

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

G.P.O. Box 68A,  
Hobart. 7001.

\* Principal Office Bearers \*

President:

*LS*  
Mrs T. L. Stephens,  
Hazell Street,  
Blackman's Bay. 7152.

Secretary:

Mr G. A. Major,  
The Embers,  
23 Riverview Parade,  
Rosetta. 7010.

Treasurer:

Mr L. E. Wall,  
63 Elphinstone Road,  
North Hobart. 7000.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, 20th February 1969 at 7.45 p.m. in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Argyle Street.

This will be the Club's Annual General Meeting. After the general business session, which will include the presentation of reports and the election of officers for the coming year, Mrs Stephens will screen a film entitled "Bee City" - showing life in the hive.

Next Field Outing:

At the time of printing this Bulletin, details of a field outing had not been finalised. It will probably be on Saturday, 23rd February, to start from Blackman's Bay, proceeding through the area previously visited after the bushfire of 1967.

New Members:

Mr and Mrs Linton-Coombe were elected at the November meeting, and a nomination was received from Mr K.A.Kelly.

Annual Subscriptions:

These are now due. The rates are:-

Ordinary member:	\$2.50
Junior member (under 16):	\$1.00
Family group:	\$3.50

The Cape Barren Goose:

The Australian Conservation Foundation feels very strongly that the Cape Barren Goose should be preserved as part of the Australian scene, and preferably not as a hard-to-see-rarity. It believes that the situation would best be met by a two stage programme of conservation & management:-

- (1) The dedication, as inviolate sanctuaries, of the more important nesting islands in each of the four groups inhabited by the goose.
- (2) The removal of stock from some of the islands at present used for grazing sheep, as well as establishing areas of improved pasture on some islands and in those parts of the mainland visited by the summer flocks. The latter would also provide feeding areas relatively safe from contamination with pesticide residues.

(The above material is extracted from a brochure, 'The Cape Barren Goose' which is one of a series of brochures on fauna conservation. Copies of this, or other, brochures can be obtained, free of charge, from the Director, Australian Conservation Foundation, P.O.Box 91, Eastwood, 2122)

Macquarie Island and its Rabbits:

This subject has been in the news recently with the announcement that the European rabbit flea is soon to be released on this island in an attempt to control its rabbit population. The following extracts are from an article written for the Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture by one of the Department's Research Officers.

Macquarie Island is a wildlife sanctuary under the provisions of the Animals and Birds Protection Act of 1928.

The climate is most inhospitable with the temperature varying very little from 40°F. Rain falls virtually every day, the relative humidity exceeds 90% on the average, wind gusts exceeding 60 m.p.h. are frequent in every month, and the average amount of sunshine over a full year is a mere 1.8 hours per day.

It seems that sealers liberated rabbits there about 1880 to give themselves an emergency food supply. Since then the rabbit population has reached plague proportions.

Damage caused by the rabbits is of two types - erosion and plant damage, the latter being the more severe. Grazing damage to the native flora is of major extent and leads ultimately to the development of a 'pasture' dominated by the common burr (or 'buzzie').

The rabbits themselves are very large by Tasmanian standards, averaging about 4½ lbs in weight with an occasional animal as heavy as 6 lbs. As a general rule, warm-blooded animals of the same species tend to grow bigger in cold regions than in warmer regions. A large body size for such animals means a higher ratio of body heat produced to body heat lost through radiation, and even rabbits must keep warm to survive.

Despite the very high breeding rate during the short breeding season, there are very few young rabbits in the population. This tends to indicate that the feral cat and the Southern Skua - a gull-like bird - are quite efficient rabbit predators. Unfortunately they are not efficient enough to limit the rabbit population to an acceptable level; but they will prove valuable allied with any large-scale rabbit control programme.

Did You Know That....thirty five is probably an average number for the legs on a centipede? Some may have as many as 173 pairs, others having only 15.

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

page 3.

BALANCE SHEET at 31st. DECEMBER 1968

CLUB FUNDS AND LIABILITIES

CLUB FUNDS

Reserve Fund at 1/1/'68	\$ 433.83	
less Excess of Expenditure over receipts, 1968	<u>49.24</u>	
	384.59	
add Proceeds of sale of Camp Gear	<u>939.45</u>	\$ 1324.04
General Fund at 1/1/'68	\$ 1902.65	
add excess of receipts over Expenditure, 1968	<u>36.15</u>	
	1938.80	
less Loss on sale of Camp Gear	<u>772.15</u>	
	1166.65	
less proceeds of sale of Camp Gear transferred to Reserve Fund	<u>939.45</u>	<u>227.20</u>
		\$ 1551.24

OUTSIDE LIABILITIES

Subscriptions paid in advance		
"Tas. Naturalist"	\$ 16.80	
T.F.N.C. Bulletin	2.80	
General Fund	<u>14.10</u>	
		<u>33.70</u>
		\$ 1584.94

CLUB ASSETS covering the above liabilities.

Hobart Savings Bank		\$ 1496.84
Duplicator		10.00
Library		10.00
Addressograph	\$ 76.60	
less depreciation written off	<u>8.50</u>	
		<u>68.10</u>
		\$ 1584.94

REVENUE ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND - 1968

Subscriptions		\$ 128.60
Tas. Fauna & Flora		6.82
Conservation Comm.	\$ 5.00	
South-West Comm.	5.00	
Federation F.N.C.T.	2.50	
Addressograph frames	1.08	
Rent of meeting room	46.00	
Postage and Stationery	2.80	
Duplicator Repairs	20.00	
Depreciation Addressograph	8.50	
Loss on T.F.N.C. Bulletin	3.19	
G.P.O. Box Rent	6.00	
Excess of receipts over Expenditure, 1968	<u>36.15</u>	
	\$ 136.22	<u>136.22</u>

Hon. Treasurer,  
L.E. WALL.

Audited and found correct.

signed R. WARREN  
Hon. Auditor.

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PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

President	Mrs. T.L. Stephens, 25 Hazell Street, BLACKMANS BAY. 7152
Secretary	Miss. M.L. Westbrook 6 Richardson Ave., DYNNYRNE. 7005
Treasurer	Mr. L.E. Wall, 63 Elphinstone Road, NORTH HOBART 7000

BULLETIN OF THE TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

PRICE 20 CENTS P.A.

**NEXT MEETING:** will be held at the Royal Society Room on 20th. March at 7.45 p.m. Mrs. Stephens will show a film on BEES.

**OUTING:** Saturday 22nd. March.

**Object:-** to find the present state of the area behind Blackman's Bay comparing it with a previous Expedition held in 1966, prior to the 1967 Bush Fires-any spotted pardalotes, for instance?

**Bus:** Pioneer leaving Harrington St. 9.a.m. returning 4.10.p.m.

**Details:** Bring own food and drink. People with cars meet Blackman's Bay terminus about 9.30. All members of Field Nats. are welcome and may bring along friends.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Nominations were received from Mr. and Mrs. R. Shepherd and children, 39 Shoobridge Street, Glebe.

Elected to membership: Mr. K.A. Kelly. His interest is Horticulture(Native Flora). Address: Royal Botanical Gardens.

**EASTER CAMP:** Place: TOOMS LAKE. Easy to find; good country road; big lake; plenty of water; good campsites; light bush; Forester Kangaroo Reserve; in the area have been seen- platypus, water-rat, native rat, tiger cat, devils, TROUT. New area for Field Nats.

Recommend going in the morning, Friday 4th. April and returning Tuesday 8th. April.

Bring own tent, camping gear, food, etc.

There is no public transport available, therefore it would be appreciated if campers with cars, willing to take passenger(s) would give their names to the secretary stating number of seats available. Intending campers without transport SHOULD GIVE their names to the secretary who will endeavour to find a seat for them.

**OBJECTS OF THE CAMP**

- (a) To make a Natural History Record of the area.
- (b) For members to enjoy a short holiday in company of others with similar interests, and so foster friendship within the club.
- (c) To gain more knowledge in the field of one's personal interest.
- (d) (To "Get away from it all" "Far from the madding crowd").

**OBJECTS OF THE CLUB:** (Taken from the Amended Rules 1963)

"The objects of the club shall be the encouragement of the study of nature, and the collection, preservation and systematic classification of specimens, and the conservation of flora and fauna - these objects to be promoted by periodical meetings and excursions, the formation of a library, and the publication of papers and proceedings when deemed advisable."

**ACTIVITIES:** A General Meeting, at 7.45.p.m. on the third Tuesday in the month.

(Business, Records and Observations, Exhibits, Reports from time to time by our delegates to the Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs of Tasmania, Representatives on the South-West Committee, and the Flora and Fauna Committee; and a Speaker - with slides, films etc.).

**Outings:-** usually held on the Saturday or Sunday following the general meeting.

Publishing of the Tasmanian Naturalist (Quarterly) and the Bulletin (Monthly).

Occasional club projects.(e.g. survey of flora at Lake Dobson)  
EASTER CAMP.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** for 1969 are now due.

The rates are:-  
Ordinary member: \$2.50  
Junior member(under 16) \$1.00  
Family Group \$3.50

With this mundane item we close this Bulletin.



To help the Committee in arranging programmes, it would be a help if you would give us your ideas on the following: Tick if relevant.

The 3rd. Thursday in the month is suitable/unsuitable to me.

If unsuitable what do you suggest?  
I can not manage to attend meetings because

I find transport to and from meetings difficult Yes/No.

I have decided to resign from the Club because

I find the evening meetings: dull/mediocre/interesting/very interesting

I prefer the evening meetings to begin at 7.45/8.00 p.m.

I would be interested in having a "Bird of the Evening" Yes/No  
as well as the Speaker of the evening.

I am interested/not interested in the personal observations.

I am interested/not interested in having specimens on the table.

I would prefer the speaker to speak for 1/2hr./3/4hr./1 hr.

I would like the speaker to be more technical/less technical, or  
leave it to the speaker.

I think we should lay more stress on:

- Conservation \_\_\_\_\_ ; Field Outings \_\_\_\_\_ ; Individual observations \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Some Natural History Club Project \_\_\_\_\_ ; Scientific Research or survey \_\_\_\_\_ ; Club Observation Book \_\_\_\_\_ ; An Outings Report Book \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Opportunities for friendly chat between members and visitors \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Making new members welcome \_\_\_\_\_ .

Would you be interested in arriving by 7.45 p.m. so as to look at: specimens, chat with each other, introduce visitors and new members etc. and then begin the business at 8 p.m. sharp?

Any other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

The subjects of most interest to me personally are:

- Marine life \_\_\_\_\_ ; shells \_\_\_\_\_ ; insects \_\_\_\_\_ ; reptiles \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Birds of - forest and shrub \_\_\_\_\_ ; - open country \_\_\_\_\_ ; - sea \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Ducks \_\_\_\_\_ ; Spiders \_\_\_\_\_ ; Rocks \_\_\_\_\_ ; Conservation \_\_\_\_\_ ; Fungi \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Gums \_\_\_\_\_ ; Orchids \_\_\_\_\_ ; Astronomy \_\_\_\_\_ ; Natural Forces \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Fossils \_\_\_\_\_ ; Photographing "Nature" \_\_\_\_\_ ; Fish \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Plant/bird communities \_\_\_\_\_ ; Nature in other countries \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- Nature Films \_\_\_\_\_ ; Something else???

Outings:

Is one outing a month sufficient? Yes/No.

I never come to the outings because \_\_\_\_\_

Would it be a good idea sometimes to team up with another club such as the Walking Club? Yes/No.

Are outings more satisfying with 5/ 10/ 15/ 20/ or more people?

What do you consider should be the aims of Outings?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Should outings be for - specific purposes/ or for general observation?

If you bring your car to an outing, would you prefer to take passengers for nothing? or for a set "consideration" per mile?	If no car, would you be prepared to pay towards transport?
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DYNNYRNE. 7005

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. L.E Wall,  
63 Elphinstone Road,  
NORTH HOBART. 7000

BULLETIN OF THE TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Price 20 cents p.a.

- NEXT MEETING** will be held at the Royal Society Room on Thursday, 17th. April, 1969, at 7.45 p.m. Dr. J.A. Townrow (Botanist attached to the Tasmanian University) will give an illustrated talk on "Pollen Analysis and Post Glacial History". This a relatively new field of Science in Tasmania and experiments are being carried out at the University.
- OUTING:** Proposed week-end at National Park, 19th.-20th. April. **OBJECT:** to continue the Botanical Survey which was begun in February 1968. This will be led by Mr. M. Hurburgh and Mr. K. Avis and was suggested by Professor Jackson as this work is very beneficial to the University.
- NEW MEMBERS:** The following were elected and welcomed to the Club: - Mr. and Mrs. R. Shepherd and family, 39 Shoobridge St. Glebe. The following nominations for Life Membership were tabled: - Mrs. Alice Elliot, O.B.E., Mrs. F.I. Green.
- EXHIBITION:** entitled "Canadian Patterns", and sponsored by the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission, will be held at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, from April 22 to May 2 inclusive, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Movies, coloured slides, pictures, artifacts, pottery, handicrafts, etc. give a comprehensive knowledge of Canada.
- FEDERATION OF FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUBS OF TASMANIA; -**  
The Annual meeting of the above Federation was held at the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, on Saturday 29th. March. Your two delegates were present. The following are affiliated Clubs: - Field Naturalists' Clubs of Hobart, Launceston, Burnie, Devonport, Launceston Walking Clubs and North West Walking Club. Photographic Societies of Hobart, Launceston and Wynyard. The agenda included various aspects of conservation - an area of deep concern to all these clubs. It is hoped, also, that an overall plan will be made so that all types of habitat will eventually be included in our Tasmanian Reserves and Parks.
- NATUREAMA** on Friday, and Saturday evenings, 28 and 29 March, the Launceston Field Naturalists' Club presented, at the Little Theatre, a selected programme of coloured slides with recorded commentary portraying different aspects of Tasmania's Natural Heritage. Fifteen people contributed slides. It was an outstanding collection, very well put together according to the various types of country to be found in Tasmania. They concluded with these words: -  
"And finally, when in the bush - take nothing but photographs, and leave behind nothing but your footprints."



NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE Royal Society's Room on Thursday, May 15th at 7.45 p.m. It will take the form of a review of the "aster Camp held at Lake Tooms from 4th-8th April.

No 135

Descriptions of the Flora and Fauna found in the area will be given by members who attended.

OUTING

Mild weather and a beautiful setting made this camp memorable and enjoyable for the twenty-five who attended. Saturday, 17th May, to South Arm, <sup>area</sup> Leader - Mr. K. Aves.

Objects - To have a look at a small stand of Eucalyptus Morrisbii - and general observation.

Meet at The Prince Theatre at 9.30 a.m. and bring your own food and drink. This is an <sup>DISTRICT</sup> area which has not been visited by us for some time and should prove interesting.

NEW MEMBERS

Life memberships have now been conferred on Mrs. Alice Elliott <sup>O.B.E.</sup> and Mrs. F. I. Green. Applications have been received from Miss D. Wolfe, 60 Lord Street, Sandy Bay, and Mr. B. A. Reardon "Raeburn" Forcett.

WILDLIFE AND WILD FIRES.....

There are two or three examples which might be said to <sup>point to</sup> ~~have~~ fire as a moulding force in the development of wildlife.

In northern Queensland and Cape York there is a bird called the Black Treecreeper, related to the familiar Brown tree-creeper of the rest of eastern Australia, which shares the usual tree-creeper habit of gliding from high on one tree down to the base of the next. The only difference is, that it seems to favour landing on many trees with stumps blackened by the frequent bushfires in that part of the world.

The effectiveness of the camouflage seems to argue some advantage.

Similarly, the little Black Honeyeater often seems to nest in charred dead branches close to the ground, and there is the example of a very black goanna in the often burned coastal plain of Western Australia.

fine copy

In the tall timber near Marysville, ~~the~~, Leadbeater's possum - re-discovered in 1961 after being "lost" for half a century - appears to be able to compete best with its "younger" and more adaptable cousin, the sugar glider, by clinging to those areas of bush where the growth of saplings and leafy vegetation generally has been thickened by fire.

fixed

Although many perished, there were sufficient brush-tail possums alive on Hobart's Mt. Wellington after the disastrous fires in 1967 to encourage relief organisations to put out food for them until vegetation returned.

I make these points, not to suggest that our wildlife is fireproof - it isn't - but to try to show another phase of their adaptation to this hard Australian environment."

(adapted from <sup>an</sup> article by GRAHAM PIZZEY)

BOC May 30th

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**NEXT MEETING** will be held at the Royal Society Room, Tas. Museum, on Thursday, June 15th. at 7.45 p.m.  
Speaker: Mrs. J.E.S. Townrow  
Subject: "Grasses we see on the mountain."  
Members at the Easter Camp collected grasses which Mrs. Townrow has named for us. Most of us just walk over or through grasses. Here is a chance to learn more about a subject which is right at our feet!

N.B. Mrs. Townrow has requested that you bring along a magnifying glass and a large needle, to help in the identification of the grasses.

**OUTING** Date: Sunday June 22nd. Time: 10 a.m. Meet: Prince Theatre.  
Leader: Mrs. J.E.S. Townrow, Mt. Nelson, Olinda Grove area, and possibly some other locality depending on specimens available.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Proposed on May 15th.: Miss. Barbara Greenstreet, Flat 4, 336 Davey Street.  
Elected on May 15th.: Miss. D. Wolfe, 60 Lord St., Sandy Bay. and Mr. B.A. Reardon, "Raeburn" Forcett.

**QUESTIONNAIRE** At a recent Committee Meeting, answers to the questionnaires were discussed. The following suggestions were made:-  
1. a. Begin each night at 7.45 p.m., with a five minute talk on some aspect of nature, such as bird, insect, plant etc.  
b. The business meeting till 8.30. (if necessary)  
c. 8.30 - the Speaker.

d. if business not finished by 8.30, it could in an emergency be finalised after the speaker had finished.

This will be discussed at the coming meeting.

2. That a small committee be appointed to review the aims and activities of the club.

3. Observations could be recorded in the Outing and Record Book instead of in the minutes of the Meeting.

**FEDERATION OF FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUBS OF TASMANIA**

The biannual meeting of this Federation is to be held in Hobart in September. Would any member willing to billet someone from the North, or North-West, for the Saturday night please inform the Secretary.

**BOOK PRIZE** This will be offered again for 1969. It will be for an "Under 16 years" entry and will be a project on some Natural History Subject.

**WINTER SERIES OF LECTURES. UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA.**

Brochures are available to persons interested. A lecture of particular interest to Botanists could be "The Life of Lakes", the Lecturer will be P.A. Tyler, B.Sc. Exeter, PH.D.

Date: Wednesday June 25th. at the Arts Lecture Theatre.

The Chairman will be Dr. W. Bryden.

**PARMAS** ..... The Return of the Native. From Nature article by Graham Pizzy.

Kawau Island lies 30 miles North of Auckland. Like most New Zealand islands it is green and fertile, with little about it to remind you of Australia. Yet it has Australian connections of distinct and fascinating nature. When in the 1870's Sir George Gray retired there, he took with him, to enliven his new home, some Parma Wallabies from Illawarra, south of Sydney. Here they thrived and in 20 years they were so numerous they could be shot by the hundred by sporting parties without any real danger of being wiped out. Meanwhile, in Australia, they were thought to have become extinct. However, there were some interesting samples among wallaby skins from New Zealand, sent, for examination, to the West Australian Museum. These proved to belong to Parmas. Kawau Island is now to have a soft-wood industry, and this discovery of the Parmas came just in time to save them from being killed off as pests of the industry. With help from the Sporting Shooters' Ass. of Australia, Parmas are being established in Australia. Some will be taken to Sunday Island, on the Gippsland coast, where the Sporting Shooters' Ass. is involved in building up a game reserve in conjunction with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department. But that's for the future. The emphasis for the moment, is on establishing a number of Parma colonies in zoos and scientific institutions across Australia as a buffer against further losses.

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NEXT MEETING will be held at the Royal Society Room, Tas. Museum, on Thursday, July 17th. at 7.45 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. K. Aves.

Subject: "Some Natural History of a Terrestrial Orb." (Illustrated)

OUTING: Date; Saturday, July 19th. Time 9.30 a.m. Meet: Prince Theatre.

Leader: Mr. K. Aves. Object: Eucalyptus morrisbii and other things in Sandford/South Arm area.

NEW MEMBERS: Proposed on June 15th. - Master Philip Young from Oatlands, attending Hutchins School.

PRESERVATION OF RARE SPECIES: Victoria's only unique bird -

The Helmeted Honeyeater - Yellingbo area, Eastern Victoria.

So much of this area has been cleared for farming that the birds are in danger of losing their natural habitat. In an endeavour to save this bird from extinction, Mr. Allen McColl has leased to the Bird Observers' Club, 10 acres of land so that research can be made into the numbers of birds, trees planted to provide more habitat area, and the goodwill gained of surrounding farmers, who have given permission for suitable trees to be planted along the creeks. B.O.C. members have had working bees, accepted donations of money and materials, fenced the land, erected a dwelling etc., and the place is to be known as "The Bird Observer Club Helmeted Honeyeater Research Centre". Mr. Graham Pizzy gives this bird as an example of cases where a thorough attempt is needed, State by State, to learn what the wildlife problems are, and then to set about managing wildlife in such a way as to overcome the Problems.

FEDERATION OF FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA

Tentative date for biannual meeting in Hobart, Sat. Sept. 20th.

Would anyone willing and able to billet a delegate for that night please fill in this form and return it by August 21st. to the Hon. Sec., Tas. Field Naturalists' Club, Box 68A G.P.O. Hobart.

I am willing to billet { 1 person - male - female  
                                  { 2 persons -

on the night of September 20th.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss. \_\_\_\_\_

NOVEMBER OUTING... Date Nov. 22nd. to the Hartz Mountains, by bus.

Fare about \$2.50 per adult. We hope there will be enough adults to pay for the hire of the bus, so that members can bring their children free.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ adult places.

Possible children \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ *as far as possible*

Must be completed and handed in by October Meeting.

*S.O.C. Fri 25 July, 8 p.m. Wireless Inst. Room 147 Lev. St. nr. F. Wall - "Shoamouths + Owls"*

112  
289  
177

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NEXT MEETING will be held at the Royal Society Room, Tas. Museum, on Thursday, August 21st., at 7.45 p.m.

Speaker: Mrs. Elizabeth Turner, Zoological Assistant, Tas. Museum.

Subject: Some Aspects of Tasmanian Shells.

OUTING: Date: SUNDAY, 24th, Aug. Leader: Miss, M.L. Westbrook.

Object: Seashore Search. Meet: Prince Theatre, 10 a.m. for Seven Mile Beach.

NOVEMBER OUTING: Date: Nov. 22nd. to Hartz Mountains by BUS.

Fare: about \$2.50 per adult. We hope there will be enough adults to pay for the hire of the bus, so that members can bring their children free. Please reserve adult and children's places with the Secretary by the October Meeting - earlier if possible.

BI-ANNUAL MEETING of the Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs. Sept. 20th. Anyone able and willing to billet a delegate please let Secretary know as soon as possible. (most likely for the Saturday night only).

SEPTEMBER OUTING.. It is planned to have this on Sunday Sept. 21st. so that delegates can come too. A good place to go would be Mt. Field National Park, as northern delegates can leave us on the return journey and will already be on their way.

\*\*\*\*\*

IDEAS ON OUTINGS ..... (or Field Trips, as they call them)  
culled from THE BULLETIN, Richmond Hill Naturalists, Canada.

"It has been said that a Field Trip is an opportunity to enjoy the out-of-doors in company of like-minded people, to observe natural phenomena under the guidance of an expert leader, and to learn - - - a little more about the world in which we live.

To break this up into phrases and think about them . . . .

An opportunity to enjoy ... All can make an effort to be friendly and follow the rules. But could not the leader be even more friendly, to know the likes and needs of this group, have books to help prepare the group ahead of time or have a follow-up once in a while and so help the people to enjoy the trip?

For like-minded people ... Does not this mean that the purpose of the trip be very specifically stated so that no one person will be misinformed, so that there will be a group of people who want and expect the same thing - and NO FEAR changing goals at the last minute without notifying all concerned.

To observe natural phenomena ... yes of course, but doesn't this involve ALL aspects of nature - geological, biological, physical, ecological, flora as well as fauna, mammals, or reptiles as well as birds, the fossils as well as the living? Does not this include observations with binoculars or/and lens, not just the unaided eye? The use of camera (expert or otherwise otherwise), paint brush or tape-recorder along with the eye and the ear? Does not this include detailed examination of a small area sometimes? Should this not take into account individual scientific problems? Surely this is how to get the interest of the individual and so increase club interest?

Under the guidance of an expert leader ... Should not the leader be expert in knowledge of some field rather than an expert in leadership? The important thing is that the leader be interested in what the group sees and learns - not what he, the leader, wishes to find. One can always find an expert when the need arises, probably right in the group. Also a true leader shouldn't appear to lead. He should be able to turn over the leadership to some member of the group but still remain in control of the group. He's a pretty hard person to find.

To learn ... true, but learning is not just being told; It involves questions on the part of the learners, flexibility on the part of the leader, by the leader leading "from the rear". It involves knowing the group's interests, of caring about their interests, and of course a great deal of research on the part of the leader in order to involve as many members of the group as possible.

Perhaps the club should concentrate its energies on shorter, more varied trips, - for photography, for art, for microscopy, for birding, etc. If we decide on a hike let's be honest and call it a hike NOT a naturalists' Field Trip."

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Hobart Secretary's note: - It sounds as if the Richmond Hill Naturalists have a large membership. They must be a very live group. Their previous Bulletin had an article on Field Outings - written by a leader. They ask their members for still more comments on the subject.

\*\*\*\*\*

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

G.P.O. Box 68A  
HOBART 7001

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

President

Mrs. T.L. Stephens,  
25 Hazell Street,  
BLACKMANS BAY 7152

Hon. Secretary

Miss. M.L. Westbrook,  
6 Richardson Ave.,  
DYNNYRNE 7005

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. L.E. Wall,  
63 Elphinstone Road,  
NORTH HOBART 7000

BULLETIN OF THE TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

Price 20 cents p.a.



NEXT MEETING will be held at the Royal Society Room, Tas. Museum, on Thursday, September 18th., at 7.45 p.m.  
Speaker: Pro. W.D. Jackson - Lecturer in Botany, Tas. University.  
Subject: Flora of the lower areas of National Park, especially Ferns.  
Specimen of the Evening: Five minute talk by Miss. Barbara Greenstreet.

OUTING: Date: Sunday, September 21st.  
Leader: Pro. W.D. Jackson. Meet: 9 a.m. at the Prince Theatre.  
Place: Russel Falls, Mt. Field National Park.  
Object: Study of Flora and Fauna - bring magnifying glass for Ferns, binoculars for birds.  
Visitors: It is hoped that delegates to the Bi-annual Meeting of the Federation of Field Naturalists will join in this outing.

MEMBERSHIP: An application has been received from Mr. David Bayley, 405 Elizabeth Street, Hobart.

NOVEMBER OUTING: Applications are rolling in for a seat on the bus, There is still room for more, so make sure of your place by letting Miss. Warren know how many seats you would like to book. Fare: \$2.50 for adults. Children with parents, free. Junior Members please make sure of your booking if not coming with parents.  
Date: November 22nd. Place: To Hartz Mountains.

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#### "WAR ON BIG SNAILS IN NEW GUINEA"

Did you see the article in the "Mercury" the other day? These giant snails were allegedly introduced by the Japanese soldiers to use as food, but New Guinea doesn't want them because they are damaging the coconut trees.

One of the shells we found on the last OUTING was one of the Sand Snails. These usually inhabit estuarine mud flats, or patches of sandy mud near reefs on the open coast. There is an excellent colour picture of one in "Australian Sea Shells" (Periwinkle Series).

Land snails can exist on the tops of high mountains, buried in deserts, and hidden in rain forests. There are some 18,000 species.

In motion, a snail is a thing of graceful beauty. His sinuous body glides along without visible effort on its "suction cup" underside. Tiny muscles contract in a rhythmic succession of waves and thus the fragile body is propelled forward.

In the snails everyday life, moisture is the ruling factor - to keep his body supple, and for his silver path. The upper pair of antennae are topped by the eyes; in the lower two, much shorter, are extremely sensitive organs of touch. He's woefully nearsighted but his strong sense of smell helps him to find new greens.

Although they are a bother in our gardens, they have their uses, apart from being a delicacy for those who like to eat them. Thanks to a discovery in 1952, the chemical properties of the snails gastric juices have been used in medical research. They isolate sex and adrenal hormones (steroids) attached to other molecules in the human bloodstream. The steroids are isolated without damage, and by studying their concentration in the blood or urine, we may possibly detect the presence of certain types of cancer.

There's no telling where the snails silver trail may lead!

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B.O.C. - Friday, 26th. September, 8.00 p.m.

Mrs. Angel will speak on her recent trip with bird observers,

"Wanderings in the Northern Territory"

Wireless Institute Room,  
147 Liverpool Street,  
Hobart.

VISITORS WELCOME !

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NEXT MEETING will be held at the Royal Society Room, Tas. Museum, on Thursday, October 16th., at 7.45 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. A. Hewer.

Subject: Frogs - and other pond life.

Specimen of the evening: Five minute talk by Mrs. F. Angel.

LAST OUTING: Delegates to the Bi-annual meeting of the Federation of Field Naturalists were invited to join our OUTING which was to Russel Falls. There was a good turn-up of members and Dr. Townrow attended to give members the benefit of his knowledge of ferns in the area. Among the birds seen was a Mountain Thrush, feeding young, and at least three orchids were seen, *Pterostylis longifolia*, *Pterostylis nutans* and *Corybus dilatatus*. We were pleased to find a fern we were specially looking for - a fern with an ancient history - Fork Fern - *Tmesipteris*, which grows from a rhizomic system embedded in the trunk of the Soft Treefern.

NEXT OUTING: Leader: Mr. A. Hewer

Place: South Arm

Object: Frogs and things

Meet: Prince Theatre. 9.30 a.m.

Date: Saturday, 18th. October

NOVEMBER OUTING: The bus has been fully booked.

Deposits, or payments in full, will be accepted at this meeting Oct. 16th. This outing will be to the Hartz Mountains.

JUNIOR COMPETITION: Entries (Natural History Project of your own choice) must be handed in by October 30th. ready for judging. The prize will then be presented at the November Meeting.

#### A Few Interesting Points About SPIDERS

Graham Pizzy tells us about one of the largest of the Victorian Spiders - the *Nephila*, the Golden-orb spinner. Young *Nephilas* presumably travel like many other young spiderlings - that is, they select a high point when a breeze is blowing, release a long strand of silk and are whisked off into space on their own white, downy balloon. They soar out of sight above the trees - perhaps not to come down for miles.

When spinning their webs between trees - some may span 10 feet the main bearing thread must extend across the gap, sometimes having to stretch 15 feet. The laminated strand of silk is extremely tough. Once the main frame is created, the spider then produces another form of silk. The silk for the frame has been whitish and tough, but not sticky or viscid. The golden thread she now produces and attaches in a spiral pattern between the spirals of the frame, is sticky and it's this that does the insect catching.

So, spread throughout the deadly snare, she has a framework on which she can move quickly to remove insects.

Presumably the golden colour of the latter assists her in keeping her feet clear of it as she races after an insect, or after her own puny mate who always makes his approaches down one of the non-sticky main rays of the web.

The normal position for the spider is hanging head downwards in the centre of the web, with a double pair of long legs directed forwards and downwards, another short pair out the side, and the final pair of medium length legs out behind and upwards; above her, hanging vertically in the web is usually a string of insect remains, often covered with web - for *Nephila*, among other things, is tidy.

The final act in the year's performance comes when *Nephila* produces her eggs. She spins part of an egg sac in the rough form in a nest, in the leaves or branches adjacent to the web, and in that lays a mass of beautiful pearl-pink eggs, which darken with age; then she completes the cocoon around it.

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BILLETS: A big "thankyou" to the people who billeted delegates - Mrs. Lexie Roberts, and the Misses Ibbott. - and to Mr. Frank King, who offered - but was not needed.

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**NEXT MEETING** will be held at the Royal Society Room, Tas. Museum, on Thursday November 20th., at 7.45 p.m.

**Speaker:** Miss. Heather Gulline.

**Subject:** Botany of the Hartz area.

(This is a preparation for the Hartz trip, by bus, on Saturday November 22nd.)

**Specimen of the evening:** Will be presented by Mr. L. Wall.

**Presentation** of the prize given for the Junior Natural History Project.

**LAST OUTING:** was to south Arm-Sandford area, led by Mr. A. Hewer. The chief interest was in frogs, and all the species possible in the area, were found.

**NEXT OUTING:** Bus trip to Hthe Hartz Mountains.

Meet at the Prince Theatre by 9.15 a.m., on Saturday Nov. 22nd. If you have omitted to book a seat in the bus, come along in the hopes that there will be a seat in a car. Wear clothing suitable for all weathers.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Applications for membership were received from:

Mr. Harvey W. Dickison, 43 Tucker Rd., Moorabbin, Victoria.

Mr. Richard C. Powell, 30 Red Chapel Avenue, Sandy Bay.

Elected to membership:

Mr. D.J. Bayley, 405 Elizabeth St., Hobart.

**PROPOSED WEEKEND** to Lake Dobson (continuation of botanical survey)

The long weekend at the end of January. More detail will be given at the meeting.

#### THE TASMANIAN DEVIL AND THE THYLACINE (Tasmanian Tiger.)

Do you know the difference between these two animals?

According to Graham Pizzy, many people confuse these two marsupials of the flesh-eating family known as the dasyurids. But the distinctions are actually quite marked.

	Thylacine	Devil
Size:	Up to 6ft. in length.	about 2ft.
Coat:	Short fur, generally tawny colour.	Rather short fur, generally black and shiny.
Distinguish- ing Marks:	Across lower back, several dark brown stripes.	Often a white crescent on chest or across the rump.
Tail:	Rather sloping hindquarters, long, tapering tail, really an inflexible expansion of the backbone.	Rather short tapering tail.
Jaws:	Enormous gape - to almost a straight line.	Not quite so wide, but shows powerful, close-set teeth.
Food:	A select hunter - mainly mammals like small Kangaroos or wallabies, which it ran down in persistant chase.	Omnivorous - small wallabies, wombats, sick or injured animals, bird's eggs, and young, frogs, insects, snakes,- anything that is available.

#### STATES WILL ACT TOGETHER TO SAVE WILDLIFE.

At a meeting of State and Commonwealth Ministers, held recently at Canberra, it was agreed that there was a need for collaboration to conserve Australia's wildlife. The meeting accepted an offer from the Commonwealth to provide secretarial services for meetings at ministerial and official level.

They agreed, also, that there was a need for conservation education in a broad sense on primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, together with more in-service training to solve the shortage of management and administration people in the conservation field. They suggested that if the advice of fauna authorities was sought when water conservation schemes were being planned, breeding places for waterfowl could often be preserved. No one wishes to see planned development impeded, but there is a widespread feeling that greater attention to wildlife conservation is urgently needed, as an intregal part of national development.

**BIRD OBSERVER'S GROUP:** Members are invited to attend the next meeting to be held on Friday November 28th., at 8 p.m. at the Wireless Institute Rooms 147 Liverpool Street.

Remember you are still a Field Naturalist during the holidays. Bring your observations to the February meeting. Best wishes for the coming Festive Season, and the New Year.