



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Bulletin

Quarterly Bulletin No 381 January 2021

<https://tasfieldnats.org.au/>

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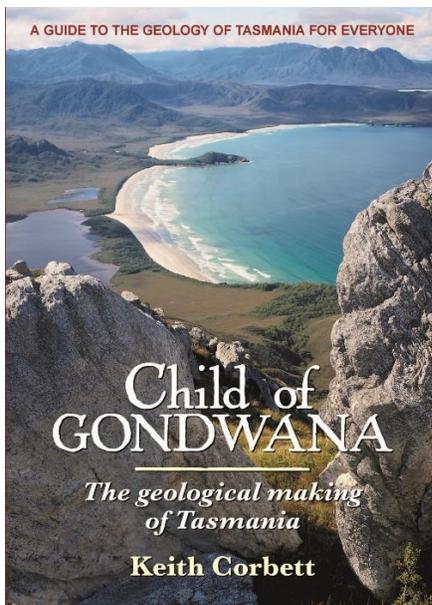
Growling Swallet Excursion

Saturday 7th. November 2020

Although the name of our destination alone was sufficient to trigger my 'must go' response, Keith Corbett's fascinating description of Tasmania's geological history at the meeting on Thursday evening 5 November ensured many of us were determined to participate in his practical sequel the following Saturday.



*Keith and Sib Corbett, our guides to Growling Swallet.
Portrait photographs: Els Wakefield*



Keith's story of Tasmania being a corner of Antarctica ripped away by the granite arms of adjacent continental Australia as Gondwana split up under the 'boiling billy' effect of hot spots on the Earth's core was most compelling. Keith spent years as a young geologist evaluating the geological history of the Florentine Valley, so we were in the hands of an expert, although, if it were closer to Hobart, he and Sib probably would have preferred to take us to the Vale of Belvoir.

Friday evening brought a southerly cold change. As we stopped for coffee/toilet/car-pooling in Maydena at 9 am on Saturday, we saw and felt the snow freshly dumped on Mt Field West.

We then set off in several convoys for our meeting point well along the graveled Florentine (forestry) Road where Keith could unlock the steel gate on a spur road heading east and uphill between regeneration coups of *Eucalyptus regnans* and plantations of *E. nitens*.

At the gate we met a family who shared our destination and timing. We formed a single group to receive protocol and geological briefings and do further carpooling (or walking) to minimize cars parking at the top of the spur. Here we were enveloped amongst typical mossy wet sclerophyll forest or rainforest as we stepped carefully to miss mud and puddles and spot those treasures that are the quest of all TFNC outings!

Keith alerted us to several large Lyrebird scratching areas adjacent to our track. He called them 'mounds', but I think 'shallow scrapings' is a better description of their condition on the day. We had been briefed to first head to Growling Swallet and then pursue our individual investigations, but many exciting discoveries were made

before we got there. We wended amongst the dripping lichens and massive tree bases and boles until we were walking beside a distinct, but strangely dry and silent, river bed.



The group assembled at an enormous old myrtle tree at the point where the current track meets the old Frodshams track.

Photograph: Mick Brown



The track follows the route of the old Frodshams track here.

Photograph: Mick Brown

Suddenly we were at the top of a cliff, staring at a raging torrent flowing from Mt Field West, but disappearing some 20 or so metres below our feet. We descended by a somewhat precarious track (one misadventure recorded) and decided that any vantage to enjoy the cascading river was a good place to eat our packed lunches. Various amongst us chanced wet feet (or more) to get closer to the caverns where the water vanished into the dark.

Recharged by lunch we ascended by another route to the river's former level to return in more leisurely fashion to our cars. Once the last vehicle was beyond

the gate, Keith had another treat for us – to revisit the river where it now emerges, silent and clear, 10 km to the south, from the mouth of Junee Cave.

Our riverside walk amongst tall tree ferns was punctuated by conjecture as to the identity of an extremely long vine suspended above the river by a fallen branch and disappearing amongst the tree-tops. Eventually *Clematis aristata* (?) flowers were discerned at its top.

I had to wait until the following week for the next exciting sequel - the purchase and reading of Keith's book 'Child of Gondwana' to complete the story.

Peter Blackwell



Growling Swallet

Photograph: Mick Brown

Species lists – Growling Swallet

Fungi

- Antrodiellia zonata*
- Cyttaria gunnii* - Beech Orange on Nothofagus
- Galarina patagonica*
- Heterotexus peziziformis*
- Hygrocybe cheelii*
- Hygrocybe chromolimonea*
- Hygrocybe gramnicolor*
- Hypholoma fasciculare*
- Hypoxylon bovei*
- Ganoderma rude*
- Leucogloea compressa*
- Marasmiellus* sp. (small on Nothofagus)
- Mollisia cinerea*
- Xylaria castorea*

Plants

Ferns

- Blechnaceae - *Blechnum wattsii* (abundant)
- Dennstaediaceae - *Histiopteris incisa*
- Dicksoniaceae - *Dicksonia antarctica*
- Dryopteridaceae - *Polystichum proliferum*
- Dryopteridaceae - *Rumohra adiantiformis*
- Grammitidaceae - *Notogrammitis billardi*
- Hymenophyllaceae - *Hymenophyllum australe*
- Hymenophyllaceae - *Hymenophyllum flabellatum*
- Hymenophyllaceae - *Hymenophyllum peltatum*
- Polypodiaceae - *Microsorium pustulatum* ssp. *pustulatum*



Grammitis fern

Photograph: Geoff Carle



Townsonia viridis, Beech orchid

Photograph: Geoff Carle

Mosses

- Cyathophorum bulbosum*
- Mniodendron* sp. (Syn. *Hypnodendron* sp.)

Monocots

- Cyperaceae - *Gahnia grandis*
- Orchidaceae - *Townsonia viridis*

Dicots

- Atherospermataceae - *Atherosperma moschatum*
- Cunoniaceae - *Anodopetalum biglandosum*
- Eucryphiaceae - *Eucryphia milliganii* (E)
- Myrtaceae - *Eucalyptus delegatensis*
- Myrtaceae - *Eucalyptus regnans*
- Nothofagaceae - *Nothofagus cunninghamii*

Invertebrates

Araneidae - Spiders

- Cantuarina mestoni** *Idiopidae* (armoured trap-door spider)
- Clubiona elaphines* *Clubionidae* (sac spider)
- Artoria albopilata* *Lycosidae* (wolf spider)
- Litodamus olga** *Nicodamidae* (red and blue spider)

Amphipoda

- Keratroides vulgaris* *Talitridae* (land hopper)

Collembola

- Megalaneura tasmaniae** *Neanuridae* (springtail)

Centipedes

- Henicops maculata* *Henicopidae*, Order *Lithobiomorpha*
- Tasmanophilus cf opinatus* Order *Geophilomorpha* (earth centipede)

Millipedes

- Procyliosoma cf tasmanicum* *Procyliosomatidae* (pill millipede)

Hemiptera - Bugs

- Notius melancholicus* *Pentatomidae* (shield bug)

Diptera - Flies

- Molophilus* sp. *Limoniidae* (short-palped crane fly)
- Australocincta costata* *Stratiomyidae* (soldier fly)

Coleoptera - Beetles

- Chylnus ater** *Carabidae* (ground beetle -one of Tassie's largest beetles at 18 mm)
- Acallistus longus* *Carabidae* (ground beetle)
- Pentagonica vitipennis* *Carabidae*
- Harmonia conformis* *Coccinellidae* (ladybird beetle)
- Elatichrosis exarata** *Elateridae* (a larger Click beetle)
- Prostomis atkinsoni** *Prostomidae* (jugular-horned beetle)
- Anabaxis* Chandler Type1* *Staphylinidae*:
Pselaphinae (ant beetle)
- Pseudomicrocara spilotus* *Scirtidae* (marsh beetle)
- Sepedophilus australis* *Staphylinidae*: *Tachyporinae* (rove beetle)
- Adelium abbreviatum* *Tenebrionidae* (darkling beetle)

*Tasmanian endemic species

Lynne Forster



Found under a log!
 Photograph: Mick Brown

Snails

Caryodes dufresnii

Tasmaphena sinclairi

*Prolesophanta dyeri**

*Trocholaoma parvissima**

Dentherona dispar

Diemenoropa kingstonensis

Charopidae sp. "Swallet" (an odd little western Tasmanian top-shaped snail that superficially resembles the coastal genus *Magilaoma*, and which I have nicknamed "steak knife snail" on account of the shell sculpture present on some live specimens)

*Mulathena tranquilla** (surprising record, commoner further to the west)

*Protractiropa curacaoe**

Roblinella sp. "Tahune"*

*Thryasona diemenensis**

Stenacapha hamiltoni

Helicarion cuvieri

Plus *Arion silvaticus** (introduced slug) at the gate off Florentine Road. The 6th confirmed record of this species from Tasmania; I suspect it is widespread in old forestry areas.

A high diversity snail trip! In each case * = new record for this locality.

Kevin Bonham

Birds

10:15 am to 11:08

Grey Shrike- Thrush

Black Currawong

Tasmanian Thornbill

Eastern Spinebill

Striated Pardalote

11:08 to 11:50

Grey Shrike-Thrush

Olive Whistler

Pink Robin

Bassian Thrush

Grey Fantail

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Crescent Honeyeater

Scrubtit

Eastern Spinebill

Pink Robin (2m, 1 f)

11:50 to 13:45 Growling Swallet to carpark.

Grey Fantail

Grey Shrike-Thrush

Black Cockatoo

Scrubwren

Crescent Honeyeater

Grey Shrike-thrush

Striated Pardalote

Horsefields Bronze-Cuckoo

Pink Robin M with food for young.

Els Wakefield

Species lists – Junee Cave

Fungi

Hemimycena sp.

Plants

Ferns

Blechnaceae - *Blechnum chambersii*

Blechnaceae - *Blechnum fluviatile*

Blechnaceae - *Blechnum penna-marina*

Blechnaceae - *Blechnum wattsii*

Dicksoniaceae - *Dicksonia antarctica*

Dryopteridaceae - *Polystichum proliferum*

Polypodiaceae - *Microsorium pustulatum* ssp. *pustulatum*

Psilotaceae - *Tmesipteris obliqua*

Dicots

Elaeocarpaceae - *Aristotstelia peduncularis*

Polygonaceae - *Muehlenbeckia gunnii*? (vine at cave mouth)

Rubiaceae - *Coprosma quadrifida*

Annabel Carle

Birds

Grey Shrike-Thrush
Grey Fantail
Blackbird
Flame Robin
Crescent Honeyeater
Olive Whistler
Superb Fairy-Wren.

Els Wakefield



Pink robin spotted at the start of the track to Growling Swallet was observed by many as it caught insects hovering over a small pond.

Photograph: Mick Brown

Snails

Caryodes dufresnii
Tasmaphena sinclairi
Punctidae sp "Micro Cripps"
Gratilaoma halli
Gratilaoma sp. "Knocklofty" (?)*
Trocholaoma parvissima
Kessneropa mimosa
Gadoropa sp "Russell Falls"
Bonhamaropa sp "June"e"
Diemenoropa kingstonensis
"Thryasona" *marchiana*e"
Stenacapha hamiltoni
Cystopelta bicolor
Helicarion cuvieri *

Kevin Bonham

Poimena Reserve Christmas BBQ

Sunday 6th. December 2020

Twenty-one people gathered to brave the very blustery, cold and windy top of the Poimena Reserve to meet for the Christmas barbecue. We enjoyed the much needed shelter, metal tables and electric barbecues to have a last get-together for 2020. There were no birds to be seen because of the strong winds (my major interest) but some of us went along to the nearby Gould's lagoon after and there were lots there. We were very glad of the sheltered tables and had a convivial time over the barbecue and mince pies and cherries which were handed around! I know some keen eyed people have insects to report including a tiny bright green spider. The park is surrounded by lovely views of the mountains and the Derwent river but the weather was not conducive to lingering or extensive examination of the trees and grassy area. We were right next to a huge, somewhat graffitied water tank, no doubt supplying the surrounding areas of Granton, Austins Ferry and Claremont. There is also an 18 hole Frisbee Golf course (now Disc Golf) arranged on the slopes of the parkland.

Bird List at Goulds Lagoon

Pacific Black Duck 2-4
Pelican 3
Eurasian coot, many
Silver gull several
Pacific gull 1
Blue-billed duck (several and both sexes)
Black swan 1
Darter 1
Little black cormorants 3
Swamp hen 1
Native hen 3, plus young
Masked lapwings plus several juveniles on a little beach
Noisy miners in the surrounding trees
House sparrows
Welcome swallow
Forest Raven

Vicky Von Witt

President's Brief January 2021

Welcome to another year of Tas Field Nats!

Members Night talks!

Those of you who came to the December meeting will know that the AV did not work, so we were unable to have our planned Members Night talks. We subsequently found out that the HDMI cable had been stolen and we are now required to BYO! It would have been helpful to have been told this before the meeting!

The two shorter talks will now be included in the Feb meeting 'Observation & Exhibits Section' of the meeting. These are:

- Amanda Thomson: 'Flower Wasps' and Anna McEldowney: 'Mt Olympus in October'

The other two approx. 10min talks will be given at the **March Meeting before the AGM**. These are:

- Margaret Williams: 'Morocco, some geology – a taste'
- Mick Brown: 'Birds of Lord Howe Island'

These two talks will be followed by a very short approx. 10min Presidents Address 'The ones that got away.'

General Meeting Venue

We will continue to meet the Mathers House Upper level room for at least for the next two months where we can now seat up to 50 members (subject to the continuing control of COVID in Tasmania). We have therefore decided we no longer require pre-bookings (it would be an extraordinary event to have more than 50 members at a meeting!) but of course we will reinstate a pre-booking requirement should the need arise. As usual in this COVID-era members must sanitise hands on arrival and sign in with name and contact number.

We do not expect to hear from UTAS until their 1st semester classes are sorted and if the lecture theatre, we use will permit us to seat sufficient numbers of members.

AGM and TFNC Committee Positions

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 4 March 2021.

Please consider contributing to the club by standing for our committee, it is time for renewal! The club

cannot continue without a committee. Our committee of eleven members is committed to the smooth running of the Club. To be on this committee that has functioned now for 117 years is a chance to get to know how the Club works. All the things you enjoy about the Club - publications, website, meetings, and outings are all organised by your committee. The camaraderie and knowledge you gain is a very satisfying bonus for being a member of it! Anyone in the Club can nominate - you don't have to have a great knowledge of natural history or know everyone in the club to contribute.

Nominations can be received for **all** committee positions whether the position is currently occupied or not. The committee nomination form is included in the Bulletin and completed forms must be received by the Secretary by Monday 22 February 2021. There are six committee meetings a year (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec) currently held via Zoom, it is expected that committee members should be able to attend most, but not necessarily all of these meetings.

Positions that will be vacant

President who is responsible for planning, with the committee, the direction of the club and is also the public face of the club at general meetings, on excursions and particularly in the last 2020 COVID year, for email communication with members.

Vice President: to work closely with the President and committee as required and to deputise for the President in their absence.

Secretary: Margaret Warren is retiring after 5 successful years in the position. Margaret has prepared a short job description for this role, if interested please just email her to ask for it. (secretary@tasfieldnats.com.au) The duties are primarily preparing the agenda and minutes for the committee meetings, for the AGM and correspondence for the club.

Bulletin Editor: Deirdre Brown would like to retire from this position which she has so ably filled. (She is however, continuing in 2021 as TFNCs website editor.) Each year there are four editions of the Bulletin (Jan, May, July, Oct.) which publishes the reports of our various excursions and other items of interest to our members. The Bulletin Editor is also a committee position.

If you are thinking about standing please either contact Annabel Carle (president@tasfieldnats.org.au) or Anna McEldowney (ramac@activ8.net.au) if you wish to discuss it first.

As we no longer mail out the Bulletin, this is our first fully digital version of our Newsletter! 😊 Thank you, Deirdre!

Annual Subs are now due!

These are easy to pay. There are a number of ways to do this. See our membership website page.

<https://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/membership/>

Existing members: Please email our treasurer at treasurer@tasfield.nats.org.au if there are any changes such as email address & mobile number? And have we got all the names of your family members? If in the past you paid by PayPal this information was often missing. New Members are now required to also complete a membership form and email it to the treasurer.

Other Field Naturalists Clubs Newsletters

Tasmanian and Interstate:

Just a reminder that instead of receiving hard copies that only one member gets to read, newsletters from other clubs (both Tasmanian and interstate) are now accessible to all members on our website at:

<https://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/links/other-clubs-publications/>

COVID and TFNC

Please keep an eye on our website and our COVID protocols. See: <https://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>

These can change rapidly in line with the Tasmanian Governments guidelines. Please do not come to meetings or excursions if you are unwell or you run any risk (or even wonder if you might!) to yourself or other members.

Easter Camp

Just a reminder that TFNC will not hold an Easter camp in 2021. There are currently too many COVID variables and unknowns, but we do hope to rectify this in 2022!

This will be my last Presidents Brief and I would just like to thank all the committee for their enormous support and hard work this year. Thanks too to all members for your friendship, encouragement and for their field nats knowledge, each excursion something new is learnt! I look forward to seeing you soon at a meeting or on an

excursion. We have achieved much in a year so full of many unexpected events, but the club has thrived with higher than usual numbers attending our meetings and excursions. My thanks go to you all.

Annabel Carle



*Nicodamidae species, Litodamus hickmanii photographed near Growling Swallet
Photograph: Geoff Carle*

Native bees of Tasmania

This poster, illustrated by artist Gina Cranston, has beautiful colour depictions of 24 native bee species, with size comparisons.

Available in some bookshops and online.

