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**Burnie Field Naturalist
Club Inc**

Newsletter No 520 April 2019

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Friday 12th April
2019

General Meeting 2p.m. at the Guide hall, West Park Grove (behind IGA) Burnie
All welcome to come along and join in to share ideas for our meetings and forthcoming outings. Enjoy a cuppa and feel free to bring along a small plate to share.

Theme for the meeting is Your favourite Short Walk in North West.

Sunday
14th April
2019

Tasmanian Arboretum, Eugeneana

April outing is to the Arboretum. This is a 66 ha botanical tree park and includes several walks through specific areas such as Tasmanian section, New Zealand walk, lake circuit, we may see a platypus and native birds, various features on display, barbecue area, shelters, a kiosk should be open for icecream and snacks and drinks. Entry is by donation. Leader is Barry Dudman, phone for more information or Geoff Wickham

Departure times	Wynyard, York St	8.30 a.m.
	Somerset, old railway station,	8.45 a.m.
	Burnie, penguin viewing area	9.00 a.m.

Thursday 25th
April 2019

Special Outing to Cradle Mountain

To view the Fagus At Cradle Mountain. The deciduous Fagus is a spectacular sight around the mountainside at this time of the year and we can go on easy short walks to view. Bring lunch and cameras.
Park entry applies and Departure times as above.

Thursday 11th
April 2019

Social Lunch to Toysun, Wynyard 12.30 p.m. Please contact Barbara Evans if you are attending 64 42 3436

Thank you to Justine Keays office for the printing of our newsletter

Annual General Report Meeting March 2019

Minutes of the 2018 AGM were read out and a Presidents report by Geoff Wickham, basically the Club is still functioning, only real issue is the decline in active membership. Treasurers report by Barry Dudman states a slight excess for the year. and recommends the subs remain the same. That the subscription remain at \$25.00 single adult and \$30 family , carried unamously. The income includes Subscriptions of 22 single and 8 family members. For a full report of the income of the club please contact Barry Dudman, Treasurer.

Election of Officers. As the Club officers 2018 were willing to continue in office and there were no new nominations for any position no formal election was required.

General Meeting Report March 2019

Incoming correspondence included Justice Dept form update of club officers, Landcare renewal for 2019, Tas, Field Naturalists bulletin, Get Active booklet , Burnie City council volunteer awards and King Island report.

Bird and other wildlife observations included Barry Dudman reported 3 sea eagles at Fern Glade. He also reported 25 to 30 penguins at West Park, most moulting. June Risdon reported that Black Cockatoos arrived in force at her Yolla home mostly in her apple tree, most of the apples ended up on the ground. Also Starlings using her bird bath.

Sue Pattison reported 2 Pelicans at East Wynyard. David Porter reported an apparent complete lack of platypus in the Inglis estuary after the visit of some fur seals in early December 2018. Geoff Wickham confirmed this report, has anyone seen any Platypus in the estuary since the beginning of the year 2019.

Geoff Wickham reported a complete lack of Silver Eyes in his grape vines this summer autumn, anyone care to comment.

Congratulations to the Launceston Field Naturalist Club for the recently release. This 5th edition of A Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania. This edition includes 30 new plants and recent photographs of previous listed plants, in its 170 pages. Cost is \$32.95. The first edition was in 1981 and is a great reference book to take with you on field excursions or your rambles.

Vale Joyce Charles

We extend our sympathy to Sue Pattison and family on the passing of her mother on 16th March, peacefully in Coroneagh Home Penguin, aged 90 years.

Over the years of our Club many people have participated in our activities and contributed in ways to ensure its future, and to the knowledge and appreciation of our natural heritage. Some take executive positions while others participate in other functions As time moves on, some members are unable to attend but they still retain an interest in our activities. Gerry and Joyce were such members, traveling on Field Nat tours on the mainland or Tasmania with other members Sending items for the newsletter and helping in a Postman's Track cleanup which was reported in the Advocate at the time and attending many of the Field Nats camps over their tim They arrived in Tasmania from UK in 1969 and joined the club, then Sue Pattison and family arrived in 1975 and joined the Field Nats too.

Bird other wildlife observations for March outing

Goat Island, West Ulverstone beach and Picnic Point areas.



Silver Gulls, many. Masked Lapwings. along waters edge and foreshore. Caspian Terns, four on rocks Sooty Oystercatchers, 3 on shingle, Little Pied Cormorants, 47 at various points, includes 10 on the Picnic Point reef and 34 on a rocky islet a few 100 metres east. Pacific Gull one on foreshore. Rabbits, according to a report from a club outing in 1991, Goat Island was then infested with rabbits and feral pigeons, on this outing there appeared to be no rabbits or feral pigeons on the island and a strong regrowth of vegetation since that time. Some rabbit sign was noted in the Goat island car park area and Picnic point. Penguins, considerable sign of penguins on the island including many feathers apparently from moulting. Sea eagle, 2 observed in flight over the Three Sisters.

Insect observation, while eating lunch at the Picnic Point I noticed a wasp entering a hole in log, it subsequently emerged, wandered then disappeared back down the hole. It was the same size as a European wasp mostly black with two prominent orange stripes and iridescent blue wings.

No outing report this time as the editor was indisposed (shingles) but I was told a great, well attended outing and well worth a visit to that particular area at low tide.

Items Of Interest

Researchers from Australian National university are on King Island doing a bird population survey and sighted the critically endangered endemic King Island Scrubtit. They are also looking for the Brown Thornbill which has not been seen for 2 years.



Feral Cats NRM Cradle to Coastlines report on a feral cat monitoring program on Three Hummock Island, also starting a cat management, trapping, etc on the Nut State reserve. They also reported cat trapping on Point Sorell. Last autumn 26 feral cats were caught and killed from the Little Penguin and Mutton bird rookery, monitoring recently found only 1 cat.

Walking Pathway, The Burnie council are now completing the last section near Fernglade bridge of the pathway from Bass highway to the Fernglade reserve, plus that section of road upgrade too.

We have had many visitors to the reserve this season, cruise ships visitors, other tourists and locals, well worth a visit if you have not been recently.

Penguin Rehab and Release centre, has a completed enclosure, aviary and pool designed for caring for injured or sick Little Penguins and seabirds. Several birds have been cared for and released this season so far. Contact Kathy Grieveson on 0437565672 for information.

Australia Post has released 4 stamps featuring Australian fauna, Galah, Blue tongue Lizard, Red Kangaroo and Tasmanian devil, 1.00 stamps. Also in March three stamps feature three fish that are classified as sustainable for commercial fishing, Patagonian Toothfish, Blue Grenadier and Tiger flathead.

Barry Dudman

Membership Renewal

Burnie Field Naturalists Club

PO Box 455, Burnie 7320

Family subscription \$30 Single sub, \$25 Junior \$5.00

Name

Address.....

Telephone or Mobile

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Email (if you wish to receive email newsletters.

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Who says Rats are dirty

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The cooler weather has brought a visit from mice in a neighbours cottage. Her cat sits gazing at the fridge one of which they have found, willing them to make a run on her dislodge biscuit just lately rat has joined their ranks. It comes in through a hole in the bathroom wall behind the hot water tank but it cant get out again so in the hunt for food it is making do with a bar of soap. So far 3 bars of soap have been gnawed so if you see a rat very clean and foaming at the mouth this really is a true story.

Dung Beetle

There are about 400 species of native dung beetle in Australia and almost all are small in size and utilise the dry coarse pellets of marsupial dung. There are much larger species *Onthophagus laei* which is about 20mm in length. These large beetles are thought to be relict species from the days when such as *Diprotodon*, were widespread, a few of these species managed to survive and now thriving once more after the introduction of livestock such as cattle and horse with larger volumes of dung. These surviving dung beetle species provide a rare example of introduced European farming practices actually enhancing Australian bush. We have a local identity called Graeme Stevenson who practices dung beetle farming on his property at Elliott.