



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

BULLETIN

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Quarterly Bulletin

No 359

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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 30 September, 2015.

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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. Please confirm the details on the club website as late changes are sometimes made.

Thurs. August 6 th .	Meeting. Guest Speaker: Gretta Pecl, ARC Research Fellow and Deputy Associate Dean of Research 'Citizen Science Around Australia and Marine Climate Change'.
Sun. August 9 th .	Excursion: Boronia Hill – weather dependent.
Thurs. Sept. 3 rd .	Meeting. Guest Speaker: Elise Dewar, 'Species from Faeces'.
Sun. Sept. 6 th .	Excursion: Venue to be announced.
Thurs. October 1 st .	Meeting. Guest Speaker: Natalie Tapson, 'Azorella Battling for Survival in the Sub-Antarctic'.
Sun. Oct. 4 th .	Excursion: Venue to be announced.
Thurs. Nov. 5 th .	Meeting. Guest Speaker: Karen Richards, 'The Life History of <i>Catadromus lacordairei</i> (the green-lined ground beetle) in Tasmania'.
Sun. Nov. 8 th .	Excursion. Venue to be announced, but possibly a good orchid site.
Thurs. Dec. 3 rd .	Members' night.

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

Subscriptions for 2015 should now be paid!

If still in arrears please pay now 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

Australian Naturalists' Network



**Saturday 1 October to
Sunday 9 October 2016**

Reminder that expressions of interest are due by 1st. August 2015

Perth, WA

This is a reminder to all Field Nats to reply to the expression of interest for ANN 2016 by 1 August 2015. The WANATS are putting together a number of pre- and post-conference tours (capped at 40 for the land based tours and 30 for the Abrolhos tour) and numbers for the get-together will be capped at 90. It looks like a wonderful program and it would be great if the TFNC could support them as well as they supported us.

See more at the end of this bulletin.

Cape Deslacs Excursion

Sunday 19 April 2015

It was not the most ideal day for the 12 Field Nats who made the trip and shortly after leaving the Cape Deslacs car-park we were barraged by a heavy squall that soaked insects in the beating trays and insect observers alike. However after a while the rain stopped and the rest of the day was pleasant and got quite sunny.



Field Nats at Cape Deslacs

Photo: Amanda Thomson

The first part of our excursion headed briefly from the carpark towards the cape for just a few hundred metres, then back to the cars (to hide from the rain!) and into the dune system behind Clifton Beach.

During this our leader Peter McQuillan selected a number of different trees to beat in search of case-moth larvae. None were found by this method but we found a rich selection of invertebrates including many spiders (one of them a large shield huntsman), several true bugs, hoppers, a small weevil, flies and wasps and chrysomelid beetles. Other sightings included a dead white-lip snake and an orchid (*Eriochilus cucullatus*).

After lunch we moved on to a saltmarsh back along the road towards Pipe Clay Lagoon. Here there was much searching for moths in grassland at the edge of the saltmarsh, which especially paid off when a moth Abbey had spent about half an hour photographing turned out

to actually be a small adult case moth! After further searching about four more specimens of this moth were eventually found but it was hardly common. Peter later told Abbey that this casemoth is an unknown species that he hasn't seen before. It was very pleasing to be successful in finding our target group for the outing.



Casemoth of unknown species

Photo: Abbey Throssel

The amber snail *Succinea australis* was present at the Pipe Clay Lagoon site but nowhere near as common as on our Lauderdale saltmarsh outing; only one live specimen was seen. The only other probably native snail was a *Paralaoma sp* near the edge of the saltmarsh.



In the rain at Cape Deslacs with Peter McQuillan

Photo: Lani Elliot

Kevin Bonham

Mt Misery Excursion

Sunday 17 May 2015

People: Amanda Thomson, Annabel Carle, Geoff Carle, David Ratkowsky, Kevin Bonham, Abbey, Sue Smiley & partner.

We all met at 9.30am at the store in Grove where the paddock across the Huon Highway was still covered in frost but standing in the sun was just getting pleasant. Then we arranged ourselves to car-pool to minimise parking problems at the start of the walking trails and issues with 2WD potentially struggling to make it up the

steep ascent to the Huon Bush Retreats, where our walk to Mt Misery started.

The first few 100 m through dark, wet eucalypt forest was a haven for fungi. Those who cherished photographing them didn't even make it up Mt Misery. However, the diversity of shapes, sizes and colours was impossible not to admire.



Ryvardenia campyla
Photo: Amanda Thomson

A few stumps of giant *Eucalyptus regnans* with diameters of 3-5 m gave a glimpse of what this forest would have been like 200 years ago. The 'shoes' which the loggers of the past had carved out for their 'stands' for sawing trees indicated that these trees had not been taken in modern times. The winding path up Mt Misery lead through several gorgeous fern tree gullies.



Mt Misery track
Photo: Beth Heap

Morning tea was held at a lookout with views onto the Huon. Then we continued to climb up steadily through drier forest and came past some rocky outcrops – some of them with circular paintings by Aboriginals. Unfortunately, these rocks were not particularly popular among snails, but Kevin still managed to find a great diversity that day.

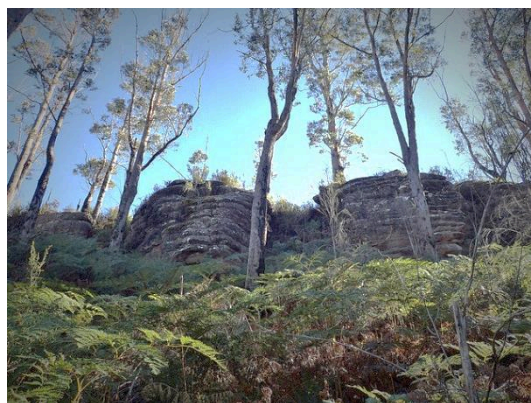
Up the top we suddenly entered alpine heathy vegetation comprising lots of low growing banksia and tea tree bushes. Kevin surprised us all by finding a torpid frog, probably a brown tree frog, under a rock he lifted hoping to find some more snails. The frog was absolutely motionless, so we carefully replaced the rock.

Our next longer stop worth investigating was a massive flat rock poking out as the highest point on this alpine plateau which had some interesting geological indents and intrusions. It provided great views over some of the peaks of Tasmania's south western wilderness.

We descended into dry eucalypt forest which was burnt in 2011. The charcoal marks were still very visible on the trunks of the trees, but a ground cover of up to 2m high banksia and acacia shrubs indicated that the fire had been a while ago. Unfortunately, it was a very windy day, so that it was hard to spot or hear many birds. Some located and/or heard yellow-throated honey-eaters and silvereyes, but despite many of the banksias flowering not many birds were seen.

We left this forest and walked through man-high shrubby vegetation again. The edges of the path were covered in coral lichen.

We followed the path through further eucalypt forest to the end. Just before the end, Kevin and Abbey discovered a diversity hot spot under an inconspicuous looking log which they picked up randomly next to the walking trail. Under it they spotted a spectacular looking hairy-legged assassin bug, a baby velvet worm, a pseudo-scorpion, and a jumping spider.



Pillowed rock stacks on Mt Misery
Photo: Amanda Thomson

At the end of the walking trail was another rocky outcrop comprising of some large boulders, one which had a lion's face carved into it by erosion. From the top of these boulders we enjoyed a view towards the forested hills stretching north-east. Here we had lunch in the sun and were a little bit more sheltered from the icy wind than we would have been from the flat-top rock with view onto the south western Wilderness Heritage area. Some jack jumpers seemed to like this spot, too, but we managed to share the space peacefully.

Then we headed back, some of us the same way as we came (because we were so engaged in conversation that we missed the detour turn-off), others by taking the alternative path past the 'waterfall' – which – at rather deserved the name 'water trickle', but a photo showed that at some point it had been a waterfall...

Mt Misery track car park

We inspected the picnic shelter and BBQ area discussing whether this would be a suitable place for the next Christmas BBQ. It looks like it will certainly be suggested to the club members closer to the date because Mt Misery and everything we saw that day was certainly not miserable – but rather pleasant...

Anke Frank

Fungus list (thanks to Genevieve for IDs)

Armillaria novae-zelandiae
Biosporella green-yellow
Cantharellus concinnus
Clavulinopsis sulcata
Collybia eucalyptorum
Cortinarius austrocinnabarinus
Galerina patagonica
Ganoderma australe
Gymnopilus ferruginosus
Gymnopilus ? austropioreus
Heterotextus peziziformis
Hohenbuehelia clelandii
Hygrocybe astatogala
Hygrocybe sp. firma/miniata
Hygrocybe chromolimonea
Hygrocybe graminicolor
Hypholoma brunneum
Hypholoma ar. Fasciculare
Hypholoma var. fasciculare armeniacum
Laccaria sp.
Mycena aff. epipterygia
Mycena subgalericulata
Nitschkia sp.
Postia pelliculosa black yellow form
Postia
Russula clelandii
Ryvardenia campyla
Urnula campylospora



Galerina patagonica

Photo: Amanda Thomson



Collybia eucalyptorum

Photo: Amanda Thomson

Additional fungi (Geoff Carle)

Artomyces austropiperatus
Clavulina subrugosa
Clavulinaopsis amonea
Cortinarius archeri
Cortinarius austrovenetus
Entomola 3 species
Flammulina velutipes
Hydenellum Pink orange??
Hygrocybe firma
Hygrocybe mavis
Hygrocybe pseudograminicolor
Leotia lubrica
Lepista nuda
Lichenomphalia umbellifera
Lycoperdon pyriforme
Mycena albidofusca
Mycena astrofilopes
Mycena interrupta
Mycena kurramulla
Mycena mulawaestris
Mycena sp. small white
Omphalotus nidiformis
Psathyrella asperospora
Pseudohydum gelatinosum
Russula lenkunya
Russula persanguinea
Tremella fuciformis

Note from Geoff Carle: Also observed: a number of Leather fungi and Resupinate Fungi and 2 other unknown fruiting bodies.

Snails

Caryodes dufresnii,
Tasmaphena sinclairi,
Allocharopa sp "Wellington"
Allocharopa sp "Junee"
Allocharopa sp "minor"
Mulathena fordei,
Punctidae sp "Micro Cripps"
Paralaoma halli.

Note from Kevin Bonham: The least common of these is *Allocharopa* sp "Junee" which had 7 previous locality records, however it was common at nearby Judds Creek Road so it wasn't a huge surprise to get it at Mt Misery.



Tmesipteris obliqua growing on *Dicksonia* trunk, Mt Misery
Photo: Amanda Thomson

Note: Check the TFN Flickr page for more photos of the beautiful and colourful fungi observed at Mt Misery. Ed.

June Excursion to Wingara

Sunday 13 June 2015



Field Nats on Wingara excursion
Photo: Amanda Thomson

On a very fresh winter morning about 10 Field Naturalists gathered at Heather Clark's property on Draper Road, Howden. Heather is a member of the Howden Landcare Group and very kindly offered to show us through the gully.



Heather discovering snails with Kevin
Photo: Amanda Thomson

This short walk features in the 'Kingborough Tracks' booklet. It is a little hidden gem of shady bushland enclosing a steep sided gully which runs down to the shoreline at Wingara Road. Paths lead down on either side through stringy barks and she-oaks, with ferns growing in the damper areas and *Epacris impressa* was flowering profusely in the upper areas. There are even a couple of small sandstone caves to discover.



Cotinarius archeri

Photo: Amanda Thomson

We slowly meandered down, crisscrossing the watercourse listening to the sounds of yellow throated and crescent honeyeaters.

On the underside of a rotting log, Kevin found several specks of what looked like dirt, but which he assured us, were a minute species of snail. We also found some fungi and orchid leaves (probably *Chiloglottis*).

Tiny tracks in the sand near the sandstone cave and the scats, possibly of an antechinus near what may have been a grass nest, lots of orb weaving spiders in the grass and several startled pademelons showed the diversity of this area of semi-urban bushland.



Juvenile spider, possibly Amphinectidae Tasmarubrius or Forest Hunter.

Photo: Amanda Thomson

Snails (from Kevin Bonham)

Caryodes dufresnii

Helicarion cuvieri

Paralaoma sp "Knocklofty"

P. discors, P. hobarti

Punctidae sp "Micro Cripps"

Roblinella gadensis



Scats (possibly from antechinus) growing fungus

Photo: Amanda Thomson

After a couple of hours a few people headed for the warmth of home, leaving the rest of the group, in true Tas. Field Nats style to continue their foraging. All in all, it was a very pleasant outing.

Jane Catchpole and Anna McEldowney

Note from Kevin

The last was a new record for the Tinderbox peninsula. A millipede, *Atrophotergum pastorale*, was of interest because it hadn't been recorded south of the Derwent until I'd found it in a Coningham garden a week and a half before the outing. Its presence at Wingara showed it is native to the Channel area. Another interesting find

was the beetle *Scaphidium alpicolum*, an unusually plump-shaped staphylinid with four orange spots.

July Excursion to Cape Contrariety

Sunday 5th July 2015

Present: Club members — Kevin, Abbey, Janet, Jane, Geoff F., David, Don, Gen and visitor Mary.

I suppose a few Club members were thinking that Cape Contrariety probably wouldn't offer much in the way of variety especially as the Club had already had an excursion to this spot earlier this year in March. However, we hadn't been there at this time of the year so it was yet another rewarding experience for all who attended.



Field Nats on a mission

Photo: Genevieve Gates

The 5°C start (Jane's contribution from inside her car) wasn't as bad as it sounded as there was no wind and the happy bunch of naturalists strolled along the beach (some of us who had fallen off bikes recently were hobbling a bit) to the sound of the pounding surf and avoiding the white water that chased us up the sand.

Although Janet had thoughtfully brought along the Shell book, (we were going to the beach after all) it wasn't opened very often due to the scarcity of shells.

There were several different types of sponges, the interesting Cart-rut shell egg cases, animal and bird footprints, surfing wax, even a washed up millipede (the introduced Portuguese species) that kept our eyes focused on the sand.

Kevin had been keen to look for more bristletails but that did not eventuate as the high tide meant the rock platform was under water and no doubt the bristletails were keeping dry somewhere also Kevin didn't need a repeat of the Fortescue Bay excursion of years ago.

I was excited to find a snail shell which I hoped would alleviate his disappointment but it turned out to be that Italian pest *Theba pisana*.



Beach sponge

Photo: Genevieve Gates

We climbed up the hill at the end of the beach and the observations started rolling in: 5 flame robins, 4 blue wrens, 3 hooded plovers, 2 pied oystercatchers and a sea eagle in a casuarina tree. "Wrong season", says Don dryly; obviously the sheep got it wrong too as there were several new born lambs being watched over by anxious mothers. It is no wonder the sea eagle hangs out there; the remains of a mangled lamb being testimony to a predilection for tender meat. Hmmm, the blue whale sighting was really a blue fishing boat; Jane really should wear her glasses.



Seahorse

Photo: Genevieve Gates

After lunch a few of us (not those with cracked ribs and bruised legs) explored the little sandy beach and rocks before the main beach but again the bristletails remained elusive. Some intense beachcombing brought to light a dead seahorse, a dead fairy penguin, a large dead seagull and a pair of board shorts that could have still had some life in them and were Geoff's size but he didn't like the floral pattern.

In summary, 9 field naturalists were feeling very satisfied (sorry Don) with the July outing.

Genevieve Gates

Citizen Science at our August meeting

Thursday August 6th.

Australia has thousands of professional scientists, but did you know that we also have over 130,000 'citizen scientists' actively contributing through more than 100 projects? Who are these citizen scientists, what sort of activities are they involved in and are they producing useful information?

Find out more by coming to the TFN August meeting, where Gretta Pecl, ARC Research Fellow and Deputy Associate Dean of Research will give an overview of citizen science activity in Australia.

Gretta's presentation is based on a recent occasional paper on citizen science for the Office of Chief Scientist. She will also explain Redmap, or the Range Extension Database and Mapping Project, which is engaging Australians like you in the mapping of changes occurring in our marine ecosystems.

Australian Naturalists' Network

2016 Get-together in Perth, WA

Saturday 1 October to Sunday 9 October 2016



The following is an abridged version of the letter recently received from WA Naturalists' Club. Here is plenty of detail to get members interested in attending.

Dear Naturalists,

This is a preliminary notice regarding the Perth ANN Get-Together in 2016.

Hopefully many of you will be considering a trip to Western Australia September/October 2016 for the ANN Get-Together and the following information may help you to make some plans.

We are holding this event either at a venue on the Swan River, just 12km south-west of Perth and 7km east of Fremantle or on the Indian Ocean coast just 10 km south of Fremantle. Due to booking time restrictions we are unable to confirm at this time which of the following two venues we will be using: either a recreation and conference centre at Point Walter or an historic and renovated recreation camp venue in Woodman Point Regional Park.

For details of these venues see these sites: (<http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/camps/locations/point-walter>, www.dsr.wa.gov.au/camps/locations/woodman-point).

A Transperth bus stops near both venues or we may organize our own shuttle from the airport.

Checking in on Saturday 1 October is at 5pm with the first event, a talk on WA's biodiversity and unique flora scheduled for the Saturday evening. Check-out on Monday 10 October is by 12pm (if not on the Post-ANN tour).

Preliminary Program

A provisional program for the 2016 event is given below but this is subject to change.

Pre-ANN Tours Friday 24 September to Saturday 1 October:

1. 8 Day bus tour north between Perth, Jurien, Mingenew and Dalwallinu to see the highlights of the wildflower areas (with camping/cabin accommodation most likely). Cost to be advised.
2. 6 Day bus and boat tour to Abrolhos Islands, a meeting place for tropical and temperate sea life and more than 90 species of seabird (accommodation on board vessel).

Estimated cost \$2,400 if 20 or more.

Tours will leave from a central Perth location and finish at the ANN venue location.

ANN Get-Together Saturday 1 to Sunday 9 October:

- We will travel by two 45 seater buses on excursions. Proposed excursions include visits to:
- Darling Scarp / Granites
- Wetlands
- Coastal Bushland
- Rottnest Island
- Jarrah Forest
- Wandoo Forest
- Banksia Woodland

- WA fauna viewing sites (late afternoon/early evening).

Post-ANN Tour Monday 10 to Sunday 16 October:

7 Day bus tour south between Perth and Albany to see WA's less known attractions (likely with camping/cabin accommodation). There is a potential to include a whale watching boat tour if enough people are interested. Cost still to be advised.

Food

All meals are included in the ANN Get-Together fee and will be at the accommodation venue.

Breakfast will be either a continental or a hot breakfast.

Lunch will be a cut lunch or a BBQ on the excursions.

Dinner will be catered for on-site, or a BBQ at an early evening excursion.

Tea/coffee/biscuits/fruit will be available at all times in the dining room and on excursions.

Please contact the ANN 2016 Committee and the secretary Margaret Larke by email at:

ANNI6@wanaturalists.org.au

mlarke@inet.net.au

by **1 August 2015** to let us know if you are interested in attending the ANN 2016 and what options you would go for (see Expression of Interest Table below).

For those of you without email please return the below information to the WA Naturalists' Club at PO Box 8257, Perth Business Centre WA 6849 by **1 August 2015**.

Expression of Interest Table

Personal information:	
Name(s):	
Gender:	
Contact email (or address):	
Naturalist Club you belong to:	
Options I am/we are interested in:	Tick or circle as appropriate
Accommodation at ANN venue.	
If staying at ANN venue, do you want to share a room with:	Partner/ Female/Male/Anybody
Accommodation – own arrangement.	
Pre-Tour North of Perth by bus.	
Pre-Tour to Abrolhos Islands by bus and boat.	
Post-Tour South of Perth by bus.	
Post-tour tag-along.	
Whale watching boat tour.	
Any other comments?	