

Form for Renewal of Subscription

Enclosed herewith is my subscription for 1975.

Type of Sub.....

Signed - Name Mr/Miss/Mrs.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Phone - Business..... Private.....

NEW RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

Adult member - \$4.50;

Group Membership (Family Youth group, School etc as approved by the Committee)...\$6.00

Junior (under 16), Student or Pensioner... \$2.50.

Non-member sub. to 'The Tasmanian Naturalist' - \$2.00.

Annual Meeting - Nomination Form

I hereby nominate Mr/Mrs/Miss.....

for the office of.....

of T.F.N.C. FOR THE YEAR 1975.

Nominator..... Seconder.....

I accept this nomination

Signed..... Date.....

Annual Meeting Nomination Form

I hereby nominate Mr/Mrs/Miss.....

for the office of.....

of T.F.N.C. for theyear 1975.

Nominator..... Seconder.....

Signed..... I accept this nomination.

Date.....

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart, for transmission by post as a periodical, Category B.

Club's address - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001

NOTICE OF MEETING - the next meeting will be held in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, Thurs. Feb. 20. 1975.

→ SPEAKER - Miss Pat Palmer. SUBJECT - Orchids.

OUTING - Leader; Mt. K. Aves. Mt. Wellington. Meet, Prince Theatre, Sat. 22nd. 9.45.a.m. Private Transport.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club will be held in the Royal Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum, on Thursday, March 20th, at 7.45.p.m.

All official positions become vacant.

Officials for 1974 were

- President: Mr. A.M. Hewer.
- Vice-Presidents; Mr. H.K. Aves; Mr. G. Van Munster
- Secretary - vacant - M.L. Westbrook carrying on as committee member.
- Treasurer: Miss D.N. Wise.
- Auditor: Miss R. Warren.
- Assistant Secretary - no nomination
- Editor, Tasmanian Naturalist: Mr. D.G. Thomas.
- Librarian: Mrs. McDonald.
- Committee Members: Mt. F. King; Mr. M. Hurburgh; Miss F.E. Warren; Mr. D.G. Thomas; M.L. Westbrook.

* The Annual meeting will be followed by the usual monthly meeting for March.

Seating Arrangements

The easy chairs near the front are quite safe! Not all our speakers are practised in oratory and the art of throwing one's voice to the far limits of the room. It has been suggested that as many members as possible help the speakers by sitting near the front of the room.

NOMINATIONS

These should be on the prescribed form and received by the Acting Secretary not later than Thursday, March 6th.

NOTE:-

Do I hear a little whisper?
(Um! I don't think I'll go to the Annual Meeting - I might get roped in for a job!)

SO WHAT!

- ...If you are REALLY interested in Nature and love to get out;
- ...If you would like to encourage others to join with you and enjoy it together;
- ...If you think it is important for people to know more about the outdoors and get to love it and take care of it;

WHY NOT become involved?

A Club is not a one or two man band - a job shared among several is much easier for each.

WHY NOT volunteer to be a committee member - or even a Secretary? or an Assistant Secretary?

To become involved in the working of a Club can bring much interest and satisfaction to an individual.

Why not be willing to stand as President?

The aims of this club are more than just providing an evening's pleasant entertainment every third Thursday and an outing the following weekend.....

Club's Rule 2:-

The objects of the Club shall be the encouragement of the study of nature 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.

..... Why not an article for "The Tasmanian Naturalist"?

BASTER CAMP:-The Chalet, Waddamana - Education Dept.'s Field Study Centre- Object (among others) - to make lists and collections of flora for the information of students attending Science Camps. Everything except sheets and towels for \$4. a day. Many birds about - lots of interesting bush- DO BE THERE!

WARNING - SUBS ARE NOW DUE -

Members whose subscriptions are TWO years in arrears (and believe it or not there are some!) are liable to have their names removed from the roll.

Make sure of your financial standing for 1975....

Owing to that well-worn phrase-'rising costs'- the Club Committee has reluctantly decided to raise the annual sub- and although, among other things, the rent of the Royal Society Room has 'gone up', we know that many members would be loth to leave our traditional and central meeting place where we have good facilities for slides etc., and a safe place for our Library.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

For those who are interested in BATS.

We have received 'Australian Bat Research News', No. 13; Nov. 1974.

A study is being made of a fungus most commonly found in soils containing the manure of chickens, birds or BATS. The researchers need soil samples from caves, abandoned houses in rural areas, fowlyards, including chicken houses, and underneath or within hollows of trees used by birds for roosting - such sites could be found in suburban parks as well as rural areas.

The fungus causes, in humans, a lung disease similar to tuberculosis, and has been diagnosed in some cave explorers;

The article suggests certain procedures for the collection of soil samples.

Anyone interested could borrow the News Sheet from our Library.

We have, also, COLLINS Book News - introducing their Australian Naturalist Library - BIRD LIFE by Ian Rowley, Fish of the Ocean & Shore, by J.M.Thomson, and Living Insects, by R.D.Hughes. Out late in 1975 will be SPIDERS by B. Main and FROGS AND TOADS by M.J.Tyler. Others will follow. We have, too, the Australia Party's literature on conservation policies etc.etc.

Most of us are busy people with lots of calls on our time and our interest. Have you heard the little saying "If you want a job done, ask a person who is already busy"? Such a person MAKES time to do the job. It's enthusiasm that counts!

EASTER CAMP FORM

DATES - Friday March 28th to Monday 31st or Tues April 1.
 PLACE - The Chalet, Waddamana.
 COST - \$4 a day. - paid at the camp.
 TAKE - Sheets, pillowslip, towel.
 Clothes for both hot and cold weather.
 Personal items
 Camera? binoculars? Curtis' Flora?
 Notebook and pencil. Torch.
 A couple of old newspapers to press specimens.
 GENERAL PROCEDURE - Campers will set tables; wash up;
 and vacuum their rooms before leaving.

IMPORTANT

Please return this form to Miss M.L. Westbrook,
 6 Richardson Ave, Dynnyrne, 7005 - ON OR BEFORE March 19th
 to help with CATERING and transport. (There are no buses).

Name of camper/s _____

Can you offer any transport?

Going up...Date _____ Number of places _____
 Coming back...Date _____ Number of places _____

Do you NEED transport?

Going up...Date _____ Number of places _____
 Coming back...Date _____ Number of places _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Address for notices _____

Phone? _____ leaving

Expected date of arrival _____ of ~~leaving~~ camp _____

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart, for transmission by post
 as a periodical, Category B.

Club's address - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001

NOTICE OF MEETING - The Annual General Meeting will be held
 in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, on
 Thursday March 20th, at 7.45.p.m. and followed by the
 usual monthly meeting for March.

OUTING - Saturday March 22nd. Meet at Prince at 9.30.a.m.
 Private Transport. It is hoped to go to Adamson's Falls
 but final arrangements will be made at the meeting.

LIBRARY - Books are lent for one month. Please return any
 you have-at the Annual Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP - Welcome to new members - Mrs. D. Crooks,
 Miss E. Jebb, and Mr. Ivan Weedon.
 Membership stands at 102. Of these, 11 are 'out-of-town',
 6 are elderly or ill, 10 we never see, and 8 have
 transport or other difficulties. This gives us about
 66 'effective' members. Attendances run between 25 and
 35 - not always the same people, although there are some
 who never miss. Club 'offices' number 14.

PROGRAMME - The incoming committee will be drawing up the
 1975 programme - if any member has ideas for subjects
 they would like included, prospective speakers, objects
 for outings, or outing leaders, or would be willing to
 lead outings DO LET COMMITTEE MEMBERS KNOW.

If you would like to help with folding the 'Bulletin'
 that, too, would be appreciated - let us know.

'The Tasmanian Naturalist' needs more backing-up
 from Club members. Several members have the knowledge
 and expertise to write 'technical' articles (and not
 all are on birds), and other members are quite capable
 of writing 'not so technical' but nevertheless highly
 interesting and informative articles on some aspect
 of natural history in Tasmania. What about it?????

SUBSCRIPTIONS - are now due. Adult, \$4.50; Family or
 Group, \$6.00; Junior, Student or Pensioner, \$2.50.
 Non-member sub to 'The Tasmanian Naturalist', \$2.00.

NAME BADGES - please wear your badge at meetings.....

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1974Programme:- 1974 meetings:

- April - South America - M.L. Westbrook
 May - Camp Review
 June - Films
 July - Port Davey - Mr. Hurburgh
 August - Photography and Taperecording in the Bush
 Mr. Hewer and Mr. Aves
 September - African Wild Life - Dr. Eric Guiler
 October - Making Friends with Birds - Mr. Boss-Walker
 November - Birds and Plants likely to be seen at
 Tahune Forest Reserve - Mr. Wall
 February, 1975 - Films.

Outings:-

These have taken us to Mt. Wellington, Summerleas Rd, Longley, Russell River, Mt. Field National Park, Pelverata Falls, Adamson's Falls Area, and Tahune Forest Reserve.

Our thanks are due to all the speakers and to those who have led outings.

The Easter Camp:- was held at Maria Island where we had the use of an empty house. The weather improved as the holiday progressed and groups of campers hiked in various directions - there was a 'bird-count' of 52 and our rations were pleasantly augmented by mushrooms! We appreciated the wildlife around the camp and the many historical associations.

The Committee met six times to deal with programmes, membership, conservation, finance, correspondence, Easter Camp, and other matters which arose from time to time.

The November Bus Outing (organised, as it has been for some years, by Miss F.E. Warren) was to Tahune Forest Reserve and was led by members of the Bird Observers Association of Tasmania.

Club delegates have attended the two meetings of the Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs of Tasmania) which this year have been organised by Ulverstone.

Rising Costs - The committee reluctantly decided that the subscriptions would have to rise. The new rates are - Adults, \$4.50; Family or approved Group, \$6.00; Juniors, students and pensioners, \$2.50;
 The Tasmanian Naturalist, \$2.00

Membership - 13 members have joined and 13 have left, or have been taken off the roll because we have not heard anything from them for two years. Our numbers stand now at 102. About 36 of these are 'out-of-town', elderly, ill, or have transport or other difficulties and ten of these we never see at meetings. The remaining 66 members provide us with an attendance of between 25 and 35 each meeting, and generally there are from three to six cars which turn up for outings.

The Tasmanian Naturalist (Editor, Mr. D. Thomas) has a circulation of about 200. A number of these are overseas subscriptions, while some are sent in exchange for other associations' publications. The Editor would welcome articles from more Club Members, and other interested people.

Tasmanian Birds (Jacaranda Press) - Mr. Wall began negotiations for this in 1971. There were many difficulties with the actual publication but at last Jacaranda Press got it out late in 1974. We are grateful to Mr. Wall for all the time and effort he put into collecting and borrowing slides from several people all round Tasmania, and we are sure it will be a great help to our 'birdwatchers' - and Tourists, besides bringing in some royalties for our Club Funds.

Thanks - to our Auditor, Miss R. Warren; the Editor of "The Tasmanian Naturalist"; our Librarian, Mrs. McDonald, who has been kept busy keeping our cupboards in good order, and lending out books; and to the few members who have continually volunteered to do up the Bulletin, and Mr. Wall, who always provides us with all the addressed folders..

We appreciate the use of the Royal Society Room - it seems to be our traditional 'home'. Although the Museum's expenses and therefore, our rent, have gone up, the Committee felt members would rather stay here than try to find any other accommodation. The room is always ready for us and we are fortunate to have the use of projectors. So thanks also to the Royal Society, and for the co-operation of their staff.

M.L. Westbrook.
 (for the Committee).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS?

The '?' means that attendances were not recorded for that night.

Membership is a little higher than these numbers as only one member of a family sub has been counted.

Year.	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Approx. Members
1963.	40	40	40	70	25	40	25	40	30	35	35	107
1964.	45	40	?	50	20	26	20	35	35	35	35	105
1965.	35	31	20	40	45	40	30	30	30	32		100
1966.	34	45	35	30	50	50	45	35	24	35		84
1967.	30	30	35	35	30	25	?	?	?	?	28	78
1968.	33	20	30	45	30	?	20	30	13	30		77
1969.	20	23	24	30	23	24	35	30	27	32		81
1970.	25	21	22	28	15	12	?	?	?	22	30	76
1971.	30	22	?	?	28	30	?	30	?	31		84
1972.	30	?	?	?	28	30	?	30	31	31		80
1973.	30	30	17	30	40	20	32	35	30	27		80
1974.	?	?	?	35	30	?	?	?	34	30	36	82
1975.	30	31										

This year 16 of the subs are family subs.

EASTER CAMP 1975.

There were thirteen people, who came in seven cars! This was a happy group - small enough to be sociable, and large enough to split into small groups if we wanted to do different things - with plenty of transport available! Mrs. Middleton catered and cooked for us to everybody's(?) satisfaction, the chalet was comfortable and warm with a lovely log fire at night. Miss Pollit came over from Orford to join us. - and in spite of the dire forecast we got out every day and were caught in the rain only once, and had an approaching snowstorm at Lagoon of Islands- so we beat a retreat to cars and headed for camp.

Probably there will be more information on the camp in The Tasmanian Naturalist.

The following Office-bearers were elected at the A.G.M. March, 1975.

- President - Mr. M. H. Hurburgh
- Vice-Presidents- Mr. H.K.Aves, Miss M.L.Westbrook
- Secretary- Mr. G. Van Munster
- Assistant Secretary- Mrs. Dorothy Crooks
- Treasurer- Mr. A.M.Hewer
- Editor- The Tasmanian Naturalist - Mr. D.G.Thomas
- Auditor- Miss R. Warren
- Committee- Miss E.F.Warren; Mrs. E. Thorpe; Mr. D.G.Thomas; Mr. F. King; Mrs. T.L.Stephens; Miss D. Wise.
- Librarian- Mrs. M.L.McDonald and then Miss A. Cooper.
- Delegates, Federation of Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Clubs - Mrs. Thorpe, Mr. Hewer.

NEXT MEETING - Presidential Address, Mr. A.M.Hewer. on Thursday, April 17th at 7.45.p.m. in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum.

NEXT OUTING - Date - Saturday, April 19th.

Leader - Mr. Hewer.

Meet - ...Join the Queue for Lindisfarne in time to get a 9.30.a.m. Ferry.

Objects - to check on status of the Eucalyptus risdoni, E. morrisbyi, in the Eastern Shore Flora Reserve - and the remains of the opal bank, and aboriginal site.

Short Talk at the meeting will be by Miss B. Greenstreet.

FORM for those who have not yet paid their 1975 sub.)

Enclosed herewith is my 1975 sub.

Signed-Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone-Bus. _____ Private _____

Adult members-\$4.50;

Group membership(Family etc.) \$6.00

Junior, student, pensioner-\$2.50

Non-member sub to 'TheTasmanian Naturalist'-32.00

OUTINGSFEBRUARY:-

Mr. Aves led this outing to Mt. Wellington and members 'stopped off' at various places to see what could be found. First we made the rounds of the area by The Springs where many native things were planted after the 1967 fires. Many of them are growing well - although it is a struggle by a few faithful workers to see that they are not swamped by the prolific regrowth of the Eucalypts etc.

Our next stop was by the Collinsvale track where we noted many plants of prasophyllum orchids in flower, also the mountain euphrasias. Lunch was enjoyed in a sheltered spot by the road. We later had a look at the 'skating rink' area and finished up at the summit. Mrs. Allan later produced for us a comprehensive list of flora noted in the various areas and this list is now in the Record Book.

March :-

Our Leader, Miss Holt, decided that 9.30 was too late a start for Adamson's Falls so we went to Bruni Island instead. We left the cars off the road at Great Bay - had our lunch there in the sunshine and then set off for the ruins of the old church near Variety Bay. On the way we passed a good stand of Eucalyptus tasmanica.

(Note- Kirkpatrick, 1973 - says this is now *E. tenuiramis*) Not many flowers were out but we were lucky enough to find (a) two tiny greenhood orchids - less than 3 ins - *Pterostylis parviflora* and (b) a LARGE orchid - about 15 ins - a fine stalk of the "ative Hyacinth - *Dipodium punctatum*. - and while on the ferry we noted many mutton birds - skimming low over the surface of the water.

Thankyou, Leaders, for instructive and pleasant outings!
* * * * *

This space is to remind those who have not yet paid their 1975 sub - to use the form and send in their money without delay!

Snippets from other Newsletters.

From H.W.C. April.

FIRES ON BEACHES

The Minister for National Parks and Wildlife has asked all walkers, especially on the South-West Coast, to ensure that camp fires are not visible to seaward unless there is an emergency. He said that for many years a beacon fire on the shore has been a traditional distress signal and the Service has had reports, recently, that investigations of large fires on the shore at night had shown them to be camp fires and not distress signals.

From 'The South Australian Naturalist' - March.

The Field Naturalist' Society of South Australia Mammal Club has its Annual Report and Survey Results. The Society has four specialist groups - Botany Club; Mammal Club; Herpetology Group; and Junior Naturalists' Club. Besides the General Meeting, every third Thursday of the month, each group has its own meeting night.

This year the National Parks and Wildlife Service adopted a new procedure, and issued 'Permits to Facilitate Scientific Research' individually to those nominated by the Mammal Club. At present seven people hold permits. In all, 23 trips were conducted by the Club or its members during the year and 12 mammals were lodged with the South Australian Museum.

From 'Nat's News' (Devonport.)

Their Annual Report shows a record of 88 members, and 3 Life Members - they hope to pass the 100 mark this year. A new idea is to conduct divided walks - and this proved popular, especially for those persons who do not wish to do too much strenuous walking. They have a large number of young people who take part in the walks and they are commended on their keenness and good behaviour.

They include a map of the Dial Range - if all the plans for this area come to pass it should be a wonderful recreation area incorporating Roads, Pony Trails, a Trail bike area, walking tracks, rifle range, picnic areas, camping sites, youth hostel, and other amenities. The Penguin Planning and Reserves Committee and the North-West Walking Club are putting a lot of time and thought into the project, and the Burnie Field Nats are planning to make a survey of flora and fauna.

to include area of Walls of Jerusalem and proposal for Central Plateau is under review.
Laying of poison on areas of re-forestation discussed - the effect on native fauna.

Protection of flora on Crown Lands - Act under review.
North East F.N Club to continue action to have Mount Cameron National Park.
Bird Observers Association of Tasmania proposed motion that the Federation concentrate its efforts on co-operative field work, rather than conservation matters.

Finally resolved that all clubs should concentrate on co-operative Field Work to the advancement of conservation. Clubs should conduct more detailed surveys of various areas similar to our club work in the Dial Range.
Bone-seed - Federation to write to Government to have it declared a noxious weed.

Local groups to conduct "pulling out" projects in infected areas.

Things to watch for - CATTLE EGRETS ARDEOLA ibis (LINNAEUR) 1758

Returning from the Easter Camp we noticed seven cattle egrets feeding with the cattle on the flats at Forth. In our newsletter last May we quoted a report from "Nats News" that 30 cattle egrets had been observed in the Moriarty district (April, 1974) Keep your eyes open - look for a large white bird (about the size of a heron) with a hunched-dejected appearance accompanying grazing animals, and let us have your report.

For those who would like to see more birds in our own gardens, an excellent small book is available. It is called "Australian Native Gardens and Birds" by Barbara Salter. It is in the series Jacaranda Pocket Guides and costs about \$2. It gives lists of suitable plants, recipes for birds porridge etc.

.....
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Signed: Mr.Mrs.Miss _____

Address .. _____

Postcode _____ PHONE: Bus. _____ Private _____

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- Librarian - Mrs. M.L. McDonald and then Miss A. Cooper.
- Delegates, Federation of Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Clubs - Mrs. Thorpe, Mr. Hewer.

NEXT MEETING will be held in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum on Thursday 15th May, at 7.45 p.m.
The speaker will be Mr. D.R. Gregg, Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, on the subject "GEOLOGY"

NEXT OUTING - Still to be arranged

Library - New books - not to be stored, but well worth reading - see our librarian Miss Ann Cooper.

- 'Forest we care for' donated by Mrs. Thorpe
- 'Australian Continent in danger' and
- 'Great Barrier Reef' donated by Miss Barbara Greenstreet.
- 'Bird Life' by Rumley received for commentary.

Publications too good to miss 'Habitat' published by Australian Conservation Foundation, only \$3. for six issues per year. or become a member for \$8. per year. See the Secretary.

'The World of Olegas Truchanas' - It is on the market. Each photo is a gem. The memories of Lake Pedder, the grandeur of the Arthur Range, The living forest of Mount Ann or the Silence after the storm. Olegas certainly did have the unique quality of Tasmania's inexpressible beauty with his artistic insight of photography. If you can spare the \$19.50 you will gain and help.

From other PublicationsRARE ORCHID FIND NEAR PERTH, W.A.

(as reported in the "West Australian", 3rd March, 1975)

"A colony of one of the world's strangest orchids, *Spiculaea ciliata*, was discovered this summer at Boulder Rock, about 50 Km. south of Perth by members of the W.A. Native Orchid Society, whose members are listing as many orchids as possible, many of which are believed to be in danger of extinction.

The orchid is sometimes known as the Elbow Orchid because of its jointed stems and leaves. It produces a green and brown flower when the foliage has withered and the plant has apparently died. Specimens found at Boulder Rock bloomed profusely and lasted well after they were collected.

NEW MARSUPIAL

In September 1973, Dr. Peter Baverstock, of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide, accidentally discovered Australia's newest marsupial (mammal) in a park about 200 Km. east of Adelaide. The tiny creature is about the same size as the ordinary house mouse, weighs about 12 gr.

At first only two males were discovered, but further searching has found a female, with a litter of five, which she carries in a backward facing pouch. The new 'mice' are being encouraged to breed in captivity, so probably other females found will also produce litters and provide ample animals for study.

Unlike the house mouse, this animal has a pointed snout and many short, sharp teeth. It is said to belong to the same family of meat eaters as the native cat and the Tasmanian Devil. Apparently the new mammal is as yet without a name.

FOSSILS

Tasmania has seen a few fossil discoveries, like the *Zygomaturis* from the Mowbray Swamp area (N.W. Tas.) size of a small bullock; fossils remains on Old Beach Road, near Hobart; smaller fossils from Fossil Bluff on the North West, and in the North East. We can only mention to date fossil prints of large bird like creatures found near the foot of Mount Cameron in 1962. These dated "from mid to late Tertiary and Pleistocene in age". (Details in the Emu, Vol 74, part 4, October, 1974, by Rich & Green)

Other types no doubt have been found from time to time, and no doubt other fossils will be discovered in the future .. But what a thrill it must be to dig up something unexpected like fossil bones of a creature which lived so long ago-- when the world was young.

BRICKS FROM SAWDUST

Sawdust, once despised, is now one of the most valuable of all waste products. From it we make artificial woods, spirit, dyes, oxalic acid, and a good many forms of blasting powder.

By mixing the dust of fine, hard woods with ivory paste, water glass and glue, a hard mass is formed from which veneers are cut. These do not warp or crack, and will take polish equal to that of old marble.

For furniture, for moulded decorations, and for flooring, various mixtures of sawdust with other materials are employed. One is a celluloid which has a real metallic lustre. These can be coloured as desired.

No fewer than 22 sorts of blasting powder are made with sawdust as a base. 'Heraklin', largely used in French coal mines, is made of sawdust saturated with picric acid and saltpetre, and mixed with sulphur and saltpetre. It burns somewhat slowly, so that the coal is merely ripped, and not blown to fragments.

Briquettes for burning are made of coarse sawdust by the addition of tar or pitch, and also bricks for building purposes. Fine sawdust is boiled with water glass, and powdered asbestos and glue mixed in. Bricks so made are damp-proof and fire-proof, besides being very light and easy to handle.

One of the newest and most promising uses of sawdust is to relieve the present paper famine. Not only sawdust, but shavings and wood chips are used. They are boiled down into cellulose, but the process is too intricate to be fully described.

Report from Federation of Field Naturalists Meeting, Launceston 5th April, 75
Delegates - Mr. & Mrs. W. Rhoades and B. Dudgan.
New president - Mr. C. Taylor, Secretary Mr. G. Briton (N.E. Field Nats.)
Vice presidents - Mrs. Cameron and Miss Stocks.

Brief Business

Protection plants on Crown Lands: Clubs to prepare check lists of plants at specific areas. Also clubs to prepare lists of plants in reserves in their areas, and circulate to other clubs.

Trail Bikes; Make use of all forms of publicity to emphasise damage caused by trail bikes especially on formed tracks in parks and reserves. We would like to see areas set aside for trail bike recreation.

Rehabilitation clauses in Mining Act. Local groups to keep eye on mining areas, suggestion re inclusion of mining locality maps on application acknowledged by Minister to have merit and to be considered in future Mining Act amendments.

Grazing at Arthur River area - botanical survey just completed/nil report.
Proposal to enlarge Cradle Mountain Lake St. Clair National Park (page 4)

INDIAN RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARYDid you know?

Did you know that robins will eat snakes? I didn't until one evening last summer. I was outside in the driveway engaged in that unending task of trying to keep my car looking presentable. I happened to look up the driveway and noticed a robin which was engaged in a battle with what I thought was an extra large looking worm. My curiosity aroused, I ran into the house and got my binoculars and on closer inspection with these, the extra large worm turned out to be a small snake, possibly a baby DeKay or Garter snake. The robin after softening him up flew into a nearby tree and fed it to one of its young ones. (Tom Coates, 'Orchid')

Could our robin beat this?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT (Nats' News)

A group of walkers visited the Cradle Area a week or so ago to see the Fagus - and their attention was drawn to a young lass from the mainland waiting to be attended to at the counter of the Pine Lodge Kiosk. She was dressed in a light frock and thongs and wanted to purchase supplies to take with her through the reserve! She was told that suitable provisions were not available and that she could not walk through the reserve dressed like that. Her reply "All right then - I'll catch the bus"!

ANCIENT ABORIGINAL CAVE

An interesting news item recently, and in keeping with our forthcoming Aboriginal week, was the announcement that an Aboriginal Cave Site on Hunter Island, off the North West Coast, has been estimated to be 13,500 years old. Artefacts have been found in the cave which has an opening some thirty metres across. The oldest previously known caves in Tasmania are those at Rocky Cape, whose estimated age is 8,000 years.

(North-Eastern Naturalist)

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Club's Address -
G.P.O. Box 68 A, Hobart

NEXT MEETING will be held in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum on Thursday 19th June, at 7.45 p.m. The speaker will be Mr. H.A. Hutchinson from Bureau of Meteorology.
Subject: 'The Weather'

OUTING Saturday 21st June. In real weather looking around for some birds and flowers in the Coningham/Oyster Cove area. Transport in private cars from Prince Theatre at 10 a.m. (watch out for the 'othersiders' to come)

AUGUST MEETING - members' evening - Select your ten best slides! Think about your most liked subject (one out of the hundred)

- Beginners' talk - make it pointy.
- Experienced speakers - keep it short! -
- Everybody must have the opportunity.
- (note: ten minutes maximum)

Some Publications tabled which can be borrowed from our library

'ECOS' - C.S.I.R.O. Environmental Research May 1975.

* Between 50 and 100 kg. of salt are deposited on every hectare of the Darling Ranges each year.

* *Dhytophthora cinnamomi* (fungus also in Tasmania) kills Yarrah at a rate estimated at 3600 ha. or more a year.

'Habitat' - A.C.F. bi-monthly magazine with unique photographs and articles.

'Australian Planta' - S.G.A.P. Last copy on Eucalypts for gardens, for sale at 50 c a copy.

'Victorian Naturalist'. Studies of *Antechinus Swansonii* (dusky mouse) and other small mammals.

'The Ring' - International Ornithological Bulletin 'Bird banding in Australia'

'Notornis' - Ornithological Society of New Zealand 'Some Foods of the Wandering Albatross'

From other clubs

BLACKWOOD - *Acacia melanoxylon* R.Br. Fam. Leguminosae Sub.Fam. Mimosoideae

Blackwood, the largest and most important *Acacia* (Wattle) is found in the cool, moist, temperate regions of South-Eastern Australia and extends to sub-tropical parts of Southern Queensland. It is present in all states but Western Australia.

As a forest tree, it grows to a height of thirty metres and a diameter of one metre. The bark is grey to black in colour, hard, rough and deeply furrowed on older trees, often covered in epiphytes and lichen. When grown in the open, the branches begin well down in the trunk and tend to become pendulous, culminating in a rounded crown so very useful for shade and shelter. The bipinnate leaves appear in the juvenile stage and also after injury to the tree. They are soon replaced by adult foliage. These 'leaves' are not true in the strict botanical sense, but are formed by the flattening of the leaf-stalk. They have a leathery feel and are a pale green colour, having four prominent longitudinal veins. The creamy-white flowers, which bloom in the late winter to early spring, appear as fluffy balls, each ball being a group of axillary racemes in short peduncles.

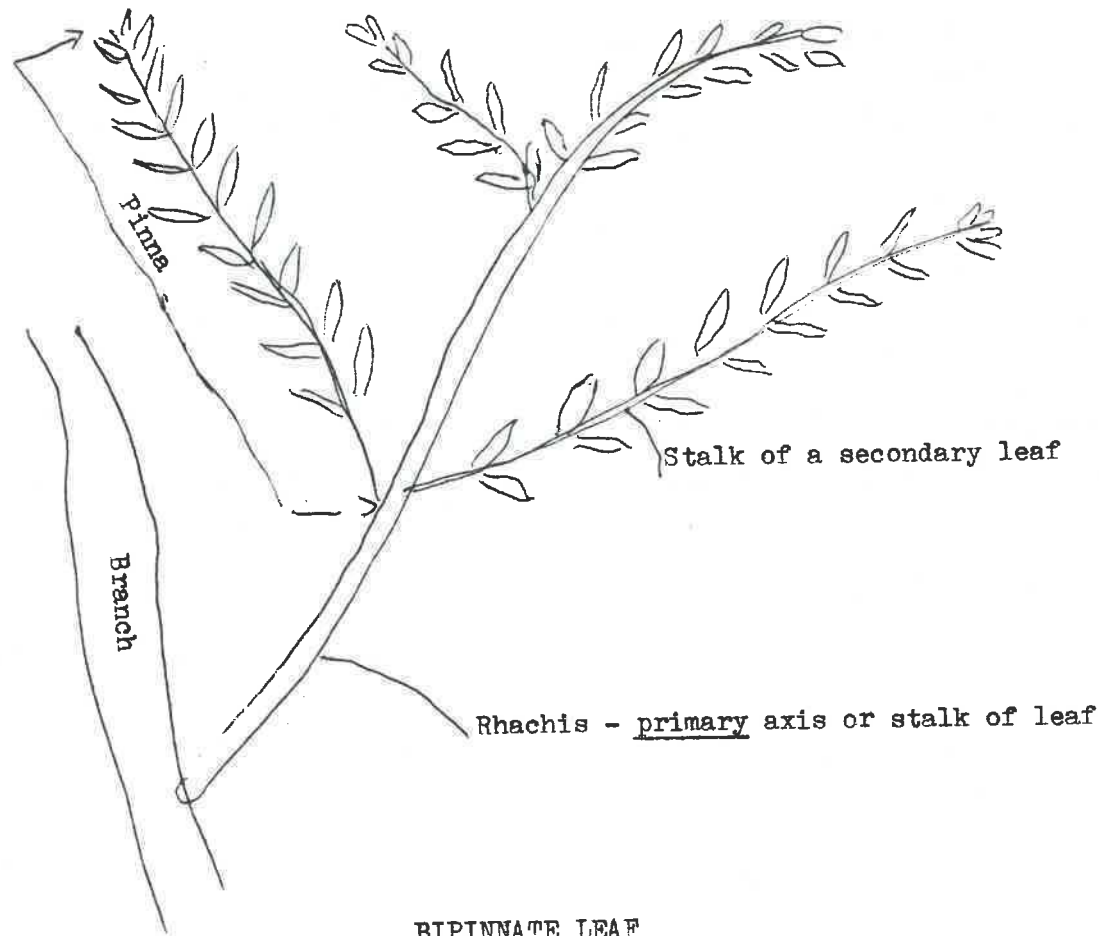
One of the few, if only, superstitions of Australian origin is that it is bad luck to bring wattle flowers into the house; this would also include Blackwood. Compared with introduced flora, the pollen is very heavy and should cause no problem to hay-fever sufferers. The brown, narrow, curved seed-pods contain hard, black, shiny seeds which have to be softened before they will germinate. In nature, this is achieved by bush fires and can be accomplished in the nursery by pouring boiling water over the seeds. The success rate in growing Blackwoods is usually very high. Natural regeneration is very noticeable along creek-beds and river-flats throughout the state, and Blackwoods form an important part of the secondary forest regrowth.

Previously, Blackwoods were very numerous and of high quality

wherever high rainfall (around one metre) and good deep soils were present. They were quickly removed by farmers during the early settling of the land. Large numbers were felled, burned or used as fencing material (which gave excellent service). Commercial exploitation of the timber was at its height during the early years of this century. At one stage, Coogans made nothing but Blackwood furniture. The timber is one of the best known and prized of all Australian furniture timbers.

The name 'Blackwood' was given because of the colour of the wood, but it was also known as 'Lightwood' in the south of the state because the wood is white as first seen when cut with an axe. Apart from place-names 'Lightwood' is no longer used. When the timber is poor in quality, usually from young trees which grew too fast, it is known as 'Pencilwood' by sawmillers. The timber is of extremely variable colour; from a satiny, lustrous, light golden brown to a dark reddish-brown. Blackish-brown streaks make a delightful pattern and show the growth-rings. No two pieces of wood are alike. When light in colour and weight it is similar to Red Cedar, when darker like American Walnut, when deep red like Rosewood and when dark brown like Mahogany. Because of its excellent hand and machine working qualities it is used for quality furniture making. It carves, turns, steam-bends and polishes well. Selected flitches are used to make veneer for plywood and covering particle board. In former days it was used for barrel-making and for wooden wheels. (N.E. Naturalist)

WAR ON GIANT SNAILS IN U.S.A. - Giant African Snails, introduced into Florida in 1969 by a small boy who brought a pair from Hawaii and let them loose in granny's backyard, like rabbits multiplied madly, eating almost anything - trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, also house paint, - left nasty slimy trails etc. and gave off a very foul smell when dead. One hundred thousand have been exterminated by the United States Department of Agriculture, and now they feel they have got the better of the snails which grown to ten inches in length .. You'd need big boots for these! (N.E. Naturalist)

BIPINNATE LEAF

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart, for transmission by post as a periodical, Category B.

Club's Address - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart. 7001

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

Speaker: Mr. David Little

Subject: Leaf eating insects in Tasmanian Forests.

NEXT OUTING: A.N.M. Forest holdings at Maydena, Florentine Valley. Saturday 19th July.

Cars to leave 8.15 from Prince Theatre or 10.30 at the gate at Maydena.

AUGUST MEETING: You will be asked, if present at the July meeting -

How many slides you will show.

What your subject will be.

The approximate time you require - 1 - 10 minutes.

OR Any bright suggestions to make this evening a success.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Miss Pat Palmer on Tasmanian Orchids.

Publications Received -

Queensland Naturalist.

Report on Masthead Island Bird population.
Some fungi and terrestrial vegetation.

Nats' News (Devonport)

Lichens and mosses on the nest of the Pink Robin.

National Parks and Wildlife Service report for the year ended 30th June, 1974

North-Eastern Naturalist:

Ferns - 'The Magic of Ferns'
 'Ferns less subject to change'
 'Magical Properties of Ferns'

Tasmanian Aborigines. If you are interested in Aborigine history, read this article.

Western Australian Museum, Vol. 3, part 3.

'On a collection of Polychaeta from intertidal and shallow reefs near Perth, W.A.' by J.H. Day

The Orchid - Peterborough Field Naturalist, Canada.

Tasmanian Environmental Centre

New publication 'Environmental Abstracts'. A weekly publication providing a comprehensive abstract service as an easy reference and retrieval guide to all environmental material published through the Tasmanian newspapers and other publications. - in short, references to paper notes on nuclear testing, Omega, Natural resources in and waters, Land management, conservation etc.

EARLY FLOWERING ACACIAS.

Acacia suaveolens, (sweet wattle) shrub 1 - 2m high with erect branches and straight linear leaves (phyllodes) 5 - 14 cm (up to 6") long, 3 - 8 mm wide with one prominent vein. The leaves are thick, not pointed, often blue-green in colour. Flowers light creamy yellow, deeper in colour when buds open, sweetly scented. Seed pods oblong, flat, leathery, 3 - 4 cm long (1½") 1.5 cm broad, purplish-brown in colour.

Flowering records 14th July, 1957 Kingston.
 16th August, 1959 Blackmans Bay.
 1st June, 1975 Coningham.

Widespread - often on sandy soils in heathland.

Acacia botrycephala - Sunshine wattle

A shrub with spreading branches up to 4m high by 3m wide. Leaves bipinnate, the pinnae with two to six pairs, 5 - 10 cm long. Leaflets 10 - 15 pairs narrow-elliptical 8 - 12 mm long, glossy dark green leathery. Undersurface pale.

Flowers in large spherical heads, light creamy to lemon yellow in large clusters on the end of branches. Pods oblong, straight, flattened 6 - 10 cm long x 10 - 12 cm wide.

Flowers already in autumn, as seen near Coningham - outing 21st June, 1975. A common shrub with its beauty more in foliage than flowers.

Pinna (plural pinnae) a primary division; a leaflet of a pinnate leaf.

Pinnate - arranged as the barbs of a feather; of a compound leaf with leaflets on both sides of a rachis or axis.

knelt down in front of it. This stirred the ants considerably and they started racing across the ground in all directions. Kneeling immobile in front of that ant nest was not like relaxing in an arm chair. A few of the ants became suspicious, but in general they calmed down and left me alone.

For how long I waited, I don't know; it seemed an eternity to me, and when it actually happened I nearly missed the shot because it was so quick. Before I realised that the little stone that was coming up out of the ants' nest was a sapphire, the ant was already carrying it away from the hole. I pressed the release and got my photo. Well, that was that, and being grateful people, we left and anthill alone and even said "Thankyou".

TREE TALK with Graeme Briton. SASSAFRAS. *Atherosperma moschatum* Labill. Fam. Monimiaceae. Sassafras was the Spanish name given to the small North American tree with medicinal bark and fragrant leaves, *Sassafras officinale*, of the family Lauraceae. In Australia the name Sassafras was given to two trees of the family Monimiaceae; Northern Sassafras, *Doryphora sassafras* and Southern Sassafras, *Atherosperma moschatum*. Only Southern Sassafras grows in Tasmania where it is simply known as Sassafras. The trees grow in moist, shaded rain-forests in association with Blackwood and Myrtle. It can grow to a height of 45 metres and a diameter of a metre or so. It has a straight trunk with regularly formed branches sometimes persisting to the ground. From a distance it would be easy to mistake Sassafras for a gymnosperm. The bark is smooth, grey-green and short-grained. It has a fragrance similar to nutmeg or cinnamon and contains resin and an essential oil. It has been used for brewing a tea and also as an aperient. In former years it was used to make "Sassy Beer". The pleasantly aromatic leaves are opposite, ovate to lanceolate, dark green, smooth and shiny on top and dull whitish below. They are usually serrated. The scented creamy flowers hang downwards from the branches and are better seen from underneath the tree. They appear from August to October and are of two kinds on separate trees but sometimes one tree can have both. The botanical name of the tree comes from a feature of the fruits which bear long plumes. "Ather" is Greek for the "beard" which hangs from an ear of corn and "sperma" a seed. "Moschatum" refers to its musk-like smell. The timber is grey to light brown in colour and is close grained, fine and smooth. The heartwood is frequently black and this gives rise to a much sought-after figuring called "black-heart". Although the leaves and bark are strongly scented, the timber has no peculiar odour. The wood is mostly used to make brush handles and clothes pegs, the Sabco and Pioneer company using the wood freely. The plywood factory in Somerset uses Sassafras as a core veneer in the manufacture of plywood. Along with other 'lesser' timber trees, it is being chipped to make pulp for the production of paper and hard board. SASSAFRAS BEER 4 galls. water. 2 oz. bark, 4 lbs. sugar. 1 oz hops, 2 oz. ginger, 2 apples. Boil for half an hour. strain and add yeast when lukewarm. Let stand for one day then bottle. Ready to drink in a few days.

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Club's Address - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001

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

Speakers - A mixed enthusiast

Subjects - A seven-fold variety show.

NEXT OUTING: Risdon Vale Dam area, plants and birds

Saturday 23rd August. Cars to leave 9.30 from Prince Theatre to Risdon punt or 10.15 at the Risdon Vale Dam.

The August meeting will have a variety of subjects told or shown by our President Mr. Hurburgh telling us in a few minutes the history of our club - Miss M. Fraser follows up with the birds in her garden. To show us what honey eaters look like is Mr. Boss-Walker, while Miss Westbrook tells us something about her hobbies and crafts (I hope the top table is big enough for her exhibition). Number five is Miss Barbara Greenstreet showing slides with a difference. Our experienced traveller Miss Mosey will talk on birds; to be followed by slides from Miss Marilyn Matthey. Mr. Peter Fielding takes us to his homeland, New South Wales - apparently there are birds over there! The ninth suspect will stick to his trade - 'Colour in Landscaping', followed by slides from Mrs. J. Hoyle. Our second last action Mr. Len Wall will finish off the birds show while Mr. Kelsey Aves takes us to the grander mountain plateaus.

As you can see for everyone a little bit of his or her liking in nature.

Note: Start sharp 7.45 p.m. for business. 8.05 p.m. the show is on.

Our last outing into the Florentine Valley was a success. We left with sunshine, enjoyed the trip through the Derwent Valley and arrived in the rainy rainforest at 10.30 a.m. Luckily enough our raincoats were used only once. Our leader, Mr. David De Little really knew where to get the bugs. There were the dormant ones which became crawling ones, ordinary gum leaves in very odd manipulated shapes. Of course records were taken of the birds and we found a *Zieria* showing some pink flowers.

ZIERIA arborescens is a much branched shrub or small tree up to 4m. high - good for a background shrub in a garden. The foliage is in three parts or leaflets dark green above, 3-10 cm. long approximately 1.2.5 cm. wide. The flowers in in a flat topped umbrella group (cyme) on the tips of the branches. The flowers are approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. across and normally white. In full bloom it is an attractive shrub. Why must it be called 'Stinkwood'? It grows best in damp situations.

WANTED TO SELL A Handbook of the Birds of Tasmania and its Dependencies, by F.M. Littler, published by the author, 1910. This is the original edition and in very good condition. Please make an offer to L.E. Wall, 63 Elphinstone Road, North Hobart. 7000

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

Victorian Naturalist with interesting article 'Some Common Venomous and Dangerous Animals of the Seashore'.

Burnie F.N.C. newsletter with 'Orchids to be found in the Rocky Cape National Park and other interesting areas of the North West Coast.'

'Launceston Naturalist'; 'Darling Downs Naturalist'; 'The Prohonotary'; 'N.E. Naturalist'; 'Nats' News' 'Hobart Walking Club'. Environment Abstracts- Tas. Vol. 1 No. 2.

Habitat - THE WONDERFUL SOUTH-WEST For six issues per annum you pay \$3.00 only or become a member of the Australian Conservation Foundation and receive other publications also for \$11.00 per annum

Instructions to Young Naturalist We acknowledge kindly the gift of this book from Dr. Curtis before going overseas. It will be available from our library.

LITTLE GEM DIGGERS (Nats' News) (Australian Lapidary Magazine, June 1975)

If ever a person would try to tell me that animals can be trained to dig for sapphires, he would be taling to deaf ears. But did you know that there are animals which dig and bring up sapphires?

I noticed a paragraph in a lapidary book in which the author claimed that ants bring up sapphires together with other stones and drop them around their nests, that is, if there are any sapphires in the ground. One has to actually see this to apprehend the full impact of the facts.

Years ago my wife and I set off for Tumberumba to try our luck with sapphires. Neither of us knew what a sapphire looked like, but we soon learned that if there is no spinel in the sieve or pan there is no sapphire - the more spinel, the more sapphire. Going back to the tent for lunch we noticed a lot of spinel lying on the bush track, and sure enough we found sapphires on the track. Not many, because most likely the surface had been well searched before.

We also noticed ants' nests with much spinel strewn around the holes, sapphires and zircons too. So the author of that article was right after all. I did not dare go too close as I knew well the little brutes would bite if disturbed. What species they were I had no idea, but they were half-an-inch in length and it seemed wise to me to keep a safe distance, but I wanted the sapphires, so what? A long-handled shovel and a couple of buckets helped us out. I quickly filled the buckets with dirt from the ants' nest and ran towards the creek, stopping every two metres to shake off ants. Down at the creek we submerged the buckets quickly. We got about two dozen sapphires from the two buckets of dirt, and a lot more afterwards. Since that time we have been back repeatedly to Tumberumba Creek not only for sapphires but also the blackberries which are plentiful there.

Then one day I had the idea of taking a photo of an ant as it carried a sapphire away from its nest. This wasn't going to be easy, but I bought a new camera before inflation priced it out of reach for me, and set off. It was about 37° in the shade, a day everyone would enjoy in swimming togs I put on overalls, gum boots and tied the overall legs around the gum boot with string. Next I set the camera adjustments and slipped gloves on, hoping the ants would leave my face alone, because I had nothing to cover it up with. Next I looked for an ant-hill. They all seemed to have vanished, or perhaps they had all been dug up by people looking for sapphires. There was one left for me about 100 metres up the creek, and there were little ants busily carrying dirt and stones from their burrows. I looked out for the hole with the most activity, and as slowly as I could

needed to determine the best ways to stabilise these sites. However, by far the largest proportion of threatened sites are in danger of unnatural destruction e.g. mining, quarry, road and dam building. For protection from this sort of destruction, good legislation with effective teeth is needed.

In review, during the next year an initial archaeological survey of Tasmania will be completed. When this is completed we will be in a position to decide which sites are significant and need to be protected for the reasons discussed above. If anyone has any information which would be of interest to the survey, we would certainly be interested to hear from them.

JIM STOCKTON
HELEN GEE

Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies
Site Recording Programme
C/o P.O. Box 210.
SANDY BAY. 700⁵. 26.8.75

Mr. Jim Stockton will speak on this subject to our club in October.

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September 1975

Club's Address - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart. 7001

NEXT MEETING will be held in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum on
Thursday 18th September at 7.45 p.m.

Speaker: Miss Pat Palmer Subject: Additions and rarer Tasmanian Orchids

NEXT CUTING Saturday 21st September leaving Prince Theatre at 10 a.m. to
New Norfolk via Collins Vale. Passing the town's 'rubbish tip' we will
look for orchids and other native plants at Peppermint Hill.

Hoy - Waddamanna calling - 27th to 29th September.

The Federation of Field Naturalists' Clubs of Tasmania will have a combined
camping weekend at the Field Study Centre. Remember last Easter Camp -
good lodging with excellent food in supreme surroundings - This time we
mix with other Nats enthusiasts - Cost \$10.00 per adult, \$8.00 per child.
Note - each person must provide his or her own sleeping bag/ or sheets and
pillow cases (the latter a must) Bookings to be in at this meeting.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Our librarian for the remainder of this year - Mrs. J. Whitham.

For 50c did we become a member of the Tasmanian Environmental Centre?

Our delegates to the Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs - Mrs. E. Thorpe
and Mr. A. Hewer.

New member - Mr. John Mathews - Bankstown, New South Wales.

NOVEMBER CUTING - BY BUS TO LUNE RIVER - Saturday 22nd November.

This is a lovely area with many interests

For bird lovers, ^{or} botanists For a barbeque, ^{or} billy. You name it.

A day in nature - friends or relations welcome.

Miss Effie Warren will have more information. Think about it now -
book at this meeting. We need to know how many buses are required.

Publications received:

North West Walker with 'Tips on boots' and other good reading.

Nats' News - Devonport. Hobart Walking Club Circular.

Launceston Naturalist with a check list of plants at 'Tam-o-shanter' Weymouth.

Darling Downs Naturalist. with an excellent article on 'The Powerful Owl
in Redwood'

F.I.D.O's Management Plans. North Eastern Naturalist.

NOTE: Subscriptions for this year, which by now should have been paid, are
Juniors/students/pensioners: \$2.50. Adults: \$4.50. Family: \$6.00

Only two subs were paid this month and these were both paid at last year's
rates

In early 1975 an archaeological survey of Tasmania was initiated. This project arose from the national survey being conducted of "significant" Aboriginal sites. The first priority of the national survey is "living" sites. That is, the project hopes to record, with a view to protection, sites which are considered important to living Aboriginal groups. However, the survey has been expanded to include surveys for archaeological (or dead) sites in some areas, e.g. Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and the environs of the Murray River in South Australia.

In the long term this archaeological survey of Tasmania will benefit the following fields of enquiry.

1. Firstly, the results of the survey will be of interest to the descendants of the Aboriginal people of Tasmania.

This introduces the problem of what is a significant site in the Tasmanian context. On the mainland traditional Aboriginal groups in South Australia and Western Australia have requested the protection of sites which they consider significant, when these sites are in danger of destruction. Where the sites are of an archaeological nature they are assessed on the following:-

- potential for scientific investigation
 - potential for general educational purposes
 - relationship to threatened areas which should be conserved for ecological or other reasons.
2. Secondly, the survey will aid the study of the prehistory of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia, that is, the history of Aboriginal Australia before the eighteenth century.
 3. The survey will aid the understanding of the paleoecology of Australia and Tasmania. A great deal of information on the state of the environment, and its changes, is derived from archaeological investigation. More knowledge in this area is desperately needed to help us understand the ecological changes that man has brought about unwittingly and now finds himself unable to control.
 4. Related to point 3 the results of this survey will stimulate public awareness of both prehistory and ecological change.

TYPES OF SITES:

The general types of site which this survey has found are:-

- occupational sites, sites where aborigines lived. Such sites are marked by charcoal from fires, discarded stone artefacts and food debris. On the coast, the main food debris is shell, which forms midden heaps. Such middens ring the coast of Tasmania.
- Painting/engraving art sites. Although these art sites are spectacular and popular as tourist features, they are of little interest to archaeology as they provide almost no information on the life of the Aborigines, unless they are associated with cultural debris.
- sacred sites. At present no sacred site has been recorded in Tasmania. Such sites have been recorded in New South Wales, where they are usually a spectacular natural feature e.g. a mountain peak, which figure in the mythology of the people.

The immediate aim is to locate and survey sites which are already known. A large number of sites are already known, but not fully recorded.

The second problem is one of conservation. A number of sites are threatened by natural destruction e.g. erosion, and research is needed to determine the best

(continued on page 4)

No. 199

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Category B.

Club's Address - G.O.C. Box 69A, Hobart. 7001

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

Speaker - Mrs. J. Luckman.

Subject - South West Tasmania

NEXT OUTING Looking for birds with Mr. L. Wall.

As a sidelines - Botany in the field.

After an expert talk on orchids the Saturday outing following
it was a glorious one. The wild flowers were at their best
alongside the road from Collinsvale to Sorell Creek. The six
of us found seven different types of orchids - near the rubbish
tip at the Peppermint Hill, New Norfolk.

Diurus longifolia (donkey orchid)
Glossodia major (parson in the pulpit)
Caladenia carnea (pink fingers)
Caladenia patersonii (Spider orchid)
Pterostylis concinna (trim greenhood)
Pterostylis longifolia? (trigger leaf)
Pterostylis nutans (nodding greenhood)

It was a gloriously sunny day with a return trip on the North
side of the Derwent through Bridgewater.

It was a sad shock to learn of the passing away of our valued members, Henry Boss-Walker. He was deeply interested in nature and although not strong enough to follow the more physically blessed ones at the outings, close at home or around the bus at the annual outing he would see and enjoy nature. Our great sympathy goes out to Mrs. Boss-Walker.

NOVEMBER OUTING; 22nd NOVEMBER - BY BUS TO LUNE RIVER!

Only a few members have put their names down. We must have thirty persons at least, otherwise we have to disappoint the older ones without transport.

REGISTER AT THIS MEETING!

Required: A person to keep observations, exhibits and outings record book. The record book has not been properly managed this year and you can put a vote of no confidence in for that one. To collect the information at the meetings is impossible for me as there is too much other business to attend to. It is a job on its own to read with members to keep records of the trips and hand them in. If you wish to keep this valuable record book please - help!

In Central Park, Adelaide there is a wonderful device for bird lovers.

Hidden among the gums are speakers, and upon pressing a button in a case below one can listen with enchantment to the songs of many different birds - at first one by one and finally in a chorus. In the box are pictures of the birds, and as the different bird songs are played an indicator shows which one it is, so that bird and song can be identified together.

Would it be possible to install something like this in our own Botanical Gardens?

Fraser Island leases invalid?

The Australian Conservation Foundation believes that six beach sand mining leases granted on Fraser Island are invalid. There is also a 'probability' that all the mining leases granted on the Island are invalid. A.C.F. reasoning is based on a High Court decision last May which declared invalid a 1974 Mining Warden's Court hearing on Fraser Island. The High Court held that Mining Warden Butler misconceived his duty and did not conduct a proper hearing (A.C.F. Newsletter September, 1975)

Prints of the beautiful Australian Bushcape Paintings by Neil Douglas are sold by A.C.F. See brochure at the table.

No. 200

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart for transmission by post as a periodical
Category B.

Club's Address - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001

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

Five Minutes! The President will answer your
question on Nature. But can you answer his questions
on this wide subject. Be sure Marcus Hurburgh has a
list to be answered by you.

Speaker - Mrs. J. Luckman.

Subject - South West Tasmania

OUTING Bus trip to Lune River, leaving opposite Prince Theatre
9.30 a.m. Return time approximately 5.30 p.m.
Saturday 22nd November.

Publications Received:

A.C.F. Newsletter 'Fraser Island Inquiry ends'
'Save the Whale'

South Australian Naturalist 'Two new Bat Records from S.A.'

Victorian Naturalist, September. 'Cape Raoul Heaths, Tasmania.'
'The Mollusc Caryodes dufressnii in Tasmania'

Devonport F.N.C. Circular; Launceston Naturalist, Burnie F.N.C. Bulletin
'The Orchid' 'The Prothonotary'. Hobart Walking Club Circular;
Launceston Walking Club; Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Annual Report.

News from the Committee:

Bone seed Atlas To collect data of the distribution of bone seed in Southern Tasmania all members should report on findings of such at outings or by casual observation. Miss Marjorie Westbrook is keen to keep the records. Please pass all information to her.

Bone seed becomes a project.

Project Aqua. A request is received to collect information of Tasmanian freshwater habitats deemed worthy of conservation.

Mr. I.A. Tyler, Senior Lecturer in Botany at the University of Tasmania acts as convenor on behalf of the Australian Society for Limnology.

Our club will offer manpower in field work.

S.G.A.P. (Society for Growing Annual Plants) is holding their biennial meeting in Hobart. Our members are invited to attend the Seminar 8th to 10th December.

Monday 8th 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Tuesday 9th. 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

8 p.m. 'Tasmanian Alpines'.

This is your last bulletin this year. We will be back in February 1976.

Merry Christmas to you and a Happy New Year.

The Committee.

Future dates:

Partridge Island - Long Weekend? March, 1976

We have an invitation to camp in the cabins at the Island - Cost - information on nature only. You have to take a sleeping bag and food.

Easter Camp. April.

We are hopeful of camping at Rocky Cape National Park. We are requesting the Burnie Club to join us. A new area for our club with many interesting features.

Baby Echidna survives for sixteen days without food!

A young echidna spends fifty to eighty days in its mother's pouch and is then too big, but at the same time it is too small to fend for itself and still depends on its mother's milk. So mother leaves it in a ground burrow and returns to feed it occasionally.

Dr. Mervyn Griffiths of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wild Life Reserves came across one which had survived for sixteen days without food or water. He concluded that it was a suckling recently dropped from its mother's pouch. On the first day of observations it weighed 474 grams and the temperature of its cloaca (combined anus, water outlet and reproductive passage) was 28.5°C. It had dug itself downwards and was about 30 cm. underground.

By Day 4 it had become torpid and its cloacal temperature had dropped to 12.8°. On the sixth day it had spontaneously aroused itself and its cloacal temperature had risen to 27.2° (the surrounding soil temperature had been 12.8°). The young creature then became torpid again, temperature dropping to 12.8 - 14°.

On the 17th day Dr. Griffiths removed it from the burrow, warmed it up and gave it warm milk from a spoon. During the sixteen days of observations its body weight had dropped by 64 grams. For sixteen days it had survived without mother's milk.

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