taxidermy, the preserved skin is laid flat (not stuffed) and stored in drawers, which obviously saves on space and cost. We saw here, specimens of Tasmanian devils and Swift and Orange-bellied Parrots awaiting analysis. The dry lab is used for pinning out and displaying specimens such as moths, and in the third lab, which is used for microscope work, we spied a beautiful tiny iridescent winged moth.

Many specimens brought to the museum are awaiting identification, and these need to be stored safely, having been roughly sorted into their groupings. Cathy commended the work of some TFNC volunteers who have been helping with this task. If specimens need to be preserved in fluid, they are taken to the “wet collection” room, a cornucopia of mysterious samples (and smells!), suspended in large vats and jars of methanol or formalin. We saw jellyfish, embryos and a large jar of beetles.

The “dry collection” is mostly made up of invertebrates (95%), and many of these are

carefully stored in small cabinets, very well made in Tasmanian oak by prisoners at Risdon.

We all enjoyed looking at the colorful jewel beetle display again. At the other end of the spectrum are the bony skulls of the cetaceans and we were also amazed at the huge size of an elephant seal skull. The dry storeroom was packed full of taxidermied specimens – on the walls, on the cabinets and in the drawers. We admired a drawer full of tawny frogmouth skins: the camouflaging black streaks of feathers on the breast actually look like quills! And there is also a large and historical collection of birds eggs.

Thanks again to Cathy (and Margaret for helping), on what was a really interesting afternoon exploring a part of the museum which is not usually open to the public.

Jane Catchpole

Randalls Bay and Echo Sugarloaf

Sunday 9th December

There was a good turnout for the December outing and end of year BBQ with about 17 Field Nats tackling Echo Sugarloaf, a small hill near Randalls Bay. The club had previously visited from the north back in June, 2004. Since then a new track has been built from Williams Road, Randalls Bay. The Friends of Randalls Bay Coastcare group created this recently opened track, complete with a newly varnished viewing platform over a frog pond. We happened to meet some of their members at the stairs at the start of the track and had a brief talk about the track from Paul Thomas.

The new track is about 2.5 km each way and is a gentle climb through predominantly open forest.



*Field Nats at Randalls Bay
Photograph: Erica Shankley*

Skinks were plentiful including a casuarina skink (*Cyclodomorphus casuarinae*) near the summit and a few juvenile White's skinks (*Liopholis whitii*) that posed for photos at the summit. Many butterflies including grassdarts, blues and others were seen. A partial specimen of a jewel beetle (*Castiarina*, probably *C. insularis*) was collected and there was also a reported *Melobasis* sighting.



Pond
Photograph: Genevieve Gates

Echo Sugarloaf is an important land snail locality as a species of *Protractiropa* (formerly *Roblinella*) is known only from there, and also because what looks like a dry forest supports a mostly wet-forest snail fauna. In the very dry conditions I was unable to find the *Protractiropa* but surprisingly found another charopid species not previously recorded from the area. This could be *Tasmanaropa* sp "Herons Creek", an undescribed species known from the Judbury area and also the far south at Dalco Creek, but the specimens aren't typical.



Reed Bee-*Exoneura* spp
Photograph: Amanda Thomson

Following the walk we returned (at various intervals) to the BBQ area at Randalls Bay, where we were joined by a few Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos whose own preferred menu was pine cones. A Grey Shrike Thrush and some Fairy Wrens were also interested in proceedings. An Australian Plants group was also having an outing in the area and had used the BBQ on the same day, even leaving us a tablecloth for our own late lunch. After lunch some of us also walked around the coastline towards Eggs and Bacon Bay. An interesting sighting here was a massing of flies in rock overhangs along the foreshore.

Kevin Bonham



Black Cockatoos
Photograph: Mick Brown

Snail list (Kevin)

- Caryodes dufresnii*
- Prolesophanta nelsonensis*
- Trocholaoma parvissima**
- Gadaropa* sp "Snug"
- Bonhamaropa* sp "Wellington"
- "*Planilaoma*" *sitiens*,
- Gratilaoma* sp "Knocklofty"
- Tasmanaropa* sp "Herons Creek"(?)*
- various exotics including *Limax maximus* and *Oxychilus cellarius*.
- * = new record for locality

Fungi list (Genevieve)

Perenniporia ochroleuca
Suillus sp.
Mycena sp.
Psathyrella candolleana

Plant list (Anna)

Beach edge:

Helichrysum spp
Isolepis nodosa
Leucopogon parviflorus
Lomandra longifolia
Olearia phlogopappa
Stipa spp
Stylidium graminifolium

Beach to track:

Arthropodium milleflorum
Bursaria spinosa
Dianella tasmanica
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Goodenia lanata
Leptomeria drupacea
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon ericoides
Olearia ramulosa
Olearia stellulata
Pomaderris elliptica
Senecia quadridentatus
Senecio linearifolius
Sollya heterophylla

Track (from base to summit)

Acacia melanoxylon
Acacia stricta
Acacia verticillata
Acrotriche serrulata
Allocasuarina verticillata
Brachyscome angustifolia(?)
Briza minima
Cassinia aculeata
Cassytha pubescens
Chrysocephalum spp
Daviesia ulicifolia
Dianella revoluta
Diplarrena moraea
Drosera spp
Epacris impressa
Eucalyptus globulus



Ocellated skink with cockroach

Photograph: Mick Brown

Eucalyptus obliqua
Eucalyptus pulchella
Eucalyptus viminalis
Gahnia grandis
Helichrysum
Leptecophylla juniperina
Linum marginale
Lissanthe strigosa
Lomatia tinctoria
Monotoca glauca or elliptica (?)
Notelaea ligustrina
Olearia viscosa
Oxalis perennans
Ozothamnus reticulatus
Pelargonium australe
Plantago varia
Poa spp
Podolepis jaceoides
Pomaderris pilifera
Thelymitra spp (flowering finished)
Themeda triandra
Wahlenbergia spp (inc. *stricta*?)

Invertebrates (Amanda)

Ant: Jack Jumper *Myrmecia pilosa* carrying a Long-legged Tachinid fly *Stenostom* sp

Bee: Reed Bee *Exoneura* sp

Beetles:

Chrysomelidae: (Blue Beetle) *Galerucinae*

Scarabaeidae: Green Scarab Beetle *Diphucephala colaspidiode*

Oedemeridae: Pollen Feeding Beetles *Asclera (Ishnomera) sublineata*

Butterflies:

Hesperiidae: Yellow-banded Grassdart

Ocybadistes walker

Lycaenidae: Fringed Blue – *Neolucia Agricola*

Nymphalidae: Common Brown *Heteronympha merope*

Cockroach:

Caught by Oscellated Skink (*Niveoscincus ocellatus*)

Dragonfly (Anisoptera):

Hemicorduliidae: Tau Emerald, *Hemicordulia tau*

Flies:

Bombyliidae: Bee Fly *Anthrax maculatus*

Syrphidae: Hover Fly *Melangyna* sp

Tachinidae: Bristle fly *Amphibolia vidua*

Tachinidae: *Microtropesa nigricornis*

Long-legged Tachinid (*unknown sp*)

Moths

Adelidae: Fairy moths *Nemophora sparsella*
Olympus

Geometridae: *Ectropis fractaria* (ID from wing bit)

Geometridae: *Epidesmia hypenaria*

Psocodid Pending ID

Spiders

Lycosidae: Wolf Spider *Arteriopsis expolita*

Corinnidae: Fast moving Ground spider *Nyssus coloripes*

Wasp:

Hatchet wasp *Evaniidae sp.*



Nyssus coloripes, ground spider
Photograph: Amanda Thomson



The long-awaited PooFlip is now available. This handy field guide to which animal leaves which scat is similar in design to the very useful TreeFlip and FungiFlip.

By Rod Wilshire

Illustrations by Jane Burrell

Library Corner

Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) Project

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/collection/bhlau>

The project to incorporate our publications 'The Tasmanian Naturalist,' Easter Camp reports and our Circulars/Quarterly Newsletters/Bulletins into the BHL is progressing well.

The Tasmanian Naturalist scanning/upload is more or less complete for the years 1907-2007 inc. (with just a few editions still to come.) In due course 2008-2017 inc. will be scanned and uploaded.

The Easter camp reports that were published between 1907 – 1965 as a separate document (and not as part of The Tasmanian Naturalist) are now all available on BHL.

Work has also begun scanning the Circulars/Quarterly Newsletters/Bulletins with some of the 1960 – 1970 editions already uploaded.

New to the library

The TFNC Library book catalogue has been updated to include our recent acquisitions.

The catalogue as at Jan 2019 can be found on our website at <http://tasfieldnats.org.au/library/>

Book Accessions since October 2018

- **The Guide to Tasmanian Wildlife** by Angus McNab. Published 2018. This is a really handy family book with comprehensive photographs identifying all species of amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds... user friendly and even includes tracks of mammals, vagrant birds.
- **Tasmanian Lichens – Identification, Distribution and Conservation Status – I Parmeliaceae** by G Kantivilas, JA Elix & SJ Jarman. The Parmeliaceae is the most diverse family in the Tasmanian lichen flora with many of the largest and most conspicuous microlichens in Tasmania. This is not a recently published book, but fills a gap in our library's Tasmanian bryophyte collection.
- **Where the slime mould creeps. 2nd edition.** by Sarah Lloyd. Reviewed in the 2018 edition of 'The Tasmanian Naturalist'. This edition includes updated information based on the latest research from around the world. The number of species has increased to 107 and almost all the photographs from the first edition have been replaced with stacked images.

Annabel Carle, TFNC Librarian

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc – GPO Box 68, Hobart, Tas 7001

Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers

The 2019 AGM will be held on Thursday 7th March in the Life Sciences Lecture Theatre at the University of Tasmania. The President's Talk will be at 7.30 pm, followed by the AGM then a General Meeting.

Nominations are called for the following office bearers:

President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer
Bulletin Editor	Walks and Talks Co-ordinator
Librarian	Naturalist Editor
Three (3) Committee Members	

Nominations should reach the secretary at the above address by Monday 25th February, or be delivered in person to the secretary immediately prior to the start of the AGM. A nomination form is attached below, but any written nominations will be accepted provided they contain the same information as 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.

Tasmanian Field Naturalist Club Nomination for _____
(position)

Name _____ Nominated by _____

Seconded by* _____ Accepted ** _____

*If this is left blank the secretary will seek a seconder from the club membership

** If this is left blank the person being nominated will be asked at the AGM if they accept the nomination.

About The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club

We encourage the study of natural history and support conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members. For more information, visit our website: <https://tasfieldnats.org.au/>

or email secretary@tasfieldnats.org.au or write to: GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001

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Editor: Deirdre Brown. Your articles and photos for the Bulletin are welcome.

Please email to the editor at tfn.bulletin.editor@gmail.com