

L. E. Wall.

Tasmanian  
- Field Naturalists' Club -



GENERAL REPORT  
BY CLIVE E. LORD  
HON. SECRETARY

BOTANICAL NOTES  
BY L. RODWAY, C.M.G.  
GOVERNMENT BOTANIST

ZOOLOGICAL NOTES  
BY PROFESSOR FLYNN & W. L. MAY

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES  
BY G. H. HARDY  
TASMANIAN MUSEUM

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES  
BY CLIVE E. LORD

Easter Camp-out, 1917  
- - to Wedge Bay, Tasmania - -



THE ARRIVAL.



CAMP IMPEDIMENTA.

## LIST OF CAMP MEMBERS

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Mr. W. Abbott.	Mr. E. D. Harrison.
Miss O. Barnard.	Miss F. Lewis.
Miss M. Brownell.	Mrs. Lindon.
Mr. C. E. Cole.	Mr. C. E. Lord.
Mr. E. Cruickshank.	Mrs. C. E. Lord.
Miss E. Cruickshank.	Mr. W. L. May.
Miss L. Dean.	Mr. J. McCoy.
Mr. L. Dechaineux.	Mr. G. L. Propsting.
Mr. C. Duncombe.	Master S. Nettlefold.
Miss Duubabin.	Mr. L. Rodway.
Professor T. T. Flynn.	Miss A. Rowntree.
Master E. T. Flynn.	Miss F. Rowntree.
Miss O. Harris.	Mr. W. J. T. Stops.
Mr. G. H. Hardy.	Miss M. Wise.
Mr. C. Hedley.	

### ASSISTANTS:

Mr. W. H. Woodward.  
Mr. V. Molross.  
Masters Woodward (2).



A PICNIC PARTY.



CRIPPS CREEK.



SOME OF THE CAMPERS.

# Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club

## EASTER CAMP OUT, 1917

By Clive E. Lord, Hon. Secretary.

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club held its 13th annual Easter camp during the recent holidays. The camping party numbered 33, which was not large when compared with some of the camps held before the war. It was none the less enjoyable, however, and as a social function a small camp is more enjoyable than a large one. The weather experienced during the camp was not of the best, but this was perhaps owing to the fact that the camp was the 13th Easter excursion organised by the club. There was only one day that was too rainy to allow excursions into the bush, and full advantage was taken of the remainder in order to explore the district and note objects of interest.

Last year an advance party left before the main body in order to prepare the camp, and so successful was the experiment that the same plan was adopted this year. On Wednesday morning, April 4, an advance party of nine members left Hobart by the s.s. Reemere, taking with them the whole of the camp impedimenta. A smooth passage was experienced, and the party reached the beach at the entrance to Wedge Bay shortly after noon. Boats were soon lowered away, and these, together with Mr. Wade's boats, conveyed all the luggage ashore. Bullock drays were waiting, and were loaded up, and the party set out for the camp site, which was about half-a-mile from the beach alongside a fine running creek. While the location of the various tents was being decided upon by the club officials the ladies of the party prepared an *al fresco* luncheon, which was partaken of under the shade of the spreading gums, and was much enjoyed by all. Immediately after lunch a start was made with the erection of the tents, and this work was carried on until darkness fell. After a welcome meal, some members of the advance party gathered round the camp fire and made plans for completing the camp the next day, while others went fishing in the bay, and were very successful.

On Thursday morning early rising was the order of the day, and the axes were swinging merrily soon after breakfast. A large shelter was erected for a dining tent, as well as sixteen smaller tents for the use of the members. The whole camp was in order by lunch time, and after doing justice to an excellent repast the members spent the afternoon in exploring the vicinity of the camp.

At the entrance to the Bay stands Wedge Island. This island was first recorded by Hayes, who called it Queen Island, but Scott, in 1824, gave it the name of Wedge, and this is now the name by which it is generally known. Passing the island the sheltered waters of the Bay are entered, and at the eastern end the township of Nubeena is situated. Its position is not discernable from the main bay, as its buildings are ranged along the shores of a small and almost land-locked sheet of water known as Parson's Bay, which really forms the head of Wedge Bay. On the south-western shores of the outer bay is a sheltered cove, where Mr. J. F. Wade has formed his home, while between this cove and a fine stretch of white sandy beach, Cripp's Creek enters the sea. It was along the banks of this creek at a distance of about half-a-mile from its mouth that the camp was pitched in an ideal locality. The ground rose sharply from the creek's bed, and then formed a fairly flat area of land, covered with bracken and scrub in places, and occasional gums and other giants of the forest. Around this arena were grouped sheltering hills. Mount Spaulding was close to the camp in a south-westerly direction, while in the opposite view the summit of Mount Clark rose clear above the surrounding hills.

After tea a large fire was set ablaze, and preparations made to welcome the main party. The majority of the campers left Hobart at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening, and reached the camp about 11 p.m., where they found supper awaiting them. After supper they were soon installed in their new abodes.



Friday morning proved to be rather windy, and the biologists and other interested members who were going dredging could be seen standing around and discussing what chance they had of doing any work off Cape Raoul. This topic was also the prevalent one during the morning meal, and the seagoing party were subjected to much free advice concerning certain items on the menu, and their effect upon people subject to mal-de-mer. Nothing daunted, however, a party of about a dozen set forth, and boarded the Reemere. The party included three ladies. Once away from the sheltering shores of the bay it was very soon apparent that a southerly gale was blowing, and that dredging would be very difficult. However, Captain Calvert did all that was possible to help, and too much praise cannot be given to him for the manner in which he handled his ship, and the spirit in which he entered into the whole proceedings. Several drags were made both with the dredge and trawl, but the amount of material obtained from the ocean was out of proportion to that yielded thereto, and soon after mid-day the boat left the vicinity of Cape Raoul and returned to the bay. After lunch another attempt was made at trawling in the bay, but owing to the gale, very little was secured.

During the time that the seagoing members had been rocking on the cradle of the deep, other parties had been making excursions to places of interest in the vicinity of the camp. One party went along the beach and visited the township of Nubeena, distant about three miles. Others went for excursions into the bush or along the coast, and so spent the day. The gale still continued on Friday evening, and as it commenced to rain heavily the idea of holding a camp fire concert had to be abandoned. Members sought the shelter of their tents, and prepared for a rainy night. That their preparations were needed was amply demonstrated as the night wore on. The gale increased in violence, and heavy rain fell. Those members who were not used to bush life, and had not camped out in a storm before, may have felt the ordeal rather trying, as the wind could be heard roaring in the trees, and every now and again a squall would sweep into the sheltered gully in which the camp was pitched, and generally attempt to remove the tents. Of the seventeen tents erected, however, only one suffered at all, and this was made good in a few minutes. It speaks well for the campers in general, and the ladies most particularly, that they took the weather as it came. Not a single complaint could be heard, and everyone entered into camp life with the right spirit, and made the best of the weather.

Some members of the camp were astir very early next day, and early morning tea served to those who required it. The weather improved but slightly, but this did not prevent the ardent dredgers having another attempt to snatch a few specimens from the ocean's floor. The sea, however, was far rougher than on the previous day, so that very little could be done. It was very unfortunate that the weather prevented much good being done as far as the dredging and trawling were concerned, especially as Mr. Charles Hedley, of the Australian Museum, had come over specially in order to take part in this particular branch of science. Mr. Hedley seems to be fated in this regard, as everyone of the three trips that he has had to Tasmania for this purpose has been rough. Owing to the bush being wet after the previous night's rain, a good many of the campers spent the day in the neighbourhood of the camp.

On Sunday several excursions were organised. One section took the boats and rowed across the bay in order to visit Roaring Beach, where there are some interesting aboriginal mounds. The party collected a number of flints, as well as numerous botanical specimens. Another section crossed over the country between Cripp's Creek and the sea, having lunch beside a running stream, which reaches the sea through a lagoon known as the Duck Hole. No ducks were seen, but the creek was simply alive with very large jollytails, and it was not long before the concerted efforts of the party were being applied in order to induce the juicy morsels to leave the creek and join the party on the banks. The efforts were very successful, and it was not long before enough fish had been obtained to give all the campers a plentiful supply for breakfast next morning. While the fishing party had been engaged in landing jollytails, another section of the camp had been exploring the gullies in the search for fungi, a branch of botany in which the leader of the botanical section, Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G., is particularly interested. In the evening, a large camp fire was prepared, around which all the campers gathered, and a very pleasant time was spent.

Monday morning found the camp astir early. It had been hoped to make an excursion to the top of Mt. Clark, but as the summit was obscured by fog, and it appeared as if more rain was to be expected, the excursion was declared off, and a trip organised down the coast instead. Several other trips were arranged, but the largest party set out across country to Duck-hole Bay, and then explored the coast southwards; Two Island Bay, The Chasms, and Three Beach Bay being visited en route. As the weather

improved as the day advanced, the coastal scenery was seen to the best advantage. When Three Beach Bay was reached, the day was drawing on, and it was decided to return to camp across country. The party took advantage of a d.p. in the hills which forms a gully, having a most euphonious local designation, and struck a bee-line back to camp, which was reached in time for tea. During the day other parties had been busy making excursions to other places in the district, or else fishing in the bay.

One excursion concerning which mention should be made was that made by the members of the biological section, who made a two-days' trip to Port Arthur, in order to study the shore life of the district. The party was accompanied by Mr. Hedley, who was anxious to obtain as many specimens of Tasmanian fish as possible, in order to take them back to Sydney with him. He was collecting these in order that Mr. Alan McCulloch, of the Australian Museum, might have some further material for his work on the fishes of Tasmania. It is understood that this work, when published, will be a most comprehensive one, and will include illustrations of all the known Tasmanian species. Mr. Hedley had a successful time at Port Arthur, as he was able to secure several interesting specimens, while the other members of the party spent their time studying the shore life of the district.

During the evenings in camp the usual camp fire socials were held, and as the camp was fortunate in possessing considerable musical talent, the average items contributed were of no little merit. They were all the more appreciated perhaps owing to the romantic nature of the concert hall. In the centre blazed a huge pile of logs, which cast a cheerful glow upon the surrounding ring of per-

formers and members of the audience, as well as adding warmth and comfort to the proceedings. Every now and again a log would fall in and send a shower of sparks aloft. These would draw one's attention to the tall majestic forms of the eucalypts, which formed the background of the arena, as they stood out silhouetted against the light of the Easter moon. To many lovers of the bush, the memory of such evenings, spent in music and song, amid such surroundings, will doubtless long remain. As usual, several camp songs were especially composed for the occasion, and these proved very popular items of the programme.

Tuesday morning found the campers reluctantly packing up their goods, and soon after breakfast the camp impedimenta was ready for the bullock waggons to take to the beach. The working bee soon had the tents down and folded up, and with many regrets we departed from the spot that had been our happy abode for the only too few days of the Easter holidays.

The whole party assembled on the beach, at the mouth of Crisp's Creek for lunch, after which a start was made for Mr. Wade's beach, where the camp gear was got ready to place on board the steamer, which arrived soon after 3 p.m.

During the journey to town the party assembled on the upper deck and passed the time pleasantly by singing the various songs that had become popular during the camp, and generally discussing the numerous incidents that are inseparable from a camping trip. Hobart was reached, after a very pleasant trip, at about 7.30 o'clock, and members were soon ashore, telling their friends of the events that occurred during the currency of the thirteenth Easter camp of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club.

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## BOTANICAL NOTES

By L. Rodway, C.M.G.

Owing to the indifferent weather the botanists of the expedition did not make an organised attack upon the plants in the vicinity of Wedge Bay, and only explored the immediate locality and gullies. The vegetation was classifiable in three formations, open forest, freshwater swamps, and sand-dunes. The trees of the open forest were blue gum, white gum, broad-leaved peppermint, and stringy-bark. Under these was a fairly

open growth of shrubs, with dense association of yellow bottle brush in the wetter parts. No plant of unusual interest was observed, but the flowering period of many seemed early, just as it appeared last year at Eaglehawk Neck. Sweet-scented acacia and some orchids, which, as a rule, flower in July, were in full bloom. Of the orchids, *Acianthus exsertus*, *Pterostylis praecox*, and *P. concinna* were thus early. *Chiloglottis diphylla*



OFF FOR THE DAY.



NEAR WEDGE ISLAND.



was out, but then it is a plant of independent spirit, and flowers when it pleases without regard to season. The two greenhoods mentioned above, *P. praecox* and *P. concinna*, grew near one another, and, as usual where this occurs, hybridisation was evident, as intermediate forms were observed.

Ferns were few and of the commonest sorts. Mosses, too, seemed to be reduced to a few hardy species, but fungi were varied and numerous. A large toadstool-formed plant, buff and scaly above, yellow and porous below, *Strobilomyces ananaceps*, was fairly numerous. It afforded interest, because when broken the flesh immediately turned a deep blue. The same thing occurs in some of our *Boleti*. It is due to the oxidising of certain chromogens present in the flesh. In a gully, whose name would lead one to assume that it yearned for close dependence on the human, we found numerous

specimens of an underground fungus quite distinct from any yet discovered, and which will probably be described in a paper to be submitted to the Royal Society.

The plants in the swamp were made up largely of bottlebrushes and sedge. Forked sundew and butterfly plant were there, also *Selaginella* and *Lindsaya*, but nothing that we do not always meet with in such localities. Desmids, filamentous Algae, and Myxophyceae were plentiful, but had to be neglected for want of time and tools.

The sand-dunes likewise yielded nothing but the commonest species, though some interest was induced by the finding of masses of *Nostoc*, many pieces of which were attacked by its particular parasitic, *Peziza*, with the result that the lichen genus, *Collema*, was procured.

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## ZOOLOGICAL REPORT

By Professor Flynn and W. L. May.

Mr. W. L. May reports that the trawling in Wedge Bay did not bring up anything of special interest, but a nice example of *Phasianella australis*, and *Verconella maxima* Tryon appeared, the latter being one of our largest gasteropods. At Port Arthur the continuance of stormy weather conditions prevented low tides, so that practically no shore collecting was possible. Some time was pleasantly and usefully spent in examining Mr. Mawle's local collection, and several possibly new species were noted, one a beautiful little pure white "Limpet" which is found living on rocks exposed to the heaviest surf. Among some tiny shells taken from weed brought up on fishermen's lines outside Port Arthur was a *Marginella*, which on careful examination at home proves to be *M. lubrica* Petterd, a "lost species"; the type was from five fathoms, off Brown's River. The type has disappeared, and no specimen has since come to light, so that the species was practically given up. However, it will now be possible to figure and generally rehabilitate it.

The two attempts at dredging off Cape Raoul brought up very small samples of the bottom, but what there was indicated that we were on a rich field, and with favourable weather conditions no doubt we should have made a fine haul. Two species of special interest were taken, 1st, *Murex licinus*, Hedley and Petterd. The type was taken in 300 fathoms, off Sydney, another in 100 fathoms, off Cape Pillar, one off Wineglass Bay, and one has been picked up on Pirate Bay beach, so that this makes the fifth specimen so far collected. It would be probably better placed in *Trophon*, as it has a strong resemblance to some of the Antarctic members of that genus. Second, *Cyclostrema jaffaensis*, Verco. This is a remarkably distinct little shell, involute, pure white, and altogether well separate from its nearest known relatives, probably a new genus is indicated. The unique type was from off Cape Jaffa, South Australia. A specimen has been taken off Schouten Island, and believed to be the third specimen known. In addition to the above, a number of invertebrates

were found inhabiting the weed which closely covered the bottom of Wedge Bay in depths ranging from five to fifteen fathoms. An interesting collection of fishes were obtained, including a number of pipe fishes. It will be remembered that a new genus of these

fishes (*Histiogamphelus briggsi*) was found by the club at Wineglass Bay. Mention must be made of the fact that in the deeper waters a Pycnogonid of orange colour, as yet unnamed, was found in association with a hydrozoan.

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## ENTOMOLOGICAL REPORT

By G. H. Hardy, Assistant Curator, Tasmanian Museum.

The entomologists at the Field Naturalist camps are on the increase. This year their number was added to by the addition of a lady entomologist (Miss Olive Harris), who was collecting specimens for a nature study exhibit. Unfortunately, weather conditions prevented systematic collecting for new species, and very little special material was taken. One insect forms a conundrum, and we have been unable to decide whether it is a moth or cadisfly. Ultimately it will be found to be a cadisfly, I think, but the specimen is not in good condition nor sufficiently bad to enable the family to be determined with certainty without risk of further damage. The hind wings are more hairy than scaly, and this, allied with the more or less complex venation, would determine the specimen to be cadisfly, but the forewings are far more scaly than hairy, giving a moth-like look about the insect enough to deceive anyone.

One specimen of the blood-sucking lepidid was taken by Mr. Cole, thus confirming the report that this insect occurs in the Wedge Bay district. This species (*Spaniopsis tabaniformis*, White) was first taken at Wineglass Bay camp in 1914, when 13 specimens were taken. The specimen from Wedge Bay is the fourteenth known of the species.

The captures were not extensive in numbers, Mr. Cole's collection containing 61 specimens, whilst mine contained only 57. Miss Harris took 22, all of which had special interest from a nature study point of view. In this series a green and a brown grasshopper first attract attention, one living amongst green vegeta-

tion and the other on drier ground, each well fitted in colour for protective purposes. Another object for remark consists of a pair of long horned locusts, a species reported to have been especially prized amongst the aborigines of Tasmania as a delicacy for the palate; indeed, the look of the insect would convince us this report is founded upon truth, for the locust has a fat, succulent, and juicy appearance—enough to make the mouth water! This insect is wingless, and often seen under loose bark of trees, in which manner one was found. The second specimen, a female with a long sabre-like ovipositor, one-third the total length, was taken in one of the ladies' tents, the occupants of which called Miss Harris to the rescue, for somehow they failed to realise the windfall was a tasty morsel, and mistook the intruder to be a dangerous insect.

The click-beetle, which when placed upon its back jumps in the air; chafer beetles, with their fan-like antennæ; "Damoiselle" dragon flies, with their gauze-like wings; weevils, with their long snouts; paropsis, with their lady-bird-like appearance; carabids or ground beetles; and a beautiful little hemipteron were none the less interesting, each forming an object of nature well worthy of study.

The mosquito met with was the banded-winged species, and was only too common round our tents. Although a large number were caught, only two were brought back, the others, captured in the usual unentomological manner, were rendered useless as specimens.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES

By Clive E. Lord, Member of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union.

The bird life observed during the recent camp was more interesting than that observed for several Basters. Had the weather been brighter the species observed would doubtless have been greater in number, owing both to the fact that the inhabitants of the bird world would have been more in evidence, and also that excursions would have been organised to many more places in the district in addition to those that were visited. During the voyage down the various gulls and terns were noticed, but as these are practically cosmopolitan species no distinct record of them will be made. It is only proposed to deal with the birds noticed in the locality of the camp. As we were rowing ashore from the steamer several penguins (*E. minor*) were noticed sporting in the waters of the bay, while on the sand-spit at the entrance to Cripps Creek numbers of Pacific and silver gulls were to be seen. The Pacific gulls consisted of both young and old birds, the brown plumage of the young falling far below the black and white plumage of the adult birds. It takes three years before the brown plumage gives place to the adult colouration. The graceful form of the heron (*N. novae-hollandiae*) was observed perched on a tree overhanging the creek, while a few grey teal (*N. gibberifrons*) were flushed from a reedy lagoon. Their flight aroused some cormorants, both the black (*P. carbo*) and the white-breasted (*P. gouldi*), and these wheeled overhead and then made for the sea, where the gannets (*S. australis*) were diving in great numbers. Along the ridge of the hills the king of the air, the wedge-tailed eagle (*U. audax*) gracefully glided, while across the lower country the flight of a brown hawk (*H. berigora*) was noticed.

During the evening the cry of "more-pork" could be heard around the camp. For many years a discussion existed concerning which bird uttered this cry. The bird commonly called the "morepork," and known to ornithologists as the frog-mouth (*S. cuvieri*), was held responsible for the cry by many people. Bird observers afterwards proved that the spotted owl (*N. maculata*) was the species responsible. My personal observations lead me to believe that both birds make the cry, and with one or more of the nocturnal birds it is a case of mimicry. One night during this camp Messrs. Hardy and Cole, hearing the cry "morepork" from the hills near the camp, imitated the bird, and induced him to leave the hill and come closer until he was in the trees above their tent. They state that the bird was certainly an owl and not a frog-

mouth, but that it was much larger than the *N. maculata*, and almost large enough to be the chestnut-faced owl (*S. castanops*). As they did not summon other observers or secure the bird for identification their experiment only enlarged the scope for discussion upon the nocturnal cry of "morepork" instead of lessening it.

The harsh cry of the black cockatoo was heard as a flock flew over the camp in the early morning. It might be mentioned that both this bird and the spine-tailed swift (*C. caudata*) are often spoken of as being foretellers of bad weather. We observed both the species, and also had some bad weather during our sojourn in camp.

The travelling companion of the swift, the welcome swallow (*H. neoxena*), was observed taking many trial flights, doubtless to prepare it for the long journey that lay ahead of it in the near future. Overhead in the gums the sharp note of the green parrot (*P. flaviventris*) could be heard, as well as the plaintive "twee" of the diamond birds.

Three species of robins were observed. The scarlet-breasted (*P. leggi*) appeared to be the commonest form, the others being the flame-breasted (*P. phoenicea*) and the dusky (*A. vittata*). The liquid notes of the grey-tailed whistler added to the charm of the locality, as well as the beautiful notes of the whistling shrike thrush (*C. selbi*). The fantail (*R. diemenensis*) progressed around the camp with its erratic flight, while both the yellow tail (*A. chrysorrhoa*) and the brown tail (*A. diemenensis*) were very common.

The blue wren (*M. longicaudus*), which has lately been designated the long-tailed wren warbler, was much in evidence, while from some of the tussocks the field wren (*C. fuliginosus*) was flushed.

The honeyeaters were very numerous. The strong bill (*M. validirostris*) and the black cap (*M. melanocephalus*) inhabited the eucalypts, while in the lower vegetation the spinebill (*A. dubius*), the yellow-throat (*P. flavigula*), the crescent (*L. australasiana*), the white-bearded (*M. novae-hollandiae*) species were commonly to be seen. The noisy miner (*M. ganula*) was, as usual, much in oral evidence, and to a lesser degree the yellow (*A. inauris*) and the brush wattle bird (*A. mellivora*). The raven (*C. australis*) was a common sight, while occasionally the black bill magpie (*S. fuliginosa*) was observed. The grey butcher bird (*C. cinereus*) was also seen, while our last memories of the camp are associated with the carols of several magpies (*G. organicum*), who organised a farewell concert on our behalf.



CAMP CARRIAGE AND PAIR.



THE DEPARTURE.