

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB
BULLETIN NO 249 SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST", JANUARY ,1988

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 C.S.I.R.O. conference room, Stowell Ave., Battery Point, at 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the new entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

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

PROGRAMME

- THURS., 4TH FEBRUARY Dr. Stephen Smith and Miss. Jayne Wells, from the Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife will tell us about the management of animals and plants in Tasmania's World Heritage Area.
- SAT., 6TH FEBRUARY 9a.m. start. Val. Dell, the Warden at Liawenee will show us over some of the large Central Plateau area which he manages.
- THURS., 3RD MARCH Annual General Meeting. Vice President Phil Collier will give a short talk on his recent trip to Chile.
- SAT., 5TH MARCH 10 a.m. start. Piers ALbrook will lead a trip in the Hobart area to have a last look for dragonflies for the year. (For all those who missed the last one.)
- THURS., 7TH APRIL The vegetation changes on Macquarie Island as a result of man's activities will be explained by Dr. Rod. Seppelt, of the Australian Antarctic Division.
- SAT., 9TH APRIL 9 a.m. start. Dr. Stephen Smith will take us to the Maydena area to show us the aspects of the material discussed in February.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Yes, March is nearly with us again, and this gives YOU the opportunity to become really involved with your Club. As many of the current members are resigning due to other commitments (e.g. our President has taken up a post overseas) there are plenty of positions which you could fill. Meetings are only held every two months, the work outside that time is dependent only on your commitment. The jobs are:

President:- Who has to be Chairman at Committee and General meetings, write the occasional letter, particularly in his own field of expertise; represent the Club, if required.

Two Vice Presidents:- Act in the place of the President when he is not available.

Secretary:- Keep minutes of all meetings, and prepare agendas for same, answer correspondence, usually under the direction of the committee; arrange for letters to be collected from the P.O. box and distribute appropriately; keep such records that may be required.

Treasurer:- Simple bookkeeping, preparing bimonthly statements for

the Committee meeting and an Annual one in March. Keep Membership records.

Assistant Secretary:- Act as Secretary in their absence. Prepare the quarterly Newsletter, and arrange its distribution. Send current issues to new members who join "between issues".

Four Committee Members:- Attend meetings - and whatever jobs for which you volunteer.

Librarian:- This is an ex officio position on the committee, and is appointed by the Committee. Helen Davidson who has been our staunch Librarian for many years would be willing to train someone in this position. Someone who can spend a couple of hours a month, and who is able to lift and carry, would be a help to get the archive material sorted at the beginning of the year.

So please make sure that you have the nomination form on the bottom of this Newsletter into the Secretary before the 17th February.

We are also in urgent need of people on whom members of the Committee can call to do any typing that may be required, as we do not want people who may be willing to do a job be put off because they can't type, or do not have access to a typewriter or typist. Please if you have this skill let the Secretary know. The bigger the pool, the less you will have to do.

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NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGISTS' VISIT.

Sixteen (apparently very knowledgeable) New Zealanders, mostly from the South Island, spent a fortnight exploring the delights of the Tasmanian flora and fauna, a trip which had been arranged by Neil Gibson, from the University of Tasmania, and Kath Dickenson. During that time Len Wall took them on a bird excursion, and joined them when Neil led them around the Mt. Field area. Margaret Mollison was with the ecologists when they visited Wadamana and the Central Plateau with Jamie Kirkpatrick, and Peter Fielding joined them at Cradle Mountain. They had obtained collecting permits, of which they made good use, especially the entomologists. On most evenings there were a couple of talks, one by a Tasmanian, and one by a New Zealander.

As everyone enjoyed themselves so much, there may be the possibility of a reciprocal visit next year.

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TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALIST'S CLUB

NOMINATION FORM

I hereby propose _____ for the position
of _____ President, (2 x) Vice President
Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, (4x) Committee Member

Proposer _____

Seconder _____

I agree to stand for the above position (Nominee's signature)

Date _____

-----TEN DAY HORSE TREK IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY!-----

Retrace the now disused Bedford Stock Route on horseback. Join Roderick Woodland who, under licence, trapped finches in Western Australia until recently and Sonia Tidemann who studies finches in Northern Australia. Aboriginal stockmen from the region will also accompany the trip. There will be ample time each day to explore the rugged scenic country of the Saw Range in the Kimberleys and to look for birds.

Date: June 12-22. ***** Cost: \$ 1,400.

For further information and bookings: KIMBERLEY PURSUITS, P.O. Box 5, Wyndham, W.A. 6740, ph: 091 611364.

**Dr Sonia Tidemann is an active member of the N.T. Field Naturalists Club and is an authority on Australian birdlife. The horse treks and bushwalks offered by Kimberley Pursuits are a wonderful way to experience the natural history of the region. Helen Davidson also has more information.

CLUB BADGES AND "TASMANIAN BIRDS" BOOKS.

Have you purchased one of the clubs attractive green and gold "Platypus" badges yet?? There are plenty available.

Copies of the excellent Tasmanian Birds pocket book are available as well. This book is great for the naturalist and makes a pleasing gift!

OUTSTANDING LIBRARY ITEMS!

Several members have overdue books and magazines from the club library. Please return these items as soon as possible for the benefit of all members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1988.

Membership is renewable every year on January 1st. Subscriptions for 1988 remain the same as 1987:

Adults	\$13.00
Families	\$16.00
Juniors	\$ 8.00
Pensioner	\$ 8.00
Health card	\$ 8.00

holders.

Subscriptions to the magazine are \$8.00 to non-members and \$16.00 to Institutions or Libraries.

NEW LIFE MEMBER**

At the March A.G.M., Gilbert Van Munster was made a life member of the T.F.N Club in recognition of his contributions to the club during 35 years of membership.

HISTORICAL NIGHT AND OUTING: FIELD NATS. REVISITED!

The club is planning to hold an historical meeting and outing where we look back at the old days and revisit a site from the first field trips. This will possibly be the Cascaes area, but suggestions are welcome (Ring Helen Davidson). It is hoped that we will be able to compare past activities with recent times and it should be interesting to see if the site we visit has altered over the years. Any memorabilia from the past or assistance in organising this event will be welcome. At present it is planned for October.

S.G.A.P. BICENTENNIAL SHOW.

The TFNC will be presenting a display at this years Flowers of Australia exhibition to be held at the City Hall, Hobart on Nov. 3rd and 4th. Volunteers are needed to set up and look after the display. Items for exhibition which relate to the clubs activities are also needed. A special outing may be arranged in late October to collect specimens for display, e.g. yabbies, molluscs e.t.c. Please contact Marjorie Wall if you can assist.

FUTURE SPEAKERS AND OUTINGS.

Committee members are busy preparing an interesting and varied programme of talks and outings for the rest of 1988. We hope that members will support the programme by attending as many as possible. Why not invite family? friends?

A weekend at Dysart or Bruny Island has been proposed. Please let the secretary know if you would be interested in attending.

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Programme:

- August. Meeting: Thurs.4th Freshwater Crayfish - a talk by Premek Hamir who is studying these invertebrates for his Ph.D. at the University of Tasmania.
- Outing: Sat. 6th To the Domain with representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation. We will look at the vegetation and management of Grasslands Gully, Cornelian Bay, Queens Walk and Boneseed infected areas.
- September. Meeting: Thurs.1st Don Thompson, the State co-ordinator of Greening Australia will speak about the role of the organisation and its current programme.
- Outing: Sat. 3rd We will accompany Don Thompson to a farm in the Midlands to observe what the "Whole Farm Planning" project, which is run by Greening Australia, is achieving.

October. Meeting: Thurs.6th ***** Historical Night *****

All members and former members are invited to relive the past in a special historical night where we look at the history of the club. Please bring some supper - historical style!

- Outing: Sat. 8th A visit to the Cascades, the site of the first outings (1904). 10 a.m. start.
- Outing: Sat. 29th A trip to Collinsvale and other areas to collect specimens for the SGAP flower show.

SGAP Bicentennial Show Nov. 3rd - 7th, City Hall

Help is needed to set up displays on November 3rd and to staff our TFNC display on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th. Please contact M. Wall or G. Van Munster if you can assist.

Missing Bulletins

Does anyone have Bulletins No.2, April 1956 or No. 19, November 1957? We need them for our library records. Please contact The Secretary, Helen Davidson on 25 2754.

BADGES.....BADGES.....BADGES.....BADGES.....BADGES

Buy one now for \$4.00 before the price rise in September!

OUTINGS

Ecology of the World Heritage Area, April 1988

Dr. Stephen Smith from the Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife showed us examples of vegetation communities along the Scotts Peak road and explained the theories of vegetation development and ecological succession which are currently held.

We inspected temperate rainforest dominated by 400-year old myrtle with sassafras and an understorey of pandani (Richea pandanifolia) We looked at buttongrass plains in the Condominium Creek area, and Dr. Smith explained that this deceptively simple looking vegetation is actually made up of 20-30 plant species.

Contrastingly lush riverine vegetation was a beautiful sight at the Huon River camping area. The forest there is dominated by very old eucalypts which are gradually being replaced by rainforest species growing up from underneath. Finally we stopped at Red Knoll lookout, and in the clear afternoon had a perfect 360° view of the South-west.

Wildlife seen on this excursion included endemic snail species (Helicarion cuvieri, Caryodes dufresnii and Pernagrea kingstonensis) and the endemic freshwater crayfish, Parastacoides tasmanicus.

July Outing: Forty-spotted Pardalote habitat (Pardalotus quadragintus)

Peter Brown, zoologist from the Department of Lands, Parks and Wildlife, took us to Tinderbox to an area of open Eucalyptus viminalis dry woodland which is one of the few patches of habitat for the endemic and rare forty-spotted pardalote. These birds are highly territorial and only feed in Eucalyptus viminalis trees where they forage for insects such as psyllids from the surface of leaves.

We saw two - they are very small birds and at first difficult to distinguish from the more common spotted pardalote (Pardalotus punctatus). However, forty-spots have an olive head and pardalotes a black crown! Forty-spots tend to forage in the foliage of the upper branches of E. viminalis, and their call is a high pitched "me me". We also observed green rosellas; scrub wrens, golden whistlers and a pair of wedge-tailed eagles.

Unfortunately, this hillside habitat at Tinderbox is private land and may be sub-divided in the near future for housing. It would be wonderful if the government were to buy it for a reserve for this rare bird.

As we made our way around the coastline to have lunch we were greeted with a spectacular sight. A sea-eagle was hovering above the cliffs near the road and a pair of peregrine falcons were seen chasing some prey in nearby forest. It certainly turned out to be a terrific day for raptor observation!

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 252 SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

OCTOBER, 1988

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 outside the new entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the Secretary is Ms Helen Davidson, phone 25 2754.

P R O G R A M M E

- Sat. 29th October 10 a.m. Outing to collect freshwater invertebrates etc. for SGAP display. Please bring nets, jars and plastic bags.
- Thurs. 3rd Nov. Assistance is required from 9 a.m. onwards, in setting up the display at the SGAP Bicentennial Flower Show in the City Hall.
- Thurs. 3rd Nov. 7.45 p.m. Wayne Fulton of Inland Fisheries will give an illustrated talk on Freshwater Fishes of Tasmania.
- Fri. Nov. 4th to Mon. Nov. 7th Members are required to staff the display from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please let Marjorie Wall know what times you will be in attendance so that a roster can be drawn up. This is a great opportunity to publicise our club and obtain new members. We need your help.
- Thurs. 1st Dec. The author, Elisabeth de Quincey will speak on the History of Mt. Wellington - a fascinating topic.
- Sat. 3rd Dec. Something different! At approx. 5 a.m. we will watch the sunrise from the pinnacle of Mt. Wellington before partaking of breakfast and a stroll around the plateau. We will also look at some points of interest on the mountain mentioned in the talk on Thursday. Meet at Fern Tree Tavern at 4.30 a.m. Further details at December meeting.

1989 Membership Rates Membership is renewable every year on 1st January.

The club has managed to keep the fees at the same level for the past 4 years. However, due to rising costs associated with the running of the club and the production of "The Tasmanian Naturalist", it has been found necessary to increase the fees for next year. The new membership rates are:

ADULTS.....\$15.00 FAMILIES.....\$18.00

STUDENTS, PENSIONERS AND HEALTH CARD HOLDERS.....\$10.00

(Journal Subscribers: Individual.....\$10.00 Institutions.....\$16.00)

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS If you find a red O.S. on the wrapper of your newsletter this means that you have not yet paid your 1988 subscription and that this is the last issue you will receive until you are again financial. We know that it is easy to overlook payment and suggest that, in future, fees are paid at the start of each year.

CORRECT ADDRESS Committee members are currently updating the mailing list and would appreciate it if you would let the Secretary (Helen Davidson) know if the address on your wrapper is incorrect (ph. 25 2754)

Long-lost Library Books???

If you have the following journals/newsletters, would you kindly return them to the Librarian, Helen Davidson, as soon as possible:

North Queensland Naturalist, No. 187, July 1988
Natural History, Nos. 3/87 and 5/87
The Launceston Naturalist, Vol. 20 Nos. 7 and 8 April/ May 1987
Nature Territory, Jan/Feb 1988
Victorian Naturalist, Vol. 104, No. 5 Sept/Oct 1987
The Queensland Naturalist, Vol. 28, Nos. 5-6 June 1988

Dr. D.L. Serventy

It is with deep regret that the club notes the death in early September of Dr. Dominic Louis Serventy, a member of TFNC for many years. Tasmanians will remember him as a pioneer in the biology of muttonbirds and co-author of "Australian Seabirds". He was a source of inspiration and guidance to generations of Western Australian Naturalists through his involvement with the Naturalists Club there.

New Zealand Nature Journeys

If you are considering a trip to New Zealand, Helen Davidson has information on guided tours and cruises to fascinating areas rarely accessible to naturalists.

Historical Night and Outing Re-enactment

The wonderful "turn of the century" costumes, the fascinating displays and the delicious olden-day supper transported members back to the early days of the club, when the average attendance was about 70, and many eminent Hobart ladies and gentlemen were honoured members. Among our special guests were David Elliott and Margaret Shaw, the son and daughter of Dr. E.A. Elliott, founder of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club, and Mr. Frank Green who attended his first Easter Camp-Out in 1920. Our thanks to all who made the evening a truly memorable 84th anniversary celebration.

On a pleasant morn, about 20 members partook of a delightful billy-tea and damper repast, in a clearing at the top of Old Farm Road, Cascades (the same spot that Lady Jane Franklin enjoyed breakfast before climbing Mt. Wellington 150 years ago). One group then followed the wet, pristine gullies of the Myrtle Gully Track, while another took a more open path which crossed many gushing streams, everyone in search of the elusive ferns *Schizaea bifida* and *Lindsaea linearis* and the other plants collected on the 1904 outing. A refreshing shower greeted our return to camp where bird, plant and invertebrate lists were compiled. Following lunch, enjoyed around the camp fire, members explored the alternate track, while discussing the "good old days", before bidding one another fond farewells at the close of a wonderful outing.

We wish you all a happy holiday season. Remember - no meeting in January.

