

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club (TFNC)

BULLETIN NO. 257

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "TASMANIAN NATURALIST"

January 1990

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 CSIRO Conference Room, Stowell Ave, Battery Point, at 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the new entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the Secretary is Ms Helen Davidson, phone ~~754444~~.

PROGRAMME

- Thurs. Feb. 1st. 7.45p.m. George and Michelle Meffre will show slides of their fascinating 1 month stay on the island of St. Paul in the middle of the Southern Indian Ocean. The volcanic island is only 3km across and has a large seal population. (It is at the same latitude as Tasmania and resembles Macquarie Island in some respects.)
- Sat. Feb. 3rd. 9.00a.m. (to catch the tide) Looking at shells and coastal marine life (with Elizabeth Turner??) at the southern end of Blackman's Bay, Boronia Beach and Dru Pt, Margate. Wear suitable attire and bring hand lens, buckets, etc.
- Sat. Feb. 24th TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB STALL AT FERN TREE FESTIVAL. (See below)
- Thurs. Mar. 1st. 7.45p.m. Jenny Whinam and Adrian Pyrke from the Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies will discuss the string bogs of Mt. Wellington and also the regrowth of vegetation after the '67 bushfires.
- Sat. Mar. 10th 10.00a.m. NOTE: Second Saturday in March - NOT THE LONG WEEKEND. Geographers (Adrian Pyrke and Louise Gilfedder?) will show us the aspects of Mt. Wellington vegetation, regrowth etc. covered by their theses. There may be some change to this field trip as confirmation of dates has not been possible at this stage. Full details as soon as possible.
- Thurs. April 5th. 7.45p.m. Tim O'Loughlin of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage will present two videos "Walk Softly" and "Walk Safely" and give us tips on trouble free bushwalking.
- Sat. April 7th. 10.00a.m. Peter Brown of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage will show us the orange-bellied parrot breeding program at 13 Nubeena Crescent, Tarooma. Lunch at the avaries, Tarooma Park or Tarooma Beach. Afternoon of beachcombing or climbing up the Truganinni Track to Mt. Nelson.

NOTE: Our secretary Helen Davidson has moved house and her new phone number is not yet available. If you need to contact TFNC by phone please ring other committee members. President Peter McQuillan 23 3262; Vice President Don Hird 34 4293.

FIELD TRIP TO IDA BAY - SOUTHPORT LAGOON: 18 members and visitors and 10 children had a fine day out in the far south-east of the state looking at wildflowers. We found plenty of orchids and Blandfordia punicea (Christmas bells) were in fine form.

AUSTRALIAN CICADAS by M.S. Moulds This is a new book just being released. It is a comprehensive study of this favourite Australian insect with hundreds of colour and black and white illustrations. Recommended retail price \$39.95. NSW University Press. We hope to have a copy for review in the Tasmanian Naturalist shortly.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 1990: DUE ON 1ST JANUARY 1990

ADULTS:.....\$15.00 FAMILIES:.....\$18.00
 STUDENTS, PENSIONERS, HEALTH CARD HOLDERS:.....\$10.00
 (Journal Subscribers: Individual:....\$10.00 Institutions:.....\$16.00)

PLEASE LET THE TREASURER HAVE YOUR PAYMENT NOW FOR 1990

TFNC STALL AT FERN TREE FESTIVAL: Mem and Joyce Tagg have offered to run a stall to club funds and would like support from members in the form of donations of items for stall (jam, cakes, sweets, produce, plants, books, handcrafts, etc. - the usual stall fare) and volunteers to put in some time behind the counter. Please ring on 391117. The Festival is on Saturday 24th February from noon (setting up from 10.30a.m.) and is held at Stephenson's Place, Fern Tree (near the kindergarten). Last year's stall was a great success - please give your support again. Come and enjoy the Festival!

BUTTON BATTERY RECYCLING: Kevin Osbourne of Harrington Metal Recyclers, FACT 412A Hull Street, Glenorchy (phone 731919) has placed collection jars for button batteries in several camera and hearing aid shops. Although only silver oxide batteries are valuable, Kevin is happy to take all batteries. If you can persuade your chemist or camera shop to accept these batteries, Kevin will provide a collection jar which he will empty. Help keep heavy metals from decomposing button batteries out of our environment and encourage recycling.

BUSH BOTANY WALKS WITH THE TASMANIAN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE: An interesting summer programme is now running. Contact the Environment Centre (ph. 345566) for full details.

TASMANIA'S WORLD HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN: From now till the end of February 1990 the Dept. of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage is seeking public submissions from organizations and individuals regarding the management of this magnificent area, to be considered during preparation of the plan. A pamphlet giving details and various planning notesheets to aid submission preparation are in the hands of the TFNC committee or can be had from World Heritage Area Planning Team, Dept. of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, GPO Box 44A, Hobart. T.7001. (Ph. Sam Rando - (002) 303912). We urge members to consider this proposal and perhaps to volunteer to join the committee in consideration of a club submission.

DONATION OF CAMERA TO TFNC BY MRS. Z. MATTAY: The mother of our past member Marileen Mattay who died recently has offered Marileen's camera and tripod to the club, to go to some deserving member who would make good use of it for the purposes of natural history photography. The camera is a Yashica Electro 35 Gold Mechanical with a small folding tripod. If you have anyone in mind who would be a worthy recipient, please contact the committee.

Endangered Small Populations: Their Conservation and Management

The problems of survival confronting many forms of wildlife in the late twentieth century have, in most instances, their origins in the population explosion of just one species, Mankind.

This expansion, in its many expressions, has resulted in a reduction in numbers and habitat for many species. The net result has been change from large more or less continuous populations to a series of smaller, fragmented populations. Ultimately such species face extinction.

In Australia we have abundant examples of this process and consequently a large number of endangered species. The problem is common to most continents and countries, however, and occupies the energy of many wildlife biologists.

New concepts, tools and techniques under development, for use in concert with more traditional methods. An international Conference on the Management and Conservation of Small Populations was held in September 1989 at the Melbourne Zoo. The Eastern Barred Bandicoot was featured as a model species with which to test the techniques. The Button Wrinklewort (a grasslands daisy), the Giant Gippsland Earthworm, the Eltham Copper Butterfly, the Australian Damsel Fly, the Helmeted Honeyeater, the Orange-bellied Parrot and Leadbeaters Possum are other prominent species sharing this predicament.

Proceedings of the Conference, published by the Chicago Zoological Society, are available for \$6.00 posted from John Seebeck, Rylah Institute, 123 Brown St., Heidelberg 3084.

BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA: This group administers the Australian Bird Environment Fund with grants for projects relating to bird habitat protection. If you want to know more about this fund contact our Secretary, Helen Davidson.

NOMINATION OF NEW COMMITTEE: Prior to the AGM in March, the Secretary would like to receive nominations for the 1990-91 committee. The committee has been operating under-strength during the past year, due to various circumstances, and desperately needs some new faces volunteering to help keep our club operating. The work is not excessive if all positions are filled. Please consider offering to assist. Committee meetings are held only every 2 months and no technical skills are needed to keep the business and organization of the club on track. You do not need to be a "natural history whizz" for the everyday committee work and we are able to call on the experts when specialist knowledge is required. Incidentally, being involved is a good way to learn, and working with other club members is very rewarding. New ideas and inspiration are always needed.

The positions are:

President: Chairs committee and general meetings, writes the occasional letter and represents the club if required.

Vice-president (two): Acts for the president when required.

Secretary: Keeps minutes and prepares agendas for all meetings, answers correspondence (usually under direction of committee), arranges for collection of mail from P.O. box and distributes appropriately, keeps such records as may be needed.

Treasurer: Performs simple bookkeeping, prepares bi-monthly statements for committee meetings and Annual Statement for AGM in March, keeps membership records.

Assistant Secretary: Acts as secretary when required, prepares quarterly club bulletin and arranges its distribution.

Committee Members (four): Attend meetings and provide assistance to committee executive as required.

Librarian: This is an ex-officio position appointed by the committee. Several hours a month are required to keep the club library materials in order. (Help from our present librarian will be available.)

Editor "Tasmanian Naturalist": This is an ex-officio position appointed by the committee. This position does require some specialized knowledge but can be handled by an intelligent amateur. (Help from the present Editor will be available.)

Auditor: Appointed by committee.

The committee would also like to hear from people who have skills (such as typing or special areas of knowledge) which could be of assistance to them. If we have a pool of people to call on it makes life easier for all.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE NOMINATION FORMS ATTACHED TO THIS BULLETIN ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY BEFORE THE 15TH FEBRUARY.

PLEASE HELP KEEP YOUR CLUB GOING!!

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB - NOMINATION FORM

I hereby propose

for the position of

(President, 2x Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, 4x Committee Member)

Proposer

Seconder

I agree to stand for the above position.

(Nominee's signature)

(Date)

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