

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bulletin No. 246. Supplement to the Tasmanian Naturalist, Jan 1987.

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club is devoted to the study of all forms of natural history, and is comprised of both experts and beginners. We cover a wide variety of topics, and we support conservation. Meetings; first Thursday of every month except January, in CSIRO Conference room. Stowell Ave, Battery Point, 7.45 pm. Outings the following weekend, meet outside Prince Theatre. The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, Tas 7000.

Programme.

- February. Thursday 5th; Dr Peter Last, CSIRO Division of Fisheries, will speak on FISHES OF TASMANIA.
Saturday 7th; Outing to Gunners Quoin from the Risdon Brook Reservoir. Leader; Margaret Mollison.
Meet outside Prince Theatre at 10 am.
- March. Thursday 5th; Annual General Meeting, Election of Office Bearers. Dr Kevin Kiernan will speak on GLACIATION AND MOUNTAIN MORPHOLOGY IN TASMANIA.
Saturday 7th; Outing to Entrance Cave from the Ida Bay Limestone Quarry. Leader; Peter McQuillan. Meet at 9 am (note early time) and bring torches with good supply of batteries, and strong footwear.
27-29 March; (in lieu of April outing) Federation of Field Nats meeting, hosted by our club. Venue; Hobart Walking Club Hut near Lake Dobson, Mt Field National Park. A program of excursions is being prepared. Keynote; Speaker on Saturday evening, Prof Bill Jackson.
- April. Thursday, April 2nd; Mr Bruce McIntosh will speak on REPTILES OF TASMANIA.
Outing; see above (March).

NEW MEMBERS. A warm welcome is extended to; Mr Piers Allbrook, Ms G Watson, Miss J Slater, Ms E Bower, Ms Lyn Forster and Dr J Weatherly and his family. We hope you will really enjoy your time with us.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR. " Please allow me to use this issue of TFNC Newsletter to say a very special word of thanks to all our friends for their good wishes for a speedy and complete recovery from a recent unfortunate accident. My doctors have been most enthusiastic about my progress, much of which has resulted from your best wishes and kind thoughts. Will you all please accept our grateful thanks for offers of help and encouragement at this time. Leonard and Marjorie Wall." We are all very happy to hear of your progress, Mr Wall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. Yes, it's that time of year again. 1st January all subs are due for members. Current schedule; Adults \$13.00, families \$16.00, junior membership, pensioners & health card holders \$8.00. Subs may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr Don Hird, c/- PO Box 68A, Hobart, 7000, or brought to the next meeting.

OFFICE BEARERS.

In case you have an enquiry, you can ring one of these;

PRESIDENT. Mr Harry Burton, Ph 347591.

SECRETARY. Mr Phil Collier, Ph 296597.

TREASURER. Mr Don Hird, Ph 344293.

All correspondence should be addressed to GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7000.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS. At the bottom of this page is a form you may use to nominate an office bearer. Offices which fall vacant in March are; President, Vice Presidents(2), Hon Secretary, Hon Assistant Secretary, Hon Treasurer, general committee members. We also need to appoint an auditor. Although we already have some volunteers for these positions, we would be pleased if some who have never yet served on our committee would find somebody to nominate them. This will be the last newsletter produced by yours truly, and while I am looking forward to the break after 6 years, I must say I have enjoyed being involved.

When you are eating a nice cold ice cream, remember the historical remnants of the Ice Houses which are found on Mt Wellington. Built in the 1850's, they were described as "wooden structures with a heavy sloping roof, covered with turf and brushwood, containing snow gathered from the mountain top during the winter months and tightly packed, to be used by the confectioners of Hobart in the preparation of ice-creams." The remains may be found directly above the Springs.

I,.....hereby nominate.....
..... for the position of.....
.....
I accept the nomination. Signed.....
Date.....

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club is devoted to the study of all forms of Natural History, and is comprised of both experts and beginners. We cover a wide variety of topics, and we support conservation. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month except January, in the CSIRO Conference room, Stowell Ave., Battery Point, at 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting opposite the "Prince" Theatre, Macquarie Street. The Club's address is G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, Tas., 7001.

PROGRAMME

- AUGUST_ Thurs. 6th Meeting-Speaker Mr. Val. Dell, the Lands Department Warden at Liawenee, Miena, will present a talk and slides entitled "The Four Seasons of the Central Plateau".
Dr. George Bornemissza, a retired C.S.I.R.O. entomologist, will exhibit his extensive collection of beetles.
- Sat. 8th Outing 10a.m. to 12 noon Tasmanian Museum. This is a repeat of last year's popular visit, with Alison Green and Liz. Turner who have kindly agreed to show us some of their research work preparing and studying invertebrate specimens, as well as a taxidermy display.
PLEASE NOTE Numbers are strictly limited to 20, so would those who wish to attend please ring Helen Davidson (25 2754) or Alma McKay (27 8381) immediately to book- strictly first come basis. Meet on the Museum steps promptly at 10a.m. We will go on to some warm spot for lunch together afterwards.
- SEPTEMBER_ Thurs. 3rd Meeting- Speaker -Mr. Piers Allbrook will speak on Odonata-that's Dragonflies to the uninitiated. (He will lead a related outing in December when the dragonflies are more prevalent.)
- Sat. 12th. NOTE DATE 10a.m. Visit to Chauncy Vale where Heather Chauncy will tell us of the management of the reserve and show us the bird and plant life of this interesting area. A chance for the energetic to visit the caves.
- OCTOBER_ Thurs 1st Meeting-Speaker Professor Michael Stoddard, Zoology Dept., University of Tasmania, whose topic will be "Tasmania's Mammal Fauna".
- Fri-Sun. 9th-11th NOTE DATE Weekend camp at Dept. of Recreation Esperence Camp at Dover. Very comfortable accommodation. Cost is only \$6.00 per person for 2 nights. Bring your own food cutlery, crockery and bedding, as well as suitable clothing personal items, torches etc. As the minimum number is 20 and maximum number is 40, please book and pay Don Hird (phone 344 293) by 15th. Sept. Friends and family welcome. Activities will include spotlighting, mammal and insect "trapping", birdwatching, botanizing, and it hoped to visit the caves that were "postponed" from the July outing.

If you miss the General Meeting, and would like to know more details about the following outing, then please phone Helen Davidson (25 2754) or, Alma McKay (27 8381).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS__ November meeting and outing Fungi with Allan Mills.
December meeting-members night -so dust off you slides
and exhibits.The outing as already mentioned will be
looking at dragonflies-on SUN 6th.December.

Club Secretary is now Helen Davidson-thanks Helen for your support.

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The club has been fortunate in receiving \$283.50 from Mr.George Donnelly
the money being the residue of the funds of the "Gould League of Tasmania",
which sadly had to fold up due to lack of numbers. The money has been put
towards the purchase of the four historic photograph albums containing
photos(many by the late Michael Sharland) of birds,locations and people
conected with the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club "in the early days".
Marjorie Westbrook has offered to help with identifcation,but assistance
from our "long serving" members would be welcome.

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OVERSEAS VISITORS

Two groups of visitors are gracing our shores early next year,and it
is hoped that members will be able to help with showing the sights and
passing on their local knowledge.

A group of 20 New Zealand ecologists and naturalists will visit Tasmanian
during the period 2nd to 16th January,1988,and hope to visit such places as
Mt. Wellington,Mt.Field, Mt.Anne, Lakes Gordon and Pedder, Cradle Mountain
National Park,the Central Plateau,Queenstown,and the Tasman Peninsula.As
dates and timings of the visits depends on the availibility of the Tasmanian
participants anyone who would like to take part in any of these please
contact Neil Gibson on 20 2518 during working hours as soon as possible.

36 American Field Naturalist will be visiting Tasmania from 6th March
next year. Anyone who can help please contact Margaret Mollison on 28 5668.

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Information has come through our many and varied mail bag regarding
special "botanist accompanied" wild flower trips in Western Australia
during August to October,and a video film on lyrebids that is for sale.
Anyone wanting to know more about these please contact Helen Davidson.

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Len Wall has obtained for the club a scrap book of newspaper clippings
dating back to the inaugural meeting on 15th September,1904, when
"30 gentlemen assembled in the Royal Society's room.....for the purpose
of founding a field naturalists' club."

On their first excursion reported on 24th October,1904,led by Mr.L.Rodway
ventured "by the 2.40 p.m.tram" to the Cascades,where"By far the rarest
specimen obtained was a small fern (Schizaea bifida)growing not more than
6 in. high.It was a curious and interesting plant.No one but an experined
botanical observer like Mr.Rodway,who discovered it ,would have taken it
to be a fern." After tasting the fruit of a native cherry "a member who
has not been long in Tasmania "stated that "as a dessert fruit ..it was
'nothing to hanker after.'"

Dispite some sceptisicm that ladies joining the Club may"carry off..
the nicest young men of the party into the woodlands beyond ,to study the
camparatve morphology of bluebells." (2/12/04) "On Saturday,3rd inst...
was the first time ladies were present, and judging by the enthusiasm they
displayed there will be no branch of natural history the club will take
up in which they will not be actively interested." (5/12/04)

Please take a little time to browse through these interesting snippets
of history Available through the T.F.N.C. library.

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

BULLETIN NO. 248 SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST", OCTOBER 1987

THE TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB IS DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF ALL FORMS OF NATURAL HISTORY, AND IS COMPRISED OF BOTH EXPERTS AND BEGINNERS. WE COVER A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS, AND WE SUPPORT CONSERVATION. MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, IN THE CSIRO CONFERENCE ROOM, STOWELL AVENUE, BATTERY POINT, AT 7.45 PM. OUTINGS ARE USUALLY HELD THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND, MEETING OPPOSITE THE "PRINCE" THEATRE, MACQUARIE STREET.

THE CLUB'S ADDRESS IS GPO BOX 68A, HOBART, TAS., 7001.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER - MR A. K. MILLS, SENIOR TUTOR IN BOTANY, TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY, WILL GIVE A TALK ON FUNGI.

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER - ALLAN MILLS WILL TAKE US ON AN OUTING TO SEE FUNGI. LOCATION DEPENDENT UPON THE WEATHER.

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER - PIERS ALLBROOK WILL TALK ON DRAGONFLIES. ALSO ON THIS NIGHT WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS ANY ITEMS OF INTEREST - SLIDES, SPECIMENS, ANECDOTES ETC. ABOUT FIVE TO TEN MINUTES IN LENGTH. IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL US PLEASE CONTACT HELEN DAVIDSON ON 25 2754.

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER - PIERS ALLBROOK WILL TAKE US ON AN OUTING TO SHOW US DRAGONFLIES.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MEETING OR OUTING IN JANUARY. IN FEBRUARY WE HOPE TO GO TO THE CENTRAL PLATEAU.

IF YOU MISS THE GENERAL MEETING AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE FOLLOWING OUTING, THE PLEASE PHONE HELEN DAVIDSON, OR ALMA MCKAY ON 27 8381.

NEW ZEALAND NATURALISTS' TOUR

A GROUP OF NEW ZEALAND NATURALISTS WILL BE IN THE STATE BETWEEN THE 2ND AND 16TH JANUARY NEXT YEAR. A DRAFT ITINERARY HAS BEEN PLANNED AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. THE NEW ZEALANDERS WILL HAVE THEIR OWN COACH SO TRANSPORT FOR THEM IS NOT REQUIRED. AS THIS IS THE TIME OF THE TALL SHIPS ARRIVAL IN HOBART, ACCOMMODATION MAY BE DIFFICULT AND BILLETS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

THEIR ITINERARY IS:

SATURDAY 2ND JAN. - THE WATERWORKS AND SOUTH ARM

SUNDAY 3RD JAN. - HOGSBACK PLAINS OR MT. WELLINGTON.

MONDAY 4TH TO THURSDAY 7TH JAN. - MT FIELD TO STRATHGORDON.
(ACCOMMODATION LAKE DOBSON HUTS).

FRIDAY 8TH JAN. - MT. WELLINGTON OR MARION BAY. EVENING - GUEST SPEAKER? ANY OFFERS OR SUGGESTIONS?

SATURDAY 9TH JAN. - MT. MORRISON OR TASMAN PENINSULA.

SUNDAY 10TH/MONDAY 11TH JAN. - CENTRAL PLATEAU.

TUESDAY 12TH/WEDNESDAY 13TH JAN. - CRADLE MOUNTAIN.

THURSDAY 14TH JAN. - GORDON RIVER.

FRIDAY 15TH JAN. - RETURN TO HOBART.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE OR HELP IN ANY WAY, HELEN DAVIDSON HAS MORE INFORMATION OR YOU MAY CONTACT THE HOBART ORGANIZER, NEIL GIBSON ON 20 2518 DURING WORKING HOURS.

ESPERANCE CAMP

OCTOBER 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH. ALTHOUGH RATHER DAMP BOTH OVERHEAD AND UNDERFOOT, THIS WEEKEND WAS ENJOYED BY A GROUP OF 17 PEOPLE WHOSE AGES RANGED FROM SIX MONTHS TO RETIRED PLUS. THE ANNUAL CAMP THIS YEAR WAS HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION CAMP AT ESPERANCE, AN EXCELLENT VENUE WITH SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION SITUATED BESIDE THE WATER.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEKEND WAS A TRIP TO A CAVE, IN THE MIDST OF RAINFOREST, AND LED BY ARTHUR CLARKE, WHO GAVE US A TALK IN JULY ON CAVE FAUNA. ALTHOUGH IT MEANT WADING IN PLACES AND STOOPING LOW IN OTHERS, WE WERE TREATED TO THE BEAUTY OF STALACTITES REFLECTED IN THE WATER AND THE UNUSUAL SIGHTING OF CAVE SPIDERS MATING.

SMALL LIVE ANIMAL TRAPS REVEALED THAT SWAMP RATS AND LONG TAILED RATS (BOTH ENDEMIC) WERE FAIRLY ABUNDANT IN THE AREA. A RELAXING AND INFORMATIVE WEEKEND WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN ENJOYED BY MORE PEOPLE.

FLINDERS ISLAND - WORTH A VISIT - REPORT BY DON HIRD.

FLINDERS ISLAND, A PROMINENT FEATURE ON MAPS OF TASMANIA, IS NOT AS OFTEN VISITED AS IT DESERVES, I CONCLUDED AFTER A RECENT VISIT. FLINDERS IS THE LARGEST OF A CLUSTER OF ISLANDS, HAVING A VERY RUGGED TERRAIN, AND AN EXTENSIVE ARRAY OF SHELTERED WETLANDS ALONG MOST OF THE EAST COAST.

THE CHARACTERISTIC GRANITE MOUNTAINS PROVIDE VISUAL AS WELL AS PHYSIOGRAPHIC LINKS WITH BOTH SIDES OF BASS STRAIT. AS WITH WILSON'S PROMONTORY TO THE NORTH AND, SAY, FREYCINET TO THE SOUTH, WILD FLOWERS ARE DIVERSE AND PROLIFIC IN THE HEATHLANDS AND MOUNTAIN FORESTS. WETLANDS INCLUDE FRESH WATER, TIDAL AND EPHEMERAL LAGOONS AND THE USUAL DIVERSITY OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE.

HUMAN IMPACT IS EVIDENCED BY THE EXTENSIVE LOWLAND FARMING AREAS. RABBITS ARE ABSENT ALTHOUGH FERAL PIGS ARE A PROBLEM. CONFLICTS SOMETIMES ARISE OVER EFFECTS OF NATURAL AREAS ON ADJACENT FARMLANDS. FOR EXAMPLE, PLANS TO DRAIN LOGAN'S LAGOON, A STATE CONSERVATION AREA AND INTERNATIONALLY PROTECTED WETLAND HABITAT, WERE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BECAUSE OF ALLEGED CONTRIBUTION TO THE SALINITY PROBLEMS OF ONE FARM.

THE PATRIARCHS' WILDLIFE RESERVE, PRIMARILY FOR CAPE BARREN GEESE, HAS A COMODIOUS A-FRAME HUT CLOSE TO EXTENSIVE WETLANDS AREAS AND FINE VIEWS FROM THE PATRIARCHS. STRZELECKI NATIONAL PARK IN THE SOUTH FEATURES IMPOSING GRANITE MOUNTAINS, WALKING TRACKS AND EXCELLENT COASTAL CAMPSITES.