

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

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October / November 2013

Patron	:	Mr Chris Tassell, AM
President	:	Mr T Treloggen, 68 Mulgrave St Launceston, 0408 341 397
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Hon.Treasurer	:	Ms K Manning, 46 Robin St Newstead, 6344 2277
N'letter Co-ordinator	:	Ms K. Manning
Librarian	:	Ms T McGlynn
Committee	:	L Bond, Jill Campbell, Tina McGlynn, P Wright, S Fearn, P Warren

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

PROGRAM

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 3 **Members night - Photographic competition, *The Year That Was* (images from 2013 activities)**
- Sunday 8 **Christmas at Skemps (see details this newsletter)**

JANUARY

- Wednesday 8 to **Field Trip - Ben Lomond (see details this newsletter)**
Thursday 9

FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 4 **Guest Speaker: Dr Frances Mowling - *Experiences of the South Australian Field Naturalists***
- Saturday 15 **Field Trip: to be advised**
- Sunday 23 **Skemp Day**

MARCH

- Tuesday 4 **Member's night**
- Sunday 16 **Field Trip: to be advised**
- Saturday 22 **Skemp Day**
- Monday 24 **Social Evening: venue to be confirmed**

**The full January to June 2014 program will be available
early in the new year**

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

COMMITTEE/GENERAL MEETING

Skemp Report - Noel stated that the wood shed was close to finished, that the natives were keeping the grass down and that there were plenty of bookings. Additional shelves had been placed in the library. Following suggestions for a flyscreen door at the backdoor, it is planned to install one at the entrance to the covered area at the backdoor near the portable barbecue. This would have the added benefit of a tidier secure area to leave damp shoes, waterproofs and other items, knowing they were protected from the nocturnal animals that visit and climb on the building during the night.

Puggle

October - Peter Ralph had circulated an image earlier in the evening. He asked members what sort of animal it was and what its latin name was? Tom Treloggen advised it was a Cephalopod. No-one knew the latin name which was *Argonauta nodosa*.

November - Tom Treloggen showed members a photograph and asked members to identify it with both the common and scientific names. Alison Green advised the bird was a *Platycercus caledonicus*, commonly known as the green rosella.

Sightings

October - Prue Wright had seen a clinking currawong nesting at Gravelly Beach and Australian admirals and painted ladies feeding in exotic wildflowers. Tom Treloggen had seen blue wrens at the Gorge and Clarendon House, and black cockatoos in the Launceston area. Simon Fearn reported butterflies, Australian admiral, painted ladies, meadow argus, cabbage white – appearing earlier than usual. Turtle doves are very common and a pair of eastern rosellas landed on the railing of his deck. Snakes are emerging in outdoor enclosures. Alison Green reported swallows at Norwood and said she hadn't seen any crescent honeyeaters in Norwood yet. Marion Simmons reported two cuckoo-shrikes in bushes at Legana.

November - Peter Longman advised that after a 15 year absence, he now has crescent honeyeaters in his garden. He has also found scrubtits in the garden flicking up leaves looking for insects and that the magpies, herons and crows that had been living in harmony in their garden had now been upset by the crow killing the heron fledgling. Peter also said he had glimpsed a pallid cuckoo in the Heritage Garden at Mowbray. Simon Fearn reported a tiger snake crossing a track at Tam O'Shanter and a jewel beetle, *Nascioides parryi* at Riverside. Tina McGlynn reported snakes at Westwood which she could not scare away. Tony Geeves had many sightings which included european gold finches and blue wrens in his garden, a wedge-tailed eagle in Devonport, a platypus at Latrobe Bridge, a platypus in the dam at the Rhododendrom Garden and swallows in the gardens, and three wedge-tailed eagles flying around Windemere. Prue Wright had a pair of eastern rosellas in her garden which were scared away by the wattlebirds. John Elliott advised he has seen *Clematis gentianoides* in flower in the native garden near the Chapel in the Scotch Oakburn grounds. At Queechy Lake he had observed three freckled ducks (two ducks and one drake). Liz Bond reported a wingless wasp in her garden which was an iridescent blue, a large moth with up to a 15 cm wingspan, it may have been an emperor gum moth, but it was too dark to be sure and echidnas near Hardwick Street. Karen Manning reported seeing a mountain dragon

during the recent Badger Head walk and Claire Manning saw two echidnas and a snake there. Peter Warren reported echidnas at Skemps during the last watermonitoring day.

Library Report

Tina stated that 55 of Ruth Upson's books have been added to the library. Tina has been given approval by the Committee to purchase the 3rd edition of *The Fungi CD* for \$18 from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria as it would be a great addition to our collection and for identifying fungi.

General

Resignations - Glenys Mathison has regrettably resigned from the Club now that she and Jeff are residing in Stanthorpe Queensland. Glenys has said they would like to hear from members travelling to Queensland, they are always good for a cup-of-tea and have spare beds. Jeff has been elected vice-president of Stanthorpe FNC. Diane Gain also resigned from the Club recently as she has moved to New Zealand.

Volunteers Grant - Noel Manning successfully applied for this grant from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The amount received was requested to cover the cost of two members attending a recognised training course in the use of and maintenance of a chainsaw, safety equipment, saws, secateurs, weed poison, water monitoring net, tree injector and a specified amount is to reimburse volunteers for fuel costs associated with travel to Skemps.

New Members - In October we welcomed three families to the Club; Nicola Falloon and children Phoebe, Eamon, Ieuan and Bronagh; Matthew and Jessica Carew and children Taylor, Tobey and Lucy; and Ashley and Miriam Churchill and children Edward and Charlotte, parents and siblings of Gwendolyn and Adelaide who joined as junior members earlier this year. We look forward to you joining us at Club activities.

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. Every adult 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.

CHINCHILLA VISIT - Saturday 28 to Monday 30 September

Chinchilla FNC have been in Launceston over the weekend. Arriving Saturday, Prue Wright waited for them at their accommodation and escorted them to Skemps where

they had a late lunch, visited the homestead site interpretation booth, walked along Skemp Creek and generally chatted with members and swapped stories. They were provided with a BBQ tea and the salads, cakes and sweets were generously supplied by members. Unfortunately the weather was not suitable for Peter Warren to erect his telescope.

On Sunday members met at their accommodation where we exchanged member passengers for visitor passengers and then travelled to Punchbowl Reserve to look at wildflowers and fungi. During a morning tea break, Kath Truscott, Chinchilla's President presented Tom Treloggen with three large pieces of petrified wood as a thankyou for our time. From there we continued on to Duck Reach to view the Power Station and read about its history, we then lunched in the Gorge grounds before taking a leisurely walk to the suspension bridge.

On Monday our visitors went to the Pilot Station Museum and Lighthouse at Low Head with Prue, Tom and Tina McGlynn, while waiting for low tide at East Beach where they explored the rock pools and had lunch. Later in the day they visited the Tamar Island Wetlands.

The weather each day was the same, with periods where it was overcast, misty or heavier rain, and sometimes sunshine, but our members enthusiastically helped to entertain our guests who were very appreciative of the time we had given them, so many thanks to Judith Handlinger, John Elliott and Prue Wright who lead a day each, and the following members who assisted: Tom & Tina McGlynn, Tom Treloggen, Karen & Claire Manning, Peter Warren, Peter & Lois Ralph, Tony & Christine Geeves, Lynne Mockridge and Jill Campbell.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday 1 October

Presidents report :-

"I address you as your President since I took up the position in 2012. Once again it has been a busy and productive and very successful year for our Club, with some challenges that we faced, some financial like replacing the ride-on lawnmower and chainsaw at Skemps and new mattresses.

Some of our activities for the year just past include two water monitoring days at Skemps. In November we visited the 'Kingston' property near Nile after having the owner Simon Cameron as our guest speaker (native grasses and vegetation). In December "The Year That Was" was presented at the General Meeting, we held our photographic competition just after the ANZANG Nature Photography exhibition at the QVMAG at the Inveresk site, also Christmas at Skemps. In January members were involved with the girl guides International Jamboree held at Quercus Park with various displays and activities. Also there was a trip to Ben Lomond mid January with members staying at the Borrowdale Lodge. In February, Simon Fearn spoke to us about our three species of Tasmanian snakes, followed by an outing. We had a social gathering at Steve's Grill. In March there was a trip to the West Coast and a members night was held. In April, Simon Fearn was our speaker again speaking about invasive species. In

May the John Skemp Memorial Lecture was presented by John Tongue who spoke on Birdline Tasmania and lifelong twitching. June speakers were Tania Jensen and John Robinson from Quarantine and in July guest speaker Paul Flood spoke about cave dwellers, followed by a trip to the Mole Creek Caves. In July the Club participated in the Planet Ark National Tree Day at Skemps. August speaker Jeff Wright spoke to us about kelp and climate change and in September Phillipa Alexander spoke on bird photography.

We farewelled Jeff Campbell a long time member due to his relocating to Queensland. I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all Committee Members over the past year for their work and support, Judith Handler as my vice-president, Noel Manning as Secretary, Karen Manning as treasurer and newsletter editor, Prue Wright, Peter Warren and Peter Ralph for our program and Tina McGlynn as Librarian, for all her work with the Ruth Upson bequest. Also thank you to all members who have contributed throughout the past year.”
Tom Treloggen

Election of Office Bearers: - With no nominations being lodged with the Secretary prior to the AGM, the following nominations were accepted from the floor.

President - Tom Treloggen

Vice President - Judith Handler

Treasurer - Karen Manning

Secretary - Noel Manning

Committee Members - Peter Warren, Simon Fearn, Prue Wright,
Tina McGlynn, Liz Bond, Jill Campbell

As there were no other nominations for the above positions, all nominees were declared elected.

It was resolved that members subscriptions would remain the same as last years - Juniors \$5.00, Single \$30.00, Family \$40.00, Associate Groups \$45.00.

FIELD TRIP - Badger Head - Sunday 6 October

Our Badger Head field trip was organised to see what vegetation was emerging after extremely hot bush fires occurred between the headland and Windred Creek last Summer. On Oct 6th, eight of us assembled at the car park and set off up the fairly steep hill above the picnic shelter. The surrounding ground was totally blackened.

Allocasaurina stricta were quite dead and many were blown over in recent storms. A few tiny shoots were emerging here and there, and we were delighted to find a little *Thysanotis* in flower. We came to blackened *Eucalypt amygdalina*, black peppermint, most showing some signs of regeneration from their epicormic buds. These buds occur on many of the thicker barked eucs; when all the leaves have been destroyed in a bushfire, hormones are released to allow the epicormic buds to take over and the tree will eventually fully recover. *Xanthorrhoea australis* had also survived, thanks to their thick leaf bases. Many were stimulated by the fire to produce massive flower spikes. There were hundreds!

The fire had covered a very large area and we soon became blackened ourselves

by darting off the track to take a closer look at some little plant “just over there”. We were particularly expecting to find orchids which had been stimulated to flower by the hot fire. We were a little disappointed in this area, but did see waxlips and pink fingers. Most mayflies had finished but we were lucky in finding two eastern wallflowers in flower. After seeing many dozens of ground hugging leaves we eventually came across just one fire orchid flowering. There were many tiny seedlings emerging through the black, mostly *Leptospermums*.

The wildflowers became quite prolific when we left the burnt area behind, many that we don't see so often on our field trips. Echidnas and wombats were about, noted from their scats and diggings, also two snakes and a mountain dragon were spotted. Just one of us made it all the way to Windred Creek, in usual Field Nat fashion we took 4x the advertised time to walk in. We all voted it worthwhile to repeat the walk next Spring to see the regrowth over 12 months.

Prue Wright

Plants:- *Acacia longifolia* subsp *sophorae*, coast wattle; *A. myrtifolia*, redstem wattle; *A. suaveolens*, sweet wattle; *A. terminalis*, sunshine wattle; *A. verticillata* subsp *verticillata*, prickly moses; *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, common buzzy; *Acianthus caudatus*, mayfly orchid; *Acrotriche serrulata*, ant's delight; *Allocasuarina monilifera*, necklace sheoak; *A. verticillata*, drooping sheoak; *Aotus ericoides*, golden pea; *Apium prostratum*, creeping sea celery; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bauera rubioides*, wiry bauera; *Billardiera scandens*, appleberry; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Caladenia* sp., white and pink flowers; *Cassytha glabella*, slender dodderlaurel; *Chiloglottis* sp., bird orchid leaves; *Cladina* sp., reindeer lichen; *Clematis microphylla*, small-leaf clematis; club moss sp.; *Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Corybas* sp., helmet orchid leaves; *Dianella revoluta*, spreading flaxlily; *Dillwynia glaberrima*, smooth parrotpea; *Discinella terrestris*, small orange fungus disks; *Diuris orientis*, eastern wallflower orchid; *Drosera peltata* sp., sundew; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Euryomyrtus parviflora*, creeping heathmyrtle; *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, common native-cherry; *Geranium* sp., cranesbill; *Glossodia major*, waxlip orchid; *Gompholobium huegelii*, common wedgepea; *Gonocarpus* sp., raspwort; *Goodenia ovata*, hop native-primrose; *Goodia lotifolia* sp., goldentip; *Hakea teretifolia* subsp *hirsuta*, dagger needlebush; *Hibbertia procumbens*, spreading guinea-flower; *H. riparia*, erect guineaflower; *Indigofera australis*, native indigo; *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman leaves; *Lasiopetalum baueri*, slender velvetbush; *Lepido-sperma concavum*, sand swordsedg; *Leptocarpus tenax*, slender twinerush; *Leptospermum scoparium*, common teatree; *Leucopogon* sp., beardheath; *L. collinus*, whitebeard heath; *L.ericoides*, pink beardheath; *L. virgatus* sp., beardheath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitarplant; *Marchantia* sp., liverwort with gemmae cups; *Melaleuca ericifolia*, coast paperbark; *M. squarrosa*, scented paperbark; *Monotoca elliptica*, tree broomheath; *M. linifolia* subsp *linifolia*, nodding broomheath; *Patersonia fragilis*, short purpleflag; *Pelargonium australe*, southern storksbill leaves; *Persoonia juniperina* sp., geebung; *?Peziza tenacella*, fungi cups found on burnt ground; *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf riceflower; *?Pisolithus arhizus*, dung fungus; *Platylobium triangulare*, arrow flatpea; *Pomaderris apetala* subsp *apetala*, common dogwood; *P. apetala*, coast dogwood; *P. elliptica* sp., yellow dogwood; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken; *Pterostylis nutans*, nodding greenhood; *Pultenaea daphnoides*, heartleaf Bushpea; *Pyrorchis*

nigricans, fire orchid; *Selaginella uliginosa*, swamp selaginella; *Solanum laciniatum*, kangaroo apple; *Stackhousia monogyna*, forest candles; *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrowleaf triggerplant; *Tetragonia implexicoma*, bower spinach; *Thelymitra flexuosa*, twisted sun-orchid; *Thysanotus patersonii*, twining fringelily; *Viola hederacea* subsp *hederacea*, ivyleaf violet; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grasstree

Birds:- *Acanthiza pusilla*, brown thornbill; *Artamus cyanopterus*, dusky woodswallow; *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, white-bellied sea-eagle; *Larus pacificus*, pacific gulls; *Rhipidura albiscapa*, grey fantail; *Strepera versicolour*, grey currawong; *Zosterops lateralis*, silvereyes.

Frogs:- *Crinia signifera*, common froglet; *Limnodynastes dumerilii insularis*, pobble-bonk

Reptiles:- *Notechis ater*, tiger snake; *Tympanocryptis diemensis*, mountain dragon.

Mammals:- *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, echidna

Butterflies:- *Vanessa itea*, Australian admiral; *Vanessa kershawi*, Australian painted ladies.

FEDERATION WEEKEND - Port Sorell - 11 to 13 October 2013

Representatives for the Central North, North Eastern, Tasmanian and Launceston Field naturalists groups converged on Camp Banksia at Port Sorell on the Friday afternoon for a weekend get-together hosted by the Central North Field Naturalists.

After sorting out sleeping arrangements and having a BBQ tea, we met in the meeting room to hear Phil Collier give an overview of his and Robin's conservation property, Rubicon Sanctuary, that we were visiting the next day along with other program details. We then participated in a quiz where we were randomly put into groups and had to identify images of orchids and plants provided by Phil, fungi and miscellaneous images provided by Sarah Lloyd, and then identify calls of birds and frogs provided by Ron Nagorcka. This proved to be highly entertaining, there was no overall group winner, but prizes of CD's were provided to members who gave highly imaginative answers or who were able to identify an image that was a little obscure or individual bird calls where there were several calls recorded together.

With the request to be at the Collier property at 9am, we were up early to shower and breakfast, before carpooling and heading out. Shoes cleaned and sprayed against phytophthora, we looked around a garden where plants were individually named whilst waiting for a few late comers, before being split into two groups. The groups going in different directions, meeting for morning tea, then heading off to visit the other part of the property. Phil and Robin talked about the areas they showed us pointing out rare and endangered species of plants and orchids, problems with weed infestations, how they manage the property in regard to burning and about funding they received to experiment with weed removal. Over five years they will monitor 20 areas to discover which of the following works best; hand weeding, using glyphosate, torch burning or

doing nothing. They have found 50 species of orchid on their property, of which 20 are varieties of *Thelymitra*. They have distinguished the different orchids with different coloured flags and numbered each one. They monitor the orchids, starting in August when they check for leaves, they then measure the orchid after it has flowered and then a month later check for successful fruiting. It was a wonderful place to visit with so many flowering plants.

We returned to our accommodation for lunch, after which we carpoled to the Hawley Reserve where we participated in a count for *Spyridium obcordatum*, creeping dustymiller, a plant listed as vulnerable in Tasmania. The plant was identified in the 1990's as vulnerable by a PHD student who studied them. They are found on two rock plate areas in the reserve which are frequently grazed. The *Spyridium obcordatum* that lives among the *Lepidosperma viscidum*, a tussock grass, appear to be safe from grazing animals. Experiments with plant guards where plants are doing well have proven that grazing on the rock plates is a problem. Counts of live and dead plants, and seedlings were undertaken on both rock plates. A total of 126 live plants, 16 dead plants and 336 seedlings were counted. Funding will be sought to fence both areas against grazing to assist their growth and continuing existence.

Back at the accommodation we went for walks, chatted or had a snooze prior to our Indian meal which was delicious, cooked by two members of the Central North group. We enjoyed a selection of finger foods, curried meats and vegetables, and accompaniments, deserts and chai.

The evenings presentation was by Phil Collier who gave a very interesting talk on threatened plant species in the Port Sorell area.

On Sunday morning we were up packed and ready to go at 8.30am and headed to Narawntupu National Park. Phil and Robin discussed the options for our walks, but we were all of one mind and carpoled to returned to the edge of the park to walk up a hill to look for *Thelymitra antennifera*, rabbit ears, an endangered pale yellow sun orchid. We walked along a sandy track which gradually wound around the hill prior to becoming steeper before flattening out. We had a great view all around, seeing a wedge-tailed eagle soaring in the updraft. Kevin and Abbey had got to the area first and located many unopened flowers of the rabbit ears orchid.

Following a drink and a bite to eat, we then carefully looked around the area hoping to find an open flower which could be photographed, once found a queue formed and photographers waited patiently to take a shot which was made difficult with the wind.

We then returned to our cars and back to the visitor's centre carpark for lunch. It was then the skies opened up and everyone had to make a quick dash to a shelter shed with their lunch during heavy rain which cleared after a short while. As the eating finished, participants bid their farewells and headed home. Karen Manning

Rubicon Sanctuary

Plants:- *Acacia dealbata*, silver wattle; *A. melanoxylon*, blackwood; *A. terminalis*, sunshine wattle; *Allocasuarina monilifera*, necklace sheoak; *Aotus ericoides*, golden pea; *Asplenium flabellifolium*, necklace fern; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bossiaea cinerea*, showy bossia; *B. prostrata*, creeping bossia; *Caladenia alata*, fairy fingers; *C. angustata*, pink fairies; *C. carnea*, pink fingers; *Cassinia rugata*, wrinkled cassinia; *Diplarrena moraea*, white flag-iris; *Diuris chryseopsis*, common golden moth

orchid; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *D. pygmaea*, dwarf sundew; *Epacris impressa*, common heath, white and pink; *E. lanuginosa*, swamp heath; *Gleichenia dicarpa*, pouched coralfern; *Glossodia major*, waxlip orchid; *Goodenia lanata*, trailing native-primrose; *Hibbertia procumbens*, spreading guinea-flower; *Juncus pallidus*, pale rush; *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman; *Lepidosperma concavum*, sand swordsedg; *Leptomeria drupacea*, erect currantbush; *Leptospermum* sp., teatree; *L. lanigerum*, woolly teatree; *Leucopogon virgatus* var. *virgatus*, twiggy beardheath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Melaleuca squarrosa*, scented paperbark; *Patersonia fragilis*, short purpleflag; *Persoonia juniperina* sp., geebung; *Pimelea linifolia*, slender riceflower; *Pterostylis nutans*, nodding greenhood; *Tetratheca pilosa*, hairy pinkbells; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grasstree; *Xyris tasmanica*, tasmanian yelloweye

Fungi:- *Lichenomphalia chromacea*, yellow lichen fungus; *Marasmius elegans*, orange fungi with thin stalk

Frogs:- *Crinia signifera*, common froglet; *Geocrinia laevis*, smooth froglet; *Limnodynastes dumerilli variegatus*, banjo frog

Birds:- *Corvus tasmanicus*, forest raven; *Malurus cyaneus*, superb fairy-wren; *Pardalotus striatus*, striated pardalote; *Platyercus caledonicus*, green rosella

Misc.:- *Engaeus granulatus*, burrowing crayfish mounds; *Geoplanaria sugdoni*, canary worm; *Tiliqua nigrolutea*, blotched bluetongue; *Vanessa itea*, Australian admiral butterfly

Hawley Reserve

Plants:- *Baumea tenax*, bumblebee nut sedge; *Billardiera mutabilis*, green appleberry; *Comesperma volubile*, blue love creeper; *Corunastylis archeri*, elfin midge orchid; *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, small gnat orchid; *Dodonaea filiformis*, fineleaf hopbush; *D. viscosa subsp spatulata*, broadleaf hopbush; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *D. pygmaea*, dwarf sundew; *Epacris impressa*, common heath white; *Gonocarpus teucrioides*, forest raspwort; *Hibbertia procumbens*, spreading guineaflower; *Hypoxis vaginata*, sheathing yellowstar; *Lepidosperma viscidum*, sticky swordsedg; *Leucopogon virgatus* var *virgatus*, twiggy beardheath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Monotoca glauca*, goldey wood; *Phylloglossum drummondii*, pygmy clubmoss; *Pimelea linifolia* subsp *linifolia*, slender riceflower; *Platylobium formosum*, handsome flatpea; *Pomaderris intermedia*, lemon dogwood; Spagnum moss sp.; *Sprengelia incarnata*, pink swampheath; *Stackhousia* sp., candles; *Thysanotus patersonii*, twining fringelily; *Wurmbea uniflora*, oneflower early nancy; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grasstree

Fungi:- *Coltricia cinnamonea*, fungus; ?*Gymnopilus allantopus*, fungus;

Misc.:- *Acanthiza pusilla*, brown thornbill; *Choerocoris paganus*, jewel bug; Millipedes; *Lymnodastes tasmaniensis*, spotted marsh frog;

Narawntapu

Plants:- *Acacia mucronata* sp., caterpillar wattle; *A. stricta*, hop wattle; *A. verticillata* subsp *ovoidea*, prostrate prickly moses; *Allocasuarina verticillata*, drooping sheoak; *Aotus ericoides*, golden pea; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Calochilus* sp., bearded orchid; *Cladina confusa*, kangaroo lichen; *Clematis microphylla*, small-leaf clematis; *Dillwynia sericea*, showy parrotpea; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *Epracris impressa*, common heath; *Eucalyptus viminalis*, white gum; *Glossodia major*, waxlip orchid; *Hibbertia procumbens*, spreading guinea flower; *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman; *Lepto-spermum lanigerum*, woolly tea-tree; *Leucopogon virgatus* sp., beardheath; *Melaleuca ericifolia*, coast paperbark; *Monotoca elliptica*, tree broomheath; *Persoonia juniperina*, prickly geebung; *Pterostylis nana*, dwarf greenhood; *Thelymitra antennifera*, rabbit-ears; *T. rubra*, pink sun-orchid; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grasstree .

Birds:- *Aquila audax*, wedge-tailed eagle

SKEMPS DAY - Sunday 27 October - Water Monitoring

A small group of members visited Skemps today for the bi-annual macroinvertebrate monitoring. As it was a fine day we were able to sit outside in the sun to check the water sample collected in a riffle in the bush area below Bob's Bog but before the Top Falls. Under John Elliott's guidance we sorted the bugs with the following being identified

Ostracoda	Seed shrimps
Diptera	True flies – Blackflies and chironomids
Ephemeroptera	Mayflies
Hemiptera	True bugs - Veliidae
Plecoptera	Stoneflies
Trichoptera	Caddis flies
Coleoptera	Beetles – Water Penny and other species

John reported that overall the Taxa of 7 and Signal 2 Score of 5.4 was consistent with most of the other results from this site, which cluster around the boundary between excellent water quality and good water quality. John also conducted the monthly conductivity and salinity testing below Bob's Bog and the Bottom Falls. The results for both sites had stayed within acceptable limits.

After lunch we spent time discussing the plants seen at Narawntapu, while enjoying each others company and a coffee and cakes that members had brought along. The day finished late with people heading home following a bit of housekeeping.

Karen Manning

GENERAL MEETING 5 November

Guest speaker - Simon Fearn

Tom Treloggen introduced fellow member Simon who was to speak on the biodiversity in his own backyard.

Simon started by telling us that he moved to his present house in Riverside in 2004. The house is on land sloping to the north and the gardens can get quite hot. He decided to

change the garden to one which would attract native insects and wanted native plants which he did not know much about, although he knew what he liked and he knew what bugs like.

He was looking for summer flowering plants with lots of nectar and by going to plant nurseries and reading the labels he soon found that there are few Tasmanian natives which flower in summer. Although he has Australian plants many are not Tasmanian.

The original gardens were not very impressive with black plastic on the ground, which kills off everything, covered with white gravel which he kept as there was too much to dispose of. The new gardens have rocks and logs to attract reptiles with shrubs and ground covers such as *Leptospermum*, dwarf *Banksia ericifolia* and *Kunzea* to attract the insects. Although the garden is not specifically set up to attract honeyeaters the native bird life has increased as well and despite claiming that he was not looking to make the gardens attractive the pictures suggested otherwise.

According to Simon the other essential of a good native garden is a thick layer of native mulch and his came from Ian Norton. Ian rakes up the leaf litter around his house each year to create a fire break and usually burns it. Not only does Simon's 30 plus centimetres of mulch harbour a huge biodiversity of insects it also stops the introduced weeds and he uses Zero when the twitch occasionally comes through.

The nature strip and garden edges have been planted with small trees such as the *Melaleuca* known as 'snow-in-summer' and a Western Australian weeping gum with the large flowers which are highly attractive to insects and birds. As well Simon has the compact multi-stemmed form of the blue gum, *Eucalyptus globulus*, to attract foliage eating insects. *Baeckea virgata* is another favoured plant as it is covered in flowers for the three hottest months, January through into March, and amongst the numerous insects attracted to it was a rare jewel beetle not seen before in the north.

Having explained the garden and shown a few pictures of various parts of the garden, Simon's slides moved onto the insects he had found. A stick insect, beetle and native flies amongst the foliage featured in the slides. He also stated that a cricket that was traditionally a leaf green that he found living on red *Leptospermum scoparium* had kept a pink colouring into adulthood.

There were no stick insects when he first moved to the house and it took three years before he saw them. The large female in one slide was around 20cm long and does not fly, while the much smaller male does fly and is on the lookout for females.

Simon showed images of a large 20 mm long Tachinid fly, which we learnt parasitises the grubs of the Christmas beetle and another of the largest Tasmanian fly, a *Rutilia* sp, up to 25 mm long, quite broad and spectacular looking. The next image was what Simon claimed was arguably Tasmania's most beautiful jewel beetle, the *Castiarina insularis*. There had been no reliable records of this beetle from the north of the state, yet since his garden has matured and the trees and shrubs grown, he has seen them in large numbers.

Simon told us that photos do not cut it when identifying insects because of the variety. You need a specimen for proper identification as no expert will give a taxonomic name based on photographs. As no study had previously been done of the insect population in the Launceston area, Simon decided to collect and submit what he found in his backyard to the museum. He put in a season collecting a small number of every

insect species on his block. Eight months later he had two and a half thousand specimens and it took a lot of work because each one had to be pinned, set and curated.

The diversity of species turned out to be far greater than he had expected and a slide showed the collection of 22 species of native bees he had found on his block. These bees range in size from 15 mm to 4 mm and the smaller one is pinned with a micro pin as thin as a hair.

We saw further slides of Simon's collection, including sets of various animals as well as individuals which were photographed by David Maynard. Simon stated you need the right plants before you will see many of these natives and he has a *Leptospermum petersonii*, which is marketed as lemon-scented tea-tree, to attract native bees because according to him it is the only one he has found which flowers in the hottest months of summer.

As the garden matures he is getting more and more moth and beetle larvae and with these he is also getting more parasitic wasps and has so far recorded 37 species. As he went through the slides he gave details of some of the animals, including the importance of finding animals mating as there is often a large difference between the males and females of some species. Catching them in the act definitely identifies them as the same species and to the amusement of members he stated that they stayed together even in the freezer.

We heard of the mating habits of the flower wasps. With many in this species the smaller, non-flying female parasitises grubs on the ground but still needs a good feed of nectar. To get to the nectar she puts out a powerful pheromone and the larger flying male carries her to the flower and mates with her as well.

Simon had watched a wasp catch a fly and then captured the wasp. His slide had both the wasp and the fly which it had caught showing which fly is the preferred prey. We learnt that among the two and half thousand insects in total which he had collected in eight months last season he had at least 650 species with another 100 species added this month. The collection included 15 carob beetles and an estimated 70 moth species.

After a question from a member about the best way to kill an insect, Simon told us that he placed the insects in the freezer.

Simon finished his talk by saying that by making these simple changes to your backyard you get a lot more creatures in your environment. He was regularly seeing brown bandicoots, wallabies, heaps of birds, echidnas and blue tongued lizards in his yard. There followed an enthusiastic question time which started with me asking if he had jack jumpers and how his family coped with this. He said that his children had grown up with venomous creatures and that he shows the children where the jack jumpers are and tells them to be careful. We also learnt that on one occasion he had accidentally introduced a number of baby tiger snakes when he brought in a new log for the garden.

Peter Warren thanked Simon for his talk and asked the members to show their appreciation.

Noel Manning

FIELD TRIP - Friday 8 to Sunday 10 November - East Coast Weekend

In miserable weather we departed Launceston on Friday morning to travel to the

Binalong Bay area for a weekend field trip with eighteen members staying at the seaside homes of either Roy and Louise or Marion.

In St Helens, Tom Trelloggen, Noel and Karen Manning and John Elliott attended a memorial service for Ruth Upson a past member, who had bequeathed her personal library of books to the Club.

We arrived at our accommodation and made ourselves comfortable. For our evening meal we shared a beef stew and chicken curry and a big pot of rice, followed by cakes for desert before everyone headed to bed at a reasonable hour so as to be ready for our first walk on Saturday morning.

We met with the group staying at the Skabo's home and carpoled to Binalong Bay to the start of the Grant's Lagoon walk. The rain started as soon as we arrived, but we headed off and spent 2 to 3 hours looking at the huge amount of wildflowers on display. The beach was calm and there were many walkers. Returning to the Skabo's, our drivers returned in one car and collected the other cars before we all returned to our respective accommodation for a quick lunch before meeting up again for the afternoon activities.

Heading to The Gardens we drove into the hills along the Fire Track finally stopping at a creek crossing. Here we climbed up a hillside to a large boulder outcrop, where we found large numbers of *Calochilus paludosus*, strap beard orchids and on the rocks *Dockrillia striolata* subsp *chrysantha*, yellow rock-orchid.

Moving on we stopped at a wetland to hopefully find an endangered species of guineaflower that Roy had located a few years earlier. At this stop, Ann saw a *Caleana major*, flying duck-orchid as she stepped out of her vehicle so many queued to take a photograph before looking at the wildflowers. Members who braved the button grass in the wetland were disappointed when we were unable to locate the guineaflower, so when the rain broke we returned to our cars.

Roy promised that we would find it on our return journey. Heading back to St Helens along the Ansons Bay Road we stopped at another wetland near Priory where we did see the *Hibbertia rufa*. Looking for this flower at our previous stop would have been like looking for a needle in a haystack, as the flower we had been searching for was a tiny 5 or 6 mm.

The planned BBQ at the Skabo's did not go ahead. As we had planned for salads to be provided by members staying at Marion's and sweets to be provided by members at the Skabo's we arranged to divide up salads and desserts and ate separately.

The following morning we were up early, packed and cleaned up for our return to Launceston after the days planned activities. Our first stop was at Humbug Point where Roy introduced us to Ted, Jo and Des from Bird Observers of North East (BONE), who would take us out on the beach to look at the birds there and on the islands in the bay. The sun was shining and we spent over an hour on the beach watching the many birds in small and large groups. We were told that a white-bellied sea eagle was nesting in the trees on the hillside and not long before we headed back to the carpark it made itself known and we watched it soaring above for some time gradually get further and further away. Back at the carpark we bid farewell to Ted and Jo, before having a coffee and then listened to birds calling in the bush with Des who identified the birds, as did members. With our last destination for the day also being our lunch stop he thanked and farewelled Des and headed to the Winifred Curtis Reserve.

Since the fire in the Reserve in 2006, members have visited a couple times to follow

up on the recovery of plants devastated by the fire. Today we found the Reserve looking fantastic with lots of colour from wildflowers and tree blooms. There were still a few blackened tree stumps and grass trees as a reminder, but most of these had some sort of regrowth. We had broken into small groups and spent a couple of hours walking the different tracks soaking up the sun and being pestered by mosquitos before heading back to our cars, saying goodbyes and heading home.

Thank you Prue and Roy for arranging the weekend of activities and we appreciate Roy and Louise, and Marion who generously opened their homes to us.

Karen Manning

Grants Lagoon - 9 November

Plants:- *Acacia genistifolia*, spreading wattle; *A. longifolia* subsp *sophorae*, coast wattle; *A. suaveolens*, sweet wattle; *A. terminalis*, sunshine wattle; *Acaena novae-zealandiae*, common buzzy; *Acrotriche serrulata*, ants delight; *Allocasuarina* sp., sheoak; *A. monilifera*, necklace sheoak; *Ammophila arenaria*, marram grass; *Amperea xiphoclada*, broom spurge; *Aotus ericoides*, golden pea; *Apium* sp., sea-celery; *Astroloma humifusum*, native cranberry; *A. pinifolium*, pine heath; *Atriplex* sp., coastal saltbush; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Boronia pilosa* sp., boronia; *Bossiaea cinerea*, showy bossia; *Brachyloma depressum*, spreading heath; *Brachyscome* sp., daisy; ? *Bulbine glauca*, bluish bulbine-lily; *Burchardia umbellata*, milkmaids; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Caladenia* sp., white; *Calytrix tetragona*, common fringemyrtle; *Carpobrotus rossii*, native pigface; *Cassytha glabella*, slender dodder-laurel; *C. melantha*, large dodderlaurel; *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, clustered everlasting; *Comesperma calymega*, bluespike milkwort; *C. ericinum*, heath milkwort; *Conospermum hookeri*, tasmanian smokebush; *Coronidium scorpioides*, curling everlasting; *Correa alba*, white correa; *C. reflexa*, correa; *Dianella revoluta*, spreading flaxlily; *D. tasmanica*, forest flaxlily; *Dichondra repens*, kidneyweed; *Dillwynia sericea*, showy parrotpea; *D. glaberrima*; smooth parrotpea; *Dipodium roseum*, rosy hyacinth-orchid; *Diuris sulphurea*, tiger orchid; *Dodonaea* sp., hopbush; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, black peppermint; *Euryomytus parviflora*, creeping heathmyrtle; *Exocarpos syrticola*, coast native-cherry; *Gompholobium huegelii*, common wedgepea; *Gonocarpus teucroides*, forest raspwort; *Goodenia lanata*, trailing native-primrose; *Hakea teretifolia* subsp *hirsuta*, dagger needlebush; *Hibbertia acicularis*, prickly guinea-flower; *H. procumbens*, spreading guineaflower; *Hypericum* sp., yellow st johns-wort; *Kunzea ambigua*, white kunzea; *Lagenophora* sp., bottledaisy; *Lepidosperma concavum*, sand swordsedg; *Leptocarpus tenax*, slender twinerush; *Leptospermum scoparium*, common teatree; *Leucopogon ericoides*, beardheath; *L. parviflorus*, coast beardheath; *L. virgatus* sp., beardheath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Melaleuca ericifolia*, coast paperbark; *M. gibbosa*, slender honeymyrtle; *Microtis* sp., onion-orchid; ? *Mitrasacme pilosa* sp., hairy miterwort; *Monotoca elliptica*, tree broomheath; *Muehlenbeckia adpressa*, climbing lignum; *Olearia lirata*, forest daisybush; pimelea; *Oxalis* sp., woodsorrel; *Patersonia fragilis*, short purpleflag; *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf riceflower; *P. linifolia*, slender riceflower; *Poa* sp., tussockgrass; *Pomaderris* sp., dogwood; *Pyrorchis nigricans*, fire orchid leaves; *Rhagodia candolleana* subsp *candolleana*, coastal saltbush; *Senecio pinnatifolius* var *pinnatifolius*, common coast groundsel; *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrowleaf triggerplant; *Suaeda australis*, southern

seablite; *Tetratheca pilosa* subsp *pilosa*, hairy pinkbells; *Thelionema caespitosum*, tufted lily; *Thelymitra aristata*, great sun-orchid; *Wahlenbergia gracilis*, sprawling bluebell; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grass tree; *Xanthosia pilosa*, woolly cross herb.

Misc:- *Cladina confusa*, reindeer lichen; *Pycnoporus coccineus*, scarlet bracket.

Birds:- *Acanthiza pusilla*, brown thornbill; *Anthochaera chrysoptera*, little wattlebird; *Anthochaera paradoxa*, yellow wattlebird; *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, fan-tailed cuckoo; *C. flabelliformis*, fan-tailed cuckoo; *Chrysococcyx lucidus*, shining bronze-cuckoo; *Colluricincla harmonica*, grey shrike-thrush; *Cracticus nigrogularis*, pied butcherbird; *Cuculus pallidus*, pallid cuckoo; *Cygnus atratus*, black swan; *Eudiptula minor*, little penguin; *Hirundo neoxena*, welcome swallow; *Larus novaehollandiae*, silver gulls; *L. pacificus*, pacific gulls; *Malurus cyaneus*, superb fairy-wren; *Pachycephala pectoralis*, golden whistler; *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*, new holland honeyeater; *Thinornis rubricollis*, hooded plover nesting; *Zosterops lateralis*, silvereyes.

Insects:- *Orthorhinus cylindrirostris*, elephant weevil; *Dichromodes confluaria*, heath moth; Wasp, family Ichneumonidae.

Boulder area on Fire Road

Plants:- *Acianthus pusillus*, small mosquito-orchid leaves; *Allocasuarina* sp., sheoak; *Aotus ericoides*, golden pea; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Blechnum nudum*, fish-bone waterfern; *Boronia* sp., boronia; *Calochilus paludosus*, strap beard orchid; *Diplarrena moraea*, white flag-iris; *Dockrillia striolata* subsp *chrysantha*, yellow rock-orchid; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *Eucalyptus* sp., gum; *Eucalyptus sieberi*, ironbark; *Euryomytus parviflora*, creeping heathmyrtle; *Gahnia grandis*, cutting grass; *Gonocarpus teucrioides*, forest raspwort; *Hakea* sp., needlebush; *Hibbertia hirticalyx*, bassian guineaflower; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitarplant; *Melaleuca gibbosa*, slender honeymyrtle; *Melaleuca squamea*, swamp honeymyrtle; *Melaleuca squarrosa*, scented paperbark; *Olearia lirata*, forest daisybush; *Patersonia fragilis*, short purpleflag; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken; *Triglochin* sp., small water ribbon; *Triglochin striata*, streaked arrowgrass; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grass tree.

Fungi:- *Calocera* sp., branched orange jelly fungi; *Calostoma* sp., stalked puffball; *Cladina confusa*, reindeer lichen; *Heterotextus pexiziformis*, golden jelly-bells; *Neolentiporus maculitissimus*, ornamented bracket fungus; *Stereum illudens*, purplish stereum.

Birds:- *Dacelo novaeguineae*, laughing kookaburra; *Pachycephala pectoralis*, golden whistler.

Frogs:- *Crinia signifera*, common froglet; *C. tasmaniensis*, Tasmanian froglet.

Misc.:- Leaf beetle, Chrysomelidae family.

Wetland area on Fire Road

Plants:- *Banksia marginata*, silver wattle; *Caladenia fuscata*, dusky fingers; *Caleana major*, flying duck-orchid; *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*, buttongrass; *Hakea teretifolia* subsp *hirsuta*, dagger needlebush; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Patersonia fragilis*, short purpleflag; *Thelymitra ixioides*, spotted sun orchid;

Misc:- *Cladonia* sp., fruticose lichen.

Birds:- *Anthochaera paradoxa*, yellow wattlebird; *Artamus cyanopterus*, dusky wood-swallow; *Coracina novaehollandiae*, black-faced cuckoo-shrike; *Dacelo novaeguineae*, laughing kookaburra

Wetland on Anson's Bay Road

Plants:- *Burchardia umbellata*, milkmaids; *Hakea lissosperma*, mountain needlebush; *Hibbertia rufa*, brown guineaflower; *Kunzea ambigua*, white kunzea; *Patersonia fragilis*, short purpleflag; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grasstree

Misc.:- *Cladina confusa*, reindeer lichen; *Cladonia* sp., fruticose lichen; *Nidula emodensis*, bird's-nest fungi

Marion's property

Plants:- *Allocasuarina littoralis*, black sheoak; *Astroloma pinifolium*, pine heath; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bossiaea cineria*, showy bossia; *Caladenia carnea*, pink fingers; *Coprosma quadrifida*, native currant; *Dillwynia glaberrima*, smooth parrotpea; *Dipodium roseum*, rosy hyacinth-orchid; *Epacris lanuginosa*, swamp heath; *Euryomyrtus ramosissima*, rosy heathmyrtle; *Hibbertia procumbens*, spreading guineaflower; *H. riparia*, erect guineaflower; *Leucopogon collinus*, white beardheath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*, wedding bush; *Thelymitra* sp., sun-orchid; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grasstree

Birds:- *Colluricincla harmonica*, grey shrike-thrush ; *Coracina novaehollandiae*, black-faced cuckoo-shrike; *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*, new holland honeyeater; *Rhipidura albiscapa*, grey fantail; *Sericornis humilis*, Tasmanian scrubwren

Horseshoe Bay at Humbug Point

Birds on beach:- *Ardea novaehollandiae*, white-faced heron; *Cygnus atratus*, black swan; *Haematopus longirostris*, pied oystercatcher; *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, white-bellied sea eagle; *Hirundo neoxena*, welcome swallow; *Larus dominicanus*, kelp gull; *L. novaehollandiae*, silver gull; *Larus pacificus*, pacific gull; *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, Australian pelican; *Phalacrocorax carbo*, great cormorant; *P. fuscescens*, black-faced cormorant; *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*, little black cormorant; *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*, hoary-headed grebe; *Sericornis humilis*, Tasmanian scrub-wren; *Sterna bergii*, crested terns.

Birds in carpark:- *Anthochaera chrysoptera*, little wattlebird; *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, fan-tailed cuckoo; *Malurus cyaneus*, superb fairy-wren; *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*,

crescent honeyeater; *Rhipidura albiscapa*, grey fantail; *Strepera versicolour*, grey currawong; *Zosterops lateralis*, silvereyes.

Misc: - *Aplysia* sp., sea hares; *Mictyris longicarpus*, soldier crab.

Winifred Curtis Reserve

Plants:- *Acacia dealbata*, silver wattle; *A. genistifolia*, spreading wattle; *A. longifolia* subsp *sophorae*, coast wattle; *A. suaveolens*, sweet wattle; *A. terminalis*, sunshine wattle; *A. verticillata* subsp *verticillata*, prickly moses; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, black sheoak; *Astroloma humifusum*, native cranberry; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Burchardia umbellata*, milkmaids; *Bossiaea cinerea*, showy bossia; *Caladenia* sp., fingers; *Calochilus paludosus*, strap beard orchid; *Calytrix tetragona*, common fringemyrtle; *Carpobrotus rossii*, native pigface; *Cassinia aculeata*, dollybush; *Cassytha glabella*, slender dodderlaurel; *C. melantha*, large dodderlaurel; *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, clustered everlasting daisy (yellow & white); *Chiloglottis* sp., bird-orchid leaves; *Comesperma ericinum*, heath milkwort; *C. volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Correa reflexa* var *reflexa*, common correa; ? *Cotula* sp., yellow buttons; *Dampiera stricta*, blue dampiera; *Dianella revoluta*, spreading flaxlily; *Dillwynia glaberrima*, smooth parrotpea; *Diuris sulphurea*, tiger orchid; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, black peppermint; *E. ovata*, black gum; *Euryomyrtus ramosissima*, rosy heathmyrtle; *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, common native-cherry; *Gompholobium huegelii*, common wedgepea (cream and yellow varieties); *Hibbertia acicularis*, prickly guineaflower; *H. procumbens*, spreading guineaflower; *H. riparia*, erect guineaflower; *H. sericea*, silky guineaflower; *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman; *Kunzea ambigua*, white kunzea; *Lepidosperma concavum*, sand swordsedg; *Leptocarpus tenax*, slender twinerush; *Leptospermum scoparium*, common teatree; *Leucopogon* sp., beardheath; *Lindsaea linearis*, screw fern; *Liparophyllum exaltatum*, erect marshflower; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Melaleuca gibbosa*, slender honeymyrtle; *Melaleuca squarrosa*, scented paperbark; *Olearia ramulosa*, twiggy daisybush; *Persoonia juniperina* sp., geebung; *Philotheca verrucosa*, fairy waxflower; *Pimelea linifolia* sp., riceflower; *Senecio* sp., fireweed; *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrowleaf triggerplant; *Tetralochea labillardierei*, glandular pinkbells; *Thelionema caespitosum*, cluster lily; *Thelymitra* sp., sun-orchid; *Wahlenbergia* sp., bluebell; *Xanthorrhoea australis*, southern grass tree.

Birds:- *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*, eastern spinebill; *Anthochaera paradoxa*, yellow wattlebird; *Artamus cyanopterus*, dusky woodswallow; *Colluricincla harmonica*, grey shrike-thrush; *Cuculus pallidus*, pallid cuckoo; *Cygnus atratus*, pair of black swan with five cygnets; *Lichenostomus flavicollis*, yellow throated honeyeater; *Pardalotus striatus*, striated pardalote.

Frogs:- *Crinia tasmaniensis*, Tasmanian froglet; *Tiliqua nigrolutea*, blotched bluetongue lizard.

Misc.- Blue butterfly, family Lycaenidae; Leaf Beetle, family Chrysomelidae; Cicada.

FIELD TRIP - Monday 18 November - Cart Gully

A group of ten LFNC members visited Kingston to make a survey of plant species in Cart Gully, a part of the property we had not previously visited. As usual we were guided by Lyndel Poole, the property manager, who takes a keen interest in the native flora.

The gully contains a creek, flanked on both sides by a broad swampy area in which we found numerous native species thriving in the permanently wet environment. These included *Mazus pumilio*, two *Ranunculus* species, *Hypericum gramineum* and others. Rising from the wet areas on both sides of the gully were drier grassy slopes with dolerite outcrops. These slopes provided a colourful display of grassland species including *Convolvulus angustissimus*, *Bulbine bulbosa* and *Arthropodium strictum*.

We drove another few hundred metres into the gully to a picturesque, lightly wooded grassland where we had lunch and then did some more plant-hunting, adding several species to our list. The lunch stop provided an opportunity for members to identify several species of birds.

Our final stop for the day was another delightful, gently sloping, grassland at the upper end of the gully, where we found an array of daisies including at least two *Brachyscome* species, beautiful specimens of *Hibbertia serpyllifolia* and numerous orchids, *Thelymitra pauciflora*, in flower.

Several plant species, both native and exotic, were collected and have been sent to the Tasmanian Herbarium for identification.

A total of over seventy plants species were identified from Cart Gully.

Roy Skabo

Plants:- *Acacia mearnsii*, black wattle; *A. melanoxylon*, blackwood; *Acaena echinata*, sheeps-burr; *A. novae-zelandiae*, buzzy; *Ajuga australis*, bugle flower; *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily; *Astroloma humifusum*, native cranberry; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bossiaea prostrata*, creeping bossia; *B. riparia*, leafless bossia; *Brachyscome* sp., small white daisy; *B. spathulata* sp., blue daisy; *Bulbine bulbosa*, golden bulbine-lily; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Convolvulus angustissimus*, blushing bindweed; ? *Cymbonotus preissianus*, southern bears-ears; *Cyperus gunnii*, flecked flatsedge; *Dianella revoluta*, spreading flaxlily; *Dichondra repens*, kidneyweed; *Diplarrena moraea*, white flag-iris; *Drosera aff peltata*, grassland sundew; *D. gracilis*, red sundew; *Epilobium billardierianum*, willowherb; *Eleocharis acuta*, common spikeseed; *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, black peppermint; *E. delegatensis* subsp *tasmaniensis*, gumtopped stringybark; *E. pauciflora*, cabbage gum; *Euryomyrtus prostrata*, creeping heathmyrtle; *Gahnia* sp., sawsedge; *Geranium potentilloides*, mountain cranesbill; *Gonocarpus* sp., raspwort; *Hibbertia serpyllifolia*, guineaflower; *Hovea heterophylla*, winter purplepea; *Hydrocotyle hirta*, hairy pennywort; *Hypericum gramineum*, small st johns-wort; *H. japonicum*, matted st johns-wort; *Hypoxis vaginata*, sheathing yellow star; *Juncus* sp., rush; *Lagenophora stipitata*, blue bottledaisy; *Leptorhynchus squamatus*, scaly buttons; *Linum marginale*, native flax; *Lissanthe strigosa*, peachberry heath; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitar plant; *Lythrum hyssopifolia*, loosestrife; *Mazus pumilio*, swamp mazus; *Melicytus dentatus*, spiky violetbush; *Microseris lanceolata*, yam daisy; *Microtis unifolia*, common onion-

orchid; *Montia australasica*, white purslane; *Ophioglossum lusitanicum* subsp *coriaceum*, adders-tongue; *Pimelea curviflora*, curved riceflower; *P. humilis*, dwarf riceflower; *Poa* spp., tussock grass; *Poranthea microphylla*, small poranthera; *Ranunculus glabrifolius.*, buttercup; *R. lappaceus*, woodland buttercup; *Scleranthus biflorus*, cushion plant; *Sebaea ovata*, yellow sebaea; *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrowleaf triggerplant; *Tetratheca* sp., hairy warty leaves; *Thelymitra pauciflora.*, sun orchid; *Thysanotus patersonii*, twining fringelily; *Veronica gracilis*, slender speedwell; *Viola hederacea*, ivyleaf violet; *Wurmbea uniflora*, oneflower early nancy.

Ferns and mosses: - *Blechnum nudum*, fishbone water fern; *Blechnum wattsii*, hard water fern; *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolius.*, rockfern; *Dicksonia antarctica*, soft treefern; *Polystichum proliferum*, mother shield fern; Sphagnum moss.

Introduced species:- *Moenchia erecta*, erect chickweed; *Myosotis discolor*, yellow and blue forgetmenot; *Mosotis laxa*, water forgetmenot; *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, water cress; *Rumex* sp., dock; *Veronica arvensis*, wall speedwell ; *Vicia sativa*, vetch.

Birds:- *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, Richard's pipit; *Aquila audax*, wedge-tailed eagle; *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, fan-tailed cuckoo; *Colluricincla harmonica*, grey shrike-thrush; *Corvus tasmanicus*, forest raven; *Lichenostomus flavicollis*, yellow throated honeyeater; ? *Pardalotus punctatus*, spotted pardalote; *P. striatus*, striated pardalote; *Rhipidura albiscapa*, grey fantail.

Miscellaneous: - Beetle, Scarabaedae family; *Camponotus* sp., sugar ant; *Crinia signifera*, common froglet; Eel; *Macropus rufogriseus*, Bennett's wallaby; *Typostola barbata*, green huntsman.

SKEMPS DAY - Saturday 23 November - John Simmons Memorial Service and Tree Planting

Forty three people arrived at Skemps on a beautiful spring day to commemorate the life of our late member John Simmons. The group was dominated by John's family with Marion, their son Grant, his wife Libby, their daughter Helen and her husband Wayne, Grants son Matthew, his wife Phillipa and their children, John and Marion's great grandchildren, Olivia and Thomas.

John Elliott worked on the damaged barn and the new wood shed while Christine, Karen, Prue, Roy and Tony went for a walk along the Watergate Track noting that there were many foxglove plants. Afterwards they walked down the far side of the creek discovering some small wildflowers along the way.

The barbecue was lit and the cooking started while Karen and I went to the paddock below the Federation Corridor to set up the plaque in memory of John and prepare holes for the Blackwood trees. While I finished the holes for the trees in bright sunshine I could see dark clouds to the north and south and hearing thunder I knew that the fine weather would not last.

During lunch the storm moved in with very heavy rain and some hail. As the rain did not ease up we decided to have the ceremony at the Field Centre and Tom read a tribute

to John. We hoped the weather would clear enough later to plant the trees and unveil the plaque. With the rain continuing we decided to have afternoon tea first, reasoning that if we got wet during the tree planting we would be uncomfortable when we returned to the Centre afterwards.

Around three o'clock the rain eased up and most people walked to the chosen site for the unveiling of the plaque and planting of the trees. Assisted by members, John's son Grant and daughter Helen planted the trees in the soggy ground. It was too miserable for any further ceremony so with the trees in the ground we walked back to the Centre and the rain soon became heavy again. During another easing of the rain I put wire guards on the trees.

We cleaned up and said our goodbyes before heading home.

Noel Manning



Plants:- *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, common buzzy; *Aphanes arvensis*, parsley piert; *Asperula conferta*, common woodruff; *Caladenia* sp., pink finger-orchid; *Callitriche stagnalis*, mud waterstarwort; *Chiloglottis ? triceratops*, bird orchid; *Epacris gunnii*, coral heath; *Geranium brevicaule*, alpine cranesbill; *G. retrorsum*, grassland cranesbill;

Histiopteris incisa, batwing fern; *Lobelia pedunculata*, matted pratia; *Muehlenbeckia gunnii*, forest lignum; *Oxalis exilis*, feeble woodsorrel; *Pultenaea juniperina*, prickly beauty; *Scleranthus biflorus*, twinflower knawel; *Tasmannia lanceolata*, mountain pepper; *Veronica* sp., speedwell

Lichens & Liverworts:- *Cladina confusa*, kangaroo lichen; *Marchantia* sp., liverwort; *Usnea* sp., old man's beard

Fungi:- *Heterotextus miltinus*, golden jelly bells; *Lycoperdon scabrum*, puff balls; *Mycena viscidocruenta*, ruby bonnet; *Stereum illudens*, purplish sterium

Birds:- *Acanthiza pusilla*, brown thornbill; *Calyptorhynchus funereus*, yellow-tailed black cockatoo; *Colluricincla harmonica*, grey shrike-thrush; *Corvus tasmanicus*, forest raven; *Cuculus pallidus*, pallid cuckoo; *Hirundo neoxena*, welcome swallow; *Lichenostomus flavicollis*, yellow throated honeyeater; *Malurus cyaneus*, superb fairy-wren; *Pachycephala pectoralis*, golden whistler; *Pardalotus punctatus*, spotted pardalote; *Petroica multicolour*, scarlet robin; *Rhipidura albiscapa*, grey fantail; *Strepera versicolour*, grey currawong; *Vanellus miles*, masked lapwing

Misc:- *Lycosa* sp., wolf spider; *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, echidna; *Thylogale billardierii*, Tasmanian pademelon; Badge spider, family Sparassidae; Dung beetle, family Onthophagus

OVERNIGHT AT BEN LOMOND - Wednesday 8/Thursday 9 January 2014

Members are invited to attend an overnight field trip to Ben Lomond in January, where we will be staying at the Borrowdale Ski Chalet. This is a very interesting place to visit with many walks varying in length and difficulty, great photographic opportunities of the unusual terrain and the wildflowers should be looking good at this time of year. If an overnight stay is not for you, come for the day and explore this wonderful area.

Please contact Peter Warren on 63392671 or by email pjwarrenjp@hotmail.com if you would like to reserve a bed. You will need to bring sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillows and food and drink for your stay. A day visit will cost each person \$4 and an overnight stay will cost \$16 per person. The temperature can change quite quickly, so be prepared for all types of weather. Don't forget your camera.

QVMAG EXHIBITIONS

A Passion for Nature: The art of William Charles Pigenit

A Passion for Nature appraises the work of W C Pigenit (1836–1914) Australia's first native-born professional landscape painter. The exhibition comprises a wide selection of paintings, drawings, watercolours, prints and a sketchbook from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery which houses the most comprehensive body of the artist's work.

When: Until 19 January 2014
Where: Gallery 10, QVMAG, Royal Park
Admission: Free

Nature's Chemical Diversity

The natural world is a tapestry of known, new and yet to be discovered chemicals. Chemists find new compounds with useful properties in microbes, land and sea plants, sea animals and minerals from the ground. This may lead to new medicines, materials, energy sources and other applications.

The value on biological diversity, which supports all living systems including us, has gone up. Biodiversity brings chemical diversity and opportunities for health and wealth. Whether animal, vegetable or mineral it's all a matter of chemistry.

A travelling exhibition brought to you by The Royal Australian Chemical Institute and sponsored by the Inspiring Australia program of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education – Questacon.

When: 6 to 22 December 2013
Where: QVMAG, Inveresk
Admission: Free
Presented By The Royal Australian Chemical Institute

Source: <http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/qvmag/index.php>

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 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