

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 253

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

JANUARY, 1989

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

- Thurs. 2nd Feb. 7.45 p.m. Alex. Dudley will give an illustrated talk on his specialty - Reptiles.
- Sat. 4th Feb. 10 a.m. Alex. will lead an outing to Mt. Wellington to look for snakes, skinks and other reptiles - there should be quite a few active at this time of year.
- Thurs. 2nd Mar. Annual General Meeting and Members' Night - 7.45 p.m.
Talks arranged so far:-
P. McQuillan (Insect Defences), J. Slater (S-W Heritage Area).
- Sat. 4th Mar. 10 a.m. Beach Biology outing, led by Janet Slater, to Goat Beach to study seaweeds, marine invertebrates, etc.
- Thurs. 6th Apr. Tasmanian Freshwater Fishes will be discussed by Wayne Fulton of Inland Fisheries. (postponed from last November).
- Sat. 8th Apr. 9 a.m. Drive to the Ski-ing Area of the Mt. Field National Park and walk to Tarn Shelf to see the deciduous beech on the change.

NEW MEMBERS: The club welcomes Marcus and Isa Hurburgh, Geoffrey Hore and family, and Judith Doherty. We hope you will all enjoy your time with us!

1989 MEMBERSHIP FEE REMINDER

As you were informed last newsletter, these fees fell due on 1st January, and prompt payment would be appreciated. The committee members have managed to keep the costs of producing The Tasmanian Naturalist and Bulletin as low as possible, however these still amount to \$8 - \$10 per member per year. On top of these expenses there is the cost of running the club, so even if you don't attend all the meetings and outings, your membership is still value for money.

The 1989 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)

NOMINATION OF NEW COMMITTEE: Prior to the AGM in March, the Secretary would like to receive nominations for the 1989-90 Committee. We look forward to welcoming some new faces on the team this year, so if you have any ideas about the running of the club etc., or would like to learn more or assist in any way, please let it be known that you are eligible for election. Committee meetings are only held every two months and the work outside that time is not excessive if all positions are filled.

WHERE IS THE TASMANIAN NATURALIST?

Due to the closure of the printery for all of January, the Journal will be mailed out in late February or early March.

SGAP BICENTENNIAL WILDFLOWER SHOW:

This native flower show held in the City Hall last November, was a great success. The plant displays were really spectacular and the information stands set up by other 'green' organisations were very colourful and informative. The TFNC display was well received, especially by the children, who loved the wombat and possum, and asked many questions about the snake and the spiders and other 'creepy crawlies'.

MT. WELLINGTON SUNRISE TRIP - SATURDAY, 3rd DECEMBER.

At 4.30a.m. on a mild, calm morning, 11 Field Nats. met with Elizabeth de Quincey (author of "The History of Mt. Wellington") and her husband Roger at the Fern Tree Tavern car park, before proceeding in convoy to the Pinnacle. It was still dark when we started out but dawn light rapidly flooded the eastern sky. We assembled in front of Rock Cabin to admire the view, but most of us actually watched the brilliant sunrise from the relative shelter of the controversial observation deck.

A sumptuous breakfast of hot porridge, followed by "Lady Jane's choice" of roast fowl, cold tongue, a bottle of claret and a loaf of bread, accompanied by a cup of tea, was enjoyed by all. There were even cherries, cake and biscuits too!

Elizabeth then showed us the site of Wragge's weather station, the unsuccessful ice-rink and the 1960 landslip. We next visited the remains of the Exhibition Gardens and the 1930's lookout at the Springs, before searching through the pile of debris bulldozed aside from the hotel after the 1967 bushfires.

Our exciting mountain outing concluded at about 11.30 a.m. (actually, it seemed like mid-afternoon!)

THE GREAT TASMANIAN FORESTS WALK.

As most of you are probably aware, several hundred people are currently taking part in this walk from Penguin to Lune River. The route passes through the Lemonthyme, Douglas-Apsley and Southern Forests and many interesting activities are included along the way. It is not too late to join in the last stage of the Walk (Tahune Reserve to South Cape, 29/1/'89 to 5/2/'89) or attend the Grand Finale at Lune River on Feb.4. For further information phone (002) 34 9366.

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

NOMINATION FORM

I hereby propose _____ for the position
of _____ President, Vice-President (2 needed),
Treasurer, Secretary, Assist. Secretary, Committee Member (4 needed).

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

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

Date: _____

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 254

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

APRIL 1989

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.

PROGRAMME

- Thurs. 4th May 7.45 p.m. Carolyn Raymond, a geneticist with CSIRO Tasmanian Forest Research Group will show a video and discuss her work for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Australia-China forestry programme.
- Sat. 6th May 9.00 a.m. Dr. Chris Beadle, also of CSIRO Tasmanian Forest Research Group, will take us to look at eucalypt plantations in the Dover-Hastings area.
Come and find out first hand what eucalypt plantation forestry is about. Are they monocultural deserts or are they a solution to the forestry-conservation controversy??
- Thurs. 1st June 7.45 p.m. Natural History Equipment and Techniques - an evening to share and compare ideas. Please bring along anything you feel other members would be interested to know about to extend their interest in natural history - books, lenses, collecting gear, preserving equipment, prepared specimens, etc.
We will also visit the Club library which is housed next door in the main CSIRO building.
- Sat. 3rd June 9.00 a.m. Following on from Thursday night's activities we will have a field demonstration on Porters Hill and nearby Blinking Billy Beach. Don Hird will be describing mammal trapping and the early start is so that those mammals caught overnight can be released as soon as possible. Peter McQuillan will be showing us how his insect traps work and Janet Slater and Judy Sprent will be demonstrating interesting things that adults and children can do and collect in the bush, and on the shore. Please bring lenses, small containers, etc.
- Thurs. 6th July 7.45 p.m. Hans Wapstra of Lands, Parks and Wildlife will talk on whale and dolphin strandings.
- Sat. 8th July 9.00a.m. again. We will visit Chauncy Vale where Janet and Don will teach us track and scat identification. Heather Chauncy will accompany us to describe the reserve and tell of her encounters with the native animals.
There should be time also to visit the caves or tarn or just relax by the river.

* Should the weather be totally unsuitable for any of these outings, Peter McQuillan will take us to the Entomology Section of the Dept. of Agriculture at New Town to view their fine insect collections.

New Members. The Club welcomes Tony Woolford (Mt. Rumney), Gordon and Monica Scott (South Hobart), Warren Papworth and family (Taroona), Jocelyn Rockliff (Blackmans Bay), Irene Maughan (Sandy Bay), Diana Ward (Richmond) and Graham Davis (Kettering). We hope you will all enjoy participating in TFNC activities.

MEMBERSHIP FEES. Despite a prompt response from most members quite a few people have not yet paid their 1989 membership fees. If you are not sure whether or not you are financial, please contact Helen Davidson or Judy Sprent to check.

1989-90 COMMITTEE

President	Peter McQuillan	ph. 23 3262
Vice-Presidents	Don Hird	ph. 34 4293
	Marcus Hurburgh	ph. 23 1348
Secretary	Helen Davidson	ph. 25 2754
Assistant Secretary	Janet Slater	ph. 44 4151
Treasurer	Gilbert van Munster	ph. 29 6602
General Committee Members:	Judy Sprent	ph. 39 1180
	Kevin Bonham	ph. 28 7453
	Warren Papworth	ph. 27 8060
	Marjorie Wall	ph. 28 4165
"Tasmanian Naturalist" Editor	Don Hird	ph. 34 4293
Librarian	Helen Davidson	ph. 25 2754

FEDERATION OF FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS CAMP

Our Club will be hosting the Federation camp and meeting in September this year. We have chosen Coningham as the venue and Phil Collier has offered to lead a botany trip to Bruny Island on the Saturday.

Further details will be given in the July Bulletin but please agree now to support this important club activity, where you have the chance to meet enthusiastic Field Naturalists, bushwalkers and lovers of the outdoors from all over Tasmania.

LIBRARY. There are still quite a number of library items outstanding. Please check in the borrowers book to see if you are one of the guilty parties. Then, please find the items and return them.

TFNC OUTING ON SATURDAY 4TH MARCH TO GOAT BEACH WITH JANET SLATER

Nine members and nine children braved the threatening rain to visit Goat Beach to look mainly at the botany and seaweeds of this area on the South Arm Peninsula. We were rewarded with fine weather after all and an interesting outing.

Janet led us from the heathy scrub beside the car park, through the dunes, down across the sands below a sheltering cliff face to the rock platform where the waves rushed in an out - a distance of a mere 50 or so yards for field naturalists but encompassing several worlds for those plants and animals that live in the various zones.

Janet explained the ecology of the scrub and dunes above the high tide mark, the Littoral Zone (between high and low tide marks), the Eulittoral Zone (the "splash" area and permanent pools of water) and the Sublittoral Zone (below low tide mark).

Full details of the day's outing are recorded in the Outings Book available at meetings.

Transport to outings

There is always room in cars for members who would like to go on outings but do not have transport. Please don't hesitate to come along and join in. The outings are always interesting.

Transport to meetings

It may also be possible to arrange transport to meetings. Contact the Secretary to see if someone lives nearby and can give you a lift.

ROAD VERGES

A.Himson

7, Forest Hill Rd., Sandford, 7020.

It was a black peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*) on the edge of the Tasman Highway near Nelson Creek which induced me to break into print. It stood out just a bit closer to the bitumen than is usually the case. Plenty of white paint on its trunk served the same purpose as a guide post. It was near a bend in the road, and in the thousand times I passed it it was a signal to slow down. It must have stood there 50 years and would possibly have been good for another 50 years. There were no overhead lines near it and anyone colliding with it would have only themselves to blame. It is gone, cut down for no apparent reason.

Another incident involved a very third class Council road, just a little better than a bush track, a few kilometres on, and a location of some botanical interest. Close to the road were a few bushes of *Persoonia juniperina* var *brevifolia*, a shrub believed to be endemic, uncommon and certainly the only known specimen in the area. At flowering time it is quite a pretty shrub with a sprinkling of small yellow flowers. There is now only one bush left, only saved by being further from the road than the others. Road workers had slashed everything within a metre of the road, a purposeless exercise as most of the vegetation was of the sort and size which would not be a hazard to the occasional road users.

Further, it is time that some thought is given to the application of poison sprays along roads. A pointless spraying has recently taken place between Howrah and South Arm along the South Arm Road. On both sides of the road charred brown branches of shrubs now face the road. As far as can be ascertained this did nothing to assist drivers, a limited amount of judicious pruning would have been more effective and less ugly. Another example is a rogue plum tree (*Prunus* indet.) which still stands half way along the causeway between Lauderdale and Sandford. It stands 6 metres off the bitumen and does not obscure drivers' views, even when it annually heralds spring with a burst of flowering. Apparently no more, it must have been soaked in a weedkiller or herbicide.

The upper escarpment along part of the Tasman Highway between Buckland and Orford is another example. It had and to some extent still has a flora including species of *Pimelea*, *Bulbine*, *Tetratheca*, *Pomaderris*, *Clematis*, *Diplarrhena*, *Hibbertia*, *Callistemon*, *Helichrysum* and other attractive flowering plants. If for no other reason than their aesthetic value, stretches like these should be left undisturbed as much as possible. The fact is that the vegetation is burned and slashed from time to time and thus gradually degraded.

From personal observation some roadside flora, where it has been left relatively undisturbed, has populations which are otherwise hard to find in the area. A typical example is a large patch of *Lasiopetalum micranthem* growing profusely between the road and a fence. There was not one plant on the other side of the fence, a fact all the more remarkable for the fenced land being uncultivated bush. There can be no doubt that grazing and fertilising, even on a minimal scale on such bush runs, has a considerable effect on the floristic picture. Sheep, for instance are selective feeders and if native plants are palatable they may disappear, often leaving roadsides as last refuges.

What can be done to conserve the flora of roadside landscapes, especially as the road network spreads incessantly? It is of course necessary to maintain clearances from overhead wires and abate real fire risks. It is worth suggesting, however, that relevant authorities interfere with natural vegetation as little as possible.

WINGAROO-HABITAT DESTRUCTION ON FLINDERS ISLAND.

Since the publishing of "The Disappearing Heath" by Prof. Jamie Kirkpatrick in 1977 Tasmania has lost well in excess of 2000 ha of heathland from the total area included in the 1977 publication. The recent State Government decision to sell off crownland in the Mt Boyes-Wingaroo area on northern Flinders Island, for agricultural development, will result in the destruction of a further 5,800 ha of heath, scrub, and wetland communities.

Apart from being an area of considerable diversity and outstanding beauty, the Mt Boyes-Wingaroo area is of very high nature conservation value as it supports a continuous environmental gradient from granite hills down to coastal and estuarine communities. Some of the areas most important attributes include the presence of 6 unreserved heathland communities some of which are restricted to this locality. It is the strong hold of 3 plant species restricted to the Furneaux Group in Tasmania. It provides habitat for the uncommon Tawny Crowned Honey Eater and the New Holland Mouse and for species such as the Flame Robin and the Yellow Tailed Cockatoo as they move between Tasmania and the mainland. The wetlands of the area are very significant for many bird species including migratory ones. A few lagoons in the area provide regular nesting sites for the Blue Bill Duck.

The proposed 2,200 ha nature reserve designed to protect the catchment of the North East River is far from adequate for the protection of the above features. In fact the area is far too small to remain viable and will suffer degradation from chemical pollution and siltation from the proposed, adjacent farmland as a result of airborne drift and runoff. The area which is to be sold and cleared is of very marginal agricultural value and can only be considered as economically viable under the present extremely buoyant wool market or as investment for future subdivision. The predicted increase in aridity as a result of the green house effect places the project in an even more dubious light.

If left in a natural state and managed in appropriate manner, the area could contribute much to the Flinders Island tourist industry, by attracting mainland visitors who at present must use overcrowded national parks in southern Victoria, whilst still retaining all of its nature conservation value.

It appears that there will be a 4 month period before the final decision to sell off the Wingaroo area is made. URGENT action is therefore required. Many concerned Flinders Island Residents are at present lobbying local politicians and ministers but they require the support of the Tasmanian public at large. Please write to both The Minister for Lands, Parks, and Wildlife, Executive Building, Murray St, Hobart, 7000 and The Secretary of The Rural Subdivisions Committee c/o Lands, Parks, and Wildlife, 134 Macquarie St, Hobart, 7000. expressing your concern at the impending loss of this unique wild area.

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

JULY
~~JUNE~~ 1989

BULLETIN NO. 255 SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

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PROGRAMME

- Thurs. 3rd Aug. 7.45p.m. Alan Hewer, one of our Life Members will give an illustrated talk on his special interest, Tasmanian frogs. A tape recording of their different calls will be played.
- Sat. 5th Aug. 9.00a.m. Alan will lead an outing to Marion Bay to search suitable habitats for frogs. Eastern shore members may join Alan at the Sun Valley Inn, Mornington at 9.05 a.m.
- Thurs. 7th Sept. 7.45p.m. Members slide and photo night. Gilbert van Munster, Phil Collier, Mem Tagg and Janet Slater will provide insights into their recent overseas trips. Other participants are welcome.
- Fri. 22nd Sept to Sun. 24th Sept. CONINGHAM CAMP
- Thurs. 5th Oct. 7.45p.m. Mr. Geoff Copson, of the Wildlife Division of Lands, Parks and Wildlife will speak on Environmental Management of Macquarie Island. (Tentative)
- Sat. 7th Oct. 10.00a.m. Rod Fensham and Louise Gilfedder will show us some of the rare and beautiful plants in the Waverly Park Nature Reserve which they describe as "a grassy gem on Hobart's Eastern shore".

CHAUNCY VALE REVISITED? It has been suggested that we conduct an evening or overnight outing to Chauncy Vale to observe the numerous native animals as they come down to the creek area to drink and feed. If you are interested in participating in such an activity please contact Helen Davidson (ph. 25 2754).

TFNC has agreed to produce a small leaflet on Animal Tracks and Signs at Chauncy Vale for use by visiting school and natural history groups. These animal signs are plentiful in the Sanctuary and their identification makes a visit that much more interesting.

CONINGHAM CAMP

An information sheet, tentative programme and application form have been produced and distributed to member clubs of the Federation of Field Naturalist Clubs of Tasmania, as well as to our own members. If you would like to attend and have not yet received your copies, please contact Helen by phone (25 2754) or at the August meeting. REMEMBER THAT PAYMENT NEEDS TO BE FINALIZED BY AUGUST 20TH.

Copies of archaeological and botanic survey reports of the Coningham State Recreation Area will be available to guide us in our exploration of the surrounding beach and bushland. The trip to Bruny Island should prove particularly interesting to botanists. A range of accommodation is available, so come along and enjoy a great weekend with naturalists from all over the State!

NEW MEMBERS The Club welcomes Nick Sawyer (South Hobart) and Marjorie Kanagaratnam (Cranbrook) as new members. Nick is a student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania and Marjorie is a keen naturalist whose special interest is botany.

"NEW LOOK" TASMANIAN NATURALIST Members will have noted that the Tasmanian Naturalist now has a new banner heading and a different print style. We hope you like the more modern, compact look.

SPEAKERS NOW ON TAPE! Suitable talks given at TFNC meetings are now being recorded on audiocassette and are available for loan by members who are unable to attend meetings due to age, disability or distance from Hobart. Wayne Fulton's talk on Tasmanian Freshwater Fishes and Hans Wapstra's talk on Whales and Dolphins are now available. The committee is presently investigating the purchase of a microphone and/or cassette recorder to improve the quality of taping, and hopes members will welcome the provision of this service. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive tapes and are willing to make a contribution towards the cost of the audiocassettes and postage, please contact Helen Davidson (ph. 25 2754) for further details.

SUGGESTION BOX The Club has a large membership but not all members participate in Club activities. Perhaps this is due to ill-health, family commitments or poor weather. The committee would like to learn of some of these reasons and would welcome any suggestions to make activities more accessible and relevant to these members. Also, perhaps you have a speaker you would like to hear, a special-interest topic you would like to learn more about, or an area of natural history significance you would love to visit.

Please contact a committee member by phone, letter or any other means to make your ideas and wishes known.

NEW CLUB BOOK OR TAPE? The committee is presently exploring the possibility of publishing a new booklet on Tasmanian frogs, lizards or butterflies. One suggestion is that we produce a book and audiocassette entitled "What Frog is That?" Another idea is to provide an audiocassette of bird calls to accompany the Tasmanian birds book. If you have any suggestions or could assist in any way, please contact a committee member as your advice would be much appreciated.

LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY The books reviewed in the Tasmanian Naturalist are donated to the TFNC library and are available for loan by members on a monthly basis. Recent additions are:-

Where to Find Birds in Australia - John Bransbury
Your Garden Birds - Ellen M. McCulloch
The Wombat (Common Wombats in Australia) - Barbara Triggs
Wildflowers of Mt. Wellington - Phil Collier
The Lyrebird - a Natural History - Pauline Reilly
Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia - Betty Duncan and Golda Isaac
The Cambridge Illustrated Dictionary of Natural History - R.J. Lincoln and G. A. Boxhall

Please contact Helen or Judy Sprent if you wish to borrow any of these.

The library is accessible during business hours or on regular meeting nights. It is housed in the CSIRO building next door to the meeting room.

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING!!

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 256

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October 1989

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PROGRAMME

- Thurs. 2nd Nov. 7.45p.m. Sally Bryant, Project Officer with the Dept. of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage will discuss her survey work on the endangered Ground Parrot - a beautiful but very vulnerable Tasmanian bird. Also, video(s) on parrots will be shown.
- Sat. 4th Nov. 5.00p.m. At Museum. 6.00p.m. At Chauncy Vale. An evening outing to observe the numerous native animals as they come down to the creek area to drink and feed around sunset. We will begin with a BBQ (bring your own meat, sandwiches, drinks, etc.), followed by a look at the many orchids likely to be in flower at this time before dark sets in for the animals.
- Thurs. 7th Dec. 7.45p.m. Members are invited to bring along slides, photos and live or pressed specimens of Tasmanian native orchids for display and discussion. As this is the last meeting for the year, we will conclude with a special supper - please bring a plate of sandwiches, cake or biscuits etc.
- Sat. 9th Dec. 9.00a.m. Trip to Ida Bay - Southport Lagoon to inspect the orchids which should be abundant in the area. Train to Deep Hole, walk to Southport Lagoon and back to train. Bring lunch and drinks.

CONINGHAM CAMP. Despite inclement weather at the beginning of the weekend, the camp was a great success. 42 people from Launceston, Devonport, Burnie and Hobart clubs attended over the weekend. Two groups visited Bruny Island on Saturday; a slide show and spotlighting were featured in the evening. On Sunday Alan Gray conducted a botanical tour of the camp area while the Federation meeting was held. A full trip report will appear in the Outings Book at a later date. Species lists etc. will be forwarded to northern and north western clubs.

EDITORSHIP OF THE 'TASMANIAN NATURALIST'. Don Hird has been editor for 2 years now and wonders if another member would like to accept this position. Don is quite agreeable to continuing for 1 more year, while perhaps showing someone what the job entails.

CLUB PUBLICATIONS. Committee members have agreed to arrange for Jacaranda Press to republish the Tasmanian Birds book. It will be distributed as before, at an increased price (due to increased costs).

A book on the butterfly fauna of Tasmania will probably be produced over the next 2 years. We will require the assistance of an artist (preferably watercolour) for up to 75 illustrations, possibly painted from photographs. One artist/naturalist has been suggested but if you know of anyone who could assist please contact Peter McQuillan (ph 233262). A book on Tasmanian reptiles is a second possibility for publication.

"NATURE NOTES" IN THE MERCURY NEWSPAPER. The Editor has decided to drop "Nature Notes" as a regular feature as "nobody reads it". If you disagree write and let him know your feelings.

EYES OPEN FOR GROUND PARROTS. During 1989 and 1990 the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage is conducting a survey of the Ground Parrot in Tasmania. The Ground Parrot is endangered and vulnerable to extinction and Tasmania appears the last stronghold for the species. The aim of the survey is to find out where and how many parrots there are and then this information will form the basis of a management plan. The Ground Parrot lives in open bushland such as buttongrass plains, low heathlands or sedge and is found mainly in the south-west and western half of Tasmania. Records show they may also occur in other open areas in the midlands and east coast (including Bruny Island and the Tasman Peninsula). The birds can be flushed from the ground and during their short flight display rich green plumage barred with black and yellow (found singly or in pairs). Anyone wishing to help with the survey or with any recent sightings to report can contact Sally Bryant on telephone (002) 30 6033 (if no answer try Peter Brown on 30 6311 or David Rounsevell on 30 6203) or by writing to the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, G.P.O. Box 44A, Hobart. 7001. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Sally Bryant

MANAGING TASMANIA'S WORLD HERITAGE AREA. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are you interested in the future of Tasmania's World Heritage Area? How should this magnificent natural area be managed? The Tasmanian Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage wants to hear your ideas. From the beginning of December 1989 until the end of February 1990, the Department will be seeking submissions from all interested individuals and organisations. Your submission can be as long or as short as you like. Pamphlets detailing the boundaries of the area, important management issues and giving advice on writing your submission are available from the Department. So, have your say! Your ideas will be considered by the Department in the preparation of a draft management plan for the area.

For pamphlets and any further information, please contact:

Mr. Sam Rando
Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage
G.P.O. Box 44A
Hobart. 7001.

Telephone: 002 303912 Fax: 002 238765

THE ECOLOGY OF TASMANIAN MOUNTAIN VEGETATION COURSES. The Tasmanian Environment Centre is conducting three field courses this summer in Mt. Field National Park, the Central Highlands and Ben Lomand National Park, led by Prof. W.D. Jackson and John Davies, B.Sc.Hons. They offer participants a rare opportunity to gain considerable knowledge about our native vegetation while enjoying a great stay in the mountains. For further information, contact Peter Blackwell at T.E.C. phone (002) 34 5566 or Helen Davidson phone 25 2754.

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS. Gippsland Explorer Holidays are offering a large range of 2 - 7 day 4-W drive/bushwalking tours in the coming 8 months. Their special interest tours include a 5-day Camping/Accommodated Birdwatchers Extravaganza from Nov. 25-29 (cost \$500) from Bairnsdale to Errinundra Plateau and Croajingolong National Park. For brochures etc. contact Helen Davidson (phone 25 2754).

NEW PUBLICATION: "Explorers of Western Tasmania" Revised Edition

This wonderful book by C.J. Spinks has proved to be a most useful and sought-after reference for all those who have walked or toured in Tasmania, and some members may welcome the opportunity to purchase it now it is back in print. Telling the story of the explorers, surveyors, convicts, geologists and prospectors who penetrated the mountains and valleys of Western Tasmania between 1815 and 1880, it is to be released in October/November 1989 (R.R.P. \$39.95). However if you are interested in the pre-publication offer of \$35 (post-free), please contact Helen Davidson for further details (phone 25 2754).*

* If Helen Davidson is unavailable, ring Peter McQuillan on 233262