

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 257

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

January 1990

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 ~~25554~~.

PROGRAMME

- Thurs. Feb. 1st. 7.45p.m. George and Michelle Meffre will show slides of their fascinating 1¹/₂ month stay on the island of St. Paul in the middle of the Southern Indian Ocean. The volcanic island is only 3km across and has a large seal population. (It is at the same latitude as Tasmania and resembles Macquarie Island in some respects.)
- Sat. Feb. 3rd. 9.00a.m. (to catch the tide) Looking at shells and coastal marine life (with Elizabeth Turner??) at the southern end of Blackman's Bay, Boronia Beach and Dru Pt, Margate. Wear suitable attire and bring hand lens, buckets, etc.
- Sat. Feb. 24th TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB STALL AT FERN TREE FESTIVAL.
(See below)
- Thurs. Mar. 1st. 7.45p.m. Jenny Whinam and Adrian Pyrke from the Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies will discuss the string bogs of Mt. Wellington and also the regrowth of vegetation after the '67 bushfires.
- Sat. Mar. 10th 10.00a.m. NOTE: Second Saturday in March - NOT THE LONG WEEKEND. Geographers (Adrian Pyrke and Louise Gilfedder?) will show us the aspects of Mt. Wellington vegetation, regrowth etc. covered by their theses.
There may be some change to this field trip as confirmation of dates has not been possible at this stage. Full details as soon as possible.
- Thurs. April 5th. 7.45p.m. Tim O'Loughlin of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage will present two videos "Walk Softly" and "Walk Safely" and give us tips on trouble free bushwalking.
- Sat. April 7th. 10.00a.m. Peter Brown of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage will show us the orange-bellied parrot breeding program at 13 Nubeena Crescent, Tarooma. Lunch at the avaries, Tarooma Park or Tarooma Beach. Afternoon of beachcombing or climbing up the Truganinni Track to Mt. Nelson.

NOTE: Our secretary Helen Davidson has moved house and her new phone number is not yet available. If you need to contact TFNC by phone please ring other committee members. President Peter McQuillan 23 3262; Vice President Don Hird 34 4293.

FIELD TRIP TO IDA BAY - SOUTHPORT LAGOON: 18 members and visitors and 10 children had a fine day out in the far south-east of the state looking at wildflowers. We found plenty of orchids and Blandfordia punicea (Christmas bells) were in fine form.

AUSTRALIAN CICADAS by M.S. Moulds This is a new book just being released. It is a comprehensive study of this favourite Australian insect with hundreds of colour and black and white illustrations. Recommended retail price \$39.95. NSW University Press. We hope to have a copy for review in the Tasmanian Naturalist shortly.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 1990: DUE ON 1ST JANUARY 1990

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

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

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

PLEASE LET THE TREASURER HAVE YOUR PAYMENT NOW FOR 1990

TFNC STALL AT FERN TREE FESTIVAL: Mem and Joyce Tagg have offered to run a stall to aid club funds and would like support from members in the form of donations of items for the stall (jam, cakes, sweets, produce, plants, books, handcrafts, etc. - the usual stall fare) and volunteers to put in some time behind the counter. Please ring on 391117. The Festival is on Saturday 24th February from noon (setting up from 10.30a.m.) and is held at Stephenson's Place, Fern Tree (near the kindergarden). Last year's stall was a great success - please give your support again. Come and enjoy the Festival!

BUTTON BATTERY RECYCLING: Kevin Osbourne of Harrington Metal Recyclers, FACT 412A Hull Street, Glenorchy (phone 731919) has placed collection jars for button batteries in several camera and hearing aid shops. Although only silver oxide batteries are valuable, Kevin is happy to take all batteries. If you can persuade your chemist or camera shop to accept these batteries, Kevin will provide a collection jar which he will empty. Help keep heavy metals from decomposing button batteries out of our environment and encourage recycling.

BUSH BOTANY WALKS WITH THE TASMANIAN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE: An interesting summer programme is now running. Contact the Environment Centre (ph. 345566) for full details.

TASMANIA'S WORLD HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN: From now till the end of February 1990 the Dept. of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage is seeking public submissions from organizations and individuals regarding the management of this magnificent area, to be considered during preparation of the plan. A pamphlet giving details and various planning notesheets to aid submission preparation are in the hands of the TFNC committee or can be had from World Heritage Area Planning Team, Dept. of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, GPO Box 44A, Hobart. T.7001. (Ph. Sam Rando - (002) 303912). We urge members to consider this proposal and perhaps to volunteer to join the committee in consideration of a club submission.

DONATION OF CAMERA TO TFNC BY MRS. Z. MATTAY: The mother of our past member Marileen Mattay who died recently has offered Marileen's camera and tripod to the club, to go to some deserving member who would make good use of it for the purposes of natural history photography. The camera is a Yashica Electro 35 Gold Mechanical with a small folding tripod. If you have anyone in mind who would be a worthy recipient, please contact the committee.

Endangered Small Populations: Their Conservation and Management

The problems of survival confronting many forms of wildlife in the late twentieth century have, in most instances, their origins in the population explosion of just one species, Mankind.

This expansion, in its many expressions, has resulted in a reduction in numbers and habitat for many species. The net result has been change from large more or less continuous populations to a series of smaller, fragmented populations. Ultimately such species face extinction.

In Australia we have abundant examples of this process and consequently a large number of endangered species. The problem is common to most continents and countries, however, and occupies the energy of many wildlife biologists.

New concepts, tools and techniques under development, for use in concert with more traditional methods. An international Conference on the Management and Conservation of Small Populations was held in September 1989 at the Melbourne Zoo. The Eastern Barred Bandicoot was featured as a model species with which to test the techniques. The Button Wrinklewort (a grasslands daisy), the Giant Gippsland Earthworm, the Eltham Copper Butterfly, the Australian Damsel Fly, the Helmeted Honeyeater, the Orange-bellied Parrot and Leadbeaters Possum are other prominent species sharing this predicament.

Proceedings of the Conference, published by the Chicago Zoological Society, are available for \$6.00 posted from John Seebeck, Rylah Institute, 123 Brown St., Heidelberg 3084.

BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA: This group administers the Australian Bird Environment Fund with grants for projects relating to bird habitat protection. If you want to know more about this fund contact our Secretary, Helen Davidson.

NOMINATION OF NEW COMMITTEE: Prior to the AGM in March, the Secretary would like to receive nominations for the 1990-91 committee. The committee has been operating under-strength during the past year, due to various circumstances, and desperately needs some new faces volunteering to help keep our club operating. The work is not excessive if all positions are filled. Please consider offering to assist. Committee meetings are held only every 2 months and no technical skills are needed to keep the business and organization of the club on track. You do not need to be a "natural history whizz" for the everyday committee work and we are able to call on the experts when specialist knowledge is required. Incidentally, being involved is a good way to learn, and working with other club members is very rewarding. New ideas and inspiration are always needed.

The positions are:

President: Chairs committee and general meetings, writes the occasional letter and represents the club if required.

Vice-president (two): Acts for the president when required.

Secretary: Keeps minutes and prepares agendas for all meetings, answers correspondence (usually under direction of committee), arranges for collection of mail from P.O. box and distributes appropriately, keeps such records as may be needed.

Treasurer: Performs simple bookkeeping, prepares bi-monthly statements for committee meetings and Annual Statement for AGM in March, keeps membership records.

Assistant Secretary: Acts as secretary when required, prepares quarterly club bulletin and arranges its distribution.

Committee Members (four): Attend meetings and provide assistance to committee executive as required.

Librarian: This is an ex-officio position appointed by the committee. Several hours a month are required to keep the club library materials in order. (Help from our present librarian will be available.)

Editor "Tasmanian Naturalist": This is an ex-officio position appointed by the committee. This position does require some specialized knowledge but can be handled by an intelligent amateur. (Help from the present Editor will be available.)

Auditor: Appointed by committee.

The committee would also like to hear from people who have skills (such as typing or special areas of knowledge) which could be of assistance to them. If we have a pool of people to call on it makes life easier for all.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE NOMINATION FORMS ATTACHED TO THIS BULLETIN ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY BEFORE THE 15TH FEBRUARY.

PLEASE HELP KEEP YOUR CLUB GOING!!

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB - NOMINATION FORM

I hereby propose _____

for the position of _____

(President, 2x Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, 4x Committee Member)

Proposer _____

Secunder _____

I agree to stand for the above position.

(Nominee's signature)

(Date)

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 258

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

APRIL 1990

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 23 7015.

PROGRAMME

- Thurs. May 3rd. 7.45p.m. John Davies will talk about "The Huon Pine (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*) in Tasmania". Come and hear about our very special and famous tree.
Before John's talk we will have a quick visit to the TFNC library housed in the next-door building. Come a few minutes early.
- Sun. May 6th. 9.00a.m. (Note: Sunday, not Saturday). John Davies will take us on a botanical ramble at Tahune Forest Reserve on the Picton River where you can see Huon Pine in its natural habitat. Bring a picnic lunch.
- Thurs. June 7th. 7.45p.m. Lyall Wilson, an enthusiastic member of Friends of Maria Island will speak on the island's history and on bushwalking there.
- Sat. June 9th. 9.30a.m. At Museum. 10.30a.m. at Bothwell. Fergus "Fergie" Barnard, an old Bothwell identity, will take us on a tour of some of the historic and environmentally significant sites in the Bothwell area.
Note: \$2.00 a head - guide fee.
- Thurs. July 5th. 7.45p.m. Alex Buchanan from the Tasmanian Herbarium will be speaking on early botanical collectors in Tasmania, in particular Gunn and Milligan.
- Sat. July 7th. 10.00a.m. Alex will show us over the Herbarium where we can look at the collections and learn how the specimens are processed.

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL ATTEMPT TO ATTEND THE AUTUMN/WINTER MEETINGS AND OUTINGS THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER IS COLD, THE WELCOME IS ALWAYS WARM - IN THE PAST THESE HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR. IF TRANSPORT IS A PROBLEM PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER TO ARRANGE A LIFT.

The audio-visual presented by George and Michelle Meffre on the fascinating Indian Ocean island of St. Paul was quite spectacular and those presented by Tim O'Loughlin on walking and camping 'softly and safely' in the Tasmanian bush were very humorous and very informative. If you missed them, then you missed a real treat!

1990-91 COMMITTEE

President	Phil Collier	ph.29 6597
Vice-Presidents	Don Hird	ph.34 4293
	Kevin Bonham	ph.28 7453
Secretary	Helen Davidson	ph.23 7015
Assistant Secretary	Judy Sprent	ph.39 1180
Treasurer	Gilbert van Munster	ph.29 6602
General	Peter McQuillan	ph.23 3262
Committee	Sue Collier	ph.29 6597
Members:	Robert Taylor	ph.31 0388
	Marjorie Wall	ph.28 4165
"Tasmanian Naturalist"		
Editor	Don Hird	ph.34 4293
Librarian	Marcus Hurburgh	ph.23 1348

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Despite a prompt response from most members there are still quite a few people who have not yet paid their 1990 membership fees. If you are not sure whether or not you are financial, please contact Gilbert van Munster to check, as, if you remain unfinancial in June, you will not receive your copy of the Bulletin and "Tasmanian Naturalist".

The rates are:

Adults.....\$15.00 Families.....\$18.00
Students, Pensioners, Health Card Holders\$10.00
(Journal Subscribers: Individual....\$10.00 Institutions....\$16.00)

NEW MEMBERS: The club welcomes Heather Chauncy (Sandy Bay), Nancy Parsons (Battery Point) and Andreas and Felicity Hack (also of Battery Point). We hope you will all enjoy participating in TFNC activities.

NEW MEETING VENUE AND LIBRARY LOCATION: The club most unfortunately must vacate the CSIRO Stowell Avenue premises by the end of this year and the committee is currently investigating alternative locations to meet and to store the TFNC library. If you have any suitable suggestions, please contact Helen Davidson on 23 7015.

CHANGES TO CLUB RULES AND OTHER PROPOSALS: The committee is currently reviewing the club rules and looking at ways of running the club more efficiently. When all the proposals have been considered, members will be given the chance to discuss suggested changes.

Committee members are also investigating cheaper ways of producing the "Tasmanian Naturalist" while still maintaining its high quality and appearance. Any members with something to contribute are asked to contact the committee.

NEW TASMANIAN SEASHELL BOOK: "Tasmanian Sea Shells Common to Other States" by Margaret Richmond (which is reviewed in the April "Tas.Nat.") is now available at a cost of \$27 for the soft cover version and \$45 for the hardback. It is the first book on Tasmanian seashells to be produced in colour and, although scientifically based, is aimed at the novice. If the club arranges to purchase 10 copies, we can get them at a discount price of \$25 each. Please contact Helen Davidson as soon as possible if you are interested in this offer. We already have 6 requests and need only 4 more.

1990 SGAP FLOWER SHOW: A subcommittee has been formed to arrange our presentation for the show to be held at the City Hall, 12th - 15th October. More ideas for the display are still required so please contact Phil with your suggestions.

VOLUNTEERS FOR MAILOUTS: If you are able to assist in the collating, wrapping, addressing and sorting of the "Tas. Nat." and Bulletin prior to the quarterly mailouts, please contact Helen Davidson. The tasks are not arduous if several people work together.

NATURE TOUR BROCHURES: The club has received a number of brochures etc. on fascinating nature tours available in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Australia. Such a guided trip would be a great way to learn of an area's special flora and fauna, while enjoying a wonderful holiday with other naturalists. Please contact Helen for more details.



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Territory*

and

*Introducing two new tours
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- 7 day Christmas Island Nature Tour*

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87 First Avenue, Mount Lawley, Western Australia 6050
Tel: (09) 271 7879 Fax: (09) 271 5570**

Lic. No 9TA00358

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 259

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July 1990

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The Club's address is G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the Secretary is Ms Helen Davidson, phone 23 7015.

PROGRAMME

- Thurs. Aug. 2nd. 7.45p.m. Don Hird will give an overview of Tasmania's small mammal fauna, in particular those to be found on Mt. Wellington.
- Sat. Aug. 4th. 8.00a.m. (from Museum) Note early start! We will visit Mt. Wellington to inspect the results of Don's live-trapping of these native mammals. (If the weather is very bad, the trapping will be on Porter's Hill, Lower Sandy Bay, not the mountain.)
- Thurs. Sept. 6th. 7.45p.m. Members Night. Would all members who have natural history slides and mementos of their recent holidays or outings, and would like to contribute to the evening, please contact Helen as soon as possible so that a programme can be arranged.
- Sept. 7th., 8th. and 9th. Federation of F.N.C. weekend at Banksia Camp, Port Sorell, hosted by the Devonport Field Nats. Club. If you would like to attend, please contact Helen for copies of the itinerary, etc.
- Sat. Sept. 15th. 9.00a.m. Note: 3rd. Sat. in Sept.! A special springtime visit to Capricorn 1, an educational farm and children's holiday resort near Cygnet. We will be joined by special guests who will assist us in an initial assessment of the streamside area's natural history, prior to the establishment of a Nature Trail there. (See the item later in this Bulletin for further details.)
- Thurs. Oct. 4th. 7.45p.m. Mr. Malcolm Wells, an expert in underwater photography, will show us some of his beautiful slides of Tas. marine life. You will view fish you have never seen or possibly even heard of before!
- Sat. Oct. 6th 9.00a.m. Dr. Robert Taylor will lead us and members of B.O.A.T. on an outing via the Nugent Forestry Road to the Sandspit River Forest Reserve, the Wielangta Forest Block with its tall trees and the Three Thumbs near Orford which has interesting plants and bird-life and where, from the Lookout, we will be able to obtain wonderful coastal views. We will visit a gully of remnant rainforest as well as wet sclerophyll and dry sclerophyll areas.
- Thurs. Nov. 1st. 7.45p.m. Peg Putt, the Nature Guarantee Coordinator with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust will give an illustrated talk on Protection for Tasmania's Endangered Species and their Habitats.
- Sat. Nov. 3rd. A trip to Bruny Island with Peg Putt and Sandy Tiffin to visit the Trust's newly acquired Lutregala Marsh Reserve.

NEW MEMBERS: Patti Virtue and her son Jacob of the Glebe, Glenda Johnson of Rosny and Georgina Docharty of Bellerive have recently become members to TFNC. We welcome them all and hope they will continue to enjoy attending our meetings and outings.

VISIT OF AMERICAN NATURALISTS: On Wednesday October 31st and Thursday November 1st, a group of 20 North American ladies will be visiting Hobart. Len Wall, Helen Davidson and Robbie Poynter will act as guides for their trips to various natural history sites in Southern Tasmania. It is hoped that they will conclude their stay by attending Peg Putt's talk on Thursday night and meeting some more of our members.

SGAP WILDFLOWERS OF AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION: The show will be held at the City Hall, Hobart from 12th-15th October. The committee and other members are busily involved in organising our display which will be entitled "Collecting With Care". It is envisaged that plants, insects, snails, shells, mammal scats and skulls, seaweeds and reptiles will be collected, preserved and exhibited.

We require volunteers to help set up the display on Thursday October 11th, staff it and give out information to the public during the exhibition which will be open daily between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and to assist in dismantling the display after 3 p.m. on Monday 15th. Please let Sue Collier know (ph. 29 6597) when you will be available so that a roster can be drawn up. This will be a great opportunity for you to publicize our club, meet many interesting people and take a prolonged look at the other displays.

CAPRICORN 1 OUTING: The farm is situated between Cradoc and Glaziers Bay, opposite the southern end of Egg Island. We will be observing and hopefully identifying some of the native plants, birds and invertebrates, as well as the fossils on the property. It is envisaged that an educational leaflet will be produced to indicate to children the significant flora and fauna along the Nature Trail route, and to encourage them to study them further.

Children will be very welcome to attend on Sat. 15th, but parents are asked to please supervise them at all times as there will be a lot of newborn farm animals there then and the owner would like them not to be disturbed or harmed in any way.

TFNC INC.? In conjunction with the review of club rules, the committee is investigating Public Liability Insurance and whether or not the club should become incorporated. Recommendations will be put to members at a special general meeting once sufficient information is available.

NEW MEETING VENUE AND LIBRARY LOCATION: After inspecting several buildings, committee members have decided to accept the offer of accommodation in the Life Sciences building at the University. Meetings will be conducted in a seminar room and the Library will be stored upstairs in a laboratory. It is envisaged that the November meeting will be the first held at this new venue and the Library will be moved around about this time. Further details and directions will be given in the next Bulletin.



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Tel: (09) 271 7879 Fax: (09) 271 5570

Lic. No 9TA00358

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 260

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OCTOBER 1990

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The Club's address is G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the Secretary is Ms Helen Davidson, phone 23 7015.

PROGRAMME

- Thurs. Nov. 1st. 7.45p.m. Peg Putt, the Nature Guarantee Coordinator with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust will give an illustrated talk on Protection for Tasmania's Endangered Species and their Habitats.
- Special visitors on this night will be a group of 13 North American naturalists spending a short time in the Hobart area. As they are staying at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Battery Point, the meeting will be held in the CSIRO Conference Room as previously.
- Sat. Nov. 10th. (Not Nov. 3rd. as previously advertised) Because several important environmental seminars etc. are being held the first weekend in Nov., we have had to postpone the Bruny Island outing for one week. In order to be at Kettering at least 20 mins. before the departure of the 9.30 a.m. ferry, we will need to leave the Museum at 8.15a.m. The ferry charges will be \$17 per vehicle (return), so we will pool cars at Kettering so as to take as few cars across as possible.
- Dave Watts, Sandy Tiffin and Peg Putt will be our leaders for the day and will show us over the TCT's newly acquired Lutregala Marsh Reserve, which adjoins the Bruny Island Neck Game Reserve. Dave has studied the birdlife of the area for several years and recorded more than 35 species of birds, including the 40 Spotted Pardalote.
- As the Lutregala Reserve is a wet land ecosystem, gumboots or good, waterproof walking shoes will be required if you want to keep your feet dry. For further information contact Helen Davidson (ph.23 7015).
- Thurs. Dec.6th. 7.45p.m. AT THE PLANT SCIENCES BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY (see accompanying map). Mark Neyland and/or Peter McQuillan will present an illustrated talk on Tasmanian Butterflies and will demonstrate collecting and display techniques.
- As this will be the last meeting for the year, and to celebrate our move to the new venue, we will conclude with a special supper - please bring a plate of sandwiches, cake or biscuits, etc.
- Sat. Dec. 8th. 10a.m. (from Museum). An outing to Snug Tiers with Peter McQuillan, who will show us how to catch and preserve butterflies, their food plants etc., Peter will supply suitable nets, storage containers and other necessary items, but bring some of your own, if you have them

1991 MEMBERSHIP FEES:

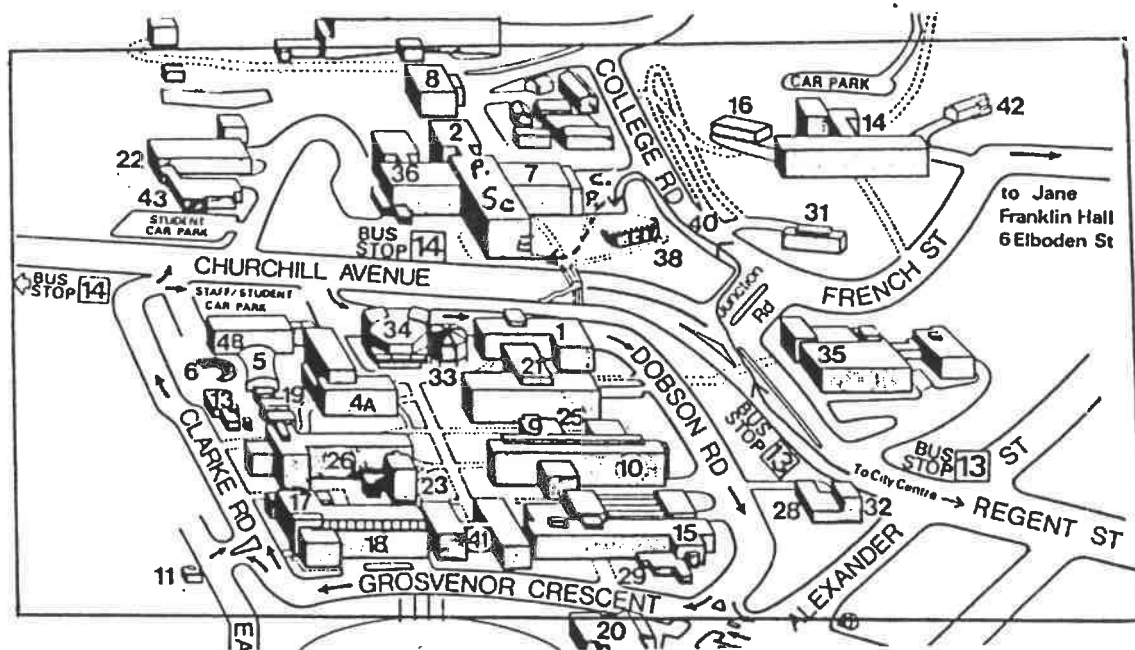
DUE ON 1st JANUARY, 1991

ADULTS:\$15.00 FAMILIES:.....\$18.00
STUDENTS, PENSIONERS AND HEALTH CARD HOLDERS:.....\$12.00

Subscriptions to the "Tasmanian Naturalist":

Australia: Individuals:....\$12.00 Institutions:.....\$16.00
Overseas: Individuals:....\$14.00 Institutions:.....\$18.00

NEW MEETING VENUE: As stated in the programme, the December meeting will be held in the University Plant Sciences Building (marked "P.Sc." on the map), in a ground floor lecture theatre. It is recommended that you park in the carpark off College Road (marked "C.P."), then take the path around to the main entrance (marked "E"). Committee members will be on hand to direct you.



The TFNC Library will be installed in a second floor botany laboratory on Thursday, November 15th and library items will be available at general meetings or, at other times, by contacting Phil Collier (ph 20 2375) during University business hours. HELP IS NEEDED ON MOVING DAY - PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER TO VOLUNTEER.

NEW BOOK ON SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA: Heritage Books have recently published the field guide/set of track notes on the Tasmanian World Heritage area entitled "South-West Tasmania: a Natural History and Visitors Guide". Written by Ken Collins, the book provides comprehensive information on the South-West's geology and glaciation, fauna and flora, as well as notes on the National Parks and bushwalking trails. Included in the guide are 740 colour photographs, line drawings and maps.

The club has already sold 10 copies at a special pre-release price of \$30 each, and if sufficient orders are received, another bulk order will be placed and the books sold at a similarly reduced rate (RRP \$39.95). Every Tasmanian home should have a copy.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The club had a very well received display at the SGAP Flower Show held from 12th to 16th October. As usual, we displayed various animals, shells and a few botanical items. A tape of bird and frog calls proved to be popular. We also distributed information about the club which we hope will produce some new members.

As in past years, several members did a lot of work planning, setting up, and supervising the display. On behalf of all club members I would like to thank everyone involved in these activities.

TASMANIAN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE - CALENDAR AND COURSES: David Stephen's Organic Growing Calendar for 1991, with monthly hints by Peter Cundall, is now available at \$7 (post paid) from the TEC, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart.


The centre is again conducting an interesting and educational series of Botany and Ecology Courses this summer, to various locations including Flinders Island, the Central Plateau, Mt. Field and Ben Lomond. For further details contact the TEC (ph. 34 5566).

CAPRICORN 1 NATURE TRAIL: On Saturday 15th September, 15 adults and 9 children walked the route of the proposed Nature Trail with Major Ron Wade-Ferrall, the owner of Capricorn 1. The trail passed first through old farmland beside a narrow stream, then through steep, scrubby bushland. White pegs numbered 1-18 were set out at points of

special interest along the track and Helen recorded the particular natural history items at each site. Craig Smith identified some of the many marine fossils found in the area. A brochure (or brochures) will be compiled by 1991 to suit school children in grades 4-6. They will be expected to note various natural history features at each site and answer relevant questions.

NEW LOOK "TAS NAT" : The October "Tasmanian Naturalist" has been produced by Phil Collier using desk-top publishing. Phil would welcome any comments from members on the quality and style of the journal.

The committee is also looking at other means of reducing the cost of production of the "Tasmanian Naturalist".



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 87 First Avenue, Mount Lawley, Western Australia 6050
 Tel: (09) 271 7879 Fax: (09) 271 5570

Lic. No 91A00358

COLLECTING WITH CARE: LAND SNAILS

Live snails

Live snails should only be collected under certain circumstances; for instance, as part of a study, or if the specimens are known to be of scientific interest. In other cases, where there is either a very large population, or where the habitat is about to be destroyed, live snails can also be taken, but not from protected areas.

In general, only a small number of snails should be collected (certainly no more than a dozen, less if the species is not abundant). Adult specimens of average size should be taken in preference to juveniles.

Live snails can be kept alive in reasonably large containers (about film container size for small snails, or for large animals, containers about the size of a Vegemite glass, or larger). These should be 1/3 filled with leaf litter from near where the the snails were found. Some moist moss or tissue paper should also be added, especially in the case of small snails, which are generally not very hardy. Snails kept this way normally live for at least a week, but only some species will survive in the long term when kept in containers. They should be quickly taken to a Museum or carefully posted to an expert in the field. **DO NOT PUNCH HOLES IN CONTAINER LIDS** as the contents dry rapidly when this is done. Likewise, **NEVER MIX DIFFERENT SPECIES**. Some snails are carnivorous and will readily eat other snails.

The locality of any snails found, together with the date of the find, and some indication of the habitat, should be recorded.

Live snails can also be preserved for study in non-acidic solutions (such as 5% neutral formalin or 70% alcohol). Dilute menthol solutions can be used to relax the animal tissues prior to preserving.

Dead snails

Dead snails should be collected in small containers (film container size, or, for

many species, smaller). They should not be carried loose in pockets or backpacks.

Dead snails should be carefully washed and dried, and stored in small plastic containers. They should be protected using cottonwool, and very small specimens should be wrapped in tissue paper as well. They can then be kept for collections, or easily transported or posted for identification.

As with live snails, some basic data on all snail finds should be kept with the specimens, as occasionally finds by non-specialists can prove to be very useful.

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Reference: Smith, B.J. and Kershaw, R.C. (1979)
A Field Guide to the Non-Marine Molluscs of South Eastern Australia
ANU Press, Canberra.

(This book is available in the State Library)
