

# THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

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



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

**Volume XLIX No. 5**

**June/July 2016**

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Ms Campbell, Mr Geeves, Ms McGlynn, Mr Ralph, Ms Wright, Mr Warren</b>

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

## PROGRAM

### AUGUST

- Tuesday 2                      Guest speaker ~ Kevin Bonham ~ *Land snails*
- Sunday 14                      Field Trip ~ Location to be confirmed ~ on the trail of the snail (contact a Committee member if you are not at the meeting and need more details)
- Saturday 27                      Skemp Day ~ Searching for the Skemps Snail

### SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 6                      Guest speaker ~ Phil Collier ~ *Monitoring with a purpose: the crowded leek orchid at Surrey Hills, north-west Tasmania*
- Saturday 10                      Field Trip ~ Location to be confirmed, native orchids
- Sunday 18                      Skemp Day

### OCTOBER

- Tuesday 11                      Annual General Meeting & Dinner ~ Steve's Grill, Balfour Street, Launceston. 6pm for 6.30pm. RSVP essential (see additional information this newsletter)
- Sunday 23                      Field Trip ~ Location to be confirmed
- Saturday 29                      Skemp Day ~ Watermonitoring

### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 1                      Guest speaker ~ Simon Fearn ~ *Insects collected at Dunbarton*
- TBA                              Field Trip ~ Location to be confirmed
- TBA                              Skemp Day

To see the full January to December program visit

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

## Skemp Report

John's work progresses well on the new storage cupboard in the right hand bunk room with the shelves soon to be added and we can expect a large secure storage area in the near future freeing up space in the library. Based on a suggestion by Mike, and due to the efforts of John, the cork tile area in the field centre has a shiny new coat of two pack water based clear finish and it has been suggested it would make a great dance floor.

John, Rob and I lined the entrance and exit of the drainage pipe on the lower part of Skemps Road with whatever rock and brick we could find to reduce the erosion caused by recent rains. So far this has worked although we will reassess it after the next heavy rain. John reported that the water levels at Skemps was higher than usual, with water coming over the wall at Bob's Bog

Our ride on mower will last a long time as we have had many poor seasons resulting in low growth rates of the grasses around the Centre.

John has suggested, and the committee has agreed, that we no longer conduct turbidity, temperature and salinity monitoring on Skemps Creek as the monitor is failing and will cost around \$400 to replace. Macroinvertebrate monitoring will continue biannually. Any changes to the health of the creek, will be evident in the results from this activity.

Please remember to note and report to the committee any problems on the tracks which you cannot deal with yourself.

Noel Manning

## Sightings

**July** ~ John reported a boobook owl calling in the Punchbowl Reserve. Peter (R) commented on a dozen or so magpies that frequent their house, together with a pair of strange birds flying with them. From the descriptions it was concluded that these were likely to be butcherbirds, possibly a male and an immature bird. (Daphne has seen similar behavior.) Peter also reported a plover with abnormal scrounging behavior that was no longer afraid of little dogs. Peter (W) has seen magpies drive off a stranger to the group, so this behavior is unusual. John reported seeing a platypus at Kings Meadow Rivulet, even though the water there is usually very poor. Daphne and Peter saw a lot of eastern spinebills diving into a 4 gallon drum. There was discussion of a previous report from Noel of a robin in a wattle tree. This may have been an eastern spinebill. Peter (R) reported seeing an eastern barred bandicoot in Marian's garden. Tom reported a wedge-tailed eagle around White Hills.

**Library Report** ~ There was no report in the absence of Tina, but newsletter received were tabled for members to read.

**Calendars** ~ Images for the 2017 calendar have been selected and the information is currently with the publisher. The calendars should be available soon and will cost \$12.00 each. If you would like to order some speak to the Club's Treasurer, Karen.

**John Skemp Memorial Lecture** ~ The meeting at which this lecture was to be held in June, was cancelled due to the bad weather, flooding and road closures. The lecture will be now be delivered by Dr Jennifer Lavers at the December meeting.

**The Year That Was** ~ the power-point presentation of Club activities during 2016 will be shown at the Christmas get-together at Skemps on Saturday 10 December prior to afternoon tea, rather than at the December general meeting.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 2016 Annual General Meeting of members of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club will be held at [Steve's Grill](#), Balfour Street, Launceston, on Tuesday 11 October, arrive at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start.

### Business

- Welcome from President, Tom Treloggen
- Apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the last AGM
- President, Tom Treloggen's outgoing report
- Receive and accept the Financial Report from the Treasurer
- Appoint an Auditor for the term until the conclusion of the AGM in 2017 and to confirm their remuneration
- Election of Office Bearers namely: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 Committee members

The AGM will be followed by a short General Meeting for information on upcoming field trips and other business.

All members are invited to attend this AGM and dinner, cost of meal and drinks will be at own expense. RSVP is essential, please contact Judith on 6393 6603 or by emailing her at [handlinj@gmail.com](mailto:handlinj@gmail.com) by Friday 7 October if you are attending or offering an apology.

Nominations for Office Bearers should be submitted to the Secretary no later than 10 days prior to the AGM using forms accompanying this newsletter. Members should consider nominating for a position.

Our president has completed the maximum allowed four consecutive years and cannot be renominated, while other office bearers who have given their time for some years would prefer to step down and allow others with new ideas to take part in the running of this group. Electronic newsletter recipients can [download](#) the nomination form from the Club's website.

## FIELD TRIP ~ EDEN RIVULET IN CLUAN TIER AND LUNCH AT ENTALLY LODGE ~ Sunday 19 June

Five members left Inveresk on a fine, cold Sunday morning heading to Andy's at Westbury where we met up with four others hoping to find fungi at the Cluan Tier. Trip leader Rob told us some roads had deep ruts and suggested we carpool in the two four wheel drive vehicles available. He had been along the roads the previous week and had chain sawed a few fallen spas which were blocking the roads.

Crossing the Eden Rivulet we did a U turn and came back looking for the cairn marking the start of the walk. We soon knew why Rob laughed at the word cairn as it turned out to be three small rocks.

The first part of our walk was very steep taking us to an old tramway above the rivulet. This part of the walk was flat and reasonably clear of tree falls. Rob told us that the tramway was used up to about 1910 and yet some of the sleepers could still be seen.

While some took the fungi search seriously others walked and photographed and I took an off track walk to the rivulet to look for evidence of the recent flooding as we all wondered how high the water came up. Feeling the cold I stopped at an overgrown section and was about to turn back when Rob asked if we had got to the causeway. I decided I wanted to see more and pushed on soon coming to the section of the tram way Rob was referring to. Rather than dig into the steep bank the constructors had bridged a gap by filling it with stones and a small section of about ten metres had been made level. At the steepest it was over two metres high and we can only assume that the work was done by hand.

There was much fungi to be seen, photographed and catalogued including corals and jellies. Although the recent rains had caused death and damage in Tasmania they had also made the ferns and mosses lush.

Returning to Westbury for our own vehicles, we headed to Entally Lodge for our social lunch where five more members joined us. Most of us spent time looking at the exotic racing cars in a room behind the dining area and there was much chatting over an extended lunch before we headed home.

The day was a success thanks to the extra effort put in by Rob. We all agreed that a follow-up visit would be appropriate, so that we could finish the walk in our normal style.

Noel Manning

**Dicots** ~ *Atherosperma moschatum*, sassafras; *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box; *Clematis gentianoides*, ground clematis; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Hydrocotyle* sp., pennywort; *Leptospermum* sp., teatree; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitarplant; ? *Nematolepis squamea* subsp *squamea*, satinbush; *Notelaea ligustrina*, native olive; *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, myrtle beech; *Olearia argophylla*, musk daisybush; *O. lirata*, forest daisybush; *Pittosporum bicolor*, cheesewood; *Pomaderris apetala*, common dogwood; *Tasmannia lanceolata*, mountain pepper

**Monocots** ~ *Dianella tasmanica*, forest flaxlily; *Gahnia grandis*, cutting grass; *Lomandra longifolia*, sagg

**Ferns** ~ *Asplenium flabellifolium*, necklace fern; *Blechnum minus*, soft water fern; *Blechnum nudum*, fish bone fern; *Blechnum wattsii*, hard water fern; *Dicksonia antarctica*, soft treefern; *Grammitis billardierei*, finger fern; *Hymenophyllum flabellatum*, shiny filmy fern; *Phymatosorus pustulatus*, kangaroo fern

**Lichens & Mosses** ~ *Cladina confusa*, kangaroo lichen; *Hypopterygium didictyon*

**Fungi** ~ *Artomyces austropiperatus*; *Bisporella citrina*, yellow discs; *Cantharellus concinnus*; *Clavulinopsis amoena*, yellow coral; *Clavulina subrugosa*, white club; *Cortinarius* sp.; ? *Entoloma rodwayi*; *Geostrom triplex*, earthstar; *Leotia lubrica*, jelly baby; *Lycoperdon pyriforme*, puffball; *Marasmius* sp.; *Mucronella pendula*, icicles; *Mycena albidocapillaris*; *Mycena clarkeana*; *Mycena interrupta*, pixies parasol; *Mycena vinacea*; *Podoserpula pusio*, pagoda fungus; ? *Postia lactea*; *Postia pelliculosa*; *Ramaria lorithamnus*, yellow coral; *Respinatus* sp.; *Stereum ostrea*, golden curtain crust; *Trametes versicolor*, turkey tail

## **SKEMPS DAY ~ FUNGI AND ODD JOBS ~ Saturday 25 June**

Another frosty morning heading out to Skemps, arriving to a warming fire in the Centre lit by Peter who had arrived earlier.

After a drink and chat, four members headed in different direction to check walking tracks for fallen trees following the heavy winds and rain in recent days. The wind had also dislodged some stored plastic bags for tree guard and about twenty of them were found along the paddock towards the Top Falls in the bush line. Photos of interesting fungus were also taken along the way. The water rushing over the Top Falls was deafening and we also came across a few winter creeks running.

At the far end of Skemp Road, there were a few dogwood spars that had fallen across the road, one was removed by hand, but the others would need a chainsaw.

Back at the Centre, Peter reported limbs across the Power Track which also needed the chainsaw, and Tom T had arrived with his guest Mark. After a tour of the Centre, they went for a walk up to the top pond and on through the Zig-Zag track area, before returning up the roadway to look over the new drainage system recently installed along Skemps Road.

On the Watergate Track there was a very large fall, a tree completely uprooting and falling across the track. Looking at the root area, it was unbelievable that the tree had not fallen earlier. There was numerous thin layers

of sedimentary rock under the tree which hadn't allowed the roots to establish deep into the soil.

At lunch, the BBQ was lit and there was the usual chatter while the food cooked.

In the afternoon, on the premise of checking for tree falls, Peter and I went looking for fungus on the Forest Track. We found quite a few different species, the most spectacular was the *Podoscypha petalodes* in the leaf litter almost circling the base of a tree.

At the end of the day all but the Bedfordia Track had been checked for fallen trees. Fortunately there is only a small list of track issues which will be dealt with shortly, weather permitting.

Karen Manning

## GUEST SPEAKER JULY ~ MARK WAPSTRA ~ *THISMIA*

Tom introduced Mark who was to talk on the elusive fairy lanterns, *Thismia rodwayi*.

Mark started by telling us that he had not expected to ever see this plant as it was so rare. Then it was rediscovered in 2002 and he argued that it is Tasmania's most fascinating plant and "...it's Tassie's only proper almost underground plant...". While other states and other parts of the world had underground orchids we had what he described as the aptly named fairy lanterns although he was sure there was an underground orchid to be eventually discovered in Tasmania.

The *thismia* in New Zealand and south eastern Australia are the only ones to occur in temperate climates in the southern hemisphere and from experience we can only agree with him when he said that they are difficult to find.

A slide showing the family tree of *thismia* informed us that there are about 50 known species, three maybe four in temperate Australia and one tropical Australian species.

We were shown images of *thismia* from Indonesia, Borneo, Morton National Park NSW, Melville Island NT, the north island of New Zealand and Blackheath in NSW, with Mark saying some had only been discovered in the last few years. The tiny pale blue almost translucent *Thismia clavarioides* from the Morton NP was very impressive.

When *rodwayi* was rediscovered in 2002 Mark said that all these invertebrate people who look through leaf litter were contacted and asked to look for it. Kevin Bonham was the only person to contact them. He said that in 1980 on the new road to Franklin he found a fungus like thing which he thought was the *thismia*. 23 years later he was able to take someone back there and found it, and no one was surprised.

Mark then told us how the plants were named with *thismia* being an anagram of *Smithia*, which was already taken, as Mr Griffiths wanted to name it after the microscopist Thomas Smith. The *rodwayi* came from the naturalist Leonard Rodway (1853-1936), the author of *The Tasmanian*

*Flora* and a government dentist who wrote the first dental act for Australia. He was a founding member of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club and had collected the type material from near the Derwent River in the late 1800s.

We next learnt that *Thismia rodwayi* is a vascular plant often mistaken for a fungus, a monocot (grasses, orchids and grains are also), a small fleshy herb, achlorophyllous (no photosynthesis), mycoheterotrophic (dependant on a fungus for nutrients) and has subterranean stems with flowers at soil surface which are often hidden by the dense leaf litter in wet forests. As well it has white vermiform roots, short erect stems, leaves that are small scales, six bracts, a lantern-like fleshy orange flower (hypanthium) and is 1-2 cm long. Mark passed a thismia around which had been dipped in silica hand gel to preserve it as he told us that they do not last long once harvested.

Mark told us that it was assumed the fungi could survive without thismia meaning that it was a parasite although it could be much more complicated. Also, genetics suggested that the temperate climate thismia came to SE Australia and New Zealand after the last glaciation around 12,000 years ago. Other plants have made this move and the means of migration are unknown.

Slides showed comments from Sir Joseph Hooker and Baron von Mueller regarding the discovery as they were surprised that the plant had been found in a temperate climate.

Mark posed the question as to where the plant lived stating that it was wet sclerophyll forest, not rain or dry forest, and that it favoured broad leaf understorey and he listed the many eucalypt species around where it would be found. He also stated that as soon as you get to myrtle it drops out and where the typical damp forests ferns are not present it would be too dry for thismia. It likes the thick damp leaf litter of dogwood and musk.

Rare findings of thismia in Tasmania began in 1890, Rodway at Cascades and 1923 at Mt Field. Then it was found in '68 Little Denison River, '60s/'70s Mt Arthur '80s Franklin, '80s Neika and 2002 in Lenah Valley and Meander. After this there was interest in thismia and it has since been found all over the place as Mark said. In the following 11 years it was found in the Meander area, the Franklin-Huon area, Cluan Tiers, Birralea, Hastings Caves, Fern Tree, Shoobridge Bend, Warra, Koonya, Nugent Styx, Wielangta, Holwell Gorge, Forestier Peninsular, South Sister, North West Bay River, Togari and Moina with many of these findings by those looking for something else. For the Hastings Caves find the plant was not on the usual easy walking flat areas as the lyre birds would scratch it away. Instead it was found by Gardner searching for fungi on limestone outcrops where small crevices with soil mean the lyre birds could not scratch it out.

Mark went on to tell us that although found over most of Tasmania on limestone, dolerite, mudstone and quartzite it has not been found on the granites of the north east even after many have spent a lot of time looking in the area.

Mark amused members by his reference to the word '*ephemeros*' used by von Mueller in his writings about thismia as well as his story about



research on the plant in the Meander area. There was a chance discovery of thismia in a state forest coupe near Meander in 2002 and this 40 hectare site was surveyed resulting in an estimate of 70,000 of these rare plants being in the coupe. By not telling Forestry Tasmania, the researchers allowed one area to be logged to experiment, to see what would happen to the plant.

Although listed as rare on the Threatened Species Protection Act since 1995 Mark said that "...a lot more common than the data base would indicate" and he gave an example of his search method. As he said "... unless you are a little bit obsessed like me. You see a little bit of wet forest, you stop the car, you get out, you search for five minutes, you get bored and you go to a spot a hundred metres up the road and you find it." He would then note one and not survey to see if there were 100 so we do not know a lot about abundance.

He has looked and thismia is not found where suitable habitat has been turned into a mono culture tree plantation, although turning old growth forest into plantations is not done these days so that threat is gone. Mark was able to list examples of frequent burning where thismia had survived, although lyre bird scratching is a problem it survives in areas where the bird is in large numbers and it was resilient in most forestry practices and in one study there was more thismia 10 years after logging than before. All this suggested that thismia may not be a threatened species after all.

During one search the material collected was not put in alcohol and gave off a strong off fish smell and so the plant was sent for volatiles analysis. This showed that the plants have benzenes, 1-heptene, a-heptadiene and other chemicals related to animal behavior. Mark told us that it was unknown as to whether it was designed to attract or repel something. The flower shape would make it difficult for an ant to leave after entering it and on one flower it looked as though an ant had broken out of the flower. These factors suggest that small insects may help pollinate the plant.

Mark explained what they do and do not know about thismia. We know the macro-habitat relationships, flowering and fruiting period and the genetic/fungal relationships and have done field testing of bioclimatic model and some long term monitoring. We do not know the pollination and dispersal mechanisms, all the details of the micro-climatic relationships and not enough about population numbers.

Mark said that in 2002 he had not expecting to ever see the plant while tonight he could guarantee finding it at Meander in the right season.

We knew that it had been previously found at Mt Arthur and Mark suggested Skemps and Hollybank would be suitable places to look in our area to find new sites and that as well we could find invertebrates and fungi while digging around in the leaf litter.

There followed over 10 minutes of questions and answers before John Elliott gave the thanks and asked members to show their appreciation.

Noel Manning

## FIELD TRIP ~ MEANDER FOREST RESERVE ~ Saturday 9 July

Four members left Launceston to travel to the Meander Forest Reserve on a drizzly cold Saturday morning, meeting up with seven other members who had travelled direct. The dirt road for the last seven kilometres into the carpark was slippery with some very large potholes. The two new bridges over the river, should withstand any fast high flowing water for some time.

With our wet weather gear on, we headed off with cameras along the Split Rock track, climbing down to the swing bridge over the Meander River. We all admired the chainsaw carving of a prehistoric monster with, as someone pointed out, what looked like the head of a tortoise. The *Leptecophylla juniperina* shrubs were impressive as they were laden with pink berries and we also saw *Epacris impressa* shrubs with either pink or white flowers. The view up and down the river from the bridge was excellent.

On the far side of the river, the myrtles, sassafras, tree ferns and eucalypts towered over us. The track itself was very muddy as we walked along in awe of the beauty of the ancient trees and the fallen limbs and stumps which were home to an array of fungi, ferns and mosses.

We split into two groups at this stage with four members returning to the carpark wanting to look around there, while the rest continued on.

In the leaf litter we uncovered hidden fungi, the corals and clubs that we would have missed if we hadn't taken the time to look. There was also a couple of little creeks running through the trees making small pools at the tree bases in the root area.

When the rain eased we returned to the carpark to find that the other group had continued on to a predominately dogwood forest area further down the road to look for *Thismia rodwayi* (fairy lanterns). During his talk at the July meeting Mark Wapstra had reported finding some in this area recently.

We had a quick bite to eat and a drink, then headed down the road to look for the fairy lanterns. Pulling into a side road at the dogwood area, we were excited to find a patch of bird's nest fungi at the rear of our vehicles, I had never come across them before in the bush. We spent the next 30 minutes in the area which was dark, cold and densely covered with dogwood and blanket bush. The leaf litter was very thick and soaking wet, and disappointingly we did not find any of the fairy lanterns or the fungus roots that they attach themselves to. Noel took home a leech though.

We then headed back to Meander for a warming coffee and a sweet treat. The group who had left earlier joined us at the café just as we were about to leave. They had been to the Huntsman Lake and reported much damage where the river enters the lake caused by the recent floods.

The only downside of today, was a visit to the toilet facilities at the forest reserve, the toilets would be the worst I have ever seen. Visitors to the area obviously thought the same and have decided to toilet on the mosses and leaf litter in the area and have left their paper rubbish behind. They obviously have no respect for our beautiful wilderness.

Karen Manning

**Dicots** ~ *Acacia dealbata*, silver wattle; *Atherosperma moschatum*, sassafras; *Bedfordia salicina*, tasmanian blanketbush; *Billardiera longi-flora*, purple appleberry; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Eucalyptus delegatensis* subsp *tasmaniensis*; *Leptecophylla juniperina* sp., pinkberry; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitar plant; *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, myrtle beech; *Pomaderris apetala*, dogwood; *Zieria arborescens*, stinkwood

**Monocots** ~ *Dianella* sp., flaxlily; *Gahnia grandis*, cutting grass

**Fungi** ~ *Australoporus tasmanicus*; *Bisporella citrina*, yellow discs; *Byssomerulius corium*, leathery shelf fungi; *Calostoma fuscum*, stalked puffball; *Cantharellus concinnus*; *Clavulina subrugosa*, white club; *Heterotextus peziziformis*, jelly bells; *Hygrocybe* sp.; *Leotia lubrica*, jelly baby; *Lichenomphalia chromacea*; *Marasmius* sp.; *Mycena clarkeana*; *M. aff. epipterygia*; *M. interrupta*, pixies parasol; *M. subgalericulata*; *M. vinacea*; *Nidula niveotomentosa*, birds-nest fungi; *Panellus longinquus*; *Phellodon niger*

## **TREE DECLINE MONITORING PROJECT TRAINING SESSION** ~ Saturday 23 July ~ private property at Underwood

President Tom with Karen and Noel participated in the NRM North tree decline monitoring workshop at the Underwood property of Rachael and arborist Paul Denholm. With the ginger mould prevalent at Skemps, silver wattles dying off in large numbers and the understory thinning we hoped to monitor Skemps and get some answers or at least quantify the damage.

In their large office, Alison Hugo (NRM North) introduced Tanya Bailey and Anna Povey who explained how we would mark out a 50 by 50 metre plot on this property and check the trees putting them into five categories, healthy (<25% dead branches), declining (25-50% dead), severe decline (50-75%), dying (>75%) and dead (no live branches). Each tree would be marked with chalk as we went along so that it was not counted twice.

For simplicity we would only monitor eucalypts and for uniformity the plot boundaries here and other sites would run north/south and east/west.

We would note whether the plot was flat or sloping, which direction the slope faced, soil, vegetation and understory type, weed coverage, previous and present land use and whether livestock had access to the property. There was a section to note other factors from the past which may prove relevant.

There should be two plots monitored on each property one healthy the other not. It was suggested we start with what we assumed was an healthy plot so that if this was incorrect we could then look for another healthy patch.

This plot and ones on Skemps and properties of other participants would be monitored for 10 years to look for trends in the decline of the trees.

Out in the field Noel did a terrible job with his iPhone compass of marking the plot ending up with one short boundary which Alison and Anna had to correct. They also had a few more trees to add to the list.

We were not long in the field when it snowed, just a light fall over a few minutes and another fall five or so minutes later.

Back in the warm office we had a cuppa and nibbles and discussed our work. Tanya noted that two trees with similar percentage of dead branches were put in different categories due to the look of them with one being less healthy and we should also use such a judgment for our plots.

Armed with *Eucaflips*, site monitoring sheets and a promise of further information and monitoring sheets by e-mail we said our goodbyes and headed off.

As it was late we three went to Lilydale for lunch followed by a walk to the falls and a mid afternoon drive home keen to mark our patches at Skemps and start the process.

Noel Manning

## **SKEMPS DAY ~ Sunday 24 July ~ Tree maintenance on Skemps Creek**

It was a very cold start this morning following a heavy frost overnight. Arriving at Skemps John lit a fire to warm the Centre. While we waited for members to arrive we were able to check out John's handiwork where he had resealed the cork tiles with a water based two pack following the damage early last year. The floor looked good enough to dance on, a great job John.

With members arriving we chatted and following a warming drink the tools were placed in the wheelbarrow ready to head down to the creek for the proposed tree maintenance.

Seven members headed down the paddock from the Centre and worked their way up along the creek toward the Federation Corridor, removing tree guards from many of the banksias, blackwoods, callistemons, waratahs and myrtles. Most of our work concentrated on the *Eucalyptus viminalis* which were a favourite of the kangaroos who had pushed in the tops of the guards, meaning the plant had grown round and round inside the guard and in some cases through the wire. The guards were removed or cut from the plant and replaced by sturdy wider higher guards. We hope that these will give them a chance to grow into stronger trees. Prue suggested that the stronger guard might attract the attention of possums, so we placed a loose fitting wire cover over the tops of the guards, that can be easily removed, to stop them climbing in and nibbling the plant.

With the prospect of rain we packed up and headed back to the Centre for a late lunch. The rain did fall but not for long and the sun came out and we returned to finish a few more trees before moving all the unused guards,

stakes and plastic covers to an accessible area for collection and storage at a later date.

We finish the day with a walk deciding on a fungi hunt on the Forest Track. Not a lot in the way of fungi was to be found, so following yesterday's tree decline monitoring training, we spent time looking a little more closely at the Eucalypts that grow in that area and discussing the need to establish and monitor two plots on the property. A few possible sites were viewed but the final sites will be determined once the additional setting up information is received from NRM North.

Returning to the Centre we found John had continued work on the new storage cupboard in the second bunkroom and Noel had been doing odd jobs, including fixing the lighting in the men's bathroom. We had a last hot drink and chat before doing a final pack up and headed home, feeling that today's work on the trees will be beneficial to the re-establishment of the riparian vegetation.

Karen Manning

### **LISTmap: Workshop for small holders ~ Monday 25 July**

Two members attended this workshop to gain a better understanding of this useful tool, which is a free and publicly available online mapping application. The first session was an introduction to the features and functions of LISTmap where we listened to talks given by 2 DPIPW staff and 1 NRM staff member. They gave a demonstration of how the application works in particular the many overlays which allow the user to see various aspects of the area being viewed such as topography and 11 types of reserve. You can put a line around a place and quickly know the area inside or the length of the boundary. You can also transfer information to Google Earth and Google Maps and plot specific points on these.

Having viewed a specific address using various layers you can e-mail this to another user who will quickly see what you saw. If you are a registered user, and you can register for free, you can save each view of a property and return to it later. The last of the three speakers looked at what agricultural uses areas of the state are suitable for.

The second session on 1 August, will look at using the application to manage a property, which will give a better understanding of the natural values, issues and opportunities relevant to that property.

### **FORESTRY TASMANIA (Source: email received 4 July 2016)**

Forestry Tasmania has just released an annual update of our Three Year Wood Production Plan to inform stakeholders of our planned operations on Permanent Timber Production Zone land in 2016/17 to 2018/19, and also to guide our more detailed operational planning and scheduling.

The Three Year Wood Production Plan is a key part of Forestry Tasmania's commitment to engaging with our stakeholders to inform our

decision making and to responsibly and professionally managing Tasmania's public production forests for the long term.

The Plan, which is available on Forestry Tasmania's website, identifies the forest coupes on Permanent Timber Production Zone land that we intend to harvest over the next three years and also our associated road building plans.

To make it easy for stakeholders to identify the locations of coupes that may be of interest to them an [interactive map](#) is available on our website.

Stakeholders wanting more information or wishing to register their interest in relation to any particular coupes are encouraged to contact our Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator as early as possible by: Calling on 03 6235 8151, emailing: [stakeholder@forestrytas.com.au](mailto:stakeholder@forestrytas.com.au) or by mailing: Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator, 79 Melville St, Hobart, Tas, 7000

Website: <http://www.forestrytas.com.au/operations/three-year-wood-production-plans>

## QVMAG EXHIBITIONS

National Science Week 2016. This year we discover prehistoric Australia, and new technologies used to explore deep oceans and deep space.

When: 12 to 19 August.

Where: QVMAG Inveresk

Admission: Some fees apply, see [full program](#), for costing and RSVP details.

Source: <http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/qvmag/index.php?c=374>

## NRM NORTH UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tamar Discovery,  
Saturday 20th August,  
Free Activities 11am—2pm,  
Seahorse World,  
Shed 1A Inspection Head Wharf, Beauty Point (upstairs)**

You are invited to dive into the mysteries and wonder of the Tamar River estuary's incredible marine environment during this all-ages, interactive discovery event. Activities include:

- Displays and presentations for the whole family,
- Touch tank,
- Underwater photographic exhibit by David Maynard,
- Tamar corals,
- Lucky door prizes and competitions,

- **Discounted** Seahorse World tours for participants.  
For more information, contact Megan (NRM North—Tamar Facilitator) on 6333 7775 or at [mdykman@nrmnorth.org.au](mailto:mdykman@nrmnorth.org.au)

## **LISTmap Workshop for Smallholders**

The current workshop is full. To put your name down on a waiting list or to express an interest in attending future workshops, contact Megan as above.  
Source: NRM North newsletter, August 2016

## **MYRTLE RUST IN THE TAMAR VALLEY**

Myrtle rust is continuing to be detected in home gardens and is known to be in Launceston. Biosecurity Tasmania has a state wide emergency response program underway in an attempt to eradicate myrtle rust, before it becomes established and poses a serious risk to the health of Tasmania's native bush-land.

*Lophomyrtus* plants are the key carriers of myrtle rust and Biosecurity Tasmania needs to inspect these plants in home gardens (with your permission) for signs of disease. This time of the year, the rust will have been washed off leaves and hard to detect, but recording the locations of these plants at any time of the year will assist.

You can help by simply letting DPIPWE know if you have *Lophomyrtus* plants on your property.

For more information visit the DPIPWE website at: [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/myrtlerust](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/myrtlerust) or contact them on 6165 3785

Source: Naturally Yours, [Tamar NRM newsletter](#), May 2016

## **AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY MEETINGS**

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

**August 16** - Club night

**September 20** - Dr Nigel Swarts ~ Royal Botanical Gardens Tasmania Orchid Conservation Program

**Native Plant Sale:-** The APS will hold their spring native plant sale at the Max Fry Hall on Saturday 8 October from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The plants, propagated by APS members and grown at the APS nursery, are available at very reasonable prices.

## 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, but should contact our booking manager, John Elliott on 6344 9303 or [skempbookings@yahoo.com.au](mailto:skempbookings@yahoo.com.au) regarding availability and keys.

**Field Centre Phone Number** - 6399 3361

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

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

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

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