

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Bulletin No. 269

Supplement to the *Tasmanian Naturalist*

January 1993

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 Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania from 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the club contact is Don Hird (34 4293).

Programme

- Thurs. 4 Feb. 7.45p.m.: Steve Harris who is a botanist with Parks and Wildlife will talk on Furneaux Island Flora.
- Sat. 6 Feb. 10 a.m.: The next best thing to a Furneaux Island trip is an outing to the east coast—Steve will lead an excursion to view the Oyster Bay pines on the East Coast.
- Thurs. 4 March 7.45p.m.: AGM followed by the President's Address. The AGM always provides an opportunity for the Club to see some new faces and ideas on the Committee. Please volunteer to take your turn. Nomination forms will be available at meetings. (See *Nobody's Business* overleaf.)
- 19–21 March Federation meeting at Bronte Park. Details are included overleaf.
- Thurs. 1 April 7.45p.m.: Debbie Bramich of the Zoology Department at Tas Uni will talk to us on the ecology of the common dolphin in southern Tasmania.
- Sat. 3 April 10 a.m.: Debbie has established an extensive network of observers including commercial and sport fisher-people who regularly report dolphin sightings. Debbie will have us spotting dolphins for her around her local study sites.
- Thurs. 6 May 7.45p.m.: Will Fletcher, from the *Plants of Tasmania Nursery* will speak on aspects of propagating and landscaping with Tasmanian Plants.
- Sat. 8 May 10 a.m.: Outing to the *Plants of Tasmania Nursery* at Ridgeway. If the weather is kind we may walk to the top of Chimney Pot Hill for lunch and inspect the Tasmanian endemic plants typical of dolerite hillsides in south-east Tasmania.
-

New Members A special welcome to our new members Jayne Bulmer, Genevieve Gates, Frances Maxwell and Tony Woolford.

The Tasmanian Naturalist Sue Collier has had some success in locating the missing issues of *The Tasmanian Naturalist* (see the July 1992 *Bulletin*). Many thanks to members who have helped in the search. The issues we still require are first series volume 2, number 1 (1908); second series volume 1, number 1 (1924). The committee is now very anxious to acquire originals of these issues. Please search your bookshelves, keep your eyes out in antiquarian bookshops and auctions.

The Club purchased four old copies of *The Tasmanian Naturalist* at an auction for \$18, some of which were required for our set. In light of this, the committee will now dispose gradually of some of the old issues at auctions to clear our excess stock and raise funds. This may be your last chance to buy old copies at the members price of \$1 each.

Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs of Tasmania Our Club is hosting the next meeting of the Federation at Bronte Park Chalet on the weekend 19-21 March 1993. As usual we are planning to use some quality guides and speakers for this occasion. Please make a special effort to come along and meet the keen members of our allied Clubs around the State. You don't have to attend the annual general meeting!

Venue Bronte Park Highland Village and Chalet, Marlborough Highway.

Accommodation 6 houses have been reserved with 3 double and/or twin share rooms. Full kitchen, showers and toilet are in each house. Bring sheets and towels. Cost is \$15 per person per night in a house. Also there are beds available in the hostel at \$10 per person per night. Accommodation will be allocated by Margaret Mollison upon booking and sending the full cost of the accommodation. Other accommodation is available in the Chalet, book direct with Bronte Park for this, ph (002) 89 1126.

Food We have booked a room for Saturday evening meal at the Chalet for \$12 per person. Please advise whether you wish to be included when booking. Bring all other food or buy direct from the Chalet dining room.

Programme

Friday 19 March

4:00pm Rooms available for occupation. Members of the TasNats will bring some slides to show informally for people who arrive early.

Saturday 20 March

Optional activities are planned. Choose from:

8:30am Leave for Lake St Clair for boat trip to the north end of the Lake. A guided botanical walk is planned at the north end of the Lake. There will be several kms of walking.

9:30am A morning studying local birds and an afternoon studying local plants. We have invited experts who have conducted scientific studies in the Bronte area. Minimal walking required.

6:00pm Meal at Bronte Park Chalet. A guest speaker will address the members after dinner. Optional spotlighting.

Sunday 21 March

8:30am Visit to mammal traps which were set overnight.

9:30am-11:00am Federation Annual General Meeting. All Club reports should be written in advance and tabled. Time for discussion will be allocated to agenda items lodged with the Federation secretary in advance of the meeting.

10:00am Study the insects caught in insect traps. Study snails caught at Lake St Clair.

12:30pm BBQ prior to departure.

Bookings Margaret Mollison, ph (002) 28 2720. Please specify name(s), accommodation requirement(s) and requirement(s) for the meal on Saturday evening.

Check-list

Bring All food except Saturday night meal, or money to eat at the Chalet. Warm clothes and walking boots if travelling to Lake St Clair. Sheets and towels.

Cost \$12 evening meal and \$15 per night for each person in a house.

Nobody's Business There were four people named Somebody, Everybody, Anybody and Nobody who were supposed to be involved in an important project by helping when required.

Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could have done it. Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. So it ended up with Everybody blaming Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Mammal Survey Group welcomes visitors and new mammal surveyors and your observations (in writing please). Please contact Don Hird, ph 34 4293 (H), 21 5912 (W), to confirm details of the outing.

Mammal Survey Group Programme

13-14 February

Camp out on Blackman River near Tunbridge. Bat sonic detection devices will be demonstrated as well as mammal survey techniques.

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Bulletin No. 270

Supplement to the *Tasmanian Naturalist*

April 1993

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 Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania from 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the club contact is Don Hird (34 4293).

Programme

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Thurs. 6 May | 7.45p.m.: Will Fletcher, from the <i>Plants of Tasmania Nursery</i> will speak on aspects of propagating and landscaping with Tasmanian Plants. |
| Sat. 8 May | Sat. 8 May 10 a.m.: Outing to the <i>Plants of Tasmania Nursery</i> at Ridgeway. If the weather is kind we may walk to the top of Chimney Pot Hill for lunch and inspect the Tasmanian endemic plants typical of dolerite hillsides in south-east Tasmania. |
| Thurs. 3 June | 7.45p.m.: Pat Barwick, a Hobart-based Landscape Consultant, will speak on natural roadside remnants in Tasmania. |
| Sat. 5 June | 10 a.m.: Outing to view significant roadsides around Hobart retaining at least some natural characteristics. |
| Thurs. 1 July | Thurs. 1 July 7.45p.m.: Sue Alexander from Parks & Wildlife will speak about her project looking at outbreaks and control of <i>Phytophthora</i> , the Cinnamon Fungus. <i>Phytophthora</i> is implicated in the dieback of trees and other native flora, particularly where drainage patterns may have been altered and spores of the fungus have been introduced. |
| Sat. 3 July | 10 a.m.: Outing to visit <i>Phytophthora</i> project sites for a first hand look at the symptoms and remedies for this pernicious problem. |

New Members A special welcome to our new members Flora Gregor and Paul Black.

Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs of Tasmania Our Club hosted the last meeting of the Federation at Bronte Park Chalet on the weekend 19-21 March 1993. More than 50 naturalists converged on Bronte for this biennial event. Saturday saw a boat/walking trip around Lake St Clair and a botanical examination of forestry sites close to Bronte. The weekend's guest speaker was Dr Mick Brown from Forestry who gave an illustrated talk on the effects of fire on Tasmanian forest habitats. The business meeting received reports from each of the 6 clubs in the Federation, including the active latest entrant, Deloraine Field Nats. Some discussion concerned the perceived function of the Federation, particularly as a potential lobbyist for Tasmanian conservation issues, the consensus being that timeliness makes this thorough pursuit of this sort of activity. Nonetheless, the Federation is useful for exchanging ideas and expertise amongst naturalists from around the state. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on King Island.

Mammal Survey Group. A new challenge has arisen in that the loan of our small-mammal live-traps and our harp (bat) trap has been rescinded. Without these 50 "Elliott traps" much of our recent activity is unfortunately hardly viable. At around \$28 each, the capital outlay is really too great for the club to sustain in one purchase. Alternatives include grant applications under way, a "sponsor a trap" campaign, possible alternative technologies, or possibly focussing also on other faunas. We feel that systematic survey work of this sort is worthwhile and welcome comments, suggestions or donations. Observations (in writing please) continue to be welcome. Please contact Don Hird, ph 34 4293 (H), 21 5912 (W).

Island Survey Programme

In October a survey expedition to Schouten Island (south of Freycinet Peninsula) is planned, possibly in conjunction with that month's club excursion. Ideally this will be of up to a week's duration with weekend participation available. Schouten has been an island for about eight thousand years and has both granite and dolerite geological substrata and consequential floras. We will negotiate with Parks staff for appropriate permits, survey programs and transport. By the May meeting some preliminary details will be available; we will need to start more detailed planning soon.

The idea for this excursion ensued from discussion of which of Tasmania's rich heritage of offshore islands would be feasible and worthy of closer examination from the natural history viewpoint. Swan Island in June last year commenced the program. Betsy Island is another potential target, as evidenced by Kelsey Aves' article on a Club visit written up in the *Tasmanian Naturalist* of August 1951. Each of these islands has a mixed history of European visitation and forsaken settlement.

Committee Deliberations

Late in March the old guard of the committee welcomed new blood, Tony Conlan, Genevieve Gates, Starola Jacka and Eliza Watkins. Special thanks are due to Phil and Sue Collier who worked tirelessly on last year's committee, they are taking time out this year, partly for extensive vocational leave. Genevieve is membership and mailout officer while Starola is our new club librarian.

Junior naturalists and their access to and interest in the Club was discussed by the committee. Historically, some of our current longest serving members started in the Junior TFNC as far back as the 1920's! Times change and we decided that its not practical to run a separate program for juniors ourselves at present, although we assist by cooperating with CSIRO's Double Helix junior science club, for example. We do welcome and value junior participation. Some excursions are of necessity somewhat arduous for the less mobile members, when this occurs we will advise through the bulletin.

Our long awaited Butterfly book in the latter stages of the publishing process. We will endeavour to advise members in time for the launch. Final pricing including that to club members will be advised. We are also looking towards reprinting *Tasmanian Birds* in time for next summer's tourism season.

Another minor publishing venture is the release of an Amphibious package ! This will include a copy of a cassette tape of *Tasmanian Frog Calls* compiled by Alan Hewer and Charles Taylor and the *Tasmanian Amphibians* book in the *Fauna of Tasmania* handbooks series. These should be ready at the next meeting at a cost of \$10 the set.

What publishing ventures should the Club be involved in ? Modest publications like the *Naturalist* are today easier and more convenient than ever to produce. Local guides could be worthwhile, eg to the marine life of a typical rocky marine foreshore in the lower Derwent estuary. Many books on such topics cover such a wide area and range of topics that its difficult to identify particular local specimens in the hand. Of course we would need to identify a worthwhile audience for such a book, perhaps the worst thing about modern publishing is that its so easy that we risk being drowned in its output! Please feel free to discuss this or other Club issues with a committee member at your next opportunity.

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club Inc.

Bulletin No. 271 Supplement to the *Tasmanian Naturalist* July 1993

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 Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania from 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart 7001, the club contact is Don Hird (34 4293).

Programme

-
- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Thurs. 5 August | <u>7.45 p.m.</u> : Patti Virtue will present the main talk on Aspects of Krill biology. Peter Brown, from <i>National Parks</i> , will speak briefly on a forthcoming <i>Atlas of Tasmanian Frogs</i> project. |
| Sat. 7 August | <u>1.00 p.m.!!</u> : Outing to the Antarctic Division to view their captive krill and research facilities. Note the special start time; this is due to caretaker availability. Meet at the Museum at 12.30 p.m. or in the Antarctic Divn carpark at 1.00 p.m., after lunch. |
| Thurs. 2 September | <u>7.45 p.m.</u> : Mike Driessen, from <i>National Parks</i> , will speak on the Eastern Barred Bandicoot Research Program. |
| Sat. 4 September | <u>8.30 a.m.</u> : Outing to view mammal survey results at a known Barred Bandicoot location near Hobart. Note the early start time to obviate disturbance to animals caught. This part of the excursion will be relatively brief; afterwards we may birdwatch and look for early spring wildflowers. |
| Thurs. 7 October | <u>7.45 p.m.</u> : Fred Duncan from Forestry will speak on Botanical highlights in the Clarence Municipality. |
| Sat. 9 October | <u>10 a.m.</u> : Outing to visit botanically significant sites in Clarence including Fred's Richmond property. |
-

New Members A special welcome to our new members Ray Brereton and Sandy Taylor.

Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs of Tasmania The next Federation meeting is on King Island on September 25-26 weekend.

Island Survey Programme

The previously mooted Schouten Island trip is now set down for September 22-26 (Wednesday to Sunday) subject to confirmation with National Parks staff. Weekend participation may also be available. Camping equipment etc will be the responsibility of members. Bird, mammal and marine littoral surveys are planned, the island has been the subject of at least one botanical study in the past.

Committee Deliberations

Sociology of the (elusive ?) Fieldnat. Katrina Swan, a member of TFNC, is preparing a sociology thesis as part of her honours degree studies. She has approached the committee who have endorsed her study which aims to provide a unique glimpse into the world of the Tasmanian Field Naturalist. Questions Katrina will be asking include how the function of the club has changed since its inception in 1904, and how members perceive their participation - as leisure, escape or time out from work. Interviews with willing members will explore participation issues, use of time, and value given to belonging to the club.

Members may also be asked to assist with accessing historical materials belonging to and associated with the club, journals, diaries excursion reports and the like. The club will be provided with a copy of the finished report and members will have access at a club meeting to all non-confidential material. A paper outlining important findings will be presented to the club as well as a contribution to the *Naturalist*.

Membership fees will increase next year. Following our treasurers report that annual subscriptions are not sustaining costs, especially of publishing the *Naturalist*, modest increases will appear in the next *Bulletin* together with next year's renewal form.

President's Report. Mount Wellington is again prominent for reasons other than its contribution to the Hobart area skyline. Unfortunately the latest Cable Car/ Skifield development proposal appears to typify the polarised and unsophisticated treatment of many conservation issues in recent times; its as if the protagonists constantly shout against the wind at each other. The State government seems determined to circumvent full debate by allowing itself decrees on what is of state importance, thus circumventing full democratic process. It is relevant for this club to note that after they called for public submissions on the Rare and Endangered Species discussion paper last January, we have not received formal acknowledgement of our submission, let alone answers to questions included; some consultation ! Hobart City Council seems to have been caught somewhat on the hop, they now speak of providing public education facilities such as Nature Trails again even though they have had a standing offer from TasNats to help with them for some years now. The local tabloid specialises in dispute-oriented reporting, especially after it dropped its longstanding policy of publishing Nature Notes.

This sort of proposal deserves careful and full consideration and doesn't need to be rushed through. Indications are that coordination with management of the mountain for its current uses and realistic projections of usage of proposed new facilities have been badly mishandled so far. Surely we can manage such important community assets better.

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club Inc.

Bulletin No. 272 Supplement to the *Tasmanian Naturalist* October 1993

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 Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania from 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the club contact is Don Hird (34 4293).

Program

- Thurs. 4 November 7.45p.m.: Greg Blake will speak about Tasmania's dry-forest invertebrate fauna. Habitats like inland grassy forest have received much recent attention for their endangerment since European settlement. The habitat at large and their plant communities are now better known, this talk will cover some of the more cryptic faunal elements.
- Sat. 6 November 10 a.m.: The excursion will be to Waverley Park on the eastern shore, meet at the Museum entrance at , or at the excursion venue by arrangement.
- Thurs. 2 December 7.45p.m.: Members' Night. This is your opportunity to bring along some specimens, photos., indeed any natural history material which may be of interest to others. As well as club activities, many members undertake their own field excursions, records of which are well worth sharing. As the last meeting for 1993, please contribute to a Christmas supper if you are able.
- Sat. 4 December 10.00 a.m.: Mystery Outing !! Your committee will organise this more novel excursion to a worthwhile natural venue. Travel will be within 60 km. of Hobart. Meet at the Museum at 10.00 a.m.
- January As usual, no January meeting or excursion.

New Members

Welcome to our new members Amanda Thompson and Family, and Tom Mumbray.

Committee Notes.

Our new publication, the long-awaited *Butterflies of Tasmania* should be out before the next Bulletin appears. Limited numbers will be available to Members at a modest discount to the retail price.

Organising club events and activities is a significant task. In March next year elections will be held if needed for the 1994 committee; please consider. The load is reasonable when spread across 10 active members although some circulation is beneficial to all concerned.

Membership fees are due by the end of this year.

In a break with tradition, we will be publishing the *Tasmanian Naturalist* on an annual basis from next year. The volume of material will be at least maintained and the annual issue will appear with a more solid feel (more comparable to, say, *Tasmanian Tramp*) with the October bulletin. This will make the Editor's task and some distribution easier, the Bulletin will continue to be sent to members quarterly.

President's Report.

It will be good to see our butterfly book in published form, there has been much behind-the-scenes work to get it to this stage (see Committee Report). Ventures of this sort need active cooperation as well as skills of members and other contributors. Rather than being necessarily profitable (although breaking-even financially overall is a requirement), our publications should be educational and reflect the aims of the club in promoting appropriate conservation and expanding our documented knowledge of Tasmanian natural history.

If any members have the time and interest, here is a project that could be published in the *Naturalist*. Some years ago the FieldNats in Victoria published a list of derivations of the scientific names of their flora in the *Victorian Naturalist*. We could consider doing this for our endemics, ie those not covered in the Victorian list. Is anybody interested ?

Don Hird, President.

Survey Program

In September seven members spent five days on Schouten Island (at the tip of the Freycinet Peninsula). Freycinet Ranger Staff assisted with transport in return for our comprehensive report. New records for the island included several orchids, birds, a lizard, a freshwater crayfish, some bats, rocky-shore biota, and some physiographic features.

Overall impressions were that such a small island is still not easy to traverse freely. Like many islands it had a distinctive "feel" when compared to comparable mainland areas; this may be partly due, for example, to the apparent absence of grazing animals other than uncommon Pademelons. Tentative plans are underway for a return Schouten visit next spring. A copy of our report is in the Outings book.

Several members visited King Island in September. In conjunction with a meeting of the Federation of Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Clubs, a conducted tour around natural parts of the island was provided by the local Naturalists.

Reports on both of the above will be presented at the December Members' Night.
