



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 our website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au>; email info@tasfieldnats.org.au; or write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001.

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Program

General Meetings start at **7.15pm** for 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania.

Excursions are usually held the following Saturday or Sunday, meeting at 9.00am 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 as late changes are sometimes made.

Thu, 6 Aug	Meeting 7.15pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tasmania. Josh Griffiths will be our guest speaker on <i>The Health Status of Platypus in Tasmania</i> . Josh is from the Platypus Team run by DPIW.
Sat, 8 Aug	Excursion to Gellibrand Point, South Arm. Meet at 9.00am outside the Museum in Macquarie St, Hobart. We will then drive to South Arm, north through Opossum Bay and into the new subdivision, to the end of Spitfarm Rd. Rendezvous there about 9.45am. The 'Arm End Circuit' is 7km of easygoing, and can readily be shortened. Bring wet-weather gear and lunch; we should finish early afternoon.
Thu, 3 Sep	Meeting 7.15pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. Simon Grove will speak on <i>'Tasmanian Seashells'</i> .
Sun, 6 Sep	Excursion to <i>Taroona</i> and <i>Hinsby</i> beaches, led by Simon Grove. If the weather is inclement, we will adjourn to Simon's house to look at his collection.
Thu, 1 Oct	Meeting 7.15pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. Richard Schahinger will present <i>Threatened Flora in Tasmania - case studies</i> .
Sun, 4 Oct	Excursion , probably to Snug Tiers.

Bulletins by email

This edition is being sent by email to all members whose email address is known and who have not indicated that they would prefer to receive it by ordinary post. This is to save paper, effort, and cost.

However, we appreciate that some members must or prefer to receive the bulletin by post. If you wish to change the way you receive the Bulletin, contact Anna at treasurer@tasfieldnats.org.au or phone (03) 6239 6326.

Federation get-together, this November

Louise Brooker, NE Field Nats

We will hold the get-together at the *Field Study Centre* at Mt. Cameron on 13, 14, & 15 Nov. There is 25 km² of eucalypt and sheoak woodland, wet sclerophyll gullies and patches of heath-land, with a diverse flora and spectacular mountain scenery.

The centre has two bunk rooms accommodating 16 and 14, and space for camping. There is hot water and a well equipped kitchen with fridge. The cost is \$20/person/night.

Owing to its isolation, we are not able to cater for Saturday night's meal, but feel we could have a great meal if field natters bring their own meat to cook on a barbeque, and maybe something (eg. a salad) to put on the communal table. NE Field Nats will provide desert.

I'm not sure what the special focus of the weekend will be, but we certainly have engaged members of our club who know the area intimately and have been involved with the centre since its inception.

I will have more information at the beginning of October.

Easter camp, Koonya 10~12 Apr 2009

Report by Amanda Thomson

This year Easter camp was attended by a party of 21, including a large contingent of children. We met at the Dunalley canal and stopped further on at Dunalley Beach to fossick on the foreshore. The narrow dune stretch was abundant in finds including wombat scats and a Little Black Cormorant skull. The foreshore was full of crabs, shells, barnacles, chitons and a Shaw's cowfish. We proceeded to Sommers Bay with picturesque sand patterns and cloud reflections, finding Pebble crabs, a jewel beetle and more. Two yellow-tailed black cockatoos were observed feeding on a flowing Banksia. We ended the day at Koonya, the university Field Station on the Tasman Peninsula.

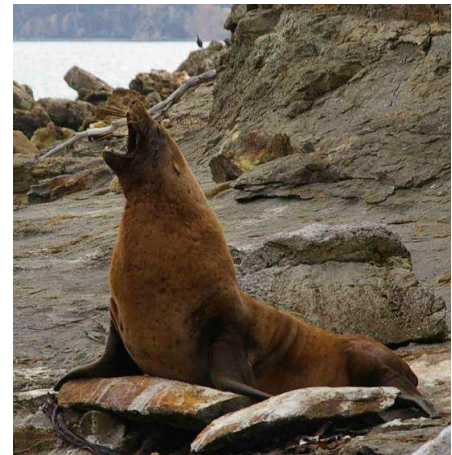
Young Harry Driessen had a rude start to the next day when he was stung on the bottom by a scorpion that had climbed into his underpants that he had left on the floor overnight. Apart from the initial shock he was none the worse for the experience. Saturday was spent climbing **Clark Cliffs**. We did the circular walk ascending the longer more gradual route up through cloud forest and descending steeply through the rainforest. The Field Naturalists extended the 3 hour walk to a 6 hour walk! We enjoyed lunch on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Musk Forest. Robyn Gates showed her skills as a *skink whisperer* and had several Tasmanian Tree Skinks feeding out of her hand. A number of scats were collected both for examination and with the intention of setting up an identification box. Observations included fungi, mosses, lichens, a Summer Greenhood orchid and other plants as well as birds, snail and other invertebrates.



Saturday afternoon was spent sketching, and enjoying (by most) a 'friendly' game of soccer, except for one person who 'came a cropper'! Saturday evening saw much microscope activity with scat microcosms under examination (finds included a lower jaw bone of an Antechinus); general consensus of identification of observations and fungi spore prints were made. Unfortunately the harp net erected by Michael Driessen failed to catch anything. A spotlight walk was also largely unsuccessful, but enjoyed by the younger members.

Our last morning on Sunday took most of us to Eaglehawk Neck and Fossil Island. We walked along the beach, then around the rocks but were impeded by the presence of a large **Australasian Fur Seal** who postured and snorted his disapproval at our presence! Even from a distance of 50 metres or so his breath was formidable! Back at the boat ramp we were entertained by grazing Sea Hares and also a very extrovert and photogenic Hermit Crab. There were many tuna jaws and heads on the beach – leftovers from fishing trips.

A most enjoyable weekend, great to have lots of younger members there who contributed their observations, finds and were excellent washer-uppers!



Dunalley Beach observations —

Birds:

Haematopus longirostris, Pied Oystercatcher
Haematopus fuliginosus, Sooty Oystercatcher
Vanellus miles, Masked Lapwing
Larus novaehollandiae, Silver Gull
Ardea novaehollandiae, White-faced Heron
Larus pacificus, Pacific Gull
Corvus tasmanicus, Forest Raven
Phalacrocorax sulcirostris, Little Black Cormorant

Snails [Kevin Bonham]

(Dunalley B. not previously sampled)
Paralaoma caputspinulae
Magilaoma "tasmanica"

Sommers Bay observations —

Birds

Calyptorhynchus funereus, Yellow-tailed-black cockatoo
Anthochaera paradoxa, Little Wattle Bird
Ardea novaehollandiae, White-faced Heron
Corvus tasmanicus, Forest Raven
Vanellus miles, Masked Lapwing
Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera, Crescent Honeyeater
Platycercus caledonicus, Green Rosella
Aquila audax, Wedge-tailed Eagle
Falco cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel

Crabs

Carcinus maenas, Green Crab

Other invertebrates

Chiton pelliserpentis, Serpent-head Chiton
Cyclograpsus granulatus, Purple-spotted Shore Crab
Paragrapsus gaimardii, Spotted Shore Crab
Gastrimargus musicus, Yellow-winged Locust
Macrotona australis, Common Macrotona grasshopper
Latrodectus hasselti, Redback Spider
 polyxenidan millipede

Others:

Aracana aurita, Shaw's Cowfish
Vombatus ursinus, Wombat scats

Mictyris platycheles, Soldier Crab

Snails

(Sommers Bay not previously sampled)
Caryodes dufresnii, Bush Snail (dry forest form!)
Laomavix collisi,
Pernagera officieri,
Thryasona marchianae, (surprising - normally found in very wet forest)

Others

Cyrioides imperialis, Banksia jewel beetle (dead)
Phaulacridium vittatum, Wingless grasshopper
 Giant springtail, family Uchidanurinae

Clark Cliffs observations —

Plants [Anna McEldowney]

The circular track at Clark Cliffs, leaves from near the top of Fire Tower Road and starts as a gently graded old logging track through a predominantly *Eucalyptus regnans* cloud forest. Mosses and lichens abound and there were a lot of fungi due to the recent rains. At the top of this track, near the Norfolk Bay lookout, the forest opens out and veers southwards through an area damaged by strong winds some years ago, and gradually becomes rainforest as the cliffs are approached. Just before the Clark's Cliff's lookout another view down into the gully is a spectacular green mosaic of *Pomaderris*, *Bedfordia* and *Olearia argophylla* underlaid with mossy rocks. After the lookout the track descends steeply through dark rainforest rich with mosses, lichens, filmy ferns, leafy liverworts and tree ferns before rejoining the road just above the start of the track.

Species, in order of observation:

<i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>	<i>Olearia phlogopappa</i>	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>
<i>Pomaderris apetala</i>	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	<i>Anopterus glandulosus</i>
<i>Gahnia grandis</i>	<i>Monotoca glauca</i>	<i>Richea dracophylla</i>
<i>Callistemon pallidus</i>	<i>Bedfordia salicina</i>	<i>Drymophylla cyanocarpa</i>
<i>Leptospermum ?</i>	<i>Acacia melanoxydon</i>	<i>Tasmannia lanceolata</i>
<i>Acacia riceana</i>	<i>Correa lawrenceana</i>	<i>E. delegatensis</i>
<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i>	<i>Pimelea drupacea</i>	<i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i>
<i>Cyathodes glauca</i>	<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>
<i>Epacris ?</i>	<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	<i>Aristotelia peduncularis</i>
<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	<i>Pittosporum bicolor</i>	<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i>
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	<i>Atherosperma moschatum</i>	

Also observed:

<i>Pterostylis decurva</i> , orchid, one specimen only in flower	<i>Huperzia varia</i> , Long Clubmoss
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i> , fern	<i>Pseudocyphellaria multifida</i> , bright green lichen on rainforest floor

Fungi

Identified by Genevieve Gates from photos:	<i>Ramaria lorithamnus</i>	<i>Marasmius</i> sp.
<i>Entoloma viridomarginatum</i>	<i>Hypocrea</i> aff. <i>megalosulphurea</i>	<i>Russula</i> sp.
<i>Ramaria</i> sp.	<i>Mycena toyerlaricola</i>	Identified by Amanda Thomson:
<i>Pholiota squarrosipes ?</i> (belongs to Cortinariaceae)	<i>Polyporus melanopus</i>	<i>Clavicornia pyxidata</i>
<i>Amanita</i> 'umbrinella' group	<i>Phellodon niger</i>	<i>Discanella terrestris</i>
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp.1	<i>Tremella fuciformis</i>	<i>Panellus stipticus</i>
<i>Tylopilus</i> 'purple', it is a bolete that I have collected many times	<i>Cantharellus concinnus</i>	<i>Podoserpula pusio</i>
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. 2	<i>Boletellus obscurecoccineus</i> (Fungimap record)	<i>Ramaria holorubella</i> , Coral Fungus
<i>Ramaria</i> 'hot pink'	<i>Entoloma rodwayi</i>	<i>Trametes visicolor</i> , Bracket Fungus
<i>Leucocoprinus</i> sp.	<i>Pholiota malicola</i>	
	<i>Psathyrella asperospora</i>	
	<i>Lyophyllum</i> cf. <i>decastes</i> ,	

Birds

<i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i> , Yellow-throated Honeyeater	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i> , Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
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Melithreptus validirostris, Strong-billed Honeyeater
Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera, Crescent Honeyeater
Platycercus caledonicus, Green Rosella
Dacelo novaeguineae, Laughing Kookaburra
Rhipidura fuliginosa, Grey Fantail
Colluricincla harmonica, Grey Shrike-Thrush
Strepera fuliginosa, Grey Currawong
Anthochaera paradoxa, Yellow Wattlebird
Zosterops lateralis, Silvereye
Pachycephala pectoralis, Golden Whistler
Petroica boodang, Scarlet Robin

Snails [* = new record for locality]

Caryodes dufresnii, Bush Snail
Bothriembryon tasmanicus,
Tasmaphema sinclairi,
Helicarion cuveri,
*Paralaoma caputspinulae**
*Paralaoma halli**
Paralaoma mucoides,

‘Tasman House’ Koonya observations —

Birds

Zoothera lunulata, Bassian Thrush
Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera, Crescent Honeyeater
Petroica boodang, Scarlet Robin
Malurus cyaneus, Superb Blue-Wren
Pachycephala pectoralis, Golden Whistler
Rhipidura fuliginosa, Grey Fantail
Anthochaera paradoxa, Yellow Wattlebird
Platycercus caledonicus, Green Rosella
Zosterops lateralis, Silvereye

Parkers Beach, Koonya observations —

(solo side-trip by Kevin bonham)

Snails (*new record for locality)

*Caryodes dufresnii**
*Paralaoma halli**
P. caputspinulae

Fossil Island & Pirates Bay observations —

Vertebrates

Larus novaehollandiae, Silver gull
Larus dominicus, Kelp gull
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos, Little Pied cormorant

*Trocholaoma parvissima**,
Thryasona diemenensis
Thryasona marchiana,
Prolesophanta nelsonensis,
Roblinella gadensis,
Pernagera tasmaniae,
Pernagera sp. "waterfall"*
“*Allocharopa*” *legrandi*,
Allocharopa sp. "Macgregor"* (tentative)
Range extensions for *P.* sp. "Waterfall" (13km) and *A.* sp "Macgregor" (10km).
Both are Forestier/Tasman Pen endemics with previous Tasman Pen records from eastern side only. Total of 16 spp (cf 15 from previous trip in 2002) brings Clark Cliffs total to 20.

Others

Tapeigaster sp., Sun Fly
Uchidanuridine springtail
Antechinus swainsonii, Dusky Antechinus
Niveoscincus pretiosus, Tasmanian Tree Skink

Frogs

Litoria ewingi, Brown Tree Frog
Crinia signifera, Brown Froglet

Invertebrates

Boreoides tasmaniensis, Soldier Fly
Austroicetes vulgaris, Southeastern *Austroicetes* grasshopper
Orthodera ministralis, Green Mantid
Cercophonius squama, Wood Scorpion

Laomavix collisi

Pernagera sp. "Taranna" (Tas Pen endemic)

Orchid

Acianthus exsertus, almost in flower

Arctocephalus pusillus, Australian fur seal
Hydromys chrysogaster, Water Rat tracks

Snails

- all recorded from Fossil Is before; this trip most were directly opposite Fossil Is.

Magilaoma "tasmanica"
Paralaoma caputspinulae,
Pernagera officeri
Laomavix collisi
Thryasona diemenensis

Other Invertebrates

Actinia tenebrosa, Waratah anemone

Trigopagurus strigimanus, Hermit crab
Aplysia sydneyensis, Sydney sea hare
Nerite, *Nerita atramentosa*, Black nerite
Ovalipes australiensis, Surf crab
Notocypraea declivis, cowrie
Ellatrivia merces, Bean cowrie
Bombus terrestris, Large Earth bumblebee

Mystery Creek Cave — 10 May 2009

Excursion report by Jane Catchpole

Mystery Creek Cave is sited in the World Heritage Area of the South West National Park, and is one of the oldest reserves in Tasmania (1896). The trail starts at South Lune Road, a 4km drive west of Ida Bay, then follows the old railway line to the disused Blayney's limestone quarry before branching off to the cave entrance, 1.2km from the carpark. It is the first section of a walking route into the Southern Ranges via Moonlight Ridge to Mount La Perouse.

On a sunny Sunday morning, after a quick rendezvous at the Ida Bay railway, 25 of us, (a good mix of adults and excited children), were registered in the walkers book at the start of the trail before heading off into the forest, along the bed of the old railway.

The Ida Bay railway started as a timber tramway serving a mill at Lune River, and logged trees with plank notches can still be seen along the way. Around 1919 it was taken over by the Australian Commonwealth Carbide Co.Ltd., and a railway built to transport quarried limestone to a wharf at Brick Point on Ida Bay. Here the limestone was shipped to Electrona where it was used in the production of calcium carbide – a key component in the steel industry, the source of acetylene gas, and used in the chemical industry for the production of synthetic rubber and plastics. The rock was blasted from the quarry face, broken up and sorted, then manhandled into box cars from the railway. The rails on the sloping quarry floor had to be removed before blasting to prevent damage by falling stone then relaid once rock had been cleared, and a tractor was used to tow and lower the box cars up and down the final 1:25 slope up the quarry face. Apparently the whole operation, not surprisingly, was “hard on both the men and vehicles”, and considered “most uneconomic”. Originally steam locomotives were used, but in 1948 five petrol engines were purchased. Up to six trains ran each day. The trucks on the line used an unusual braking system – wooden blocks dropped onto the wheels as the trucks bunched together and released when the strain was taken up by the engine. This led to two driving styles – either the driver had to go fast enough to keep the brakes from coming on, or slowly with the engine at full throttle pulling against the brakes. Three quarries were worked over the life of the line, old Blayney's being the second. In 1950 a new quarry closer to Lune River was opened and the railway line was extended to Deep Hole, due to silting of the river at the wharf. The last limestone train ran in 1975, and the track to the quarry was removed in 1981.

Other evidence of human habitation could be found in a forest clearing along the way - marked by a unique cairn of well worn leather hobnailed boots! Along with a couple of lyre birds foraging in the leaf litter, we found the remains of stone and brick walls, old bottles and even an ink well still containing black ink.

Back on the track we slowly made our way to the cave after leaving the quarry. The cave is 450 – 500 million years old and is formed in limestone. A short scramble down a narrow path revealed the entrance and our first sight of glow worm habitation - a fringe of silken threads. We left the backpacks on the path, turned on our torches and descended into the cave. It is large, level and walkable and only one small section required us to stoop under a boulder. Mystery Creek flows through the cave over pebbles and the walking route criss-crosses the stream many times. The sharp eyed children discovered some cave spiders, and stalactites and stalagmites loomed out of the darkness.

Eventually we reached the main chamber, sat down and switched off our torches. The hidden secrets of the cave were slowly revealed. Clusters of shining dots magically appeared like stars in the blackness! The whole group sat quietly for a long while; either enjoying the spectacle, or trying to count the number of dots! Once the torches were turned back on, the "stars" disappeared and all that we could see was a plain grey rockface again. A closer look revealed a few unexciting looking brown worms attached to the surface - the glow worm larvae - and their silvery threads of silk hanging down ready to ensnare prey. Who would have thought that they were responsible for that magical light show!

We retraced our steps, heading for the sunlight and lunch at the quarry, then a leisurely stroll back to the cars.

Many thanks to Michael Driessen for revealing the hidden secrets of the cave!

Also for information gleaned from – *Rail Trails of Tasmania, Family Bushwalks in Tasmania's Huon Valley*, and the Ida Bay Railway.

There is also a fantastic video of glow worms in action (glowing, catching prey), on Youtube!! Have a look!!

Birds observed

Superb Lyre-bird, *Menura novaehollandiae* - two juveniles seen foraging and lyre birds heard calling frequently during the walk.

Scaly thrush, *Zoothera dauma*

Grey fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Yellow-throated honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavicollis*

Sundry observations

Giant springtail (Collembola: Uchidanurinae)

Argonemertes australiensis, a Nemerteran proboscis worm, which ejects its proboscis to trap small insects

Manita ochrophyloides; a golf ball shaped fungus

Hygrocybe graminicolor, a glutinous green fungus

Snail report by Kevin Bonham

As noted in the April 2006 bulletin Mystery Creek is one of Tasmania's most important snail localities, so again I stayed on the surface. Again 18 species were found (again equaling my record for most species at one locality at one day):

Caryodes dufresnii

Prolesophanta sp. "Marriotts"

P. sp. "Francistown"

Tasmaphena sinclairi

Paralaoma caputspinulae

P. halli

Laomavix collisi

Discocharopa mimosa

Pernagera kingstonensis

Dentherona dispar

Allocharopa legrandi

A. sp. "Mystery Ck"

Roblinella curacaoe

Geminoropa sp. "Hastings"

G. sp. "Moonlight"

Mulathena fordei

Thryasona marchianae

Cystopelta bicolor.

Of these, *Laomavix collisi* was the 24th species I've recorded from the area and the only new record from this trip. I have only seen *Geminoropa* "Moonlight" alive once before but this time I found 6 live specimens (5 white and 1 orange!) under one small rock. *Allocharopa* "Mystery Creek" was discovered in 2002, but I failed to find it again in 2006. It is locally very common in a small area between the creek and quarry.

Invertebrate report by Lynne Forster

The number of invertebrates listed for this outing is low for three reasons. The first is because we spent a lot of time in a dark cave. Nevertheless by torchlight in the cave we were able to observe the **Cave spider** *Hickmania troglodytes* (Austrochilidae), a Cave harvestman *Hickmanoxyomma cavaticum*, the exoskeleton of the nymph of a cave cricket *Micropathus kiernam*, and of course those unforgettable glow-worms *Arachnocampa tasmaniensis*.

In the wet sclerophyll forest near the cave entrance, rotting wood harboured a flightless *Coripera deplanata* (Tenebrionidae) and a nemertean proboscis worm called *Argonemertes australiensis*.



Argonemertes is an unsegmented worm common in low numbers in wet forest under logs and rocks. It ejects a long proboscis to trap small invertebrates such as collembolla and pierces them with its stylet before sucking out their juices. *Argonemertes* grow more eyes as they mature. Their eyes are in four groups and newly hatched specimens have four while fully developed individuals have up to 170 eyes some of which form by division while others arise independently (Hickman, 1963).

The low number of species sighted was, secondly, compounded by the fact that we lunched in a limestone quarry which provided an alien environment for species from the surrounding wet sclerophyll forests. However, a small introduced spider, *Ostearius melanopygius* (Linyphiidae) showed no reluctance to occupy areas near moss patches which it adorned with tiny horizontal webs at ground level. Several bullants, *Myrmecia esuriens*, patrolled the rocks.

Thirdly, extensive disturbance of the forest floor by lyrebird scratchings may have contributed to low numbers of invertebrates being evident in litter beside the track. Fortunately, Sarah Tassell from the University of Tasmania who is currently researching the impact of lyrebirds on ground invertebrates in wet sclerophyll forests may soon provide an answer to this observation.

The black and orange spider, *Novodamus nodatus* (Nicodamidae) was observed lowering itself from vegetation on a long thread. This species seems to be more common on vegetation than other Nicodamidae which are more common under rocks. The spider spied under rocks on this outing was a small *Artoria* sp. of wolf spider (Lycosidae).

Reference:

Hickman, V. 1963. The occurrence in Tasmania of the land nemertine *Geonemertes australiensis* Dendy, with some account of its distribution, habits, variations and development. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*. 97: 63-71.
(Note that *Geonemertes australiensis* was the former name for *Argonemertes australiensis*).

Poimena Reserve — 6 June 2009

Excursion report by Janet Fenton

Almost continuous rain pruned the numbers attending this excursion, however ten of us, including two children, set out to explore a small reserve that was new to all of us. Poimena reserve at Austins Ferry is rumored to be a good spot for bird watching, and Kevin was disappointed to miss the trip as he has found snails there in the past. The green grass of the park, dotted with old exotic trees did not look particularly promising at first, but as we headed along the path beside Roseneath Rivulet, gushing after the previous day's downpour (45.4 mm in Hobart, the wettest day so far this year), native vegetation began to dominate, although a pond was choked with bullrushes and edged with blackberry. Riparian shrubs included *Pomaderris apetala* (Dogwood), *Bedfordia salicina* (Blanket leaf), and *Bayeria viscosa* (Pinkwood).

A few specimens of *Asterotrichion discolor** (Tasmanian Hemp-bush or Currajong) were noticed right on the stream-bank, still sporting a few dainty five-petalled creamy-white flowers.

The better drained slopes at Poimena reserve were clad with clumps of *Astroloma humifusum* (Cranberry), *Dodonea* (Hop Bush), *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Exocarpos* (Native Cherry), and some *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Mimosa), *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle), *Bursaria spinosa* (Prickly Box), *Ozothamnus scutellifolium*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *E. viminalis* and *E. pulchella*. Bandicoot diggings were noticed beside the path as we headed uphill; both species have been recorded for the reserve.

Approaching the top of the hill, *Comesperma volubile* (Blue Love Creeper) twines around some bushes, and *Litoria ewingi* (Brown Tree Frog) was heard calling, eliciting the quote of the day from Michael, 'Oh, it must be raining! They only call during the daytime when it rains.' A Metallic Skink *Niveoscincus metallicus* was found hiding out of the rain under a rock.

Invertebrate enthusiasts lifted large rocks to find and photograph an awesome spider and a leopard slug (near the creek) a cricket *Parvotettix nr domesticus*, two snails for Kevin and an assassin bug.



Fungi, brought out by the lovely rain, were the most notable observations—where were our mycologists? A beauty with a glossy dark brown cap supported on an elegantly tall stem, *Xerula australis* (commonly known as Rooting Shank for its long stem) caught our eye at the top of the hill. Green *Dermocybe* were numerous and *Gaestrum* (puff balls) plentiful. But what were the tall orange metallic ones draped with chains? The children seemed to know from some mysterious process of osmosis, that these were disc golf targets!

At the top of the hill the bush-land opened up to a grassy picnic area and the rain stopped for five minutes while we had morning-tea under a shelter. Heading on downhill the vista opened before us over the Derwent, Mt Direction draped in mist.

Over seventy species of birds have been recorded from this reserve. On the Saturday of our excursion however, they were (rather sensibly) keeping a low profile. Our group only saw a Masked lapwing and heard calls that we guessed might be emanating from Starlings and Musk Lorikeets. We all decided that Poimena would be worth revisiting on a sunny day. Hobart has a number of small reserves tucked in among the suburbs—its worth knowing where they are.

* *Asterotrichion* is a genus with one species endemic in Tasmania, *A. discolor*, and belongs to Malvaceae, the Mallow family. *Asterotrichion* is a tree or large erect shrub moderately common in eastern and south-eastern Tasmania. A specimen of this shrub had caught my attention earlier in the year beside Wiggins Road, Longley, when it was covered in strongly scented flowers. Why don't we notice this shrub more often? With leaves textured and coloured a little like the more robust *Pomaderris apelala* it could at a casual glance be overlooked as a weedy specimen of the latter, but the flowers and leaf venation are quite different. Male flowers are showier than female flowers and are usually borne on separate plants. The shrub flowers from March to May, but later in winter the female plant is the more conspicuous, bearing clusters of spent flowers containing fruit. The leaves are slightly drooping and dark green above while pale and woolly underneath. The name refers to the star-like hairs on young branches and the different colour of the upper and lower surface of the leaf.

Reference: Glazik, R and Askey-Doran, M. 2004. *Tasmanian Streambank Plants*.

Fungi [identified by Genevieve Gates from photos]

[*= Fungimap targets species]

**Dermocybe austroveneta*

Gaestrum triplex

**Xerula australis*

**Amanita xanthocephala*

Macrolepiota clelandii

Tatnells Hill — 5 Jul 2009

Excursion report by Adrian Brettingham-Moore

T'was a wet and windy 6°C as twenty-one of us bumped slid and splashed our way up to the Balts Road car-park. Here we adjusted our kit and packs for Fred Duncan's guided tour through remnant rain forest, streaming ground water, and hail showers. The plant list grew steadily as we proceeded; though as recording delegate, sheltering his paper from the weather, your scribe was not in the van. We started in wet sclerophyll, from *Eucalyptus regnans* into mainly *E. delegatensis* with some *E. obliqua* and some *Acacia melanoxylon* – with a promise of *E. johnstonii* later in the walk. The plant list (excluding those already noted) follows, in order of observation along the track:

Cyathodes platystoma

Acacia riceana

Callistemon pallidus

Richea dracophyllum

Phyllocladus asplenifolius

Notelea spp



Atherosperma moschatum
Olearia parama?
Asplenium obtusatum
Nothofagus cunninghamii
Anopterus glandulosus
Dicksonia antarctica
Tmesipteris obliqua, epiphytic
 on *D. antarctica*

Pimelia drupacea
Polystichum proliferum
Clematis aristata (clematus)
Glaucheria hispida
Tasmannia lanceolata
Leptospermum lanigerum
Coprosma spp
Olearia argophylla

Gleichenia (large)
Selaginella uliginosa
Hakea (large)
Ozothamnus antenasius
Bedfordia salicina
Telopea truncata
Stylidium (large)
Prostanthera spp

Non-mollusc invertebrates were few: a rasping cricket, a jewel beetle and a leach or so were the only specimens brought within reach of 'the book'. Vertebrates were also scarce, a probable robin, possibly pink, flashed into the scrub, and a thornbill trilled briefly. A Tasmanian Froglet (the 'sheep frog') *Crinia tasmaniensis* was heard bleating. Good weather for frogs.

The colour of the yellow gums was enhanced by the pervasive wet, and lichens proliferated up most trunks, giving variety to the colour scheme. Fungi were seen dispersed along the way, but no identification was offered, though some photographic record was made.



Lunch was proposed for the hill-top, which gave a fine overview of Pirates Bay and surrounding coastline; but with wind-driven hail frequenting this exposed place, lunch was adjourned to the shelter of the trees down the track.

Snail report by Kevin Bonham

People sometimes expect snails to love very wet conditions such as those we encountered on this trip. They don't; small snails are at serious risk of drowning and hide (wish I knew where they go!) and dead shells degrade very quickly. Even larger snails can be at risk from the cold.

The star of the show in this area is the Rare-listed burgundy snail, *Helicarion rubicundus*, endemic to the Forestier Peninsula and a small part of the Tasman. We found four specimens including one live adult in bark rolls at the site partway up Balts Road where Bob's car could progress no further; also at that site were many *Helicarion cuvieri* and one *Caryodes dufresnii*.

Between the Balts Road car-park and Tatnells Hill we found several more *H. cuvieri* but no *H. rubicundus* (just outside the latter's known range). Also found were *Caryodes dufresnii*, *Thryasona diemenensis*, *Pernagera* sp. "Waterfall" (small range extension), *Discocharopa mimosa* and *Thryasona marchianae*. The last two had not been recorded from the Tatnells Hill area before. In better conditions I would expect more species.

Other observations

Cortinarius sp, fungus
Hydnum repandum, Hydroid (spine) fungus
Sphagnum cymbifolioides, sphagnum moss
Stereum ostrea, brilliant orange fungi on a tree
Sticherus tener form B, fern

Stereum illudens, Thelephore fungus on a log
Kinemanina sp., Raspy Cricket juvenile
 Grey Fantail and a Thornbill,
 near where Bob parked his car on Balts Rd.

Photos by

Amanda Thomson (pp2, 9, 9)
 Michael Driessen (p3)
 Abbey Throssell (p7)
 Geoff Fenton (p10)



More photos can be seen at

<http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/ExcnPhotos/ExcnPhotos.htm>.