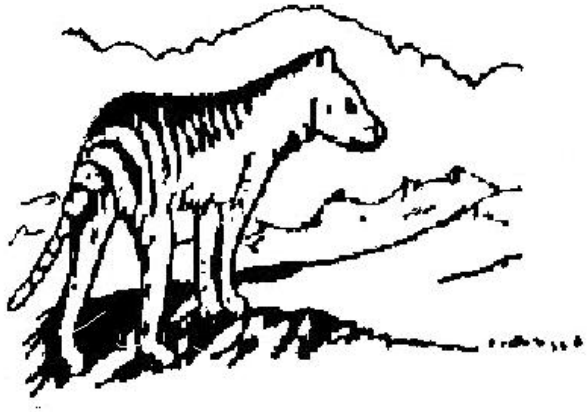
THE LAUNCESTON NATURALIST

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



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

Volume XLVI I I No. 5 June/July 2015

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Committee	:	**Ms Campbell, Mr Geeves, Ms McGlynn, Mr Ralph, Ms Wright, Mr Warren**

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

PROGRAM

AUGUST

Tuesday 4	**General Meeting ~ Simon Fearn ~ *The european wasp in Tasmania and the saga of the world's biggest wasp nest***
Saturday 15	**Field Trip ~ Arm Falls and Gadds Falls, near Lake Parangana**
Sunday 30	**Skemp Day ~ Social day / John Elliott will give a presentation on the Galapogas Islands (see further details this newsletter)**

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1	**General Meeting ~ John Duggin ~ *Wetland ecology and restoration***
Saturday 19	**Field Trip ~ Mt Barrow Interpretation Trail ~ EASY WALK**

OCTOBER

Tuesday 6	**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~ Kains Restaurant, Riverview Hotel (see further details this newsletter)**
Wednesday 7 ~ Sunday 11	**Flinders Island Trip**
Sunday 25	**Skemp Day ~ Water Monitoring**

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3	**General Meeting ~ Guest Speaker Ralph Cooper ~ *Wading birds of the Tamar River***
Sunday 15	**Field Trip ~ Greens Beach walk to West Head**
Saturday 23	**Skemp Day ~ Spring Clean**

Program correct at time of printing, short notice program changes can be viewed at http://www.lfnc.org.au/meetings.htm

Skemp Report ~ There is a good supply of fire wood. The new wood shed is full and there are three fallen wattles waiting for us to cut, split and stack. One fallen tree recently collected for fire wood had damaged six new trees although I think we managed to save all but one.

John has noted a 35% loss of trees from a replanting of the riparian vegetation from the Landcare grant of 2010 and we hope the new tree compounds will do better. These new tree guard compounds look rough though they seem effective at keeping the animals out and work better for the banksias which suffer in the small tree guards.

The tracks are looking good with some clearing done on the East Track recently. Another holly has been found and will be dealt with soon. We still need members to walk the tracks and look for blockages and we ask that you report any weed problems if you see them.

Puggle

June ~ Prue told members that the myrtle rust was first found on *Lophomyrtus* in Tasmania and asked them to name the plants it has since been found on. No one knew so she named them as Chilian guava (*Ugni molinae*, known as tazziberry in Australia) and *Agonis flexuosa* (weeping peppermint) before asking which two planets were brightest in the north west sky. Peter R correctly named them as Jupiter and Venus.

July ~ Peter R asked members what the Aboriginal name for mutton birds was and the early white fella name for them. John correctly answered 'yolla' for the Aboriginal name and with no takers for the other answer, Peter told us that it was 'moonbird'.

Sightings

June ~ Marion had seen pademelons in her Legana backyard. Tina saw royal spoonbills and 80 cattle egrets in trees at Queechy Lake and Tom T has seen a night herron. Tony had seen a wedge-tailed eagle at Oatlands and Jill had seen two eagles at Waratah. Tom T told us of a newspaper article about a new species of marsupial mouse recently discovered in Tasmania.

July ~ Peter W reported seeing many fungi in Carr Villa Reserve. Marion said that she had seen a baby Pademelon out of the pouch in her yard. Prue told us that the plovers (lapwings) are nesting late again this year. Tom had seen rosellas on the way to the Skemps day and a great egret in Coronation Reserve. Rodney described a bird he had photographed asleep in a tree in the Boomer Ranges and it was identified as a tawny frogmouth.

Library Report ~ Tina reported that the Club had received newsletters from the Burnie Field and the Natural News from the Central North Field Naturalists.

General ~ The wildlife camera requested by Prue Wright and approved at the last meeting has not yet been purchased. Advise is being sought as to the type that would best suit our needs.

Skemps Day August 30 ~ come along and hear John Elliott talk about his recent trip to the Galapogas Islands accompanied by a slideshow of images. The presentation will commence around 11am.

JUNE GENERAL MEETING ~
GUEST SPEAKER 's Peter Tonelli and Alison Dugand

Tom Treloggen introduced both Peter and Alison.

Peter Tonelli ~ *Raptor Identification*

Peter started the combined talk by telling us that his interest in raptors started about 40 years ago when he was asked to look after a masked owl found injured at Lillico. He needed a permit from Parks and Wildlife to keep raptors even though the owl was not on the endangered list then. He was soon caring for birds regularly and at one stage had 13 in care at the same time.

As he wondered what happened to birds when they had recovered and were released he applied for a license to band the birds. This all brought him into contact with many species and we were to hear about them accompanied by an excellent slide show.

His title slide translated raptor as meaning *to seize and carry away* and he told us to do that well you need good eyes, a good beak and a good set of talons. Slide two showed the number of each type of raptor with the relative size starting with the two eagles. The wedge-tailed eagle, *Aquila audax fleayi*, has a wing span of over two metres and the smallest on the list was the insect eating owlet nightjar at around 240 mm which he described as looking like a big eyed budgie. He stated that the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle has only one chick, while the smaller mainland eagle often has two chicks. There are 13 regular raptors in Tasmania with a number of accidental visitors.

Peter spoke of an injured brown falcon found by a Sheffield Primary School student which had been banded at Werribee Sewerage Farm three years earlier showing that the birds cross Bass Straight.

A slide showed a diagram of the inside of the piercing eye of a raptor and we learnt that its eyesight is eight times keener than ours enabling it to see a mouse up to a kilometre away. Peter explained that he was jealous as he had just had a cataract done and can hardly see anything out of one eye.

Next Peter showed us how a raptor 'keeps its grip' using a corrugation inside the muscle and after grasping an animal or alighting on a perch a friction pad closes down locking the claw in place. In this way it does not have to continually tension the muscle.

The following slides showed the various raptors and Peter described them. He started with the falcons, raptors with toothed upper bill, dark cap or tear drop cheek markings, long pointed wings and swift flight. The goshawks and sparrow-hawks he described as raptors with short necks, broad wings, hooked bills and female larger than

the male.

He then described the nocturnal hunting owls and told us that they rely on hearing for hunting. The frogmouth is a medium size nocturnal bird with weak feet, rounded wings and massive broad bill and has camouflage markings while the (owlet) nightjar is a very small delicate nocturnal bird, small broad bill edged with prominent bristles and has forward facing eyes. The nightjars catch their prey on the wing and in answer to a member question Peter described the nightjar as budgie sized and told us of one nesting in a forestry boom gate. He named our two eagles as the wedge tail and the white bellied sea eagle.

He described our two goshawks, the brown and white one which is known as the grey goshawk. To our amusement he stated that the latter is now known as the variable. The immature brown goshawk has a flecking pattern which is replaced by distinctive barring at five years.

For the grey goshawk he had an interesting story about a free range chicken farmer whose property was in the raptors territory. While the farmer was not worried about losing the odd pullet the goshawk occasionally would followed the birds into their shelter. To our amusement Peter challenged us to find a white goshawk amongst around 1,000 white leghorns. The story became serious when he told us that the panicked chickens clustered at one end of the barn and the farmer lost 100 or more. Peter tried relocating the goshawks and one was taken from Latrobe to Carrick to stop it from returning. He described how the eye of the white goshawk goes from grey to orange to red as it ages.

Next came the collared sparrow hawk and we heard of their agility in the air and ability to take a sparrow on the wing. The next slide had the three falcons, peregrine, Australian hobby and brown, all birds with a false tooth on the upper bill and Peter told us that a peregrine nested on AMP building in Hobart. A slide showed someone abseiling The Nut at Stanley to band the cliff nesting peregrine falcon chicks.

The talk covered other nesting practices and a slide showed an eagle on the wing and the large nest of a sea eagle in the fork of a tree with a bird in it. This was described as arboreal nesting while harriers were terrestrial nesters, having their chicks on the ground. The next slide showed chicks on the ground and one in the hands of a friend, even then a large but obviously juvenile animal. Peter said that he was being urged to hurriedly take the photo as the bird slowly closed its talons onto the hands.

The last slide showed a sea eagle attacking a remotely controlled glider carrying a camera and before handing over to Alison he told us that he had asked Peter Robinson, who was doing an article on the wedge-tailed eagle for National Geographic, how he had become interested in them. He was told that while hang gliding the craft began to shake and when he looked up there was a pair of talons sticking into the wing. He had been attacked by a raptor. Noel Manning

Alison Dugand ~ Harriers in the Harvest

Alison had already been introduced by Tom and she would speak on her project looking at swamp harriers in the agricultural environment.

Alison started by stating that her presentation was a spinoff from what Peter had

been doing for a long time. She would not go into the ecology of the birds rather give us a snap shot of what had happened in the last season, working out their nesting profiles and what is their preference in the farming landscape that has changed, how are they coping and are they in decline. She also spoke to farmers and encouraged them to modify their practices to help the birds.

The aim of the study is to gain an understanding of the swamp harrier in the farming landscape through an investigation into the habitat, crop type, harvesting processes and awareness of the bird by farmers, industry and the community.

When a bird nests in a crop we learnt that from planting to harvesting there can be 17 or 18 passes of machinery on the plot and at nesting time there can be 5 or 6 passes of machinery creating quite a bit of stress.

Alison hoped that the study would help make guidelines, in her words 'the ten commandments if you like' for preserving the birds without compromising the crop and it is not just the farmer who needs to be educated as you might have 5 or 6 contractors come into the paddock as well.

Alison wanted to hone in on the benefits and value of having the bird there in the first place, including integrated pest management. While in the past we see a raptor and think of a threat to the chooks and different raptors do go for chooks, some don't. Alison had seen a harrier catch three rats in a couple of hours and a farmer at Hagley was adamant that mice were seen less when harriers were nesting.

A series of slides showed the cute chicks in various nests or adult birds around the nests. One slide showed a nest in a hay crop and the farmer had stopped the harvest and called Alison who was impressed that farmers were keen to be involved once they learnt how. While the moving irrigators can be harmful to the harriers, Alison has seen the bird using the arms of the irrigators as a vantage point for hunting, which she described as an upside to the down side.

Pyrethrum and hay harvesters were described as the deadliest to the harriers because they are cutting at nest height and the project hopes to help farmers to identify a nest and encourage them to put a marker there so contractors would avoid it. This could mean little more than a tractor space or two around the nest with little impact on the crop and as well the chicks are there for only seven to eight weeks before they fledge.

As an example of the success of the project Alison told us of a contractor who had been informed of the project. He was told what harriers need, what they look like and what to look for to identify them in a crop. We were told that within a day all the ground staff also knew about the birds and how to avoid them.

Another danger to the birds is that once the crop is harvested the nest is left exposed to the elements as well as cats and farm dogs. The small patch of tall grass with the nest in it will also attract the cows if allowed back into the paddock.

While hay and barley are favourite crops with the harriers pyrethrum is well liked as the down of the newly hatched birds is the same colour as the flowers providing camouflage from predators and the dense foliage provides a micro climate to protect the chicks while the birds forage.

After slides and anecdotes which informed us of the success in getting farmers and contractors to protect the birds Alison told us about the general information web site, www.harriersintheharvest.com.au/, which includes a FAQ section and a gallery

of images collected by Peter over many years.

During the question time at the end of the talk we learnt that as migratory birds which visited Victoria and parts of South Australia and parts of New South Wales the birds faced other challenges as well as those in the fields of Tasmania. In answer to another question we learnt that their habitat before crops was swamps or natural vegetation near water. Noel Manning

MEMBERS TALK ~ Peter Warren

Before his talk Peter passed around a roughly triangular piece of rock cut in a slab described by Tom as nearly big enough for a cheese board.

This was a fossilised piece of stromatolite which Peter described as single celled microbes, or blue green algae, or if you like, cyanobacteria. An ancient single celled pre Cambrian organism representing some of the first life we know of. The only living form of this that he knew of survived in the salty conditions of Hamelin Pool, an inlet off Shark Bay, Western Australia. Sea water flows in but evaporates making the pool twice as saline as the ocean so that the snails and chitons which would prey on it could not survive. Noel Manning

FIELD TRIP ~ Notley Fern Gorge ~ Sunday 7 June

Even with rain and wind forecast for the entire state, eight brave members fronted at the Inveresk carpark to make the trip to Notley Fern Gorge. During the 30 minute drive there was intermittent fine rain which cleared the closer we got to our destination.

Donning our wet weather gear and armed with cameras to hopefully catch a few good shots of the ferns and fungi, we headed down from the carpark to the track. Here we split into two groups, the walkers would take the right hand track and the slower photo snapping natters would take the left track, expecting to meet up and cross over somewhere near the bottom of the gorge.

Taking a little longer to get ready, I took the left hand track and expected to catch up with others. I soon found out that I was alone on the left track so took my time checking for fungi behind fallen logs and in the leave litter, taking many photos as I went and disturbing a couple of pademelons who hopped away. The lack of sun and the forest canopy high overhead unfortunately made photo taking difficult.

At the bottom of the gorge Prue, who arrived late, caught up with me. A little later, the right hand track group led by Nick appeared and busily started telling us what we should keep an eye out for up ahead. The *Dicksonia Antarctica* in this area towered over our heads with filmy and kangaroo ferns growing from them. It would be interesting to know the age of these giant ferns.

While Prue and I walked slowly snapping more images, the other group had returned to the carpark and had a late morning tea or early lunch, and with other places to go all but Noel had headed off. He decided to wander down and join us,

and pointed out a few fungi he had seen on the way.

Back in the carpark we had lunch and with fine rain starting up again, we also headed home. The gorge is a very pleasant walk, and it was good to see the bridges had been replaced since our last visit. Karen Manning

Flora and Fauna seen during this walk:~

Ferns:~ *Blechnum nudum*, fishbone water fern; *Blechnum wattsii*, hard water fern; *Dicksonia Antarctica,* soft treefern; *Histiopteris incisa*, bat's wing fern; *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, common filmy fern; *Phymatosorus pustulatus*, kangaroo fern; *Polytstichum proliferum*, mother shield fern;
Plants:~ *Acacia melanoxylon,* blackwood; *Acacia verticillata,* prickly moses; *Atherosperma moschatum,* sassafras; *Coprosma quadrifida,* prickly currant bush; *Eucalyptus oblique,* brown-top stringybark; *Eucalyptus viminalis*, white gum; *Olearia argophylla*, musk daisybush; *Pomaderris apetala,* dogwood;
Fungi~ *Ascocoryne sarcoides,* purple jellydisc; *Byssomerulius corium,* white shelf-fungi; *Clavulinopsis amoena*, yellow finger fungi; *Cortinarius* sp., lilac and cream; *Geostrum triplex,* earthstar; *Heterotextus peziziformis*, golden jelly bells; *Hypholoma sublateritium,* brick caps; *Macrolepiota procera,* parasol mushroom; *Mucronella pendula,* icicle; *Mycena epipterygia; Mycena interrupta*, pixies parasols; *Mycena toyerlaricola*, bleeding mycena; Mycoegg of ? *Aseroe rubra;* Orange discs; *Scleroderma cepa,* puffball; *Stereum hirsutum* sp., hairy curtain crust; *Stereum ostrea*, golden curtain crust; *Trametes versicolour,* rainbow fungus
Birds:~ ; *Acanthiza pusilla*, brown thornbill; *Petroica rodinogaster*, pink robin; *Sericornis humilis*, Tasmanian scrubwren
Invertebrate:~ *Geoplanaria sugdonii*, yellow canary worm

SKEMPS DAY ~ Fungi and fence removal ~ Sunday 21 June

Arriving at Skemps the day was quite chilly. From the Centre we could see that the grasslands in the shade of trees were still heavy with frost.

Today we planned to remove further fencing along the Federation Corridor for reuse during the National Tree Day next month. As this area still had some frost on the ground, two groups decided to look for fungi along the Power Track, with one group venturing further to the Zig Zag Track. When Jill, Taylor and I returned to the Centre, Noel and Roy were splitting logs for fire wood and Prue who had just arrived had headed to Fern Gully to look for fungi.

We sat in the sunny corner outside the Centre for lunch talking about birds and the strange things they have been seen to do, this led Irmgard to tell us about the antics of a couple of black swans that she had observed nesting a few years ago at Grindelwald.

Walking to the Federation Corridor after lunch to start the removal of the fencing, we noticed what we presumed was a 'winter stream' but on closer inspection noticed that one of the two water pipes coming through the property had been pierced by a fallen tree. Prue returned to the Centre to tell Noel, who came back with the chainsaw

and other tools to asses the situation. Luckily the broken pipe was not ours, so Noel drove over to a neighbouring property and told them of the problem.

In the Federation Corridor we found that the Tuesday guys had started to dismantle the fence by snipping all the fence ties. All we needed to do was remove the wire strands and drag the fence wire out from under the grass that had since grown up through the bottom of it.

Fungi at Skemps

Prue and Jill got busy with the wire strand removal and Taylor and I worked on removing the fence wire which proved to be a bit of a struggle for us at times, we found that some roots of nearby trees had also taken hold through the wire along with the dense matted grass. When Noel returned, he started work on the next stretch of fence line for removal.

We were happy that the planned tasks were completed and we had three rolls of fence wire, the star pickets we needed and the single strand wire as well. During the tidy up we replaced the grass pieces in the fence line and got the other items ready to be moved and stored for reuse. We were thankful to see Tom round 4pm, his arrival had been delayed, but he was here to help the tired workers return the recovered items and tools back to the Centre.

Following a well-deserved cuppa, we tidied up the Centre before heading home.

Karen Manning

Fungi seen at Skemps today : ~ *Byssomerulius corium; Chlorociboria aeruginascens*, wood staining blue green discs; *Clavulina subrugosa*, white club fungus;

Clavulinopsis amoena, yellow club fungus; *Heterotextus peziziformis*, jelly bells; *Hygrocybe chromo-limonea,* lemon waxcap; *Hygrocybe pseudograminicolor*; *Hypholoma sub-lateritium*, brick caps; ? *Mycena clarkeana*; *Mycena interrupta*, pixies parasol; *Mycena sub-galericulata*; *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*, toothed jelly fungus; ? *Ramaria lorithamnus*, yellow coral fungus; *Scleroderma cepa*, puff ball; *Trametes versicolor*, rainbow fungus; *Trametes sp,* black fungus with white edge and velvety top.

GENERAL MEETING JULY ~ Member's Night

In the absence of a guest speaker members volunteered to give talks and were introduced by Tom.

Peter Ralph gave his talk on petrified man ferns. The talk was accompanied by a slide show with pictures of pieces of rock, jewellery made of it and maps of the area where it is found near Lune River in the south. It was thought to be 2 million years old but now known to be 180 million years old and from the Jurassic era. The petrifications were found by forestry workers in the area around a metre or so below the surface.

Rob Mitchelson gave a slide presentation on Skemps showing the fungi, ferns, flowers and scenes on the property. Much of what he showed us might not have been seen by many of the members unless they were willing to walk the entire property and to very look carefully. It was wonderful seeing so many of the plants in flower and the variety of fungi species. The water gushing over the waterfalls was particularly impressive.

Peter Warren read from the CSIRO book '*Australia's Poisonous Plants, Fungi and Cyanobacteria: a guide to species of medical and veterinary importances'* by Ross McKenzie*,* detailing the poisonous things common to the Tasmanian garden, backyard or stock paddock. Some were an issue to us while others affected stock. Peter mentioned two species of the fungi *Amanita.,* the grass *Lachnagrostis filiformis* (blow away grass) and rye ergot fungus, *Claviceps purpurea.* Plants included were *Xanthorrhoea* (grasstree), *Diplareena moraea* (butterfly flag), *Convallaria majalis* (lily of the valley)*, Conium maculatum* (hemlock)*, Ipomoea batatas* (sweet potato) and *Ricinus communis* (castor oil seeds). Some are familiar to us, either seen in our gardens or on field trips.

Prue followed with a well-received competition whereby she slowly revealed something from nature over four pictures. Starting with an extreme close up she gradually revealed more until someone could name it. Peter (R) moved around the room with a bag of treats rewarding the first to name the subject of the picture. Prue encouraged us to think harder by saying the treat belonged to her if she showed the fourth picture before it was identified.

Tom T thanked our presenters and members showed their appreciation.

Noel Manning

FIELD TRIP ~ Kimberley Springs, Sykes Sanctuary @ Railton, Henry Somerset Reserve and Villaret Gardens ~ Sunday 19 July

Thirteen members braved the cold and travelled to Kimberley to visit the warm springs located in a reserve managed by Parks and Wildlife off the road to Railton. The reserve had an undercover picnic area and toilets. Steam rising from the spring could be seen from the carpark, so with hot drink in hand we walked across the tidy reserve grounds to get a closer look. In the deepest section of the oval shaped spring, we saw bubbles disturbing the sandy bottom. On the far side of the spring, trees overhung the water and we could see a thick algae growing on the surface of the water. A member of the group said that the algae was periodically removed due to its excessive growth.

A local resident at the end of the road next to the springs invited us onto his property and talked to us about the area. There is a constructed pool on his property that the warm water from the springs flow into and is used for recreational use. The water in the springs is about 24°C.

From here we travelled towards Railton and stopped at the Kimberley Road entrance to walk that took us to the Sykes Sanctuary and Monument. Forty acres of land had been donated by Norman Sykes to the Railton community to be used as a nature reserve. The 1.5 kilometre walk was quite flat as it was along the old railway line to Sheffield. The walk was done in our normal field naturalists' style, slowly with many photos being taken of plants, fungi and birds along the way. Not far into the walk Tom noticed a grove of *Dicksonia Antarctica*, soft treefern and we were quite taken aback when he pointed out a *Cyathea australis*, rough treefern at the site of Norman's small shack. Looking around us we could see that many of the white gums had been affected by the ginger fungus. Stone monuments had been installed in the area in the early 2000's by Norman's son, they are covered with mathematical quotations and numbers. We walked out to the official entrance to the reserve to read the display board which gave more information about Norman and found that there was also some information to explain the monuments close by. We returned to our cars along a side trail in the reserve which meet up with the original rail trail that we entered on. Tom pointed out another two rough treeferns during the return walk.

Lunch was at the nearby park in the centre of Railton in an undercover picnic area with nearby toilets. With rain threatening we were pleased to have shelter and we also noticed a drop in the temperature while eating our lunch. Prior to our departure a few members went to a local craft shop where they were tickled pink by some of the unusual homemade items for sale.

Our next stop was the Henry Somerset Reserve where the sun was shining. We admired the deep pink of the *Epacris impressa*, common heath and the pale yellow of an *Acacia myrtifolia*, redstem wattle as we walked around the circuit. There were also several large patches of a fine pale yellow coral fungus.

We headed back toward Launceston around 2.45 pm, stopping at the Villarett Gardens in Moltema where we enjoyed afternoon tea before finally heading for our homes just before dusk. Karen Manning

Sykes Sanctuary
Plants: ~ *Acacia mearnsii,* black wattle; *A. melanoxylon,* blackwood; *A. stricta,* hop wattle; *A. terminalis*, sunshine wattle; *A. verticillata,* prickly moses; *Acrotriche serrulata,* ants delight; ?*Allocasaurina littoralis,* black sheoak; *Banksia marginata,* silver banksia; *Bursaria spinosa,* prickly box; *Chiloglottis sp (leaves only),* bird-orchid; ?*Clematis aristata,* mountain clematis; *Coprosma quadrifida,* native currant; *Epacris impressa,* common heath; *Eucalyptus obliqua,* stringybark; ?*E. ovata,* black gum; *Eucalyptus viminalis,* white gum; *Exocarpos cupressiformis,* common native-cherry; *E. strictus,* pearly native-cherry; *Geranium sp.,* cranesbill; *Gahnia grandis,* cutting grass; *Lepidosperma sp., (leaves only),* swordsedge; *Leptomeria drupacea,* erect currantbush; *Leptospermum lanigerum,* woolly teatree; *Lomandra longifolia,* sagg; *Lomatia tinctoria,* guitarplant; *Melaleuca squarrosa,* scented paperbark; *Olearia lirata,* forest daisybush; *O. ramulosa,* twiggy daisybush; *Senecio linearifolius,* common fireweed groundsel
Ferns:~ *Blechnum nudum,* fishbone water fern; *B. wattsii,* hard water fern; *Cyathea australis,* rough treefern; *Dicksonia Antarctica,* soft treefern; *Gleichenia microphylla?,* scrambling coral fern; *Pteridium esculentum,* bracken
Fungi:~ *Byssomerulius corium*; *Calocera* sp., branched jelly fungi; *Cortinarius rotundisporus*, metallic blue cap; *Heterotextus peziziformis*, jelly bells; *Mycena* sp., *Scleroderma cepa*, puffballs; *Stereum ostrea*, curtain crown crust; *Trametes versicolor*, rainbow fungus.
Bird:~ *Platycercus caledonicus*, green rosella

Henry Somerset Reserve
Flora:~ *Acacia melanoxylon*, blackwood; *A. myrtifolia*, redstem wattle; *A. terminalis*, sunshine wattle; *A. verticillata* sp, prickly moses; *Allocasuarina* sp, sheoak; *Astroloma humifusum;* native cranberry; *Clematis gentianoides*, ground clematis; *Epacris impressa*, common heath; *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, common native-cherry; *Lepidosperma* sp, swordsedge; *Leptospermum* sp, teatree; *Lomandra longifolia,* sagg; *Lomatia tinctoria*, guitarplant; *Olearia lirata*, forest daisybush; *Pomaderris* sp, dogwood

SKEMPS DAY ~ National Tree Day ~ Saturday 25 July

Nine members and one visitor attended to participate in activities for National Tree Day. The weather was not looking good, so in our wet weather gear Prue, Tom, John, Jill, Tina, Noel and I headed across to the patch of open grassland over the creek, opposite the Centre.

We had purchased *Bedfordia salicinia, Carex appressa, Dianella tasmanica, Epacris impressa, Lomatia tinctoria* and *Zieria arborescens,* from Habitat Nursery and Prue had given us some *Stylidium graminifolium* to plant.

Prue found a couple of well-developed trees that needed their guards removed, so we put in a few other plants nearby and installed a fenced enclosure around them

all. While Tom secured the pickets and stakes to the fence, the rest of the group, with Rhys and Caitlin who had just arrived, started on the next enclosure incorporating a well grazed *Epacris gunnii* with a few of the purchased plants.

Junior member Taylor and her family arrived. While her mum and dad walked down to the waterfalls, Taylor helped her nan Jill and Tina put in a few more plants. We fenced another area and put in more plants before picking up all the tools, the remaining wire and plants and moving them to the driveway for collection after lunch for the next planting in the Bedfordia Track area.

Following a quick lunch we headed out to the far end of the property and up to a clearing on the Bedfordia Track were we planted the *Bedfordia salicinia* trees and the remainder of the plants. Noel also dug up a couple of *Pomaderris apetala* seedlings growing deep under a large tree of the species and planted them out in the new enclosure where they have a far better chance of survival.

While collecting rocks to secure the wire Noel found two fungi caps growing in the hollow under the rock. A most unusual site which I photographed.

Many thanks to everyone for assisting today. Karen Manning

Prue and Jill secure the fence wire

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 meeting will be on:

August 18 ~ Club Night Speakers ~ Margaret Killen will talk about Adopt-a-Patch : Helen Statham will talk about finding a rare tree : Roy Pallett will talk about Plant Intelligence
September 15 ~ Guest Speaker Karen Johnson on *Landscape design*
October 20 ~ Guest Speaker Mark Wapstra on *Threatened North East beauties*

Plant Sale:- The APS will hold their spring native plant sale at the Max Fry Hall on Saturday 17 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.

NOTICE OF AGM DINNER MEETING - TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

The Launceston Field Naturalists Club will hold it's AGM dinner at Kains Restaurant at the Riverview Hotel Charles Street Launceston, meeting at the venue from 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start.

There is plenty of off-street parking behind the venue and in William Street. We will be ordering from their normal restaurant menu.

Members who would like to attend should indicate their intention in the appropriate book at the next general meeting or contact Noel on 63442277. RSVP prior to 2 October please.

All four Executive positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and six Committee positions will become vacant at this meeting.

If you would like to volunteer yourself or nominate another member for a position, nomination forms are available at the general meeting and also from the Secretary if you need extras. The nomination form with the candidates written consent should be lodged with the Secretary no later than 10 days prior to the AGM.

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