

# Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

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BULLETIN NO. 262

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

APRIL 1991

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club is devoted to the study of all forms of Natural History, and is comprised of both experts and beginners. We cover a wide variety of topics, and we support conservation. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, except January, in the Life Sciences Building at the University of Tasmania at 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the Club Contact is Helen Davidson, phone 23 7015.

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## PROGRAMME

- Thurs. May 2nd      7.45p.m.: Marion and John Simmons, members of the Launceston F.N.C. will present an illustrated talk on Acacias. Marion has written two books on these important Australian plants, and both she and John have travelled throughout Australia, gathering information on the many wattle species. John's expertise as a photographer should make this an evening well worth attending.
- Sat. May 4th      8.30a.m. from Museum.: Phil Collier will lead an outing to Mt. Field hopefully to view the endemic Nothofagus gunnii (Deciduous Beech) in its wonderful autumn colours. We will be driving to Lake Dobson and walking to Tarn Shelf if the weather is fine. Fagus can also be viewed from the car at Lake Fenton. \*\*Please bring appropriate alpine clothing etc.
- Thurs. June 6th      7.45p.m.: Hugh Hutchinson from the Bureau of Meteorology will discuss climate change, including the Greenhouse Effect and damage to the ozone layer.
- Sat. June 8th      10a.m.: We will meet at the Weather Bureau, 20 Ellerslie Road (off Hampden Road), where Hugh will show us around the building and explain how weather forecasts and maps are prepared.
- Thurs. July 4th      7.45p.m.: Dennis Morris, Honorary Botanist at the Tasmanian Herbarium, will be speaking on the conventions and the need for scientific naming of flora.
- Sat. July 6th      2.00p.m. Note later time! Sib Corbett, consultant for the layout of the Tasmanian Endemic Garden will show us this newly-established part of the Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Meet at the Gardens Restaurant.
- Thurs. Aug. 1st      7.45p.m.: Members night, Library night and Bargain Sale. More details in next Bulletin.
- Sat. Aug. 3rd      10a.m.: "Backyard Beasties" Day. We will visit 2 or 3 backyards in the Waterworks/Ridgeway area to discover what fauna may be found in suburban backyards. A special family day!

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NEW MEMBERS: Robert, Michael and Neil Rands and Annette Horsler (Dylnyrne); Denise Fowler (Westerway); Veronica Thorp and family (Bellerive); Andrew Weinert (South Hobart); Elizabeth Thac and Myrna Bedding (Blackmans Bay); Mrs. Judith Lovibond (Bellerive); Miss Catie Porteous (Port Arthur), Mrs. Mary Beadle and family (Battery Point); Mrs. Alma McKay (Taroon); Dr. Gurna Dick (Lenah Valley); Dr. Vivienne Mawson (West Hobart); Miss Alison Frost (Hobart); Mrs. Connie Howard (Mt. Nelson); Dr. Helen Hocking (New Town); and Ms Lyn Reid (Kettering) have recently become members of the club.

"Older" members are asked to make them all feel most welcome at TFNC activities.

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		Phone
President	Phil Collier	29 6597
Vice President	Kevin Bonham	28 7453
Secretary	Margaret Mollison	28 2720
Treasurer	Gilbert Van Munster	29 6602
Bulletin Editor	Helen Davidson	23 7015
"Tas.Nat." Editor	Don Hird	34 4293
Programme Coordinator	Patti Virtue	34 9478
Librarian	Marcus Hurburgh	23 1348
General Committee Members	Peter McQuillan	23 3262
	Robert Taylor	31 0388
	Andrew Weinert	23 5697

It is suggested that members keep this list handy for whenever they wish to contact a committee member on any matter.

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INCORPORATION AND NEW RULES

At the special meeting held on March 7th, the required majority of those present voted for incorporation of the club and for the adoption of the draft rules suitable for incorporation, subject to several minor amendments. The President was authorised to apply for incorporation forthwith and the process is in hand. The club is now operating under the new rules, copies of which will be made available to all new members and those others requesting them.

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FERN TREE FESTIVAL

Our stall at the Festival held on Sunday 17th March was most successful, raising over \$350. Winners of the raffle were Robert Rands (savoury tray) and Betty Hinton (scarf and cap).

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JOHN SKEMP FIELD CENTRE WEEKEND

A small group of TFNC members enjoyed a particularly pleasant and informative weekend at "Skemps", being very well looked after by members of the Launceston F.N.C. The 150 acre property was explored on Saturday (between showers and rain) and on Sunday Mt. Barrow, Diddleum Plains, Blessington and Deddington areas were visited. Near Ben Nevis seeds of the rare wattle Acacia pataczekii were collected.

Our members were most impressed by the facilities of the mud-brick accommodation building and the maintenance of the property's flora - all carried out voluntarily by LFNC members.

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TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

After a large and popular period of time for public comment last year, the Tasmanian Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage has produced a draft management plan for the World Heritage Area in western Tasmania. The draft plan will be released for public comment in April and the department is eager to hear the views of people and groups who are concerned about the area. Once comments have been taken into account the final plan will be prepared later this year.

To assist people in understanding the main plan proposals, and to make comment easier, the department has produced a summary of the management plan accompanied by an easy-to-follow questionnaire. The summary of the Draft Management Plan or the full version (about 100 pages) are available by writing to the World Heritage Area Planning Team, GPO Box 44A, Hobart, 7001 or by phoning one of the planners on (002) 30 2639 or (002) 30 6552.

Have your say on the draft proposals for this magnificent area.

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MANAGEMENT OF THE WELLINGTON RANGE

The Wellington Range Working Group has been established to recommend to Government how best to manage the Wellington Range. It cannot do this without the views and opinions of everybody who has a particular or general interest in the Range. There are many issues involved in the Range's management:- conservation of natural and cultural values,

recreation activities, recreational facilities, visitor facilities, water quality management, resource use, commercial developments and future status of the area.

The Friends of Mt. Wellington strongly recommend that the whole Range become a National Park or Reserve (but not a Multiple Use Reserve as defined by the Forests and Forest Industries Strategy).

It is most important that as many people as possible send in a submission or letter on any or all of these issues to the Wellington Range Working Group, GPO Box 179, Hobart 7001 by the 10th May 1991.

For further information contact Helen Davidson phone 23 7015 or Nick Sawyer phone 23 1492(H) or 20 5903(W).

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THREAT TO THE GOULDIAN FINCH

The Gouldian Finch, found in the north of Australia, is a seriously Endangered Species. Currently, one of the very few Gouldian Finch breeding populations, near Katherine, is threatened by proposed gold mining activity. Already exploration in the area has destroyed a number of nests.

National and international pressure needs to be brought to bear now on both the Commonwealth and Territory governments, as well as the mining company, which is a subsidiary of Shell. Please send letters expressing concern as soon as possible to:

- Mr. K. Gosper, Chairman, Shell Aust. Ltd., 140 Phillip Street, Sydney. 2000.
- Ms Ros Kelly, Minister for Environment, Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.
- Mr. M. Perron, Chief Minister, P.O. Box 3146, Darwin. 0801.

Contact Helen Davidson (23 7015) for further details.

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FROGWATCH QUESTIONNAIRE

If you have or have had frogs in your area and would like to answer a few questions about them, please contact Helen Davidson for a copy of the questionnaire sheet. The survey is being co-ordinated by Michael Tyler, Associate Professor of the Adelaide University, who was largely responsible for the study of Queensland's Gastric Brooding Frogs - now thought to be extinct.

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TFNC MAMMAL SURVEY GROUP

The group has conducted three quite successful live trappings at three different locations on Mt. Wellington. Traps are put out on the Saturday evening a fortnight after our regular monthly excursions and checked for results the following morning. For further details contact Don Hird or Andrew Weinert.

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MEMBERSHIP FEE REMINDER

Fees are due on 1st January of each year. The rates are:-

- ADULTS:.....\$15.00
- FAMILIES:.....\$18.00
- STUDENTS, PENSIONERS, HEALTH CARD HOLDERS:.....\$12.00

Note: Members automatically receive the journal and bulletins.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST":-

- Australia:      INDIVIDUALS:.....\$12.00                  INSTITUTIONS:.....\$16.00
- Overseas:        INDIVIDUALS:.....\$14.00                  INSTITUTIONS:.....\$18.00

This includes postage by surface mail (airmail is extra).

Please send membership fees/subscriptions to The Treasurer, Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club, GPO Box 68A, Hobart. Tasmania 7001.

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club  
MAMMAL SURVEY GROUP  
Program May - November 1991

May 18-19

Chauncy Vale Campout. Turn off at Bagdad to meet at the Reserve at 3 pm. Limited hut space may be available; otherwise tent, van etc.

June 22-23

Neika area - adjacent to Mt Wellington Pipeline Track. Meet at Ferntree Tavern Carpark at 3 pm Sat. & 8 am. Sunday.

July 20-21

Huon Rd. area. Meet at Corner of Huon and Turnip Fields Rds. at 3 pm Sat. & 8 am. Sunday.

Aug 17-18

Mt Wellington Chalet area. Meet at Ferntree Tavern Carpark at 3 pm Sat. & 8 am. Sunday.

Sept 21-22

Lagoon Bay via Dunalley area. Meeting details TBA.

Oct 19-20

Neika area. Meet at Ferntree Tavern Carpark at 4 pm Sat. & 8 am. Sunday.

Nov 23-24

"Glenelg" (Derwent Valley) or Waddamanna Campout. Accommodation available at Waddamanna not at Glenelg. Details TBA.

Dec. 4-5

Collinsvale Arboretum in conjunction with Club monthly excursion. Note Friday start and earlier than usual date. Some accommodation may be available.

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Each outing includes capture release trapping for ground mammals and bats under appropriate permits. Other activities include spotlight observation, tracks and signs interpretation and habitat studies as time and conditions allow.

Warm clothing and strong footwear are necessary. Facilities available at campouts will vary; details will be announced as available. Self-catering for food and accommodation is required; some venues may not be easily accessible at all times. Again details of individual excursions will be announced prior to their commencement.

Contact Don Hird (344 293) or Andrew Weinert (235 697).

## Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club

### Committee's Annual Report 1990/91

The past 12 months have been extremely busy as usual with many Club activities and several changes, notably the move to new premises at the University. We have presented a full program of particularly interesting speakers and outings, including the very successful public lecture by David Lang in February. The speakers and outings were:

Month	Speaker/Topic	Outing/Leader
March	Mark Neyland / Marsh Brown butterfly Louise Gilfedder / Inverted tree lines Adrian Pyrke / Eucalypt regeneration and string bogs on Mt Wellington	Mt Wellington / Jennie Whinham (String bogs) and Adrian Pyrke (Eucalypts)
April	Tim O'Loughlin / <i>Walking Softly &amp; Walking Safely</i> audio visuals	Orange-bellied parrot aviaries at Tarooma / Peter Brown
May	John Davies / Huon Pine in Tasmania	Huon pine and fungi at Tahune Forest Reserve / John Davies
June	Craig Smith / Geology of Maria Island	Bothwell historic buildings / M Mollison and F Barnard
July	Alex Buchanan / Early botanical collectors in Tasmania	Tasmanian Herbarium / Alex Buchanan
August	Don Hird / Tasmanian small mammal fauna	Mt Wellington trapping of small mammals / Don Hird
September	Members night	Capricorn One, Cygnet for nature trail design / Helen Davidson
October	Malcolm Wells / Tasmanian marine life	Sandspit River, Wielangta and Three Thumbs / Robert Taylor
November	Peg Putt / Tasmania's endangered species	Lutregala Marsh Reserve, Bruny Island / Sandy Tiffin
December	Mark Neyland and Peter McQuillan / Tasmanian Butterflies	Snug Tiers collecting and preserving butterflies / Peter McQuillan
February	David Lang / Round Britain Flower Race	Roches Beach for seashells / Elizabeth Turner

We thank all of the speakers and leaders of outings for making their time available to further our knowledge of Tasmania's natural environment and to share our enjoyment of its flora and fauna.

It is very pleasing to report that attendance figures for the 10 normal meetings and 11 outings showed a significant increase over 1989/90, particularly towards the end of the year. Meeting attendances averaged 25 and outings 20 people. More than 80 people attended the public meeting in February. During the year we welcomed 19 new members.



Seven committee meetings were held with an average attendance of 9 out of the 11 members. We worked extremely hard and discussed many important topics often late into the evening. We thank the members of the committee who will be retiring this year. Special thanks go to our secretary of many years, Helen Davidson, who wishes to take on lighter duties next year.

Since September we have been working on a new set of rules suitable for incorporation of the Club. It is hoped that the new rules will be adopted and the Club incorporated before the end of 1991.

In October the Club had a very successful and informative display at the SGAP Wildflower Show in the City Hall. Many favourable comments were received from the public on our *Collecting with care* theme.

Various members of the Club have worked on nature trail interpretation sheets for the Capricorn One educational farm at Cygnet, a leaflet on animal tracks for Chauncy Vale and submissions on various conservation issues. Work on a proposed butterfly booklet is in the planning stages while we look for a source of external finance to help pay for illustrations. Meanwhile the major existing Club publication *Tasmanian Birds* continues to sell well and provides us with a small profit.

We have started to produce the *Tasmanian Naturalist* using desk-top publishing technology. This is leading to significant savings for minimal cost and effort while the quality of the publication has been maintained.

In conclusion the committee thanks all Club members who have put in time and hard work to ensure the continued running of our activities. We hope that the coming year, while presenting the usual challenges, will be as successful as the last.

