

THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

Volume LII No. 6 August/September 2019

The aim of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club is to encourage the study of all aspects of natural history and to support the conservation of our natural heritage

Patron : Professor Nigel Forteach
President : Mr Tom Treloggen, 0408 341 397
Hon. Secretary : Mr Phillip Brumby, 0407 664 554
Hon. Treasurer : Mrs Karen Manning, 0363 442 277

Meetings 1st Tuesday of month, Feb-Dec at Scotch-Oakburn College, Penquite Rd Newstead

Program:

October

Friday 11 to Sunday 13

Federation Weekend Get-together hosted by North Eastern Field Naturalists

Sunday 27

Skemps Day – Water monitoring on Skemps Creek

Tuesday 29

Rockpool survey at East Beach (Low Head), meet at 6.30pm at parking area, see p.2

November

Tuesday 5

Special General Meeting commencing 6.30pm for the purpose of ratifying a new Constitution

General Meeting – Guest Speaker – Toni Furlonge – *Wetlands and Macroinvertebrate*

Friday 8

Midlands wander. Meet at Police Station/Windmill House, Perth for 9.30am departure

Sunday 10

Catch it in the Catchment – A Community Clean-up on the Tamar, 9am – noon, see p.2 & 3

Sunday 24

Skemps Day – Spring cleaning at the Centre

December

Tuesday 3

General Meeting – Members night, the Year that was and Photographic Competition -
see page 3

Sunday 8

Christmas get-together at Skemps – see page 3

For further program details visit <https://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm>

Rockpool Surveys at East Beach – Tuesday 29 October

This is the first of our rockpool surveys at East Beach (Low Head). Low tide is around 7.30, so meet at 6.30. If it's a nice evening, come earlier and bring a picnic tea. We will meet at the parking area near the toilet block and beach access, East Beach. Please contact Prue if you intend to come along. Email Prue at program@lfn.org.au or phone her as per members list. You don't need to have a knowledge of all the critters in the pools, we have some good reference books.

Special General Meeting – Tuesday 5 November – 6.30 pm

All members are invited to the Scotch Oakburn Senior School, Penquite Road, Newstead for a Special General Meeting for the purpose of ratifying a new Constitution.

Correspondence has been sent to all members regarding the proposed changes to the Constitution and how to provide your feedback.

Members are advised that a quorum for a Special General Meeting to change the Constitution is at least 25 voting members, so it is vital that we have as many members as possible at this meeting.

Toni Furlonge is our guest speaker and will talk about Wetlands and Macroinvertebrates following the Special General Meeting.

Midlands Wander – Friday 8 November

Prue has set the above date for our Midlands wander, this is a FRIDAY as we do not have many weekend days clear. We will be exploring between Campbell Town and Tunbridge and hopefully you will be happy to carpool. We will meet at Perth opposite the Police Station/Windmill house area, ready to depart at 9.30. Prue would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to come along. Email Prue at program@lfn.org.au or phone her as per members list.

Catch it in the Catchment – Sunday 10 November

Two sites have been registered by the Launceston Field Naturalists (upon investigation it was determined that there would be insufficient rubbish at the Kings Meadows Rivulet site to occupy all Launceston Field Naturalists. The second site was then added. You can register for either site.)

These are:

Kings Meadows Rivulet

Meet in the carpark behind the Kings Meadows Hotel at 9.00am.

Bring Water (in a reusable bottle), hats, gloves, 'grab sticks', closed in shoes, hessian bags (if you have)

Site coordinator Karen Waldon

Little Swan Point Track

Meet at the parking area or nearby at the river end of Swan Point Esplanade (aka The Spit) at 9.00am.

Bring Water (in a reusable bottle), hats, gloves, 'grab sticks', closed in shoes, hessian bags (if you have)

Site Coordinator Kay Bailey

A thank you BBQ will be provided at Riverbend in front of the Silos Hotel, Launceston from 11:30am to which all registered participants are invited.

To register

Go to www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au

Click on Join a Clean Up at the top.



Click on the map of Tasmania and the Launceston sites, continuing till you reach the one you want – either Kings Meadows Rivulet or Swan Point Esplanade/Foreshore.

Once you have selected the site you wish to join, (click on “view” under the site name) then click on [Join this Site](#). Fill in the details to register.

People can register at the site on the day but it is preferred to pre-register so that the Site Coordinator has some idea of numbers

If you have any trouble registering please contact Kay Bailey, our LFNC co-ordinator. Kaybailey321@gmail.com

If you do not have email, you can register by telephone, Tamar NRM can be contacted on 6323 3310.

General Meeting Tuesday 3 December – Members Night

Our annual photographic competition and The Year That Was will be held at this meeting. Details below.

Photographic Competition - Due to time limitations to erect the display of entries and judge them there will be a limit of three entries per member. Members at the meeting will judge and vote on the entries.

Conditions of entry

- **Print topics:** subjects are to be related to Tasmanian flora, fauna, minerals, Tasmanian landscapes and astronomical events observed in Tasmania. Animals and plants must occur naturally in Tasmania. Introduced species or garden varieties of Tasmania are not acceptable.
- The subject of each print must be identified. For landscapes, the identification must include the aspect of nature study that it illustrates.
- **Print size:** up to A4 (30cm x 21cm)
- **Print medium:** colour or monochrome (black and white)
- Must be simply mounted on cardboard at least.
- Entries to have been taken since December 2018.
- The competition is open to members only and prints should be brought in on the night.

The Year That Was – A power-point presentation of images from club activities during the year. Please submit your images for inclusion as soon as possible to [Rhys Manning](#) via email or USB storage device to give Rhys time to put the presentation together for the meeting.

Christmas at Skemps - Sunday 8 December

Members are reminded that they are welcome to invite their family and friends to join them at the end of year function at Skemps.

Please bring your own lunch, the BBQ will be lit if you would like to bring something to cook and a plate of food to share for afternoon tea would be appreciated. Hot drinks will be provided.

Further information later.

Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania (5th Edition) – Karen our Treasurer has copies available of the Club's field guide which members can purchase for \$25 each, at all Club activities. Please contact her on 0419 596 261 if you would like to make other arrangements to make a purchase. The guide as well as being a great reference during your walks out and about in the environment, it would also make a great Christmas gift for a friend or family member.

General Meeting - Tuesday 6 August

Guest Speaker – Perpetua Turner – *Tasmania's Bryophytes: the forgotten flora*

Tom introduced Pep and her talk on bryophytes. Pep stated that bryophytes are mosses, liverworts and hornworts and said her talk would concentrate on describing bryophytes, telling us why they are important as well as vegetation types where these occur and research in Tasmania and beyond. We would also be told what to expect in dry and wet forests and as she had been to sub-alpine and sub-Antarctic areas and the dry lands of Victoria, she would talk about these as well.

Bryophyte refers collectively to non-vascular plants of the divisions Bryophyta (mosses), Hepatophyta (liverworts) and Anthoceroophyta (hornworts) which are often left out.

After telling us that a bryophyte is a small plant with no woody tissue, no vascular system and no roots, flowers, seeds or fleshy fruit, Pep posed the question 'So what does a bryophyte have?'

A moss has leaves which may have a nerve, called a costa, they can be radially symmetrical spiraling down the stem similar to a vascular plant and the rhizoids are multicellular. Liverworts do not have a nerve, are bilaterally symmetrical, the rhizoids are unicellular and liverworts have oil bodies, some of which have medicinal uses.

Pep told us of her blog at <https://peptalkceology.wordpress.com/> which includes her popular cheat sheet to differentiate the three bryophytes.

We were told these often ignored plants help produce oxygen, retain nutrients and water, are habitat for invertebrates, help decay wood and also stabilize the soil, especially in dryer regions and they are on every continent including Antarctica. Bryophytes are to be found in all vegetation types in Tasmania which has about 1,600 vascular plants, about 450 moss species and about 300 liverwort species, and was considered to have the most bryophytes of any state or territory of Australia. Pep doubted this as the wet tropics of Queensland have not been fully explored.

In cool temperate rain forest and old growth mixed forests Tasmania has a 4:1 ratio of bryophytes to vascular plants while it is 3:1 in ~40 year old wet eucalypt forest. In areas with less rainfall, such as alpine regions and dry forest, these numbers reverse and the vascular plants outnumber the bryophytes in similar ratios.

Pep's talk moved to the Antarctic and the unique moss beds at Casey Station. The Antarctic has two vascular plants, four mosses and one liverwort, so bryophytes dominate. The Casey Station moss, *Schistidium antarctici*, grows in extreme conditions; a very cold, dry climate, on rocky ground with snow while getting its nutrients from penguin poo.

Sharon Robinson, from the University of Wollongong, has been studying the moss and noted that it appeared to be dying, we were shown two pictures of a patch from 2003 and the same place in 2008, with notable differences. With short summers for the long job of studying the moss, as well as the difficult access and the damage caused by walking over the moss, drones were the preferred option for an ongoing study. Pep told us her husband Darren is a drone pilot with equipment for various types of remote sensing and the drone used in the Antarctic had a multi spectrum sensor providing images indicating the mosses are dying with an aerial view from 2011 and another from 2014 confirming this.

The talk moved onto the sphagnum peat lands with Pep telling us that sphagnum and water go together. A whiskey distillery in Hobart uses about a meter square of sphagnum peat to purify its water and dead or alive sphagnum moss holds water and is used in the horticulture industry. While Europe has many

Sphagnum species Tasmania has only six of this species which is believed to cover about 1% of the earth's surface, an area about half the size of the USA.

The Lake Mackenzie area was badly damaged by fire in 2016 and UTAS is looking at the level of damage and how the peatlands and pencil pines can be restored. While the peat will come back in 20 years or so there will be no soil for the emerging plants. A photo taken from a Cessna gave little indication of the extent of damage while a study of drone images did and this allowed the study to look at the important hydrology of the area. While other places have water from springs this area has only rainfall to wet the emerging plants and the hydrology study would guide the recovery using water storage.

Pep then told us of the wet eucalypt forests with a list of the names of 100 people who have published papers on research in these forests and 20 plus were those who included bryophytes and while Pep considered this to be good there were still gaps in our knowledge. Her study of these forests included 99 sites finding 104 mosses and 132 liverworts and she divided the forests into three groups, 0-18 years, ~40 years and old growth forests of 110 years plus. While the middle and higher aged groups had similar numbers the younger had only around half the mosses and about a third of the liverworts. Pep also noted that sphagnum could be found in the younger and older forests though less so in the middle aged group.

Pep also looked at clear fell logging to see if this duplicated wild fire incidents and yes it does when the emerging bryophytes are compared in each case, although only with the logging practices of the 1960s. Since the introduction of the wood pulp industry less timber remains on the ground and there is less diversity of size and type of timber reducing the number of substrates. Liverworts and ferns prefer fires as some species need the wild fire event while mosses prefer logging due to the disturbance of the soil, the dryer conditions and the greater number of species here in Tasmania.

Pictures showed the variety of bryophytes and Pep told us different tree species, and at various ages of these species, only certain bryophytes would be found on the trees. A study by Nina Roberts (Circ. 2013) found 95 bryophyte species on *Dicksonia Antarctica* in Tasmania (with about a third of this number on the same tree fern in Victoria) and different species can be found on the trunks of *Cyathea cunninghamii*. Further pictures showed the easy to identify *Leptotheca gaudichaudii*, which is found on *Dicksonia* and *Hymenodon pilifer* found on the *Cyathea*.

As we were in the north of the state Pep told us to keep an eye out for the moss *Calomnion complanatum* which is to be found on tree ferns. It is considered endangered in NSW and found once at Wilson's Promontory and for all her searching Pep has not seen it in Tasmania. She showed pictures of the species with the extra row of leaves on the underside of the stems and the two species which are similar, *Rhizogonium distichum* and *Cyathophorum bulbosum* with information on the differences.

Little research has been done on bryophytes in dry eucalypt forests. Some is being done in the remnant forests of the Midlands with little being found and the main factor is whether it is wetter or dryer. Tanya Bailey of Greening Tasmania has found that bryophytes are important for seedlings.

Pep showed us a pocket book by Cassie Read suggesting it as a good starting place for bryophytes study and another by David Eldridge for a more serious study. Cassia had studied biological soil crust, biocrusts, in the dry areas of north western Victoria. These are a combination of lichen, cyanobacteria, algae, mosses and liverworts working together to form a crust keeping the soil together during high winds in dry seasons.

The talk concluded with a brief talk on hornworts, a list of books for further reading and study into bryophytes and her acknowledgements for the impressive images shown. For hornworts there are six genera and somewhere between 100 and 150 species of hornwort worldwide with Tasmania having seven.

After a brief question and answer session Noel thanked her and led the acclamation. Noel Manning

Field Trip – Saturday 10 August – Notley Fern Gorge for Bryophytes

Four members (Tom, John, Noel and Karen) met at the Museum and carpooled to the Gorge, where we met Tobias to look for bryophytes following the interesting talk given by Pep Turner earlier in the week.

The gorge is a remnant area of rainforest north of Launceston, with walking trails that wander through towering eucalypts and giant ferns. Mosses and lichens were seen growing on the trunks of trees and ferns that towered over us and were also seen on most of the fallen trees on the gorge floor.

Pep told us to keep a look out for a *Calomnion complanatum* a moss that we should find growing on *Dicksonia antarctic*. This plant had small leaves running down each side of a central vein and another single circular leaf running along the back of the central vein. At the bottom of the gorge we found a species of moss that was as described, but as there are two other species with the extra row of smaller leaves on the underside, we are not sure if we had the correct moss.

We spent an enjoyable couple of hours looking at and photographing different species of what we presumed were mosses and liverworts, and there may have been a hornwort or two in there as well. It would have been great to have had Pep there to guide us as it was rather difficult to identify from the information we had with us, what many of these species were, as we knew that some mossy looking things were not necessarily mosses. The gorge was a great place to go to look at what Pep called “the forgotten flora”.

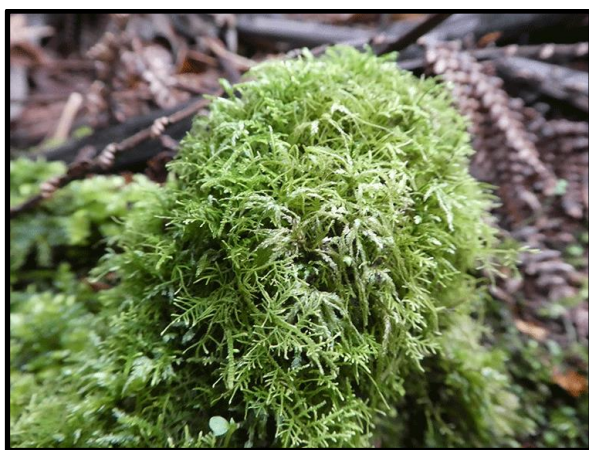
We had a late lunch and chat under cover of the information booth, before heading home.



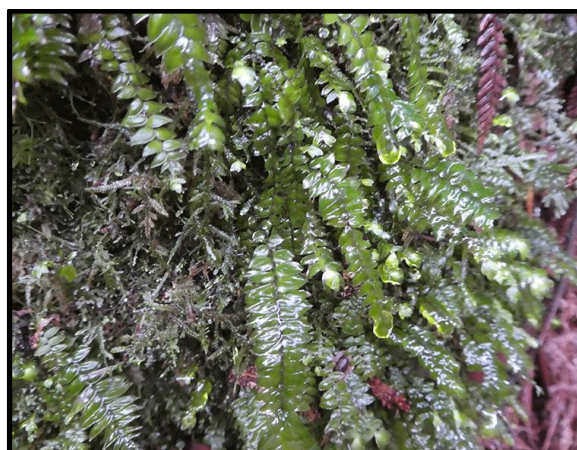
Liverwort (KM)



possibly *Atrichum androgynum* (KM)



Unknown moss (KM)



possibly *Calomnion complanatum* (KM)

Thanks to John for the following list

Flowering plants - *Acacia dealbata*, *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Atherosperma moschatum*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Clematis aristata*, *Coprosma quadrifida*, *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *Eucalyptus regnans*, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Muehlenbeckia gunnii*, *Olearia argophylla*, *Parsonsia brownii*, *Pimelea spp*, *Pittosporum bicolor*, *Pomaderris apetala*

Ferns - *Asplenium bulbiferum*, *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Blechnum wattsii*, *Dicksonia antarctica*, *Grammitis billardieri*, *Histiopteris incisa*, *Hymenophyllum spp*, *Microsorium pustulatum*, *Polystichum proliferum*, *Tmesipteris sp*

Fungi - *Ascocoryne sarcoides*, *Byssomerulius corium*, *Clavaria zollingeri*, *Gymnopilus patagonica*, *Inocybe violaceocaulis*, *Stereum ostrea*, *Tyromyces merulinus*, *Xylaria apiculata*

Skemps Day – Sunday 25 August – Continue Tree Maintenance on Skemps Creek

Four members (Tina, Noel, Karen and Irmgard) arrived at Skemps to continue the removal of tree guards from plants along the Creek. While Tina caught up with a bit of Library work, the tools needed to remove the cages were obtained and we finally set off to work on both sides of the section of creek below the Top Pond. Irmgard stayed at the Centre to keep the fire going and to guide any late comers to where we were working.

Starting on the Centre side of the creek we noticed many cow pats deposited by escapee cows from the adjoining property that we had heard about. We released many plants prior to the creek crossing and then found possibly 4 or more *Callistemon* which were totally surrounded by bracken that was in places taller than they were. Tina and I worked to clear much of the bracken from around them and then removed their cages. It was while clearing the way that we noted many fresh wombat scats and also found a couple of burrows, which was very exciting. Noel had started to work on the far side of the creek and spent some time clearing dead branch from a fallen tree from above a medium sized *Acacia melanoxylon*, to ensure that its growth was not impeded.

Back at the Centre we had a quick lunch before heading back out again and continued working on the far side of the creek. There were quite a few *Telopea truncata*, waratah that had outgrown their cages and we had to cut the wire from around the individual branches to release them, a very time consuming job, but definitely worthwhile.

We released 30 plus trees today and collected up all cages and plastics to one location for the Tuesday crew to collect in a trailer. Tired but happy with our work we finished up for the day.

General Meeting - Tuesday 3 September

Guest Speaker – Nic Haygarth – *H.J. King's Photography*

Tom introduced Nic Haygarth who would talk on the life and photography of Herbert John King, founding member and longtime president of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club. The talk was accompanied by an 84 page slide show with all but 14 showing pictures taken by King, with many of the slides having more than one image by King.

Nic started by telling us that he had been contacted by the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) to write a book on King using images from the museum's collection of King's photographic plates which had been in storage since his death in 1973. He had received a grant from The Plomley Foundation to make an inventory of the glass plates, write a book on King and get it published through the museum. Unfortunately the museum decided not to go ahead with the book and as a result Nic only had images from King's early life and not from his time in the Club. While many pictures were glass plates with superior definition the first on his opening slide, a picture of King on his motorcycle with sidecar, was a copy of a print. Nic wished he had the glass plate as he considered it the best picture for a book cover.

We learnt that King was born in Hobart in 1892 to conservative Christadelphian parents who moved to Launceston in 1901. Due to his religious beliefs he was a conscientious objector during both world wars.

His father was a bicycle and motorcycle (Champion brand) manufacturer and retailer and King worked in the family business, being a rev-head motorcycle mechanic and racer getting his first speeding ticket on a bicycle at the age of 12. He had a love of machinery and gadgets which may explain his passion for motorcycles and cameras.

He was a cutting edge amateur photographer and a pioneer aerial photographer going places professionals didn't go and in Nic's words 'and of course an amateur doesn't have to answer to making

money, he could do things that a professional won't, he can experiment'. From 1936 he made nature documentary films and he was a nature lover and field naturalist.

King wrote some small publications including *Tasmanian Orchids* (1960) and *Tasmanian egg laying and marsupial animals* (1962?) published by the Club. He was also heavily involved in *The Endemic Flora of Tasmania* and after his death *Wildflowers of Tasmania* (1975) was published with photos by King and text by Tom Burns. There have also been two books about King's photography; *Tasmania Remembered : Early Photographs of HJ King* (1974) by GW Cox and Eric Ratcliff and *Tasmania Revisited : retracing the photographic journeys of H.J. King* (1989) by Jack Branagan and Mac Woodroffe, both produced without access to his photographic glass plates.

Two of the John King and Sons Champion motorcycles still exist and we saw a picture of one owned by Murray Orr of Frankford and the other owned by Kerry Casten which sits in a café in Rosny.

We were shown images of his parent's home at 125 High Street, the parents at home, the business workers, the family on a picnic, an inside and outside picture of their premises in The Kingsway, motorcycles in action and promotional pictures for the business involving the Indian motorcycles which were then part of the business.

Next was a map of the area of his 1914 motorcycle trip to the north-eastern tin fields, including Derby/Briseis Mine, Lottah/Anchor Mine, Pioneer Mine/Moorina Power Station and Garibaldi. It is the cusp of WW1 and as a conscientious objector King does not have to worry about going to war though he has agreed to do fund raising activities for the Red Cross as his contribution to the war effort. Fifteen images from this trip followed with towns and scenery featuring. Two standout pictures showed the hydraulic sluicing while another, which his daughter Daisy really loved, shows two blacksmiths at work. The penultimate image was of the Garibaldi Joss House which was moved to Weldborough when Garibaldi closed down and it ended up in the QVMAG where it is today. The last slide in this series showed the entrance to the joss house as it is in the QVMAG.

The next series of images was of his 1915 rail trip to the west coast taking in Mount Lyell, Queenstown, Lake Margaret, Gormanston, ABT Railway, King River Gorge and the Gordon River. The 13 images in this set showed scenes of mountains, rivers, the open cut mine and environmental degradation of the mining while others showed the settlements, railways and the smelting process.

"*To Lake St Clair by Motor*" was the title of a King lantern slide lecture of King and dentist Ray McClinton with their wives going on a trip. The show was to publicise the campaign for a Cradle Mountain/Lake St Clair national park. The images in this set included McClinton's Hupmobile and Baby Grant Chevrolet cars.

An image of an invoice suggested King was contemplating becoming a professional photographer and Nic told us that his mother Susannah was upset at the amount of money he spent on photographic materials. He also suggested that he may have given up on that idea when he married Lucy Large in 1918. Lucy immediately began to feature in King's landscape photography as the lady in the sidecar. The house in Park Ave, Lutana, featured in King's photographs, belonged to Charles Large, Lucy's father. His orchard was sold to the Electrolytic Zink Company (EZ) for its workers village and an aerial shot by JJN Barnett showed the village while a Google Earth shot showed the house, still there today.

In 1920 the King, McClinton and Frederick Smithies (another wilderness photographer) families travelled to the Pelion Copper Mine. One of the King images showed the Old Pelion Hut with snow on Mount Oakley in the background and Nic noted that it was this type of image used today to promote the Tasmania wilderness to tourists. As an example of this we saw a contemporary shot of Lake Dove and the boat house with Cradle in the background was described by Nic as possibly the most photographed building in Tasmania. Other such images shown by Nic included Pump House Point with Mount Olympus in the background and Bob Brown's house Oura Oura with Dry's Bluff in the background, a common Tasmanian wilderness image of a rustic building with stunning mountain views behind it.

Further images showed the Kings with a horse and cart at Daisy Dell, Bob Quaile's half way house on the way to Cradle, the Kings at the walk in hearth at the original Waldheim, Edgar Bonnor and Eric Hodgson in 1922, who with King were the first to take motor vehicles (motorcycles) to Cradle and four pictures of timber harvesting in the area featuring Gustav Weindorfer and three were hand coloured.

After pictures of his house at Bain Terrace, Trevallyn, his daughters Dorothy and Daisy and impressive images of his second west coast tour by rail in 1924 there followed many images from the air. King is believed to be one of the earliest to take photos from planes, starting from 1921, and he photographed

every major town in Tasmania and in 1922 did an aerial survey of Launceston using composite (180 images) images. His first pilot was an ex WW1 pilot, Fred Huxley, using a Sporting Farman 60 HP biplane.

King flew over Cradle and waved to Gustav although he was too high to be seen and he never saw the man again as he died a few months later. The third last image was of King's caravan which accompanied him on many trips and could be used as a dark room.

The penultimate image was the inspiration for the field naturalist's logo, a Tasmanian tiger with Cradle Mountain in the background. This was a Ben Sheppard image of the tiger from Beaumaris Zoo superimposed over a King image of Cradle Mountain. The talk ended with questions about this image.

After around 15 minutes of interesting and informative questions and answers John Elliott thanked Nic for his presentation and asked members to show their appreciation.

Noel Manning

Information Forum - Saturday 7 September Tamar Island Wetlands for Threatened Species Day

Six members attended the Centre to hear local experts talk on a variety of topics. John Duggin from the Wetlands Centre gave the welcome speech where he covered all aspects of threatened species, relating it to the trees and grasslands of the wetlands, and the plants and animals, identifying which species were on "the list". John's introduction was followed by a talk from John Douglas on Tasmanian Spiders, starting with images of some spiders recorded under the Threatened Species Act, *Migas plomleyi*, Plomley's Trapdoor Spider previously found in the Cataract Gorge and *Plesiothele fentoni*, the Lake Fenton Trapdoor Spider. He then showed images of spiders that he had photographed, some of the spiders were rather unusual and had amazing colours.

Robyn Allchin from NRM North spoke about the Eastern Barred Bandicoot which has a range of 75 hectares and lives in areas covered with gorse and blackberries. Robyn indicated that on rural properties, plants such as tussock grass, poa, themeda, sagg and dogwood are bandicoot friendly plants. Robyn played a short video of a bandicoot leaping around in amongst tall grasses, which enabled us to see its barred rump.

Shane Westley also from NRM North spoke about cat management. We were told that cat traps were approved for use on private property and that owners of cats in suburban and rural areas should keep their pets inside as they are killing many of the smaller species of animals and reptiles. DPIPW are in the process of amending their Tasmanian Cat Management Plan to address issues to minimise the impact cats have on our native species.

Lillian Stewart and Peter Puskic from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) spoke about the Gull Bolus Collection Project. A bolus is formed from undigested materials that the gull then regurgitates as part of its normal feeding process. The gulls feed at the Mowbray tip and the bolus are collected from the boardwalks to Tamar Island where the birds fly to. Volunteers sort the undigested materials and records numbers of items and colours particularly in relation to plastics to see if there are colours that the gulls are drawn to. A bottle containing plastic pieces was passed around to participants so that they could see what sort of plastic had been collected to date.

Dominick Del Vecchio from DPIPW's Save the Devil Program spoke about devils and the facial tumour disease, the release programs and monitoring on Maria Island and in the North East of Tasmania.

A great program of very interesting talks relating to our threatened species.



Litoria reniformis, Green and Gold Frog

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Additional Information

Club Outings:

- All outings depart from Inveresk carpark (near Museum entrance) at 9 am unless otherwise specified. Internet site updated regularly to reflect short notice changes. Saturday all-day parking cost is \$4.00. Sunday parking free.
- Provide your own food and drinks for the outing and wear/take clothing/footwear suitable for all weather types.
- When travelling by car in convoy, each driver is responsible to ensure that the vehicle behind is in sight immediately after passing a cross road or fork in the road.
- When carpooling, petrol costs should be shared between all the passengers, including family of the driver, and based on other clubs the Committee suggested \$12 per 100 km. This is a guideline only.

Name Tags: Please wear your name tags to meetings and on outings.

Tea/Coffee: A levy of 50c is currently charged for supper provided at meetings.

Field Centre: All members have access to the John Skemp Field Centre, but should contact our booking manager, Phil Brumby on 0403 664 554 or bookings@lfnc.org.au regarding availability and keys.

Field Centre Phone Number: (03) 6399 3361

Postal Address: PO Box 1072 Launceston 7250

Internet site: <https://www.lfnc.org.au>

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