



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

BULLETIN

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Quarterly Bulletin

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members.

For more information, visit website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>; email info@tasfieldnats.org.au; write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001; or phone our secretary on (03)62278638.

We welcome articles and interesting photos for the Bulletin. If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please email the editor with your article or photos by 15 January.

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Program

General Meetings start at **7.15 pm** for 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month and feature a guest speaker on natural history (no meetings or excursions in January). Meetings are held in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania.

Excursions are usually held the following Saturday or Sunday, meeting at 9.00 am outside the Museum in Macquarie St, Hobart. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear. If you are planning to attend an outing, but have not been to the prior meeting, please confirm the details on the club website as late changes are sometimes made.

Thurs 3 Oct	Guest Speaker: Meg Lorang, <i>Cat Control – educate or legislate?</i>
Sat 5 Oct	Excursion: Tasmanian Bushland Garden, Buckland. Meet outside the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery on Macquarie Street, Hobart at 9am.
11-13 Oct 2013	Federation of Field Naturalists get-together at Port Sorrell hosted by the Central North Field Naturalists. RSVP to Robin Garnett, email robin@rubicon.org.au or phone 0438 002 615 Closing date for bookings – Tuesday 1 October More details in July Bulletin
Thurs 7 Nov	Guest Speaker: Malcolm Wells and Peter Fehre, <i>Tasmania's Threatened Beauties (threatened orchids)</i>
Sun 10 Nov	Excursion: Lime Bay Reserve, Tasman Peninsula. Meet outside the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery on Macquarie Street, Hobart at 9am.
Thurs 5 Dec	Members night
Sat 7 Dec	Christmas BBQ TBA
18-26 Oct 2014	Australian Naturalists Network get-together 2014 at the Lea http://tasfieldnats.weebly.com/australian-naturalists-network.html

For details of talks and excursions beyond this date, please check the website at <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>

Woodvine Nature Reserve Excursion – July 2013

Geoff Carle

The Club decided to revisit Woodvine Nature Reserve near Forcett; a farm bequeathed for conservation of its natural values, much of which have been lost from the surrounding areas. Our last visit in February 2013 was shortly after a major fire. This visit was to take a further look at post fire recovery and also look for fungi species that are often evident post-fire.

The link www.parks.tas.gov.au/?base=2057 to the 2010 Management Plan provides an interesting outline of the history of the reserve. This Management Plan indicates that there was a moderate fire 20-25 years ago. Since then there had been a major build-up of fuel which resulted in the extensive burn in 2013.

The morning of July 7th was very cold, with ice on the puddles and dams, but the clear skies and no wind heralded in a great day for the 16 hardy members who gathered in front of a magnificent lone Eucalypt White Gum in the paddock opposite. The reserve was showing post-fire recovery. We broke up into two groups Fungi and Insect foragers.



A frosty start to the excursion. Photo: Geoff Carle



Cold is fun. Photo: Kristi Ellingsen

Flora Observations

Fire can be a regenerative feature for the environment and Eucalyptus adventitious shoots were well evident throughout the Reserve. In the damp areas some ferns and *Drosera* were becoming evident. There was no evidence of *Banksia marginata* cotyledons germinating or plants regenerating, which can sometimes occur, from their base. There were areas of *Themeda triandra*, Kangaroo Grass beginning to germinate. Species from the Cyperaceae and Restionaceae families were reshooting, the most visible being *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*, Button Grass.

The unwelcome introduced species *Erica lusitanica*, Spanish Heath was regenerating well, some of it was already flowering. When it was a working property its past management reduced the spread of *Pteridium esculentum*, Bracken but it now unfortunately is overtaking the farm paddocks surrounding the old homestead. The bracken was already re-shooting in February 2013 one month after the fire despite the lack of rain.



The homestead July 2013. Photo: Geoff Carle



The homestead Feb 2013. Photo: Geoff Carle

There were also a very good number of various orchid basal leaves appearing. Given the recent fire and good rains over winter it looks to be a promising spring for

orchids. The slowly regenerating understory should make them easier to locate and photograph this year. A further visit to this Reserve in spring and later could prove very interesting.

The following is a list of orchids compiled from the 2010 Management Plan.

Acianthus caudatus R.Br. (mayfly orchid)

Caladenia sp. (caladenia or spider orchid)

Corybas sp. (helmet orchid)

Cyrtostylis reniformis R.Br. (small gnat-orchid)

Diuris pardina Lindl. (leopard orchid)

Eriochilus cucullatus (Labill.) Rchb.f. (autumn orchid)

Microtis sp. (onion orchid)

Prasophyllum truncatum Lindl. (truncate leek-orchid)

Pterostylis nutans R.Br. (nodding greenhood)

Thelymitra ixioides Sw. (spotted sun-orchid)

Thelymitra pauciflora R.Br. (slender sun-orchid)

Thelymitra sp. (sun orchid)

Fungi observations.

The following fungi were observed:

Anthracobia muelleri

Entoloma convexum

Laccaria sp.

Lichenomphalia chromacea

Peziza tenacella

Pisolithus microcarpus

Postia pelliculosa

Psathyrella sp.

Serpula himantioides

Tephrocyebe sp.

Some other species, including some polypores, are still to be identified.



Anthracobia muelleri. Photo: Beth Heap

Snail Observations – by Kevin Bonham

5 species were found on this Woodvine outing: *Caryodes dufresnii*, *Pernagera tasmaniae*, *Laomavix collisi*,

Discocharopa mimosa, *Paralaoma* sp “Knocklofty”. All but the first were found very slightly outside the reserve’s far eastern boundary in small unburnt patches in a wet gully. *Caryodes dufresnii* was seen alive in burnt areas, unlike the previous outing on which only dead shells were seen.

Fauna Observations

A large marsupial was startled and because of its size it was first thought it was a Forester but, this would have been unusual and was more likely a Red-Necked Wallaby.

There were a number of wombat scats, some fresh and green, but no burrows were sighted. There were also some other small mammal scats.

Several Brown Tree Frogs were seen.



Litoria ewingi (Brown tree frog). Photo: Beth Heap

Beetles and Spiders – by Lynne Forster

In the post-fire landscape, charcoal encrusted logs offered a habitat alternative to leaf litter. Species seeking refuge, often together, under charcoal logs, ranged from skinks and frogs (brown tree frog *Litoria ewingi* and orange marbled *Crinia tasmaniensis*) were found alongside beetles, spiders and scorpions. Their densities provided good reasons for leaving burnt logs after a fire as refuges for species which can disperse once suitable habitat regenerates.

Although it was winter and frost was barely melting on the ground, a small number of invertebrates could be found. Beetles included clusters of darkling beetles (Tenebrionidae) under charcoal wood where *Coripera deplanata*, *Adelium licinoides* *Adelium abbreviatum* and *Isopteron obscurum* were found together.

Numerous larger (10mm) predatory beetles, *Pseudoceneus sollicitus* and *Promecoderus brunnicornis* (Carabidae) were not actively hunting but were semi-buried in sandy soil under charcoal logs. Kristi found the smallest predator of the day, an amber 2mm pselaphine beetle, *Rybaxis parvidens* (Staphylinidae) which, armed with long curved mandibles, was prowling the undersurface of a charcoal log, probably for mites.

Flightless weevils associated with wood and plants included the large 15mm *Pachyporopterus satyrus* and a

black *Poropterus* as well as a pale *Mandalotus* sp. nr. *variabilis*.

A male tube trap-door spider, *Stanwellia pexa*, was found, not seeking refuge in its scanty silk burrow but under a log. According to Hickman (1967) this is common behaviour for males of this species during winter. A wolf spider, *Diahogna martensi* lurked under a charcoal log near a pond.



Pseudoceneus sollicitus. Photo: Kristi Ellingsen

Beetles

Ground beetles (Carabidae):

Pseudoceneus sollicitus

Promecoderus brunnicornis

Rove beetles:

Rybaxis parvidens (Pselaphinae)

Darkling beetles (Tenebrionidae):

Adelium abbreviatum

Adelium licinoides

Coripera deplanata

Isopteron obscurum



Isopteron obscurum. Photo: Kristi Ellingsen

Weevils (Curculionidae)

Pachyporopterus satyrus

Poropterus sp.

Mandalotus sp. nr. *variabilis*

Spiders

Diahogna martensi (wolf spider: Lycosidae)

Stanwellia pexa (Tube trap door spider: Nemesiidae)

Tinderbox Hills Excursion September 2013

Abbey Throssell

Following Mick Brown's talk on bird photography a few days earlier, 15 Field Nats and guests gathered on a cool morning at Tinderbox Hills.



Field Nats gathered at the start of the track. Photo: Beth Heap

As soon as we arrived, Kevin and Don spotted a couple of little birds flitting around the edge of the carpark – Kevin thought they were grey fantails, Don said they were blue wrens, and it turned out they were one of each playing (or arguing) together! Kevin also saw a robin before we got out of the carpark (flame or scarlet),

giving us an indication that it might be a good day for little birds. At the beginning of the track some nodding greenhood orchids were flowering.



Yellow-throated honeyeater. Photo: Beth Heap

A short distance up the track, we stopped to look at a yellow-throated honeyeater, and some spotted and striated pardalotes. Further along were groups of New Holland (AKA yellow-winged) and black-headed honeyeaters, and a grey currawong and green rosella were also added to the list.



Black-headed honeyeater. Photo: Beth Heap

Plants included some prettily-flowering native indigo, *Indigofera australis*. A walker passing in the opposite direction told Genevieve that she'd seen a pardalote nest further up the track, though it wasn't clear what sort of pardalote lived there. It was still a bit early in the season for most flying insects, but one slender, red-black-and-white wasp (probably a braconid) flew alongside us for a moment and then helpfully landed in the middle of the track to pose for pictures.



Wasp found on the track. Photo: Abbey Throssell



Tinderbox Hills Track. Photo: Beth Heap

We stopped for morning tea on a hillside in the sunshine, near the sign marking the beginning of private property.

A little way back down the hill, some trees a short distance off the track were getting some attention from a few of our group – they'd found the pardalote nest. The consensus seemed to be that it was likely a striated pardalote, so some of us moved on without looking too closely (an unfortunate decision as it turned out). While

some of the group turned back at this point, a few of us went on as far as a small dam. No dragon or damselflies yet, but it was full of tiny tadpoles and lots of much tinier black critters (copepods? Qug wasn't there to tell us!), as well as a few very small water beetles. Returning to the carpark, we learned we'd moved on from the morning-tea spot a bit early. Those who had stayed around a little longer had finally gotten a good look at the occupant of the nest – a forty-spotted pardalote!



There's something interesting in that tree!

Photo: Genevieve Gates



Forty-spotted pardalote. Photo: Fraser Johnston

Bird list:

Blue wren, grey fantail, yellow-throated honeyeater, new holland honeyeater, black-headed honeyeater, spotted pardalote, striated pardalote, forty-spotted pardalote, grey currawong, green rosella.

Plant list: (Thanks to Anna for most of the names)

Bossiaea cinerea, *Indigofera australis* (native indigo), *Dianella tasmanica*, *Comesperma volubile*, *Amperea xiphoclada*, *Exocarpos strictus*, *Kennedia prostrata* (running postman), *Olearia viscosa* (dwarf musk), *Tetratheca labillardierei*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Pterostylis nutans* (nodding greenhood)

Searching for the Bronze Anoglypta

Kevin Bonham

The north-east forest snail, or granulated snail, *Anoglypta launcestonensis* is one of Tasmania's best-known land snail species. It's a large and very striking species which usually has a dark brown shell with a narrow gold band on its underside. The animal can be brick red, orange, lemon yellow, tan or brown. The species is found in rainforests, mixed forests and sometimes wet eucalypt forests in the inland north-east, from Mt Arthur east to around Goshen, and from just south of Roses Tier north to just north of Mt Horror. It was once considered very rare and even endangered, but a survey I did in the mid-90s found that it was actually fairly common and not at risk of extinction.

One of the many strange things about this snail is the range of colour and other forms it occurs in, and the most variation seems to occur near the eastern end of its range. This might be because in the past populations have been concentrated in glacial refuges around Blue Tier. Two of the more striking colour forms are the mostly yellow "gold *Anoglypta*" (which mainly occurs around Mt Victoria and also the Paris Dam area) and the distinctively patterned "bronze *Anoglypta*", which is known only from Blue Tier. Instead of having a narrow gold band in the middle of the dark brown colour underneath the shell, the "bronze" colour form has a broad pale yellow/green band around the outside of the underside.

On 27 April I joined the Tasmanian Land Conservancy on their field day at Blue Tier, which celebrated the recent purchase of a TLC reserve on the flanks of said mountain. We didn't visit the actual reserve, but various groups explored either the Mt Michael circuit or the Goblin Forest walk, depending on mobility. The outing had quite a "Field Nats" feel with David and Genevieve also leading a fungi walk and several northern field naturalists present.

My special goal for the day was to try to get photos of a live bronze *Anoglypta*, because as far as I know no-one has photographed one alive before. But while *Anoglypta* is commoner on the Blue Tier than just about anywhere else in its range, it still takes time to find one, and a brief group search in a seemingly scrumptious clearing full of

rotting logs did not produce any specimens. However, on the way up Mt Michael, fortune was with me as I found my first *Anoglypta* for the day and it was the bronze form (which makes up about 1/7th of the Blue Tier population). Even better still, it did not display the species' normal behaviour when cornered (which consists of taking a very long time to come out of one's shell and then moving with glacial slowness). No, this one was quite bright and perky and soon out for a walk and happy to be photographed and admired! Another two live specimens, this time of the normal form, found later in the day were much less co-operative but the goal for the day had already been achieved. I hope to survey the new Blue Tier reserve itself for snails at some stage in the future.



Bronze Anoglypta. Photos: Abbey Throssell

Fungi of the Month – Bird's Nest Fungi

Margaret Warren

These fascinating fungi consist of an urn or vase shaped cup approx 5-15mm wide by 4-8mm high and contain disc shaped peridioles which resemble tiny eggs. Peridioles are capsules which contain the fungal spores. The young fruiting bodies are initially covered by a thin membrane to protect the peridioles until

maturity. When rain splashes into the cup the peridioles are dispersed, often quite far from the source. The peridioles on some species have a sticky trailing thread that enables them to attach to twigs or plants.

Bird's Nest Fungi belong to the family *Nidulariaceae* and were first mentioned by the Flemish botanist Carolus Clusius in 1601. For centuries peridioles were the subject of much controversy regarding whether they might have been plant seeds and also their method of dispersal. The fact that the peridioles are ejected by the force of rain drops on the cups was confirmed in the 1940's by Dr Harold Brodie. There are 5 genera within the family, *Cyathus*, *Nidula*, *Nidularia*, *Crucibulum* and *Mycocalia*. They are distinguished from each other by differences in morphology and peridiole structure eg *Cyathus* has black peridioles while those of *Nidularia* and *Nidula* are brown.

The fungi grow in groups and obtain nutrition from decomposing wood and plant matter, they are found in most regions but are usually overlooked due to their small size. Sometimes peridioles are eaten by animals and large colonies of fungi can be found growing on old cow pats or weathered horse dung.



Nidula cf emodensis found on fern frond litter at Peter Murrell Reserve Kingston Tasmania in July 2012.

Photo Margaret Warren

References - Wikipedia and Australian National Botanic Gardens Website

For information about the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Fungi Group visit our website at <http://tasfieldnats.weebly.com/hobart-fungal-studies-group.html>

A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi

A motion was passed on Thursday 5th September for the Club to fund the publication of "A Field Guide to Tasmanian Fungi" by club members Drs Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky. It is expected to be released in March 2014.

This is the first comprehensive field guide to Tasmanian macrofungi (i.e. species visible to the naked eye) covering all categories of fungi from those possessing gills to fungi that lack gills. Up-to-date nomenclature is used in the Book, and misidentifications of species in previous Australian fungi guides are rectified. The authors have alerted the readers to name changes that have been made in recent years as a result of molecular work or are likely to be made in the near future, so that the Book caters both to the beginner and also to those who have a more advanced interest in fungi. The well-described and well-photographed species will guarantee that the Book will retain its interest and relevance well into the future.

This field guide is a result of the authors' many fungal surveys in Tasmania (in total more than 1000 forays) over 15 years, i.e. from 1998 to 2013 and provides a pictorial accompaniment to their 20 publications on Tasmanian fungi. Originally, there was a particular focus on the macrofungi of Mt

Wellington and four papers on the subject were published in the Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania starting in 2002. However, their other publications include the whole of Tasmania.

The Book is divided into two main sections, one involving gilled fungi and the other non-gilled fungi. For the gilled fungi, the genera are listed alphabetically and within a genus, the species are also listed alphabetically to assist readers in finding particular species of interest to them. For the non-gilled fungi, the species are listed alphabetically within mostly artificial groupings – Ascomycetes, boletes, chanterelles, coral fungi, earthballs, jelly fungi, leather fungi, polypores, puffballs, resupinate fungi, spine fungi and stinkhorns. In total, the Book illustrates over 500 species, including the commonplace and others that are among Tasmania's most interesting or spectacular fungi. They were found mainly in wooded areas but include species seen along road verges, edges of tracks and other disturbed places. The fungi in this field guide are deemed to be those most commonly encountered in the forests of Tasmania. All are described briefly and illustrated with photographs.

A field guide to Tasmanian Fungi



Genevieve Gates & David Ratkowsky

Landcare Conference and Awards

Registrations are now open for the 2013 Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Awards to be held in St Helens on 6-7 October.

The event features field trips, forums, the Awards ceremony and dinner and full day conference proceedings.

The program is vast and varied and will appeal to NRM professionals and Landcare volunteers and landholders alike. With keynote speakers including interstate guests David Walker from the National Landcare Network and Keith Bradby from Gondwana Link, and Tasmania's own renowned author Pete Hay the content should be thought provoking indeed.

The afternoon features five workshop streams with a plethora of content including Landcare on farms, on the coast, communications, community and biodiversity.

For more information and to register visit <http://www.landcaretas.org.au/conference/> or call Landcare Tasmania on 6234 7117.

Bird Nerd – Exploring Tasmania's Avifauna

An exhibition of artwork by Helen Barnard



inka gallery inc. presents

bird nerd

exploring Tasmania's avifauna

an exhibition of artwork by **Helen Barnard**

opening night: Friday 25 October from 5pm
exhibition from 24 October - 13 November



inka gallery, 16/77 salamanca place hobart

mon - sat 10am - 4pm, sun 11am - 3pm

t: 03 6223 3663

www.inkagallery.org.au

<http://inkagalleryhobart.blogspot.com.au>



You may have gathered by now (especially if you have been following The Little Wren adventures) that it is all about the birds! So, **INKA Gallery** are kindly hosting my first exhibition! 'Bird Nerd - Exploring Tasmania's Avifauna'

I would love you to come along to the opening night and have a glass of something with me and have a look at my artwork!

The exhibition opening is at **INKA Gallery on Friday 25th October**, starting from 5pm. Please pop in and say hello!

If you can't make it to the opening, the exhibition will be on from 24th October until 13th November, so there is plenty of time for you to stop by and have a look!