

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

established 1904.

BULLETIN

<http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/tasfield.html>

Editor: Don Hird. (email dgh@dodo.com.au)

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. We issue our journal *The Tasmanian Naturalist* annually in October. People with a range of ages, background and knowledge are welcome as members.

Contact Genevieve Gates (6227 8638) for further information or write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001.

Programme

General Meetings start at 7.45 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery entrance in Macquarie Street. Bring lunch and all? weather outdoor gear.

If you are planning to attend an outing but have not been to the prior meeting, phone to check as to the timing of the excursion (with Genevieve Gates; 62 278 638 or Don Hird; 62 289 702). Unforeseen changes sometimes occur.

Thurs. 7 August 7.45p.m.: Menna Jones will speak on the biology of Tasmanian Devils.
Sat. 9 August 9.00a.m. Depart from the Museum for Hospital Creek, a reserve near Kellevie which is one of the few known habitats for two endemic plants.

Thurs. 4 September 7.45p.m.: Karen Richards will speak on the Habits and Habitats of the Humble Hydrobiid, a family of freshwater molluscs.

Sat. 6 September 7.00p.m. An evening excursion is planned to the Waterworks Reserve with a view to finding nocturnal fauna including mammals, birds and invertebrates; possibly also luminous fungi.

Thurs. 2 October 7.45p.m.: Graham Edgar, a local marine biologist and author will talk about his recent experience on the Conservation, Fisheries and Management of the Galapagos Marine Reserve

Sun. 5 Oct. Excurs. 9.00 a.m.: We will visit the Coal River Gorge, primarily dry sclerophyll habitat north of Hobart.

Thurs. 6 November 7.45p.m.: Randy Rose from Univ. Tasmania Zoology will speak on the biology of the Tasmanian Bettong.

November Excursion: We will visit the Esperance River near Dover. Details to follow.

Message from the Treasurer

I don't normally post out the receipts for subs but if anyone wants them please let me know, or see me at a meeting. There are a few subs that haven't been paid for 2003 so if you aren't sure if you have paid either email me at Anna.McEldowney@utas.edu.au ,give me a ring on 62396326 or ask at a meeting.

It is \$25 for single membership, \$30 for family membership and \$20 Concession for seniors and students. If a **large red cross** appears on your Bulletin envelope, your 2003 Subs are overdue. If you have also not paid your 2002 Subs., you will soon be deleted from our mailing list.

Excursion Reports

Lower Track to Pelverata Falls 6 April 2003 Bird List

Weather; fine, sunny, light north wind and a little cloud This list was omitted from the April Bulletin.

Black Currawong	<i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>	Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	Yellow Throated Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	Black Headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus affinus</i>
Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Strong Billed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>
Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>	Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Tasmanian Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza ewingii</i>	Crescent Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera</i>
Tasmanian Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis humilis</i>	Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica multicolor</i>		

John Reid

May excursion for 2003: "The Pond of Death" starring John Gooderham with a supporting cast of 10 members from the T.F.N.C.

Its harmless appearance belied the sinister name, as it was nothing more than a long narrow culvert in a pasture across the road from the Richmond football oval rather than a round deep pond. First find of the day was *Coprinus comatus*, growing under the pine trees near the oval. This is a fungus of noteworthy significance as it is one of only three true *Coprinus* species left after DNA studies have hashed and rearranged the taxonomy. The central strand of tissue, which is a key feature of this genus, was easily seen running down the inside of the stipe. As all the members had gathered we moved onto the pond. We came very well prepared with dissecting microscopes, dishes, nets, containers, spoons and field guides, and as John did the wading we didn't even have to don our wetsuits. Pond ecology is a bit more complicated than one might expect. Such a shallow stretch of water as this is subject to temperature and pH changes, desiccation and even the aspect and morphology can affect the biota living within its

enclaves as well as the many micro-environments present. For example, many bugs live on the surface of the water, others live around the plants just below the water surface, others are found in the shallower marginal waters, and others burrow in or move over the sediments on the bottom. These environments each host a specific fauna which all have varying problems to overcome and which have adapted to enable them to take advantage of each ecological niche.

Ah, John has emerged out of the pond and deposited the booty in one of the flat-bottomed white dishes. An array of small crustaceans is soon zipping around much to the delight of the observers. The most obvious were the many tadpoles but as we got our eye in we could see other remarkable individuals. These included freshwater mites of a lovely red colour (and that is as far as we need go with their taxonomy says John!), water fleas (Order Cladocera), copepods (Copepoda), clam shrimps (Conchostraca), seed shrimps (Ostracoda), and find of the day - a huge tadpole shrimp (Notostraca) that goes by the name of *Lepidurus apus viridus*. This was about 3.5cm in length and the book says it has 60 legs but we didn't count them. We also found Dytiscid beetle larvae and adults, Physid snails, chironomid larvae, caddis fly larvae, soldier fly larvae, water boatmen, and an unknown egg sac. Some of the adaptations freshwater bugs have to avoid desiccation are that they produce eggs with hard cases or they keep the eggs within their body and when they die the body hull protects the eggs until conditions are favourable for hatching.

A quick lap around the pond found me a *Marasmius oreades*, which is a Fungimap species as is the *Coprinus* - so quite a good total for a freshwater ecology excursion.

Many thanks to John, for a very informative and fascinating few hours, and how lucky we were to have one of the authors of the "The Water Bug Book" leading this excursion.

David Ratkowsky

Seaford Revisited - T.F.N.C. Excursion, 7 June 2003

"Seaford", the property belonging to Col and Sue Dyke, is on the East Coast near Little Swanport. Sue and Col are oyster farmers and the Club had visited the oyster beds on a previous occasion to look at the eradication of rice grass. At the end of that excursion we were invited back to have a look at anything we were interested in on the property. As Sue had recently found some unusual mammal burrows, Don was very keen to inspect these and as the East Coast had seen a fair bit of rain, Gen and David were hoping to add to the fungi list from their first visit to this coastal heath and dry sclerophyll habitat. This is also good bird watching forest so John and Maggie had their binoculars ready. After a welcoming cup of tea with Sue and Col during which Col filled us in on his latest environmental efforts concerning water quality, we set off to find the burrows. The weather was windy and fine, a vast improvement on the miserable day we had left in Hobart and everybody (as usual) enjoyed the outing.

Fungi List (Seaford 7 June 2003)

<i>Agaricus</i> sp.	<i>Agaricus</i> sp., pink and yellow with almond essence odour	<i>Bovista</i> sp.	<i>Calocera</i> sp.
<i>Clitocybe</i> sp., grey	<i>Collybia</i> sp.	<i>Coltricia cinnamomea</i>	<i>Cortinarius</i> sp., downy
* <i>Coprinus comatus</i>	<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. lilac	<i>Descolea recedens</i>	<i>Entoloma</i> sp., grey cap, gills and stipe
<i>Entoloma viridomarginatum</i>	<i>Galerina</i> sp.	<i>Geastrum</i> sp.	<i>Hebeloma</i> sp.

<i>Hygrocybe</i> aff. <i>coccinea</i>	<i>Hygrocybe astatogala</i>	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	<i>Inocybe</i> sp.
<i>Laccaria</i> sp.	<i>Lactarius eucalypti</i>	<i>Lepiota</i> sp.	<i>Lepiota</i> sp., "sooty"
<i>Leucocoprinus</i> sp.	<i>Macrolepiota konradii</i>	<i>Marasmius</i> sp., horsehair	<i>Mycena</i> "bleach sulcate"
<i>Mycena austrofilopes</i>	<i>Mycena sanguinolenta</i>	<i>Mycena</i> sp., yellowy brown with dark brown centre	* <i>Omphalina chromacea</i>
* <i>Omphalotus nidiformis</i>	<i>Panaeolus</i> sp.	<i>Pholiota squarrosipes</i>	<i>Pisolithus</i> sp.
* <i>Poronia ericii</i> , on wallaby dung	<i>Psathyrella asperospora</i>	<i>Psilocybe</i> "bruni- islander"	<i>Resupinatus applicatus</i>
<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>	<i>Rhodocybe</i> sp., small grey	<i>Rickenella fibula</i>	<i>Russula clelandii</i>
<i>Russula neerimea</i>	* <i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	<i>Stereum illudens</i>	<i>Stropharia semiglobata</i>
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	* <i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	<i>Amanita</i> sp., with pink partial veil remnants	Note: *Indicates a FUNGIMAP species David Ratkowsky

Seaford Bird List (Maggie Cashion-Bailes)

White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucagaster</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle (3)	<i>Aquila audax</i>
Green Rosella	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>	Eastern Rosella (25)	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Black Currawong	<i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>	Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	Yellow Throated Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>
Yellow Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>	Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>
Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica multicolor</i>	(Male and Female)	
Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	(Male and Female)	
Cattle Egret (5)	<i>Ardeola ibis</i> (Triabunna)		

Bedlam Walls, Sunday 6th July, 2003

15 of us set off to the end of Geilston Bay Road on Sunday 6th July, where it looked like Grand Central with a large group of scouts. We slowly made our way around the foreshore track to the eroded aboriginal midden site, Genevieve and David found the inevitable fungi, Qug discovered prickly acacias and Don - possible bettong shelters in a Sagg tussock. We waited for the scout party to move on, allowing us to descend to the caves on the cliff face. The cave site is quite spectacular, reached by a narrow, winding boardwalk, with views across the river to Pasminco. Unfortunately, we missed the whale sighted there about an hour or so later! Following the hillside around to Shag Bay we passed a stand of *E. risdonii*. While lunching at Shag Bay we found a large area of recently disturbed/ dug ground exposing hundreds of ? dog bones, skulls and body bones even hair. This area is covered in luxuriant weed growth and the bones extend into the water! David Leaman informs us it was a blood and bone factory in the 1880 - 90s.

Birds seen on the walk included - forest ravens, black headed honey-eaters and a white-faced heron.

I found a well camouflaged spider on a tree trunk - '*Stephanopis scabra*' - only spotted because it moved. They have a knack of impregnating their body with bits of bark to complete their camouflage. In Shag Bay itself there seemed to be a big fish, possibly a trout, chasing schools of tiny fish around the shallows. Those who stayed on saw a seal, but not the whale reported near the Tasman Bridge that day! An interesting and enjoyable trip close to the city.

Amanda Thomson

A couple of interesting plant sightings at Bedlam Walls - one was a small member of the Epacridaceae, *Lissanthe strigosa* or Peach Berry growing on the northern side of Shag Bay and another was *Spyridium eriocephalum* which is apparently quite rare but local at Risdon. It was growing on the southern side of Shag Bay in a very dry exposed position. It has small bright green shiny leaves and compact whitish flower heads about 5mm across.

Anna McEldowney

Fungi List

<i>Arrhenia acerosa</i> , on earth	<i>Ascomycete</i> sp. small white disc	<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	<i>Bisporella sulphurina</i>
<i>Calocera</i> sp.	<i>Clitocybe semiocculta</i>	<i>Coltricia cinnamomea</i>	<i>Coprinus</i> sp.
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp., brown with white bloom to stipe	<i>Cyphella</i> sp.	<i>Dacrymyces</i> sp., orange jelly, spathulate	<i>Dermocybe</i> sp. yellowy brown
<i>Discinella terrestris</i>	<i>Fistulinella mollis</i>	<i>Galerina</i> sp.	<i>Galerina</i> sp., like "patagonica" "but on soil
<i>Galerina/Tubaria</i> sp. Grey corticoid	<i>Laccaria</i> sp.	<i>Mycena</i> "bleach sulcate"	<i>Mycena albidocapillaris</i>
* <i>Mycena nargan</i>	* <i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>	<i>Pluteus</i> "yellow"	<i>Psilocybe</i> sp.
<i>Pycnoporus coccineus</i>	<i>Resupinatus applicatus</i> , on underside of eucalypt bark	<i>Scleroderma</i> sp.	<i>Steccherhinum</i> sp.

<i>Stereum</i> “drab” on sheoak	* <i>Stereum hirsutum</i> , on sheoak	<i>Stereum illudens</i>	<i>Stropharia semiglobata</i>
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	* <i>Volvariella speciosa</i> , in weeds	Note: *Indicates a FUNGIMAP species	

Foxes in Tasmania (??) – conserve “threatened” prey species anyway!

Amidst the clamour of this largely tabloid debate came expressions of concern about potential mammalian prey species for the Red Fox in Tasmania; primarily the Eastern Bettong and the Barred Bandicoot. Both species were widespread and common on mainland Australia prior to the introduction of foxes and their demise there is often attributed to fox predation.

In Tasmania neither the Eastern Bettong nor the Barred Bandicoot has adequate reserved habitat. The habitats of both are subject to ongoing threats from land clearance and 1080. These issues are poorly recognised officially but, even without foxes, habitat loss continues to adversely impact on populations of each species.

Don Hird