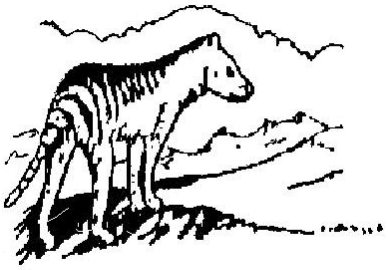

# THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

**Volume LII No. 1 October/November 2018**

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Patron** | **:** | **Prof. Nigel Forteath** |
| **President** | **:** | **Mr Tom Treloggen, 0408 341 397** |
| **Hon. Secretary** | **:** | **Mr Phillip Brumby, 0407 664 554** |
| **Hon. Treasurer** | **:** | **Mrs Karen Manning, 0363 442 277** |

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

Program:

December – Sunday 2

Christmas breakup at Skemps

December – Tuesday 4

General Meeting, the *Year That Was* and Club Photographic Competition

December – Sunday 9

Field Trip to Lake Mackenzie

January - Friday 18 to Sunday 20

Field Trip to Ben Lomond (see further details page 10)

February – Tuesday 5

General Meeting

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

## Field Trip – Saturday 20 October - Three Reserves Crawl

Nine members met at Carr Villa for the start of our field trip today to look for wildflowers and orchids. The day was overcast and the weather prediction was not good. Entering the reserve it was pleasing to see that the ivy that had previously been seen growing up all the trees in the entrance had been removed and the area was looking very tidy. Member Peter, who regularly walks in the reserve, pointed out all the areas where he had been observing the plants for our impending visit.

As we walked around the tracks of the first half of the reserve, the rain started lightly at first and by half way around it had become quite heavy. We noted that many of the orchids and flowers had already bloomed, but there were also many others that were yet to open and a further visit could be made by those interested. An unusual sighting in this reserve for us was a bee swarm on a tree branch which had been deliberately propped up to ensure passers-by did not interfere with it.

Moving on to Punchbowl Reserve we had a late morning tea/early lunch in the undercover barbecue area, before Tony and Christine joined us for the stroll around the area above the top carpark. As the rain had stopped we enjoyed time off the main track and found many tiger orchids, chocolate lilies, forest candles and guineaflowers, a lovely display of colours.

Departing Punchbowl we travelled to Cheltenham Reserve where again the weather was looking quite bleak. Roy and Louise guided us around some of the internal tracks of the reserve and we found a few orchid species in flower, with some very large patches of orchid leaves yet to bear flowers. Peter said he would visit again later in the week to check on the progress of the flowers. The flowers on the clematis, blue lovecreeper, forest candles and daisybush that we saw were delightful. The track where we walked on the outer edge of the reserve, bordered along the houses and it was disappointing to see household and garden rubbish piled high in many places. The prospect of ordinary garden plants establishing themselves in the reserve was of concern and discussed.

Back in our cars, six members batted on to the coffee shop at the Casino's Watergarden for a hot drink, something sweet and a chat prior to heading home. Sitting out on the balcony the sun had come out, although there was a cool breeze. An enjoyable day even with the rain and our plants need it.

Karen Manning

**Cynoglossum suaveolens seen at Punchbowl** (P Wright)

**Observations at Reserves**

**Carr Villa Memorial Reserve**

**Monocots** - *Acianthus caudatus*, mayfly orchid; *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily; *Austrostipa* sp., speargrass; *Burchardia umbellata*, milkmaids; *Caesia parviflora*, pale grass lily; *Caladenia carnea*, pink fingers; *Chiloglottis triceratops*, bird orchid; *Dianella revoluta*, black-anther flax-lily; *Glossodia major*, waxlip orchid; *Wurmbea dioica*, early nancy

**Ferns and Allies** - *Lindsaea linearis*, screw fern; *Pteridium esculentum*, austral bracken

**Dicots** - *Acacia genistifolia*, spreading wattle; *Allocasuarina* sp., sheoak; *Astroloma humifusum*, native cranberry; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Billardiera mutabilis*, apple dumpling; *Brunonia australis*, blue pincushion (leaves); *Cassytha melantha*, native dodder; *Clematis aristata*, climbing clematis; *Comesperma volubile*, blue love creeper; *Coronidium scorpioides*, curling everlasting; *Daviesia latifolia*, native hop; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; Exocarpos cupressiformis, native cherry; *Goodenia lanata*, trailing native-primrose; *Hibbertia* sp., guinea flower; *Kennedia prostrata*, running postman; *Pimelea humilis*, common rice flower; *Platylobium obtusangulum*, common flatpea; *Stackhousia monogyna*, forest candles; *Tetratheca pilosa*, hairy lilac bells; *Viola hederacea*, ivy leaf violet

## Punchbowl Reserve

**Monocots** - *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily; *Austrostipa* sp., speargrass; *Dianella revoluta*, spreading flaxlily; *Diplarrena moraea*, white flag-iris; *Diuris sulphurea*, tiger orchid; *Wurmbea dioica*, early nancy

**Ferns** - *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken

**Dicots** - *Acacia dealbata*, silver wattle; *Acacia genistifolia*, spreading wattle; *Acacia melanoxylon*, blackwood; *Allocasuarina* sp., sheoak; *Astroloma humifusum*, native cranberry; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Beyeria* ? *viscosa*, pinkwood; *Billardiera mutabilis*, apple dumpling; *Bossiaea prostrata*, creeping bossiaea; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Clematis aristata*, mountain clematis; *Comesperma volubile*, blue love creeper; *Correa reflexa*, common correa; *Cynoglossum suaveolens*, sweet hound's-tongue; *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, native currant; *Hibbertia riparia*, erect guineaflower; *Melaleuca* sp., honeymyrtle; *Melicytus dentatus*, native violet; *Olearia* or *Ozothamnus* sp; *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf riceflower; *Pomaderris apetala*, common dogwood; *Poranthera microphylla*, small poranthera; *Stackhousia monogyna*, forest candles; *Viola hederacea*, ivy leaf violet

**Fungi** - Orange slime mould; *Oudemansiella radicata* var. *australis*, rooting shank

**Birds** - *Dacelo novaeguineae*, laughing kookaburra; *Phaps chalcoptera*, common bronzewing

**Cheltenham Reserve**

**Monocots** - *Austrostipa mollis*, soft speargrass; *Burchardia umbellata*, milkmaids; *Caladenia carnea*, pink fingers; *Chiloglottis triceratops*, three horned bird-orchid; *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, small gnat-orchid; *Dianella revoluta*, spreading flaxlily; *Dianella tasmanica*, forest flaxlily; *Diplarrena moraea*, white flag-iris; *Glossodia major*, waxlip orchid; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Lomandra nana*, dwarf mat-rush; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken ; *Pterostylis* sp., greenhood

**Dicots** - *Acacia genistifolia*, spreading wattle; *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, common buzzy; *Acaena echinata*, common sheepsburr; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Billardiera mutabilis*, green appleberry; *Brunonia australis*, blue pincushion; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Cassinia aculeata*, dollybush; *Chamaescilla corymbosa*, blue stars; *Clematis clitorioides*, pleasant clematis; *Clematis gentianoides*, ground clematis; *Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Coronidium scorpioides*, curling everlasting; *Craspedia glauca*, common billybuttons; *Daviesia latifolia*, hop bitterpea; *Drosera auriculata*, tall sundew; *Epacris impressa,* common heath; *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, common native-cherry; *Goodenia lanata*, trailing native-primrose; *Lissanthe strigosa*, peachberry heath; *Olearia lirata*, forest daisybush; *Oxalis perennans*, grassland Woodsorrel; *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf riceflower; *Platylobium triangulare*, arrow flatpea; *Poranthera microphylla*, small poranthera; *Stackhousia monogyna*, forest candles; *Tetratheca pilosa*, hairy pinkbells; *Viola hederacea*, Ivyleaf violet

## Skemps Day - Sunday 21 October

Skemp Day was also Water Monitoring Day and a nice little mob, including several guests, turned out in quite reasonable weather. Caitlin and three young guests helped John look for invertebrates in the water samples, others went for walks and some were happy to sit and chat. Claire on her wanders came across old remains of an *Astacopsis*, including a blue claw, and Tina spied an echidna. Claire also came across a beautiful Wolf Spider which she managed to snap on her phone. More wombat diggings are turning up so it seems our young resident is still about. We do not know for sure yet if there is a second one. Quite a few birds were heard during the day, including 3 different cuckoos (pallid, fan-tailed and shining bronze). We also saw or heard scarlet robins, wrens, fan-tails and striated pardalotes, so it seems that at least some small birds are still resident. A few jobs were undertaken including tree guard removal and planting of Lomandra to keep people off the rocks in front of the Centre.

Prue Wright

***Tasmanicosa godeffroyi***, female Garden Wolf Spider (C Manning)

## New Members

We would like to welcome Tobias Linz, Moira Scott and Bruce Passmore, Rod and Melissa Holden and family to the Club, and look forward to them attending our meetings, field trips and Skemp days.

## General Meeting - November 6
## Guest speaker: Cayne Layton - Underwater Forests on our Great Southern Reef

Cayne travelled from Hobart to give his talk tonight and described himself as a marine ecologist, someone who studies how the various species fit together in an ecosystem, as distinct from a marine biologist who studied individual species.

Getting to the subject Cayne started by describing a reef as any physical structure under the water increasing the complexity of the natural world. A slide showed a coral reef, a rocky reef as we have in southern Australia, artificial reefs such as the concrete reef balls installed in many places around the world and accidental reefs with an image of military hardware dumped in the ocean. There was no scale for the reef balls which looked like planter pots with different size holes in their sides.

Cayne stated that we all know about the Great Barrier Reef, a tropical, warm water coral reef while there is another reef, the Great Southern Reef, which covers about 8,000 kilometres of the southern part of the Australian coast. It extends from the Queensland, New South Wales boarder, then south, taking in all that coast of Australia, including Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands, around to Geraldton, Western Australia. As with the barrier reef, which covers only 3,000 kilometres of coast line, the southern reef is not continuous, instead made up of thousands of interconnected reefs connected by currents, water flow and the connectivity of the plants and animals in the environment.

It is also a valuable resource directly contributing $11 billion to the Australian economy annually through fishing and tourism while the Great Barrier Reef contributes $4 billion annually. Cayne described this reef as having an incredible amount of biodiversity including fish, plants, algae, crabs, shrimps, mussels and oysters. What made the reef unique and spectacular was the large number of endemic species. Depending on which family you were looking at between 30 and 80% were not found anywhere else in the world while by comparison the Great Barrier Reef has only 2% endemic species.

Cayne told us that the soft octocorals of the Tamar, recently discovered by Megan Dykman, were an excellent example of the endemic species on this reef system. Megan found three or four new species of coral not known to be anywhere else. We were shown images of giant cuttlefish, a sea dragon, a new species of cow fish and other fish and corals which were endemic to the southern reef. The reef is also important to many animals not living directly on it with sea lions, penguins, birds and larger fish relying on the incredible biodiversity for food.

The reef is accessible to many Australians as it is within 50 kilometres of 70% of the Australian population, about 18 million people. This also means runoff and land management can harm the reef and while it is in our backyard this reef system is poorly known and not well understood.

Cayne told us that the southern reef is dominated by kelp, another name for a specific type of brown algae, and these forests of the ocean can be very dense and impenetrable. These forests are similar to terrestrial ones with the kelp growing to 50 metres or more forming the overstorey while, at 1.5 metres, the common kelp forms the understorey in the lower, shaded depths. The giant kelp is mainly a Tasmanian species with small areas of it in Victoria and South Australia and we have almost as many red algae on the southern reef as the rest of the world combined. Due to their form they are difficult to study as the same species may have many different forms while two that look the same can be different species. Some forms are soft and feathery, others hard and brittle like coral, some are like jelly beans and there are leathery ones in this incredibly diverse group which sits at the bottom of the food chain.

We were shown images of green and brown algae to demonstrate the huge variety, which included some green algae that did not have much green, and green and purple varieties of the brown. Cayne told us that despite the obvious similarities in some of the algae there is more difference between green and brown algae than there is in humans and fungi. Cayne described some of the algae, including that some were edible and one tasted like cucumber and noted that the hen

egg sized one was actually a single cell, amongst the largest cells in the animal kingdom. The leathery bull kelp, a brown variety, can be formed and dried into a water carrier.

We learnt that the giant kelp forests of Tasmania are disappearing and we have lost 95% in the last 30 or 40 years. It has gone from bays near towns in the south east of Tasmania where once channels needed to be cut to allow boats to navigate through it. This is caused by warming oceans with the East Australian Current, a warm, equatorial nutrient poor flow originating in Queensland, moving further south and replacing the cool nutrient rich waters from the Southern Ocean. This has been happening since the 70s or 80s and is well documented by equipment near Maria Island. With the waters warming further and further south, these communities have nowhere to go as there are no significant land forms to the immediate south. In the same way alpine flora cannot go higher once it reaches the top of the mountain.

The warm currents also bring the invasive, black, long-spined sea urchin, *Centrostephanus rodgersii*, from New South Wales where it is also causing problems due to overfishing of its main predator the large rock lobster which can turn the urchin over and eat it. The lobster is not being overfished from a fisheries perspective it is ecological overfishing.

This is also happening in Tasmania, mainly on the east coast, and again the large rock lobsters are being overfished. During question time it was also confirmed that the winter water temperatures of the Tasmanian east coast have warmed to the critical 17° level where the urchin can survive the winter, grow and breed. Before this it was spores of the urchin which reached Tasmanian waters and these died out over winter before growing to full size. The urchin will eat all the kelp, not just the large kelp, eventually turning the sea floor into a rocky urchin barren and the urchins somehow survive and continue to eat anything which tries to re-establish.

Cayne described the various methods to control the urchins starting with working with the fishing industry to keep larger lobsters in the ocean by buying the larger creatures. This is not very effective as the urchins are low quality in the barrens and the lobsters move to areas with less, better quality urchins. Another method is to develop a fishing industry for the urchin which is a valuable edible product. Again the barrens are not the place to get the urchins due to the low quality so some are being moved from the barrens to fatten them up for the table, in Cayne's words '…and ranching them, effectively they're feeding them and fattening them up'.

The next method was robotic technology and we were amused by the picture of a Terminator robot. It was not possible to judge the size of the real craft from the picture and we learnt that it was autonomous vehicle, roaming the sea floor for 48 hours plus, identifying urchins and injecting them with a vinegar or lime solution to kill them.

Cayne is involved in a project to restore the kelp to the areas where urchins have been controlled and he described himself as an underwater gardener. It would seem wasteful to put algae back into waters too warm for it to tolerate so the team is collecting it from places where it is surviving and testing in the laboratory for tolerance to the warmer waters and this is the stock used for replanting. This is an ongoing, long term project.

Cayne then touched on the fringe habitats of the Great Southern Reef starting with the seagrass meadows. He described Australia as the hot spot for seagrass meadows due to the variety and told us these were the nursery of the reef with many fish being raised there before moving out to the kelp forests.

We also have shellfish reefs, up to 10 metres tall, consisting of oyster shells. We have lost over 99% of these as oysters were an important food for the early European population and the shells provided the lime for the cement used in construction. Some of the surviving old buildings of Hobart, Launceston, Sydney and Melbourne are held together with cement made from oyster shell lime. There is only one shell fish reef left in Australia and it is in Georges Bay near St Helens and there are efforts to restore the reefs.

Knowing that we were a field naturalists group Cayne ended the talk by naming and describing five books on marine life in southern Australia for further reading. He also offered us contact details if we had more questions or found something interesting on the beach and told us about the volunteer based Tasmanian Macroalgae Interest Group (TMIG).

After more than 10 minutes of informative questions and answers, Judith thanked Cayne on behalf of the members and led the enthusiastic acclamation. Noel Manning

## Field Trip - Sunday 18 November – Three Reserves Crawl 2

Following our previous successful field trip to local reserves, we met at the Cheltenham Reserve to follow up on the orchids and to see what other plants were in flower, a month on. We walked around the reserve for 2 hours, seeing lovely displays of the yellow billy buttons, blue pincushions and chocolate lilies. Taking a different route from our previous visit we came across a large area of maidenhair fern and were lucky enough to find a spot with the three species of *Lepidosperma* within arm's length, so we could note the differences between them. Also with the sun out we were on the lookout for sun orchids which we did find.

We moved on to the Kate Reed Reserve visiting the section off Oakden Road behind Prospect High School and Lila Drive. During the walk we saw many bluebells, flag lilies, milkmaids, flatpeas and green appleberry. It was upsetting to see that members of the public are leaving their rubbish behind when using this reserve.

***Oxalis magellanica*, snowdrop woodsorrel** (K Manning)

We lunched under the trees in the Silverdome carpark before organising car sharing to visit the Mt Barrow Interpretation Trail, a 24 kilometre looped dirt road, which was very rough and challenging for the smaller cars in places. Where there were good displays of flowering plants, we stopped on the narrow roadway if we could, to take photos of the daisybush, shaggypea and blanketleaf, to name a few. At one stop on a very rocky area of the mountain we found our first orchid and John found a stunted heartberry in flower. Our last stop was at a boardwalk into the forest where we saw evidence of the timber industry which operated on the mountain from as early as the 1830's. A large fallen tree had a section cut out of it which was filled with water and could have been a water trough for horses. To one side of the boardwalk we saw the remains of what may have been a log tramway, logs set on cross members to move timber.

Back at Nunamara we changed cars again before heading home. The trip to Mt Barrow in hindsight should have been done as a full day trip, there were so many places that we should have stopped but didn't have the time. Next year's calendar maybe.

**Observations at Reserves**

**Cheltenham Reserve** (the following were observed in addition to those reported during last our previous visit on 20/10/18)

**Monocots -** *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily; *Calochilus robertsonii*, purple beard orchid; *Diplarrena moraea*, white flag-iris; *Diuris sulphurea*, tiger orchid; *Hypoxis hygrometrica* sp., weatherglass; *Lepidosperma ensiforme*, arching swordsedge; *Lepidosperma gunnii*, narrow swordsedge; *Lepidosperma laterale*, variable swordsedge; *Thelymitra* sp., sun orchid

**Dicots -** *Acacia dealbata*, silver wattle; *Acacia melanoxylon*, blackwood; *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, common buzzy; *Acrotriche serrulata*, ants delight; *Bossiaea prostrata*, creeping bossia; *Brachyscome spathulata* subsp. *glabra*, blue daisy; *Cassytha melantha*, large dodderlaurel; *Clematis aristata*, mountain clematis, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, white gum; *Hibbertia procumbens*, spreading guineaflower; *Hibbertia riparia*, erect guineaflower; *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrowleaf triggerplant; *Wahlenbergia stricta*, tall bluebell

**Ferns -** *Adiantum aethiopicum*, common maidenhair; *Pteridium esculentum*, bracken

**Birds -** *Anthochaera chrystoptera*, little wattlebird; *Anthochaera paradox*, yellow wattlebird; *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, fan-tailed cuckoo; *Cuculus pallidus*, pallid cuckoo; *Pardalotus striatus*, striated pardalote; *Strepera fuliginosa*, black currawong

**Kate Reed Reserve**

**Monocots -** *Arthropodium strictum*, chocolate lily; *Burchardia umbellata*, milkmaids; *Dianella revoluta,* spreading flaxlily; *Diplarrena moraea*, white flag-lily; ? *Lepidosperma gunnii*, narrow swordsedge (thin leaf); *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrow leaf triggerplant; *Thelymitra* sp., sun orchid (blue); *Thysanotus patersonii*, twining fringelily

**Dicots -** *Acacia genistifolia*, spreading wattle; *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, common buzzy; *Billardiera mutabilis*, green appleberry; *Cassinia aculeata*, dollybush; *Clematis aristata*, mountain clematis; *Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Goodenia lanata*, trailing native-primrose; *Hibbertia riparia*, erect guineaflower; *Linum marginale*, native flax; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg; *Oxalis perennans*, grassland woodsorrel; *Platylobium* sp., flatpea; *Pimelea humilis*, dwarf riceflower; *Poranthera microphylla*, small poranthera; *Solanum laciniatum*, kangaroo apple; *Viola hederacea* sp., Ivyleaf violet; *Wahlenbergia stricta*, bluebells

**Ferns -** *Pteridium esculentum*, austral bracken

**Birds -** *Petroica multicolour*, scarlet Robin

**Mt Barrow**

**Monocots -** *Caladenia alpina*, alpine finger-orchid; *Drymophilia cyanocarpa*, turquoise berry; *Pterostylis melagramma*, blackstripe greenhood; *Stylidium graminifolium*, narrowleaf triggerplant

**Dicots -** *Acacia genistifolia*, spreading wattle; *Acacia melanoxylon*, blackwood; *Aristotelia peduncularis*, heartberry; *Atherosperma moschatum* subsp *moschatum*, sassafras; *Banksia marginata*, silver banksia; *Bedfordia salicina*, Tasmanian blanketleaf; *Cardamine* sp., bittercress; *Comesperma volubile*, blue lovecreeper; *Coprosma hirtella*, Coffeeberry; *Coprosma nitida*, mountain currant; *Correa lawrenceana* sp., mountain correa; *Cyathodes glauca*, purple cheeseberry; *Dianella tasmanica*, mountain pepper; *Eucalyptus* subsps.; *Geranium potentilloides*, mountain cranesbill; *Gonocarpus montanus*, mountain raspwort; *Gonocarpus teucrioides*, forest raspwort;

***Veronica formosa*, common speedwell bush (KM)**

*Hakea lissosperma*, mountain needlewood; *Haloragis heterophylla*, variable raspwort; *Hibbertia serpyllifolia*, thyme guineaflower; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitarplant; *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, myrtle beech; *Olearia argophylla*, musk; *Olearia lirata*, forest daisybush; *Olearia phlogopappa* sp., dusty daisybush; *Olearia stellulata*, sawleaf daisybush; *Oxalis magellanica*, snowdrop woodsorrel; *Oxylobium ellipticum*, golden shaggypea; *Ozothamnus thyrsoideus*, arching everlastingbush; *Pomaderris apetala*, common dogwood; *Pultenaea gunnii*, golden bushpea; *Pultenaea juniperina*, prickly beauty; *Senecio* spp., fireweed/groundsel; *Tasmannia lanceolata*, mountain pepper; *Telopea truncata*, Tasmanian waratah; *Veronica formosa*, common speedwell bush; *Viola hederacea* sp., ivyleaf violet

**Ferns -** *Asplenium flabellifolium*, necklace fern; *Blechnum nudum*, fishbone water fern; *Blechnum wattsii*, hard water fern; *Polystichum proliferum*, mother shield fern; *Pteridium esculentum*, austral bracken

## Skemps Day - Saturday 24 November – Annual Spring Clean

Ten members trickled into the field centre from 9:30 till 11 am, with the Ralphs arriving last due to being caught up in the Christmas parade road closures.

There were many comments about how good the carpet looked after a professional clean thanks to Michael of Dunwell Carpet Steam Cleaning and member Phil. As well as the carpet looking it's best in a long time we also had more time for the other tasks.

One of the biggest jobs was emptying the kitchen cupboards for their annual clean, to note a couple of items that were needed and a much needed cull of unnecessary items heading for our recycle bin. There was a carton of cups and a number of larger items put aside for an Op shop or the rubbish bin.

Windows were cleaned inside and out, window sills wiped, cobwebs brushed away, and the bathrooms cleaned, the shower tiles steam-cleaned and cracks in the outside walls of the bedrooms were sealed with silicone.

Outside the barbecue area had all the weeds removed from around the edges and the paved areas were broomed out. The outdoor furniture, plastic chairs and tables were all hosed off while the really dirty ones were given a good scrub. After lunch the barbecue was moved and the wall behind cleaned.

My main task was to connect the new tank to the water supply and there were a few difficulties with the job! By the time we left the new tank was over half full and thanks to recent rains there was a constant flow into the first tank.

A big thank you to those who attended today. We worked hard to get the jobs done, had some laughs along the way, enjoyed a friendly lunch break and celebrated a job well done with hot drinks and a cream cake supplied by Lois. Noel Manning

## Vale Alwynne (Al) Pegler 1922-2018

I first met Al when I worked for Veteran's Affairs and at some stage he mentioned the Launceston Field Naturalists Club and I attended a meeting early in 2000 and joined later that year.

He and other members made our young family welcome and Skemps became a Christmas getaway for us and our troop of hangers on. At our first Christmas at Skemps Dianne was the spirit of Skemps and the Soccol's introduced my boys to fencing.

I was on the committee when the Club was organising the second biennial get-together of field naturalists clubs to be held in the Launceston area and surrounds. Al was the secretary at the time and for a few years before and he did all the secretarial duties. He had a keen interest in technology, which he often mentioned, and this no doubt made it easier to be secretary.

Al and wife Dianne became members of the club in 1995 and Al joined the committee in 1996 and became secretary in 1997. As well as being secretary, he was the program coordinator for eight years, served as president for two and was our public officer for another 14 years. He was also the Club photographer recording from the beginning, the progress of tree growth in the Federation Corridor as well as capturing the development of the three ponds that have been created on Skemp Creek and he often entered images in the December photographic competition. He mentioned that he was a member, perhaps the organiser, of the local Colour Society, a group interested in exploring aspects of colour which I thought to be somewhat esoteric.

He was a very active member of the Club, contributing much, and in 2007 the Committee unanimously recommended his well-deserved Life Membership.

Until recent illness he attended nearly all meetings, field trips and Skemps Days and when out and about used a fancy, though rather old, walking stick which had a fold out seat on top and Al would use it often due to a bad back from his service years.

For many years at the annual spring cleanups at Skemps, Al took on the painting and some windows are stuck shut to this day from his efforts.

Vale Al, a field Nat and friend. Noel Manning

## Field Trip - Ben Lomond National Park - Friday 18 to Sunday 20 January 2019

Members are invited to attend this two day field trip to Ben Lomond National Park where we will be staying at the Borrowdale Ski Chalet. If an overnight stay is not for you, come for the day and explore this interesting area.

There are many walks varying in length and difficulty, great photographic opportunities of an unusual terrain and the wildflowers will hopefully be looking good. Please contact Peter Warren on 0409 685 835 or email pjwarrenjp@hotmail.com if you would like to reserve a bed in the bunkroom. You will need to bring a sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillows and enough food and drink for your stay, the closest shop is approximately 50 kilometres away.

The cost of a day visit is $3.75 and an overnight stay is $11.25 per night. The temperature and weather can change quite quickly, so be prepared and don't forget your camera.

As this visit is to a National Park, all cars need to display a current Parks Pass.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

**Additional Information**

**Club Outings**:

- All outings depart from Inveresk carpark (near Museum entrance) at 9 am unless otherwise specified. Internet site updated regularly to reflect short notice changes. Saturday all-day parking cost is $3.00. Sunday parking free.
- Provide your own food and drinks for the outing and wear/take clothing/footwear suitable for all weather types.
- When travelling by car in convoy, each driver is responsible to ensure that the vehicle behind is in sight immediately after passing a cross road or fork in the road.
- When carpooling, petrol costs should be shared between all the passengers, including family of the driver, and based on other clubs the Committee suggested $11 per 100 km. This is a guideline only.

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

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

**Field Centre:** All members have access to the John Skemp Field Centre, but should contact our booking manager, Phil Brumby on 0403 845 000 or bookings@lfnc.org.au regarding availability and keys.

**Field Centre Phone Number:** (03) 6399 3361

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

**Internet site**: https://www.lfnc.org.au

**Facebook site**: https://www.facebook.com/groups/527797787360157/

**Emails**: secretary@lfnc.org.au

newsletter@lfnc.org.au

treasurer@lfnc.org.au

program@lfnc.org.au

Find us on