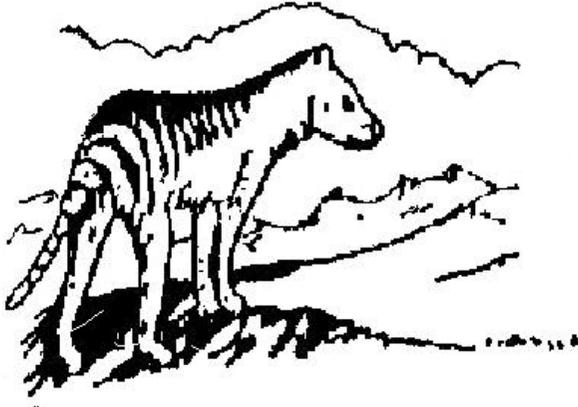


# THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

Issued to members of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club as a contribution to club activities.



**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**

**Volume XLVI No . 6**

**August/September 2013**

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>E Montgomery, T McGlynn, P Ralph, P Warren</b>

**Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month, Feb-Dec at Scotch-Oakburn College, Penquite Rd Newstead**

## PROGRAM

### OCTOBER

- Tuesday 1**                    **AGM Dinner Meeting - Riverview Hotel, Charles Street Launceston, 6pm for 6.30pm**
- Sunday 6**                    **Field Trip: Badger Head to Windred Creek**
- Friday 11 -**                    **Federation Weekend at Camp Banksia hosted by**  
**Sunday 13**                    **Central North Field Naturalists Club**
- Sunday 27**                    **Skemp Day / Water Monitoring**

### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 5**                    **Speaker: Simon Fearn - *Insects***
- Friday 8 -**                    **Field Trip: Binalong Bay area and Winifred Curtis**  
**Sunday 10**                    **Reserve Scamander (further details this newsletter)**
- Saturday 23**                    **Skemp Day**

### DECEMBER

- Tuesday 3**                    **Members Night, photographic competition, *The Year That Was* (further details this newsletter)**
- Sunday 8**                    **Christmas at Skemps (further details this newsletter)**

To see the full July to December 2013 program visit

<http://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm>

## COMMITTEE/GENERAL MEETING

### Skemp Report

Noel Manning reported that volunteers were still collecting, cutting and stacking firewood. Following the heavy rains, some drains needed to be unblocked. The Club's signpost on the roadway outside of the property had been damaged in the wind and has since been repaired and re-installed. Bob Mitchelson has become a regular with volunteers John, Grant and Noel, and has been helping with firewood and clearing walking-tracks. An extension to the current firewood shelter is also being erected from recycled iron and wooden beams. Tina has also spent many Tuesdays working in the Library.

### Puggle

**August** - Peter Warren presented a Puggle on behalf of Peter Ralph who was absent. He asked what Helictite was. John Elliott correctly answered that it was a form of stalactite which grows horizontal at some stages.

**September** - John Elliott told us that there were no Tasmanian softwoods native to the Skemps property although four had been planted and he asked members to identify these. Peter Ralph correctly named the most and it was declared that the full list was actually five and is the South Esk, Pencil, Huon, King Billy and Celery Top Pines.

### Sightings

**July** - Paul Edwards reported five black cockatoos feasting on his *Banksia marginata* (Honeysuckle) tree. They appeared to be tearing the seed pods apart. Probably a common enough sighting but the first sighting at Paul's Kayena property in 8 years (apology missed from previous newsletter)

**August** - Prue Wright had seen a great egret and little black cormorants at Gravelly Beach. Visitor Sarah had seen four flack swans at the levee bank near Lindsay Street, while Geraldine Cameron saw two black swans at Glenara Lakes. John Elliott saw his first cuckoo for the year and Peter Warren saw a large raptor at close quarters over the fence at his home.

**September** - John Elliott saw a white necked heron on the way to Maria Island and mentioned that Noel Manning had found part of a devil scull on the Tyre Track at Skemps. Marion Simmonds saw magpies preparing for nesting while Alison Green had seen lapwings playing chicken with the cars at her retirement village and Sarah Katarzynski saw currawong, firetail finch and forest raven on Flinders Island. Daphne Longman saw white faced heron, magpies and wattle birds all nesting near each other in harmony unless a sea eagle goes overhead. Also that she knew that it would be different when the chicks arrived. Peter Warren saw two wedge tailed eagles at Ben Lomond soaring in the updraft while Liz Bond saw one hovering very low at Woodbury, which was chased away by two crows and Tom Trelolgen had an eastern spine bill in his back yard. Noel Manning described the behaviour of a wedge tailed eagle on Maria Island. Peter Longman reported painted lady butterflies enjoying the warmth of his driveway.

### Library Report

Tina McGlynn told members of the newsletters received and mentioned that she had

been busy sorting the donation of books from Ruth Upson and stated that in most there were newspaper cuttings with references to the book.

### **General**

**New Members** - Katie Scott, Yyan Ng, William Bragg and Ann Johnston were welcomed to the Club in August and Sarah Katarzynski, Lochlan Skinner and Susan Katarzynski were welcomed in September. We look forward to you joining us at Club activities.

**Club Calendar 2014** - Calendars are available for purchase at \$5.00 each. Karen Manning will be selling them at meetings, field trips and Skemp Days. If you would like to make a purchase at a time other than above, please contact Karen on 6344 2277 to make arrangements.

**A Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania** - Karen also has copies of the Club book available for sale at \$22 at all Club activities.

**Field Trip to Binalong Bay area and Winifred Curtis Reserve Scamander** - This weekend trip will be on Friday 8 to Sunday 10 November. Roy, Marion and Jill have kindly offering their accommodation to members interested in joining this trip. If you are interested email Prue Wright at [redgum101@gmail.com](mailto:redgum101@gmail.com) The program for the weekend will be made available closer to the date.

**'The Year That Was'** - Members are invited to submit images from 2013 Club activities for a slideshow to be shown at the December meeting. Images should be submitted on either CD or USB or by email to Prue Wright prior to 31 October. Prue can be contacted by email [redgum101@gmail.com](mailto:redgum101@gmail.com)

**Photographic Competition** - The competition will be held after the general meeting in December. 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; prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

### **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 January 2012.
- The competition is open to members only and prints should be brought in on the night.

**Christmas at Skemps** - Members were reminded that they are welcome to invite their family and friends to join them at the end of year function at Skemps, which will be held on Sunday 8 December.

If you and your guests would like to participate in the Secret Santa (optional), please provide an appropriate wrapped gift up to \$10 to put under the tree and ensure your name is placed on Santa's list when you arrive at the Centre. Please label your gift 'male' or 'female' if the gift is gender specific. Everyone attending will go in the draw for the lucky door prize so get your ticket on arrival. If you bring a child you can bring a gift for them, well labeled with their name, which will be given out separately. Santa will make an appearance prior to afternoon tea.

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.

## **GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 6 August**

**Guest Speaker: Jeff Wright - *Kelp and Climate Change***

Prue introduced Jeff who was to speak on kelp and climate change.

Jeff started by telling us that he is a marine ecologist which means he studies marine organism which includes both animals and the photosynthetic equivalent of plants. His recent study of kelp and kelp forests would be the focus of his talk. He gave a brief outline of his studies, academic career and interests and told us that his studies have been mainly on the ecology of seaweed and the effect on other organism especially animals.

The first slide showed seaweed littering a beach and Jeff suggested this was as close as most people get to seaweed. People have a bad opinion of seaweed as they only see it when it washes up onto beaches after a storm, where it decays and stinks and then councils try to rid their beaches of the seaweed, especially in tourist areas. Jeff said he was going to convince us that seaweeds are much more interesting than the normal negative view held by most people. Another slide showed the three types that the 10,000 plus species of seaweed were divided into, i.e. red, green and brown and kelp was part of the brown seaweed group and could vary from the microscopic types to gigantic ones.

He told us that while the 50 or 60 seagrasses are land grasses that have invaded the sea, seaweed, although a photosynthesising organism which functions like a plant, is not a plant and is more closely related to single cell organisms such as bacteria. The sea grass is a true plant with flowers and seeds both of which are lacking in the seaweed.

Kelp is only found in cool temperate parts of the world in both the northern and southern hemisphere and while seaweed can grow in warmer oceans, kelp does not. We also learnt that what we know as bull kelp is a seaweed but not a kelp.

There are four varieties of kelp in Tasmania including the giant kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, found around the east, southern and west coasts of Tasmania. Jeff described this as the most charismatic of the kelps growing up to 30 or 40 metres tall kept afloat by gas filled structures called pneumatocysts.

The second is the common kelp, *Ecklonia radiata*, found around the coast of southern Australia from the south of Queensland to about half way up the coast of Western Australia. This is an important species providing habitat for other plants and animals.

The third species is the Tasmanian specific intertidal kelp, *Lessonia corrugata*, which can be found along the southern coast of Tasmania at low tide. Jeff stated that it was not well known and one that he had not studied.

The fourth is the invasive Japanese kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* which probably came to Tasmania in the last 30 to 40 years in ballast water. Although an issue in California it is not a big problem in Tasmania unless there is a gap in the native kelp where it can establish.

Jeff posed the question 'Why is kelp important' and then compared the large kelp to a land forest with a canopy, animals and an understory. Studies of the kelp at Fortescue Bay have identified 50 or 60 other species living there and if the kelp disappears so does the biodiversity of the area. The weedy sea dragon is one animal relying on kelp forests living on the edges and well camouflaged for that life.

Kelp has economic importance, in Japan and Korea edible seaweed 'wakame' has been used for many centuries in their cuisine. In textile industries kelp and seaweed are used as stabilisers or emulsifiers, and also as gels or thickeners in the food industry in ice cream and cheese as well as for cosmetics.

There is an economic importance to kelp in Tasmania as commercial fisheries generate over \$200 million in annual income through the rock lobster and abalone fisheries which both rely on the kelp forests.

Another slide showed a Californian kelp harvesting boat and we learnt that only the tops of the fast growing (30 to 40 cm per day) kelp is harvested to make alginate and these forests are managed and doing well. In Tasmania bull kelp is harvested at Marrawah and King Island for both alginate and Seasol garden fertilizers.

The stress factors on kelp populations was shown in another slide which included increasing ocean temperature, decreasing nutrients, increasing ocean acidification, increasing intensity of storms, change to currents and overfishing.

Jeff then gave details of the effect of warming on the giant kelp forests of Tasmania. He started by telling us that the Australian east coast is dominated by the East Australian Current (EAC) which brings warm waters from the tropics down the east coast of Australia. This current has moved 350 km further south and reaches Tasmania resulting in average water temperatures increasing by 2 ° Celsius. The average was 12 ° in the 1940s and is now 14 ° and this has correlated with a massive decline in giant kelp forests on the east coast of Tasmania.

Jeff stated that as a scientist he needed proof that higher temperatures were an issue with kelp reproduction. He described the reproduction cycle of the kelp and the experiments done to see if increases in temperature had caused the reduction in kelp and then showed the results and proof that reproduction was reduced with increased ocean temperatures.

During what Jeff described as an ocean heat wave off the coast of Western Australia in 2011, the water was up to 4 ° warmer and in an ongoing study some species of large brown seaweed disappeared. One slide showed a map with the coastal area of the warming (a semi-circle radiating west of the coast from Exmouth in the north to Albany in the south) with graphs of the temperature increases while the following slide showed an area of the sea floor before and after the warming with significant loss of sea weed. Some large brown seaweed had contracted to further south and this was proof that rising ocean temperatures were bad for seaweed.

Jeff switched tack at this point to talk about the long-spined sea urchin, *Centrostephanus rodgersii*, which is a relatively recent arrival on the east coast of Tasmania and in some ways a more immediate and bigger threat. It is a large animal, which loves to eat kelp and other seaweed and has few predators.

It was first observed in the Kent Group in the 1960s, at St Helens in 1978, then Freycinet, Maria Island and the Tasman Peninsular in the 1980s and the south west in 2005. Observations of the sea urchin have coincided with the southward move of the EAC over the last 60 years with the larvae of the urchin being brought into Tasmanian east coast waters by the current. The increase in temperature is also enough to enable the sea urchin to reproduce and maintain itself.

Jeff described urchin barrens, areas where there is nothing growing on the sea floor, which was familiar to him from his time growing up in NSW, and showed a slide of the bare, rocky seafloor with a few urchins in evidence. Urchins eat the kelp and other seaweed and then the animals and plants which rely on these for food and shelter also disappear.

The only real predator of the sea urchin is the rock lobster which needs to have a carapace of at least 110 mm before it predate on the urchin. A slide showed a graph with the relationship between carapace size in lobsters and the level of predation of the urchin obtained from experiments. Other graphs showed that in marine parks where the rock lobster is protected the level of sea urchins is much lower than areas where there is fishing of lobster and catch records going back to the 1960s showed the lobster is getting smaller.

Jeff reiterated the known factors affecting the future of kelp forests before acknowledging those who had assisted with the work on kelp to date and the sources of funding for the research.

Simon started the 13 plus minutes of questions by asking whether the sea urchin could have always been in Tasmania but kept in check by the larger crayfish to which Jeff answered that the urchin had not been reported before the recently noted large numbers. He added that they have a temperature threshold of around 13° to 14° below which they cannot breed and the temperature has only risen above this on the east coast of Tasmania in the last 20 years. To the amusement of the members and Jeff, Simon also asked whether future fishing rules might include an upper limit on the size of crayfish to protect the bigger ones which predate on the urchin. Jeff could not give an answer.

After a member question, Jeff stated that the nutrient levels in the colder pre EAC waters of the Tasmanian east coast are around four times that which is found in the EAC and that this may be a critical factor in the decline of kelp.

With no more questions Tom called Peter Warren who thanked our speaker and asked members to show their appreciation. Noel Manning

### **FIELD TRIP Wednesday 14 - Friday 16 August: Maria Island**

Five of us travelled to the island taking advantage of the free ferry service and cheap winter accommodation rates for a mid-week getaway. John from field naturalists, Gilly and Margaret from the Australian Plant Society and Prue and myself, who are members of both clubs, caught the 10:30 ferry to the island on a pleasant winter's day. On

the drive to the coast John spotted something unusual in the river at Swansea and we returned to the bridge for a better look and the photo opportunities. Amongst the cormorants and feral mallard ducks was a single great egret and something unusual. Later when we on the island and after much searching of their bird books Prue and John agreed that it was a white necked heron.

When nearly at the island on the Spirit of Maria someone spotted fur seals in the water and the captain slowed the vessel and brought it about for a better look and a photo opportunity. We were close enough for a reasonable look and took some photos of the playful animals before finishing the journey to the wharf. Our gear was unloaded during a high tide and we used a cart to take it all to the old penitentiary and our rooms for the two nights. This was heavy going as it was all uphill, the carts were heavy and we all had lots of luggage.

While settling in we noticed two cape barren geese with four goslings pecking at the sparse grass near our rooms. At one stage one goose spread its wings and the goslings went underneath, perhaps for an afternoon siesta. This pair had little fear of us humans and along with two wombats spent a lot of time in the area near the buildings.

After lunch, while John went looking for more photographic opportunities, the rest of us headed north for the short walks in the northwest stopping at Bernacchi's Creek along the way to look at some new growth there. What we at first thought was *Pomaderris apetala* turned out to be *Asterotrichon discolour* and I believe the rangers gave us this information. While John photographed geese with goslings, crested terns, prickly moses and a goose on her nest, we explored an old building which is open to visitors as with many on the island. This one, on a bare hill to the north of the settlement, was full of machinery and carts collected and stored against further decay. Nearby was the cemetery and amongst the few headstones was that of Rosa Adkins who in 1942 was the last person buried on the island and in a bottom corner was the headstone of Hohepa Te Umuroa, a Maori sent to the island charged with rebellion. He died aged 25 on the 19 July 1847 and his remains were repatriated to New Zealand in 1988.

A light rain persuaded all but Gilly, who was smart enough to remember her wet weather gear, to turn back while she completed the circuit around the north west of the island which includes the fossil cliff. All was not lost as while taking a shortcut back to our rooms the rest of us saw forester kangaroos up close in a lightly wooded area. We also collected sticks for the heaters in the rooms and found that John had split and stacked a good supply of firewood while we were away.

The rain started in the afternoon and continued into the evening. That night we cooked in the rooms by candlelight, ate together and played cards for a few hours before bed time. The old mess hall which is nearby has electric lighting, gas cooking and park bench style seating for an easier cooking and dining experience. I was up not long after midnight and the first quarter moon had set, the rain had stopped and in the absence of the usual light pollution the stars were brilliant.

Next morning, in near ideal weather, John was gone early to the fossil cliffs to catch the sunrise while Gilly and I hired bikes to explore the southern parts of the island. We pushed the bikes to the top of the first rise, which was too steep for our inexperienced legs, meeting Margaret and Prue at the top. We looked around and photographed the gum trees before heading south on the bikes with another stop soon after to look at the painted cliffs. During a morning break a sea eagle flew close overhead giving us a great view

while the geese we encountered here were down right aggressive. It was then back on the bikes for what proved to be an arduous journey to McRae's Isthmus. We did not get there as the last part of the track was sandy and heavy going even for bikes with big tyres. We lunched instead on the beach just short of the isthmus probably at Encampment Cove. Back on the bikes for the journey north we realised we were making good time and stopped at French's Farm where there is a camp ground. Again the buildings here are open including the farm house and the shearing shed and I imagine anyone camping in the area would use these for the night.

On the return we counted eight wombats in a small paddock and noticed that away from the main settlement the wombats were very wary of humans and quick to run away when they saw you. I took a side trip along a sandy track to Return Point to find that there were even more wombats here, giving up the count at 21 animals. All open areas seemed to feature wombats and geese feeding on bowling green short grass and you wondered how they survived. Many of the wombats on the island have a light tan colouring and I photographed one and being careful with my movements I was able to get quite close and not disturb it.

Back at the camp the firewood fairy had restocked our supplies and it was another candle lit cooking experience for the evening meal. During and following the meal we checked our books to identify what we had seen during the day before turning in.

Friday morning was windy and the choppy seas suggested a rough trip off the island. After packing up and cleaning the rooms we moved our gear to the verandah and John returned to the Painted Cliffs to photograph them at low tide while the rest of us did the circuit around the northwest corner of the island starting with the fossil cliff. Heading off from here toward Bishop and Clerk we saw a wedge-tailed eagle land in the grass on the slopes of the mountain. To get airborne again it spread its wings, hopped over the cliff and circled around rising slowly. It did not flap its wings instead it used the rising air currents to gain height. It was joined by two others and we were able to watch them for some minutes before their hunting took them out of sight. Our walk took in an unsightly dump, a convict era dam still supplying water to the settlement, another limestone quarry and a limestone kiln set into a cliff. A very large old building on this site at one stage housed machinery and, if I am right about the timber works in one part being a feeding trough, it was later used as animal stalls.

We lunched at the penitentiary, looked around the building here and chatted with the rangers. Donna-Lee was very knowledgeable and spent time with us answering questions. For the return journey it was the same boat with a different captain and a wind driven chop in the water making for a slower trip this time. We docked while still light, packed the cars, said our farewells and headed home after a very enjoyable stay on the island.

Noel Manning

## **SKEMPS DAY Sunday 25 August**

Leaving Launceston just before 9am it was blue sky and sunny, however just outside of Waverley the blue sky was replaced by cloud and misty rain. Arriving at Skemps it was raining, after unpacking our personal items from the car, John unloaded the small dry firewood which had been taken out for the wood stove. In the Centre, Noel puttied the gap in the wood heater before starting up the fire which was definitely needed on

this cool Sunday morning.

Around 10am members started to arrive and after a hot drink a small group went for a walk down along Skemp Creek checking the state of the trees with plant guards. Half of the group split off and walked to the end of the grassland before returning to the Centre along the edge of the forest. The other group returned via the roadway noting the damage that had been caused by the recent heavy rain and removed some plastic plant guards that had blown from plants and were floating in the creek.

Arriving back for lunch other members had arrived to join us. Noel and John had been working on the street sign for the Club that had been damaged in the heavy winds and were discussing with Tom, Andrew and Rebecca the possible sites for a dedication tree.

After lunch six members walked the Forest Track detouring down the Bottom Falls Track returning via the Top Falls Track. During this walk we cleared blockages, removed larger limbs and other tree bits from the tracks and removed bits of branches hanging in trees. There were some attractive fungi that we stopped to take photos of on the way. At the forest junction of the Bottom Falls and Top Falls tracks, we split into two groups, four members going into the Top Falls and two members walking the East Track to check and clear the tracks where possible. Arriving back at the Centre about 3.30 we had a coffee and a chat before tidying the Centre and heading home. Karen Manning

## **GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 3 September**

### **Guest Speaker: Phillipa Alexander - *Bird Photography***

Noel introduced Phillipa with a brief description of her interest in wildlife photography, the awards she has won and her extensive travels. He confirmed with her that it was correct that she only started serious bird photography in 2009.

Phillipa started her slide presentation with a blurry gull winging its way across a blurry ocean and a distant shore with a heavily tilted horizon. The bird was half way across the two background elements of coast and water and she told us that this was an example of what not to do with a bird photograph. The next slide was just as blurry with an even greater tilt to the horizon and foreground elements which distracted and accentuated the blurriness.

What followed however were around 60 amazing shots of birds with Phillipa using them to explain the various factors which contribute to a great photograph and the effects she was trying to achieve. Phillipa mentioned South Georgia, the Falkland Islands and Midway Atoll as well as various places along the Tamar, including Swan Point and the Tamar Island Wetlands when talking about the various shots.

Phillipa started by telling us the basics of good equipment. While she suggested that a high frame per second rate allowed for a burst of shots which would certainly capture something it was her experience that even 5 per second would work quite well. She recommends a zoom lens of 300 mm or more coupled with a 2x teleconverter which is cheaper and lighter than the 600 mm lens. The disadvantage is that there was less light with this setup than the bigger lens. When out and about Phillipa preferred the greater freedom of a hand held camera. She stated that a tripod is useful for some shots and she does use one sometimes. She had also found that for shutter speeds of 1/500 of a second or over image stabilisation and vibration reduction were not needed and at these speeds

the picture was better without them.

Other items worth considering were the Wimberley Tripod Head which is better balanced for the large senses and, although she was not inclined to use flash herself, the Better Beamer flash extender works well to extend the distance of a flash. A bird hide is another great asset for bird photograph and we saw a photo of one sitting in her yard.

Next we heard about the ISO rating, a setting to increase the sensitivity of the camera, and she recommended a very high ISO for bird photography to allow a faster shutter speed. The disadvantage was what she called noise, a motley effect in areas of plain colour such as the sky. We then learnt that stand alone noise reduction programs could remove this in post processing. A slide showed two pictures of penguins taken in the dark without flash using, in her words, a ridiculous ISO of 12,800 to get quite useful shots and noise reduction was applied in post processing.

Phillipa then talked about shutter speed and she recommended  $1/500^{\text{th}}$  of a second at least for birds on the wing and that she was inclined to use  $1/4000^{\text{th}}$  of a second to have no blurring of the image, including the wing tips. She also mentioned that there would be more blurring the closer the bird was.

The next slide was of an eastern spinebill taken in her yard followed by a white faced heron at Swan Point. She explained that the shutter speed of  $1/2500$  was not needed for a bird just sitting there but because she was hoping it would fly off she had used the higher speed. She also stated that she eventually worked out that 'right before they are about to fly they poo'.

Showing us a picture of a great egret and a penguin leaping out of the water Phillipa explained that she was a big fan of water splashes. She is not just a recorder instead she is very much interested in the aesthetics of the photograph and needed  $1/3200$  of a second to capture the water splash.

During a workshop in Alaska, Phillipa was told to look for interaction between animals and birds and the next slide showed three penguins on a beach to support this idea. After a question from a member Phillipa discussed cropping and the minimum pixels needed for a quality shot. She would crop to enhance the aesthetics but preferred not to go below 2048 pixels on the long side.

Some photos were surprising and generated discussion. A shot showed what everyone thought was a wedge-tailed eagle though Phillipa assured us that it had been identified as a juvenile sea eagle. In another a great egret winged its way over blue water with Phillipa claiming it was photographed at the Tamar Wetlands. She went on to explain that near sunset the lighting was just right to make the muddy waters of the wetlands blue.

Next she explained depth of field, how to increase and decrease it and its importance in a good photograph. A high number such as  $f/22$  could give a depth of field from up close to infinity while  $f/2.8$  could, as she said, have her keys in focus with the rest out of focus. She went on to explain that in a cluttered background the subject was lost and the next slide had two birds on the shore with the one in the background out of focus. She also explained that different settings were a trade off with the wider aperture often resulting in an image that is not as clear. She also stated that if there is a flock of birds you would use a smaller aperture to get them all in focus.

After showing yet more superb photos Phillipa told us that if we wanted a record of

a bird take the shot, but to get an aesthetic photo we needed to check the background to avoid distracting elements. If there were distracting elements in a photograph we could try and crop them out or reduce the contrast and brightness of distracting elements in post processing.

Having told us that she has seen photos which could have done with cropping Phillipa explained that she will crop a photo in different ways until she thinks it is the best it can look and that if there is a distracting element consider a portrait shot. Members laughed at the close up of the head of a young emu with very wiry hair. A shot of a masked owl, a juvenile albatross, wedge-tailed eagle and adult emu followed to demonstrate the portrait shot.

Phillipa then spoke of positioning offering the following advice; get closer and if necessary be patient and wait 20 minutes and the birds will often return, lie or sit so that you are not looking down on the bird and in bright sunlight your shadow should be pointing toward the bird to get less intrusive shadows on the bird.

Her next suggestion was to look for interaction and interesting activity and the following pictures showed this and what she called environmental shots. We saw a cormorant colony, king penguins heading off into the distance and a lone penguin on one side of a lake while masses of them headed off on the other side. Here she used a small aperture to get the image sharp from back to front as she is showing the environment.

Phillipa then spoke about the enhancement of shots post-processing such as cropping, brightening and sharpening and explained that there are specific rules for competitions and to look at these when entering a competition. She had a photo of a bird on the mudflats, underexposed and dark and not very appealing at all with the following being the same picture heavily cropped and with the colour enhanced.

The last slide showed the following seven internet sites for those who wanted to go further; [birdphotographers.net](http://birdphotographers.net), [naturephotographers.net](http://naturephotographers.net), [whytake.net](http://whytake.net), [birdsasart.com](http://birdsasart.com), [alanmurphyphotography.com](http://alanmurphyphotography.com), [jennihorsnell.com](http://jennihorsnell.com), [mikeatkinson.net](http://mikeatkinson.net).

Questions followed before Peter Ralph thanked her and asked members to show their appreciation.

Noel Manning

## **FIELD TRIP Sunday 15 September**

### **Holwell Gorge & Nature Reserve at Bowen's Jetty Road Beaconsfield**

Ten members and three visitors met at Holwell Gorge on an overcast cold morning. We had been advised by staff at Parks and Wildlife that the southern end of the walk had been closed due to landslips and other damage following recent heavy rainfall. On arrival in the carpark we found that the northern end was now also closed. We however looked at the plants in the immediate area for an hour or so, before returning to the carpark for lunch.

Following lunch and watching Jill's grand-daughters playing with a Frisbee that Noel had found, we decided to move on to the nature reserve along the Tamar River at the end of Bowen's Jetty Road in Beaconsfield. We took a leisurely stroll on a track where we saw a variety of wattles, dogwoods and pea-flowers and finally located a cluster of greenhood orchids.

On our return to Launceston we stopped at the Exeter Bakery and enjoyed a coffee and a sweet treat before heading home to beat off the cold.

Karen Manning

**Plants Holwell Gorge area** - *Acacia dealbata*, silver wattle; *Acacia myrtifolia*, red-stem wattle; *Acacia verticillata*, prickly mooses; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, black oak; *Anthracophyllum archeri*, orange fan; *Aristotelia peduncularis*, heartberry; *Asplenium bulbiferum*, mother spleenwort; *Atherosperma moschatum* subsp *moschatum*, black sassafras; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bedfordia salicina*, Tasmanian blanketleaf; *Billardiera longiflora*, purple appleberry; *Billardiera scandens*, apple dumplings; *Blechnum nudum*, fishbone water-fern; *Blechnum wattsii*, hard water-fern; *Chiloglottis* leaves, bird orchid; *Cladonia* sp., lichen; *Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Coprosma quadrifida*, common native-currant; *Correa lawrenceana*, mountain correa; *Dianella tasmanica*, forest flaxlily; *Dicksonia antarctica*, soft tree-fern; *Dictyopanus pusillus*, little ping-pong bat fungi; *Drosera peltata* subsp *auriculata*, tall sundew; *Epacris impressa*, common heath (white & pink flowered species); *Eucalyptus obliqua*, brown-top stringybark; *Eucalyptus regnans*, giant ash; *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, common native-cherry; *Gonocarpus teucroides*, forest raspwort; *Hygrocybe chromolimonia*, yellow navel; *Hymenophyllum* sp., filmy fern; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitar plant; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Monotoca glauca*, goldey wood; *Nemacianthus caudatus*, mayfly orchid; *Nematolepis squamea* subsp *squamea*, satin-wood; *Notelaea ligustrina*, native olive; *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, myrtle beech; *Olearia argophylla*, musk; *Polystichum proliferum*, mother shield-fern; *Pomaderris apetala*, common dogwood; *Pomaderris elliptica*, yellow dogwood; *Pterostylis melagramma*, black-stripe greenhood; *Pterostylis stenochila*, green-lip greenhood; *Pterostylis williamsonii*, brown-lip greenhood; *Stereum ostrea*, golden curtain crust; *Viola hederacea*, ivy leaved violet; *Zieria aborescens* subsp *arborescens*, stinkwood

**Birds at Holwell Gorge** - *Acanthiza pusilla*, brown thornbill; *Pachycephala pectoralis*, golden whistler; *Pardalotus striatus*, striated pardalote

**River reserve at Bowen's Jetty Road, Beaconsfield** - *Acacia dealbata* subsp *dealbata*, silver wattle; *Acacia longifolia* subsp *sophorae*, coast wattle; *Acacia melanoxylon*, blackwood; *Acacia myrtifolia*, redstem wattle; *Acacia suaveolens*, sweet wattle; *Acacia terminalis*, sunshine wattle; *Acacia verticillata*, prickly mooses; *Acaena* sp., sheepsburr; *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, common buzzy; *Acrotriche serrulata*, ants delight; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, black sheoak; *Amperea xiphioclada*, broom spurge; *Billardiera scandens*, apple dumplings; *Bossiaea cinerea*, showy bossia; *Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Daviesia latifolia*, hop bitterpea; *Daviesia ulicifolia*, yellow spiky bitterpea; *Dianella revoluta*, spreading flaxlily; *Dianella tasmanica*, forest flaxlily; *Dillwynia glaberrima*, smooth parrotpea; ? *Dillwynia sericea*, showy parrotpea; *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp *spatulata*, broadleaf hopbush; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, common native-cherry; *Geranium* sp., cranesbill; *Gonocarpus tetragynus*, common raspwort; *Lepidosperma concavum*, sand swordspurge; *Leptomeria drupacea*, erect currantbush; *Leptospermum scoparium*, common teatree; *Leucopogon collinus*, white beardheath; *Lissanthe strigosa*, peach-berry heath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Melaleuca ericifolia*, coast paperbark; *Nemacianthus caudatus*, mayfly orchid; *Pimelea linifolia* sp, riceflower; *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf riceflower; *Platylobium* sp., flatpea; *Poa labillardierei* var. *labillardierei*, silver tussockgrass; ? *Pomaderris racemosa*, slender dogwood;

*Pomaderris elliptica*, yellow dogwood; *Pomaderris apetala* sp., dogwood; *Pteridium esculentum*, austral bracken fern; *Pterostylis nutans*, nodding greenhood; *Pultenaea daphnoides* var. *obcordata*, heartleaf bushpea; *Tetralthea pilosa*, hairy pinkbells; *Xanthorrhoea* sp., grasstree; *Xanthosia pilosa*, woolly crossherb

**Birds at Bowen's Jetty Road, Beaconsfield** - *Artamus cyanopterus*, dusky wood-swallow; *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, fan-tailed cuckoo; *Lichenostomus flavicollis*, yellow-throated honeyeater; *Malurus cyaneus*, superb fairy-wren; *Phaps chalcoptera*, common bronzewing; *Platycercus caledonicus*, green rosella; *Rhipidura albiscapa*, gray fantail; *Tadorna tadornoides*, Australian shelduck

## **AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY MEETINGS**

LFNC members are welcome to attend APS meetings held on a Tuesday at Max Fry Hall, Gorge Road Trevallyn at 7.30 pm. Their next meetings are as follows:

October 15 - Mark Wapstra

November 19 - David Meadows

## **QVMAG EXHIBITIONS**

### **ANZANG Nature Photography**

ANZANG Nature Photography is an annual competition which encourages photography of nature and wilderness in Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and the New Guinea region. Entries are open to local and international photographers.

In 2012 more than 1300 entries in 11 categories were submitted from 265 photographers in eight countries.

ANZANG was founded by Perth, WA based surgeon Dr Stuart Miller in 2003. The South Australian Museum took ownership of the competition in 2009 and Dr Miller remains as ANZANG's patron.

When: 24 August to 27 October 2013

Where: John Lees Atrium, Mezzanine

Admission: Free

Presented by the South Australian Museum

### **Wildlife Photographer of the Year**

The 2012 Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is one of the most prestigious competitions of its kind, attracting entries from professional and amateur photographers of all ages worldwide. The competition seeks to promote the discovery, understanding, responsibility and enjoyment of the natural world.

When: 7 September to 27 October 2013

Where: Gallery 4, QVMAG, Royal Park

Admission: Free

Presented by the Natural History Museum in London with BBC Wildlife Magazine and the Australian tour is organised by the Australian Museum.

### **Into the Wild - Wilderness photography in Tasmania**

Highlighting the artistic talent of key Tasmanian wilderness photographers and the impact that this type of photography has had on Tasmania, the exhibition charts the development of wilderness photography from its earliest days to the present.

Featured photographers include Allport, Spurling, Beattie, Smithies, King, Perrin, Thwaites, Truchanas, Dombrovskis, England, Blakers, Bell, Stephenson, and Walch. Tasmania has been at the forefront of wilderness appreciation from the early preservation efforts, the conservation movement and tourism promotion. It was these photographers who championed efforts to recognise and preserve Tasmanian wilderness by creating evocative images that encouraged so many to appreciate and visit these landscapes.

When: until 16 February 2014

Where: Gallery 3, QVMAG, Royal Park

Admission: Free

Presented By QVMAG

Source: [Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery](#)

## **Additional Information**

### **Club Outings:**

1. 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 \$3.00. Sunday parking free.
2. You need to provide your own food and drinks for the outing unless otherwise specified. Morning tea is normally provided by the bus company on bus outings.
3. When travelling by car in convoy, each driver is responsible to ensure that the vehicle behind is in sight immediately after passing each cross road or fork in the road.
4. When car pooling, petrol costs should be shared between all the passengers, including family of the driver, and based on other clubs the Committee suggested \$11 per 100 km. This is a guideline only.

**Name Tags:** Name tags are to be worn at 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. Contact our booking manager, John Elliott on 6344 9303 or by email [skempbookings@yahoo.com.au](mailto:skempbookings@yahoo.com.au) regarding availability and keys.

**Field Centre Phone Number** - 6399 3361

**Postal Address:** PO Box 1072 Launceston 7250

**Internet site :** <http://www.lfnc.org.au>

**E.mail :** [secretary@lfnc.org.au](mailto:secretary@lfnc.org.au)