

Burnie

wildlife guide

written and collated by

Michelle Foale

acknowledgements

Sarah Lloyd, Carol Bryant; Richard and Carol Donaghey; Craig Reid; Trina Moule; Bob Mesibov; Bill Walker; Jim Nelson; Joanna Lyall; Nick Mooney; Mike Driessen; Ray Brereton; Cathie Plowman; Bill Brown; Ingrid Albion; David Giles; Tam Kincade; Vivienne Briggs; Todd Walsh; Graeme Stevenson; Paul Clark; The Burnie Green Reserve Team; Chris Tzaros; Gary Watts; Patrick Earle; Peter Tonelli; Trevor Waite; Hans and Annie Wapstra; Brett Salter; Les Rubenach; Nicholas Day and Penguin Books Australia; Jean Jackson; Bob Fletcher; Alex Dudley; Abraham Miller; Simon Foale; Fiona Brine; Brett Salter; Peter Brown.

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Cover: The ripples of a platypus in the Emu River
Opposite: Burnie burrowing crayfish

M Foale
H&A Wapstra

the wildlife neighbourhood guide to Burnie

Getting to know your wildlife neighbours can make life very interesting. This is a guide book for everyone, in 11 sections, of Burnie's 13 kilometre creekside walking track and the wildlife that you may meet along the way. Put on your walking shoes, open your senses and let this book guide you into the magical world of Burnie's wildlife neighbours.

This guide was produced by The Burnie Wildlife Interpretation Project, funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and hosted by the Burnie City Council from 2000 to 2003.

Burnie

wildlife guide



introduction



Australia has some of the most distinctive and fascinating wildlife in the world. Here in North West Tasmania we have an enormous diversity of habitats and niches, and Burnie has some very special creatures all of its own, that live nowhere else on the planet!

This creekside walking track follows the life of the Shorewell and Romaine Creeks as they wind their ways through our undulating city. This guide directs you up Shorewell Creek and down along Romaine Creek. Although the creeks have been changed and shaped to suit our needs as the city has been created, some places still look similar to what they were over 175 years ago. Many people have been part of the revegetation of sections along this track over the years, particularly the Greening Burnie team. This huge task will be ongoing, allowing us to watch these habitats develop and connect, creating food and shelter for our wildlife neighbours.

Seeing wildlife doing their natural thing can be a great thrill, but it sometimes takes time and patience. Early mornings and late afternoons are usually the best times to see and hear birds, particularly when the weather is calm. Many of our furry neighbours come out at night, so on a pleasant evening you might like to take a quiet stroll with some friends in Romaine Reserve or Burnie Park to see what you can find. Letting your eyes adjust to the dark and using binoculars can often give you better and longer views of animals, as you will disturb them less, than if using a torch or spotlight.

All Tasmanian wildlife is protected so do not take any home. They lose relevance out of their habitat and



Above left: Pacific gull
Above: Purple swamphen

P Tonelli
T Waite

will probably die in your lounge room. Use your memory and a camera. And please KEEP WILDLIFE WILD – don't feed them! Feeding wildlife may reduce their chances of survival by creating health problems for the animals and setting up a dependency on humans for food. Be careful of biteys too! Lifting up bark on trees or sticking your fingers down holes puts you at risk of creatures protecting themselves with bites and stings.

If you are a resident of Burnie, as you get to know a particular area you will be able to see and enjoy the changes from season to season, year to year.

Commercial wildlife tours with an interpretive guide are a good activity if you would like to see our wildlife but you are not quite sure what is best at the time. If you want a hand with getting started, the Burnie Field Naturalists Club always welcomes new members and the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre in Burnie is a good first port of call. (See end of guide for contact details.)

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity refers to all the different living things that live in a place and how they live together as a system. If we look after the natural environment, of which we are part, those things still living here will survive in the future, including us. If we still have lots of different and interesting things living here in the city where so much has been changed, imagine all the things that live in the 'bush!



how to use this guide

This guide will focus on the habitats, and the wildlife who live in them, along this walking track.

Walking all 13 kilometres at once will only be for the seasoned walker. There is a location map in each section, with time and distance estimates, allowing you to experience one section at a time. Wildlife footprints painted on the footpaths at turning points will guide you on your way.

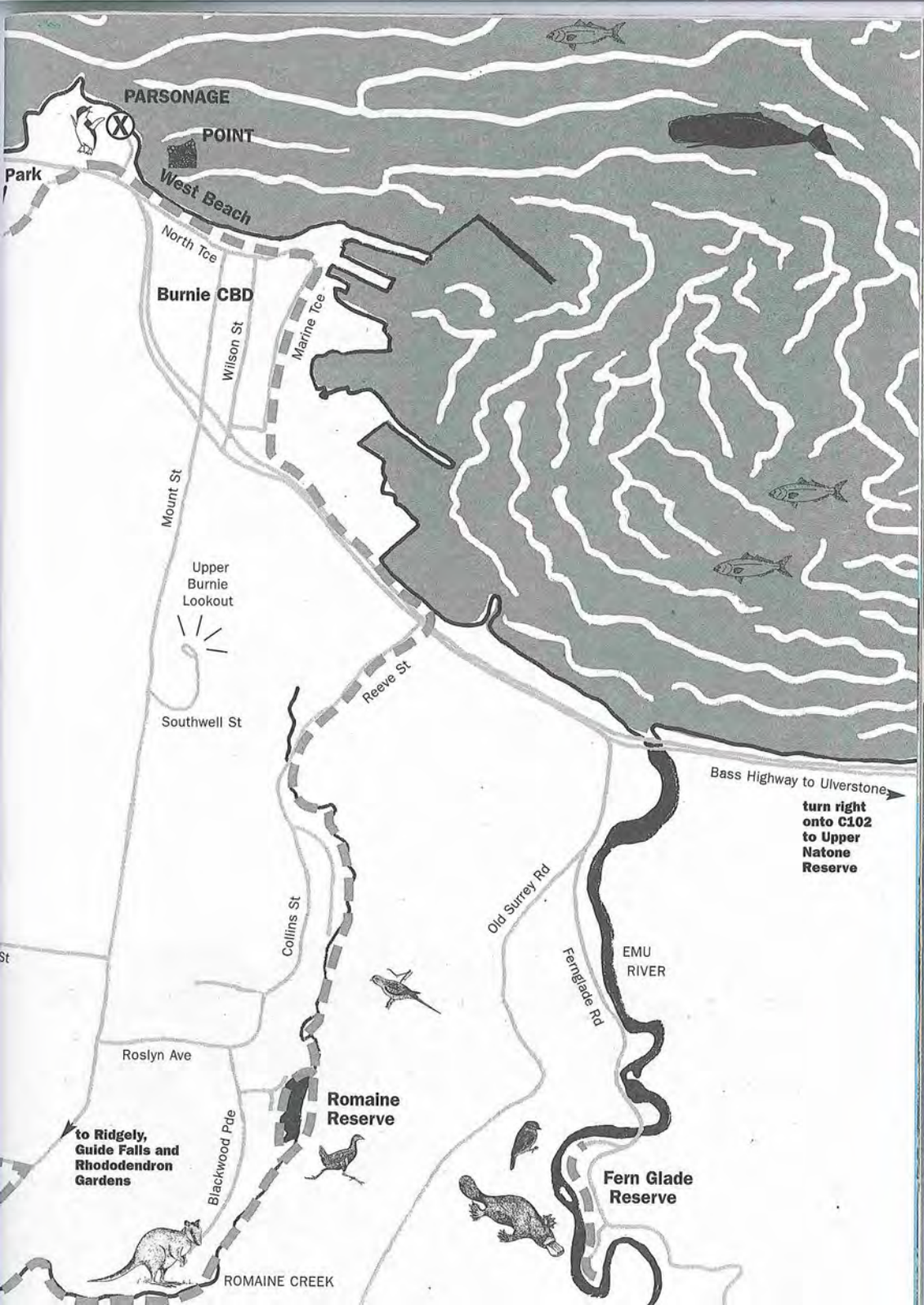
The scientific names of the plants and animals mentioned throughout the guide are listed in a special section at the back.

A hat, sunscreen, drinking water, raincoat and comfortable walking shoes are the essentials. Other useful things to take along on your walk include binoculars, a magnifying glass, a camera, and perhaps a pen to note your observations. It is also wise to let somebody know where you are planning to go and what time you expect to be back.

If you take your dog walking it must always be on a leash along the walking track.

Formal carparks are indicated and curbside parking is available on many access roads.





PARSONAGE

POINT

West Beach

North Tce

Burnie CBD

Wilson St

Marine Tce

Mount St

Upper Burnie Lookout

Southwell St

Reeve St

Bass Highway to Ulverstone

turn right onto C102 to Upper Natone Reserve

Old Surrey Rd

Fern Glade Rd

EMU RIVER

Roslyn Ave

Romaine Reserve

to Ridgely, Guide Falls and Rhododendron Gardens

Blackwood Pde

ROMAINE CREEK

Fern Glade Reserve

1 BURNIE LITTLE PENGUIN HABITAT



DISTANCE: 800 m

TIME: 30 mins

The track commences at the Parsonage Point Little Penguin habitat and the free, 24 hour Observation Centre, next to West Beach and the Central Business District.

Little penguins have been living and breeding here for a very long time, coping with their rocky reef being 'extended' for human use with landfill material. Little penguins mostly nest on Tasmania's smaller islands and come ashore all year round, but are most easily seen during the Spring/Summer breeding season. The exact timing changes from year to year depending on the conditions. Their habitat here is protected now by a fence, new burrows, revegetation and your appreciation.

The small colony of little penguins who call Parsonage Point home are truly amazing survivors.

Tourism Tasmania/Gary Bell





"Oh my flashing squids!!!
Camera flashes freak me out and
may make my chicks starve! The
fright makes me throw up so
there's no warm fish stew for my
chicks. And the flash leaves me
blind for a while – making me
easy game for predators like feral
cats and dogs!"

Cartoon B Salter

Little penguins do not have as much choice as we do for suitable home sites – they need to be near the sea – imagine trying to walk home with the groceries in the dark... up a rock wall... with flippers on... and legs that short!

If there are no little penguins at home in the Observation Centre viewers, remain on the 'human' side of the fence, and follow these guidelines to see and enjoy them:

- Wait until after dark, be quiet, be still, be patient – penguins' eyes are designed to detect movement, (try not to stand out against the sky behind you – stay low and wear dark clothes).
- Little penguins' eyes are also very sensitive to light. Rather than using torches, let your eyes adjust to the dark. Ordinary binoculars can be very useful in the dark.
- Flash photography is especially disturbing to these birds (low light video cameras are useful).
- Keep at least 5 metres distance between you and the birds. They may approach if you stay still.
- Leave your dog at home – its scent may attract other, unsupervised dogs that may kill or at least stress the penguins. Take your food scraps away with you for the same reason. This is a No Dog zone.
- Please smoke your cigarettes well away from the colony.



**Walk west along the fenceline to Burnie Park.
On the way see if you can spot some of our
seafaring neighbours.**

Adolescent
penguin chicks
outside the
burrow

K Chung



The Penguin poem

*I'm a Little Penguin chick,
I'm waiting for my Mum,
she's been out at sea all day,
I'm feeling pretty glum,
I know that she will feed me well,
I know I'll get my fill,
but what do I look forward to?
Regurgitated krill!
Other birds get fresher food,
their babies have a view,
I live in a burrow
and it smells of penguin poo.
I shouldn't moan about my life,
although it's only new,
but what will I eat every night?
It's penguin parent spew.*

©Alex Dudley

Sea birds have many different approaches to the matter of making a meal.

The cormorants (or shags) that often roost on the rocks close to shore as you approach the highway are likely to be black-faced or little pied cormorants. **Cormorants**, like penguins, catch their fish prey with their bills, by hunting and chasing underwater. But their strong legs with webbed feet are used to paddle under and on the water, unlike penguins who literally fly underwater.



Black-faced cormorant

H&A Wapstra

One bird that can be seen soaring along the coast around Burnie is the **white-bellied sea eagle**. These majestic hunters have a distinctive grey and white pattern under their wings (which are a similar length to an adult's outstretched arms), and a white belly. They snatch prey from the surface of the water with their powerful feet, gripping with sharp talons. They may even turn into pirates, chasing other birds with food until they give it up. Sea eagles also take shorebirds, little penguins, blue-tongue lizards and small mammals including rabbits and wallabies. They build huge nests in big old trees in areas of

undisturbed bush of at least 10ha (a radius of 180 metres). Sea eagles pair for life and may live up to 30 years old. Until the age of five, the young ones are mottled brown and may be mistaken for wedge-tailed eagles except for their non-wedge-shaped tails. Also wedgies are larger and have even longer wings, baggy feathered legs and would be an exciting sight around Burnie.

Cross the highway with care – there are lights with a pedestrian crossing to your left.



White-bellied sea eagle

N Mooney/Nature Conservation Branch

2 BURNIE PARK

DISTANCE: 500 m

TIME: 30 mins

Make your way to the pond. Follow the main walking track through the centre of the park. This lower reach of Shorewell Creek has been modified into a bluestone 'drain' to cope with the increased flow from storm water as the city has developed.

The largest freshwater invertebrate in the world, the **giant freshwater crayfish** (or lobster) no longer lives right here but may still live further up this creek where there is more suitable habitat. It lives only in the rivers and creeks of Northern Tasmania. It needs logs and 'healthy' rotting vegetation to eat, shade over the water to keep it cool, and a natural rocky creek bottom. Giant freshwater crayfish can grow up to 1 metre long, weigh 6 kilograms and reach 60 years of age! Individuals fitting this description are rare these days and the species is listed as vulnerable.



Turning bushland into cities, with impacts like removing vegetation and changing water flow, means some old neighbours have had to move out.

Giant freshwater crayfish T. Walsh



Enjoying the tree-ferns, blackwoods and white gums, cross over the bridge and go up the stairs to Oldaker Falls.

Huntsman spider
H&A Wapstra



After dark, the city becomes the bigtop for urban wildlife circus performers.

RINGTAIL POSSUMS have a long, strong, white-tipped tail which they use for an extra hold when climbing, often trapezing along the 'highways' of electrical cables that connect our city's buildings. They create their own drum rolls - soft electronic-sounding 'qwibelling' - to stay in touch. Common brushtail possums are bigger and furrer than the ringtails and more like the snuffling circus clowns. They are bigger than mainland brushtails too, with longer, thicker fur. They make quite disgusting-sounding guttural calls and hisses, but are adorable to watch! In Summer and Autumn, the females piggyback around the growing young one they have carried in their pouch for more than 6 months already. They are taken out to explore the world and learn to find food for themselves.

Common brushtail possum H&A Wapstra





Chocolate wattled bat
H&A Wapstra

Then there are the aerial stunt performers – **BATS!** All 8 Tasmanian bat species are very small and hunt insects at night. You may be lucky enough to see them zooming around in Burnie, using ‘echolocation’ (or bouncing sound) to catch insects such as mosquitoes and moths attracted to streetlights. They have another clever trick here in Tassie – when the weather gets cold and food gets scarce, they protect their tiny bodies by finding a hollow in an old tree (or an old coat pocket in a shed!) to hibernate (sleep) in, hanging by their feet!

And here’s a circus trick for you. If you go for a nocturnal walk, in a place where there are some trees, holding your torch right next to your head, shine the beam along the path in front of you. Sooner or later, on the ground, you will see little twinkling blue lights shining back... spider eyes! **HUNTSMAN SPIDERS** have very flat bodies so that they can slip into narrow spaces such as under tree bark.

Ringtail possum
H&A Wapstra



Back-track a little way from the falls and follow the track up to Paraka Street. There are wildlife footprints painted on the paths at turning points to help you find your way. Turn left to West Park Grove, then crossing with care, follow this road south (to your right) to a left turn into Eastwood Drive which leads to the tennis courts. A short way along Eastwood Drive the pathway leads back down to the creekside on your right.

3 AT THE POND



DISTANCE: 500 m

TIME: 30 mins

Several species of native waterbirds can be seen at this pond, including pacific black ducks and silver gulls.

What do birds eat when there is no bread on the table? If we look after their habitat, native animals are able to look after themselves! If we provide food, an area can be taken over by more aggressive species like silver gulls. These species take advantage of the 'good life'. This can lead to overpopulation and worse living conditions for all. Their usual food, aquatic invertebrates and fish do not survive in dirty water and the birds then depend on us for their food. So be good neighbours - break the cycle, eat your own crusts and enjoy just *watching* the birds

Just beyond the pond, the lovely stand of swamp papertark trees is home to the 'BBC' - Burnie's very own **burrowing crayfish!** Living only in and around

Burnie, the vulnerable Burnie burrowing crayfish was only described as a separate species in 1994.

The Burnie burrowing crayfish is one of 16 species in Tasmania (so far identified) of these cryptic freshwater crayfish. The group is the most terrestrial (or able to live away from flowing water) in the world. This is remarkable given that they have gills, like fish, which means they need water to 'breathe'. As they have mostly given up living in 'free water' they have a quite reduced tail, no longer needing a big tail for propulsion like the giant freshwater crayfish does. Instead, they have an oversized 'body-builder' front-end for digging. They dig down to the water table where they often construct small chambers - their own private spa! At the entrances to their burrows they create little 'chimneys' with the mud that they excavate. We are not quite sure why they do this - do they stand on top to get a better view or does it help protect the residents from being eaten? In fact we do not know very

Pacific black ducks. Three



much at all about these secretive little critters as they spend most of their time safely underground, busily recycling organic matter and giving life to the soil.

Follow the board walk over the soft wet ground where the blackwoods, tea-trees, scented paperbarks, swamp paperbarks, swamp gums, tall sedges, and woolly tea-trees that were planted in 2001–02 will one day expand this tiny remnant. Then the BBC will be able to stretch its 10 little invertebrate legs and spread back out!

Like burrowing crayfish, worms are fantastic burrowers and recycling machines too. All of the native earthworms found in Tassie are found nowhere else, and some species are only found in the Burnie area! But you are more likely to find introduced earthworms in your garden.

There are also more than 20 **native millipede** species in the Burnie area but we hardly ever see them. The common millipedes in gardens (like the Portugese millipede that walks into houses) are all introduced species from Europe.



Millipede
B Mesibov

Proceed on up the very steep, erosion-saving paving to Grandview Avenue... turn right, cross directly over View Road with care, and follow the track...

What do these birds eat when there is no bread on the table?



Below: Burnie burrowing crayfish grow to about 10 cm in length

H&A Wapstra

Left: Crayfish chimneys

J Nelson



4 THE OLD TIP



DISTANCE: 1300 m

TIME: 25 mins

This rehabilitating area covers Burnie's old tip site, but it also hides Shorewell Creek! As you enter the park you will see the creek down in the gully to your right where it emerges after being underground. It is surrounded by blackwoods, tree-ferns, dogwoods, and tea-trees.

This area is perfect breeding habitat for **masked lapwings** (commonly known as plovers). Human inhabitants of many cities often welcome the presence of these noisy though harmless birds, and their delightfully camouflaged chicks, as a reminder that nature can still thrive in areas dominated by concrete, metal and traffic.

These Winter-breeding birds are very good 'opportunists' – just like us, their numbers have increased as land has been cleared. While breeding, masked lapwings like plenty of space around their well-disguised nest and eggs on the ground. They have developed a most impressive response when they see an approaching threat – 'hysteria'! Much loud kekekekeke-ing and high speed dive-bombing is very intimidating, even for us big



This grassy open space is full of surprising secrets. See what you can find...

Masked lapwings protect their eggs T Waite

animals. Although the males do have spurs on their wings, these are largely for display, seldom making contact with the intruder when performing this alarming behaviour. Even so, it is best to just keep away.

If you have your own open country where you do not want masked lapwings to nest – plant a diversity of native trees! This reduces the attractiveness of your place to them as suitable nesting habitat. **Swamp harriers**, birds of prey with a distinctive white rump, can sometimes be seen over here, floating low with upturned wingtips. They often return from their Winter mainland 'holiday' in time to partake of lapwing chicks.



One year old swamp harrier P Tonelli

Spineless critters... mini-beasts... invertebrates... call them what you will! They do lots of things that we do, and they do them very well!

Did you know that most Burnie-ites have 6 legs? And that most of these insects are found only in Tasmania?

jewel beetle

L Rubenach



wattle grubs into wood
bore

shine/sparkle

backpack

build
stick cocoon makers



Only one species of **scorpion** lives in Tassie, and the Mother carries her 20-30 white young on her back for at least a week until their exoskeletons (outside 'shell') become hard!

A Miller/Invertebrata

Dung beetles strike
an aerial hazard

G Stevenson



CSIRO Australia

hide
stick insects

moult
freshwater crayfish

spring
amphipods, springtails

Every year in the evenings of late Summer, since 1991 when they were first introduced around Burnie, the 'Flight of the **Dung Beetles**' occurs. Unfortunately a few meet grim deaths on aerial hazards. These amazing shiny blue beetles consume and bury cow dung, keeping pastureland 'clean'. Native dung beetles do occur here too and they feed during the day.

pierce
waterbugs into plants for sap

buzz
feral bumble bee

suck

crickets
be chirpy

Spidicats, **spitfires** or sawfly grubs – bunches of primitive wasp larvae – rear their heads when disturbed and collectively emit an awful smell that would put any potential diner right off having a taste.

spinning spiders **spin-doctor**



H&A Wapstra

flirt & flutter
butterflies

hunt

stink

soak
blowflies sponge up juicy food

Follow the gravel track across the open space until you come to the boardwalk at the creek again. The creek and stormwater flows below the cement covers you have passed. Follow the board walk. On your right you may notice a variety of weeds such as blackberries, gorse, and montpellier broom.

A weed is a plant that grows where it is not wanted. These plants do not grow naturally here and have smothered native plants. As not many native plant-eaters can tackle these weeds, they can spread very easily, usually by seed carried by birds, insects, wind, or water. Sometimes they may escape from your garden! Information and advice is available from the Council about plants already known to have become environmental weeds. These weeds are gradually being removed and replaced with native plants.

jumping spiders

gather ants

dig
burrowing crayfish

pounce

As you walk along further you may begin to notice some big, oldish blackwoods and gum trees.

Can you imagine a caterpillar becoming a fungus instead of a butterfly? A fungus known as a 'vegetable caterpillar' is a parasite on certain species of caterpillars that live under acacia trees, like these blackwoods.

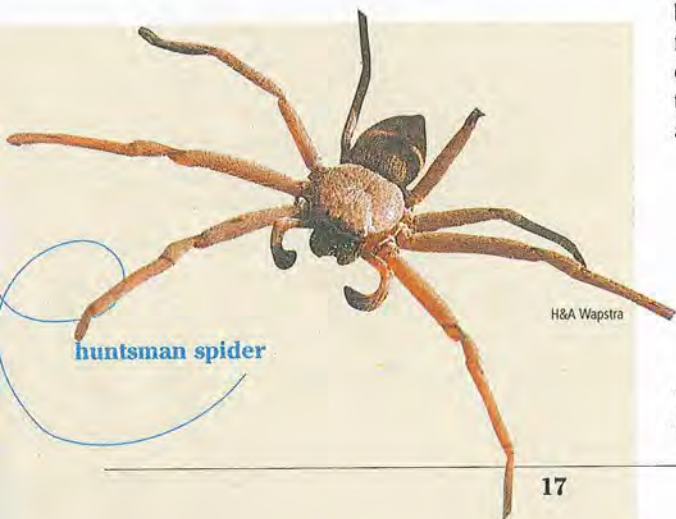
Fungi aren't plants or animals, they are fungi! And life as we know it would cease to exist within 50 years if it weren't for the actions of these amazing organisms. Along with some bacteria, fungi provide us with the free service of breaking down and recycling a huge mass of living things as they die – or even before they die – and letting it become something else.

Fungi are ever present in the environment, but are usually a network of invisible threads (hyphae) in the soil. We only become aware of them when they send up fruiting bodies in a diversity of forms such as mushrooms, toadstools or jelly-like masses. In the case of the vegetable caterpillar, after the hyphae have

penetrated the caterpillar's body and mummified it, the fungus proceeds to consume it inside out, then the fruiting body will appear above the ground.



Everything is on its way to becoming something else.



huntsman spider

H&A Wapstra

Top: Blackwood flowers © Bryant/Greening Australia
Above: Vegetable caterpillar © S Lloyd

5 THE BIG TREE



DISTANCE: 750 m

TIME: 15 mins

Soon you will come to a big gum tree on your right, out on its own.

This big white gum is high rise apartments and a supermarket all in one.

Big old trees like this white gum, which could have been a seedling before white people even came here, are as rare as native-hen's teeth in an urban space. They are extremely important for an astonishing array of wildlife accommodation and protection.

The outside layer of a tree is where it is all happening for the tree. It's here that the nutrients and water flows, and it's here that most of the insects and other invertebrates live too. But the middle is no longer needed for that and becomes the 'filling' as the tree grows old. As gum trees get older, they may become damaged by forces such as wind, fire or insects. Branches fall off, creating hollows in that filling – perfect dry places for wildlife such as sugargliders, ringtail and brushtail possums, southern boobooks, tiny striated pardalotes, and large yellow-tailed black-cockatoos, to rest and nest – in high rise apartments!

But to predators like hawks and spotted-tail quolls, these cosy homes are the supermarket meat racks to check for tasty morsels like eggs, small birds and possums. That's nature! It's all part of the cycle.

Travelling across open country for food such as nectar and insects, makes birds and other animals vulnerable



Green rosella at nest hollow

T Waite



to being attacked by predators. Isolated trees like this one are not as prime real estate as those with trees and shrubs around them. Wildlife often travel along next to creeks and streams just like you are today. Trees all along waterways are very important.

One of Australia's most endangered birds, the bright green swift parrot, breeds only in Tasmania, spending the Winter on the mainland. Since the late 1800s blue gums (from the South East of the state) have been planted in the North West, and if allowed to grow old, they provide blossom and nectar for these beautiful chatterly little parrots to find a meal. Sometimes you can spot flocks of them heading for a feed in Burnie Park, Fern Glade, and even around the suburbs, with their distinctive pointy wings, swift flight and constantly changing direction.



Top: Blue gum
flower H&A Wapstra
Above: Tree martin
T Waite

Swift parrot
N Day/Field Guide to the Birds of Australia
(Simpson/Day/Trusler: Penguin Books
Australia Ltd)

Swift parrot
C Tzaros/Birds Australia



6 THORNE STREET WETLAND



DISTANCE: 900 m

TIME: 15 mins

Continue on along the track under Thorne Street via the pedestrian tunnel to the wetland.

There are 11 species of frogs in Tasmania. At least 3 live here, and they have something important to say to their neighbours about this wetland.

If you listen carefully you might be able to hear different frog voices, especially just after rain and mostly at night. Bong-bong (eastern banjo frog or pobble-bonk)... craak-craak-craak-craak (common froglet)...ree-ree-ree-ree (brown tree frog)... are all boy frogs impressing girl frogs: "Hey Babe, I've found a great place for you to lay your eggs!"

But what these sounds also tell us is that this habitat is OK. Since frogs prefer not to live in degraded habitats and are sensitive to poisons

and other chemicals, by living here these frogs tell us that this habitat is supporting enough food for them to eat and breed. And wildlife activity is sure to get better because a lot of creatures eat frogs!

Blackwood trees

like the ones here would once have covered much of this land, growing very large on the deep red soils.

Wetlands Beat

*Green frogs
brown frogs
unseen
in the bog
rain drops
soft and wet
rhythm for
the quartet
dull croak
who spoke?
drum tight
all night
lay in bed
sweet refrain
frog song
night rain*

© Bill Walker



Tasmanian froglet P Brown



Smooth froglet P Brown



Brown froglet P Brown



Brown tree frog P Tonelli

7 UP TO THREE MILE LINE



DISTANCE:
1200 m

TIME: 20 mins

Continue
along the
track to Three
Mile Line
Road.

The wet and boggy area to the left of the track harbours a water weed called *Poa aquatica*. This plant grows very thick and chokes up waterways, deterring many native animals such as burrowing crayfish and giant freshwater crayfish from living here. This area is in the process of being rehabilitated with tea-trees, swamp paperbarks, and pale rushes.

Tasmanian native-hens or 'Turbo Chooks' are familiar neighbours to many of us, but people come from all over the world just to see these peculiar birds! Yes those globe trotters may well be bird fanatics but these birds really are unique and they only live in Tasmania.

Pairs or small family groups of these slightly comical flightless birds are often seen feeding on grasses and seeds (the young ones on insects), along grassy edges of roadsides, wetlands and paddocks. Cocking their tails when agitated, they escape predators by running extremely fast (up to 50 kilometres/hour!). They make an extraordinary range of noises – sawing, hoarse rasping and high-

pitched techno alarm calls. Their seemingly drab colouring shows purple in the olives, browns and greys. Their eyes are ruby red and bill banana yellow.

The Tasmanian native-hen partnering setup is also peculiar. They are 'polyandrous', which means that a female is 'attended to' by at least 2 males. The 'teenage' birds also help out with raising and protecting their brothers and sisters. As dedicated parents they may build a new nest for their chicks every night to keep them safe and warm.

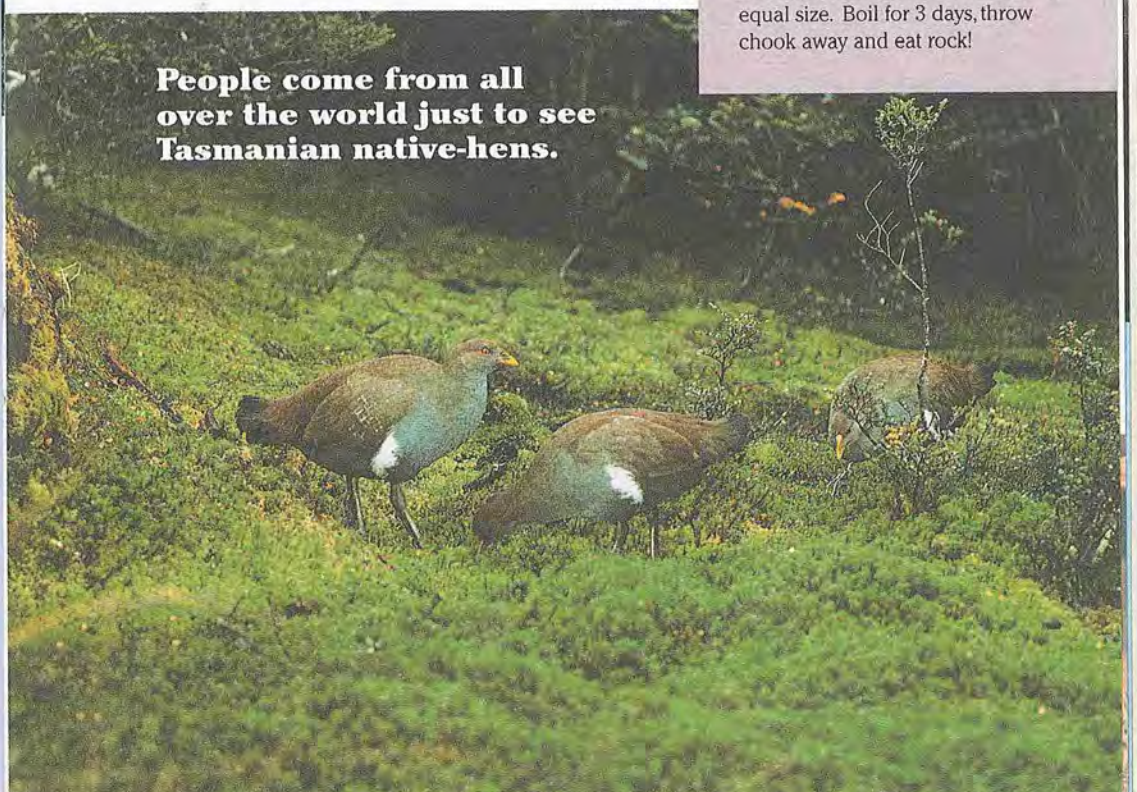
When you get to Three Mile Line Road, turn left along the footpath, leaving Shorewell Creek behind. Cross Mount St with care, turn right, and follow the track south to the boardwalk leading down to Romaine Creek.

How to cook a native chook

There is an old tale told hereabouts: To cook a native chook, place prepared chook in large pot of seasoned boiling water with rock of equal size. Boil for 3 days, throw chook away and eat rock!

T Waite

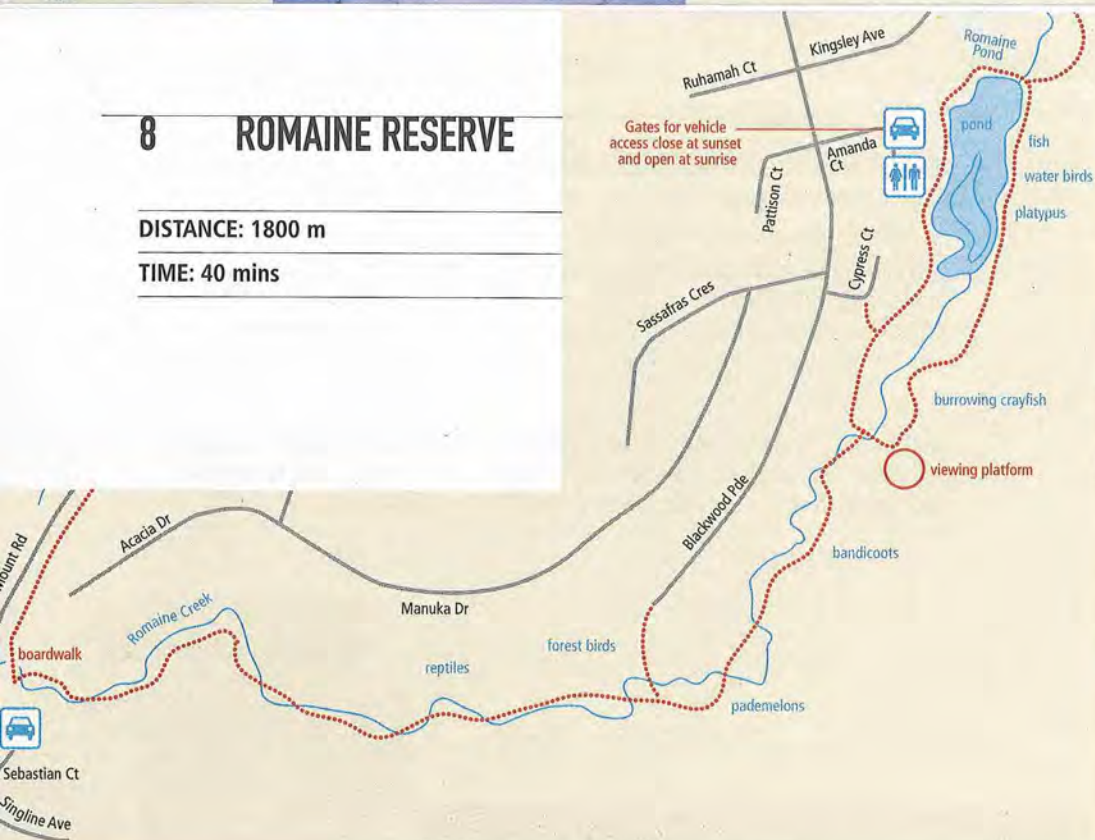
People come from all over the world just to see Tasmanian native-hens.



8 ROMAINE RESERVE

DISTANCE: 1800 m

TIME: 40 mins



Follow the track along Romaine Creek. You will notice many areas that have been replanted.

Before these areas were planted out, there were a lot of weeds such as blackberries, gorse, broom, *Poa aquatica* and fuchsia growing here. These plants are considered weeds because they grow very fast and smother out native plants. From 2000 to 2002, most of the weeds in these planted areas were removed. This was done by many hard workers in a number of ways including hand-pulling, and spraying.

In place of these weeds you can see hundreds of seedlings planted close together covered by green 'socks'. These socks stop pademelons and possums from eating the young juicy plants. They also break down over a few years. By this time the plants have grown tougher and don't taste as yummy! Planting the seedlings close together will stop many weeds growing back. All of the plants you will see, including prickly moses, native musk, kangaroo apples, dusty daisy bushes, satin woods, and tallow woods would have grown along the Romaine Creek many years ago before the weeds took over.



Left: Native plant seedling
© Bryant/Greening Australia

This narrow strip of bush is alive with wildlife neighbours, day and night. The forest birds, insects and reptiles are most active during the day.



Top: Snakeskin detail
Above right: She-oak skink
Above: blue-tongue lizard

H&A Wapstra
P Tonelli
H&A Wapstra



Snakes are usually more wary of you than you are of them. They do not want to waste their precious venom on something too big to swallow! They would much prefer a frog or a bird. All three Tasmanian snake species keep their eggs inside their body to hatch, then give birth to wriggling baby snakes. As females grow larger they can produce more young. When the young venture out from their mother's shelter they need to be careful to avoid becoming a juicy snack for birds such as kookaburras (introduced to Tasmania in 1906) or brown goshawks, which have short 'stunt' wings allowing them to hunt below the canopy.

Blue-tongue lizards, the great snail-eating garden friends, are fairly commonly seen in Burnie during warmer weather. **Metallic skinks** often bask in the sun on rocks and bits of dry wood. Another attractive lizard that may take a little more seeking out is the **she-oak skink**, which is found only in Tasmania.

snakes & lizards

Below: Snakeskin detail

H&A Wapstra



tiger snake lowland copperhead white-lipped snake

birds

You may see, but most likely hear, some forest birds here. Most bird guide books describe the calls and there is a useful CD available of Tasmanian bird calls (See end of this guide for details).

Birds to look and listen out for here include: pink robins, grey shrike-thrush, grey fantail, superb fairy-wren, Eastern spinebill, and the endemic yellow wattlebird and forest raven. (Endemic means found only in Tasmania.)

SILVEREYE Common small bird easily distinguished by its white eye ring. T Waite



STRONG-BILLED HONEYEATER Many Tasmanian honeyeaters do not actually eat 'honey' (nectar) but insects. Species such as the endemic strong-billed honeyeater feeds mainly on insects or lerp. T Waite



YELLOW-THROATED HONEYEATER Also endemic. This parent bird is removing a baby "poo sac" to keep the nest clean. T Waite

TASMANIAN THORNBILL Also endemic. The Tasmanian thornbill is found in wet forests and scrub. It is constantly on the move, busily searching for tiny invertebrates on the foliage, branches and trunks of trees and bushes. T Waite

GOLDEN WHISTLER

A common bird of eucalypt forests with a sweet, melodious whistle. It often calls after a sudden loud noise such as thunder. T Waite



NIGHT

During the day you have a chance to look around for tracks and traces of nocturnal creatures. Scratches and worn patches on tree trunks might show where a possum such as a sugar glider travels. Runways and tunnels through long grass and bracken may be the pathways of Tasmanian pademelons and long-nosed potoroos. 'Scats' (the polite word for wildlife poo) of all sizes and shapes litter the forest floor. Feathers and fur may show where something has been eaten or the site of a territorial fight. Diggings and scrapings in the soil and leaves may indicate the activity of long-nosed potoroos, bandicoots, echidnas and wombats that all dig and scrape while looking for underground fungi, grubs, ants, or roots. You would be very lucky to see a wombat, Tasmanian devil or a spotted-tail quoll around here as they need larger areas of **UNDISTURBED** and **PROTECTED** habitat to live in.



Above: SUGAR GLIDER H&A Wapstra
Left: SWAMP RAT H&A Wapstra



T Waite

Nature juggling the balance

Pardalotes eat lerps. Lerps (pictured below) are hard sugary 'flakes' on gum leaves, which are exuded by, and cover, psyllid insects. Spotted and striated pardalotes are tiny birds with short, stout, partially notched beaks designed for removing these sugary, high carbohydrate lerps – a bit like sugar coated peanuts for us! This feeding behaviour can be a great help to the forests because quite often, massive outbreaks of psyllids occur and lerp eating birds clean them up before leaf loss kills the trees!

© Tzaros/Birds Australia

Morning Walk

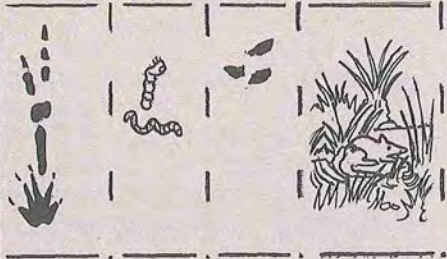
Potoroo
is that you?
peeping through the ferns and reeds
below the gnarled old blackwood tree
potoroo
how do you do?
you're looking well
as I am too
beside the babbling chortling creek
as we squat down and take a peek
at one another, for a while
dear potoroo
you make me smile

© Bill Walker

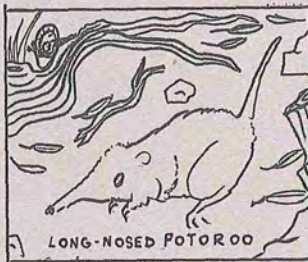
The animals below can all be found around beautiful Romaine Creek.
See if you can spot these special tracks and traces.



Eastern barred bandicoot: has bounding tracks; digs for and eats ground dwelling grubs including pasture pests like cock-chafers and corbie grubs (which become corbie moths, flying at dusk in Summer), and fungi, leaving distinctive conical holes; sleeps in grass-lined nest under thick cover, leaf litter etc.



Long-nosed potoroo: has tracks like a big hopping bandicoot when moving quickly, eats fungi and ground grubs and tubers too, sleeps in the undergrowth.



Echidna: has shuffling tracks; eats ants and termites; has no definite nest site although the female may use a burrow when with young.



Swamp rat: tracks often found along the soft edge of creeks and ponds; eats grubs and grasses; sleeps underground if dry, above if wet.



9 ROMAINE POND

DISTANCE: 2000 m

TIME: 40 mins

Burnie really is an excellent place to see **platypus**. Sometimes there's one in this pond! (Some people have even seen a platypus sliding down the overflow waterfall.) Platypus are transient except at breeding time. Often around October the females will establish or return to their territory. The other likely place to see them is in the Emu River along the platypus interpretation trail at Fern Glade Reserve. (See Other places section in this guide.)

The streams in Burnie such as Romaine Creek and the Emu River contain quite a variety of native fishes, as well as the introduced brown trout. Although usually difficult to see as they generally hide during the day under banks or amongst logs and vegetation, you might be lucky

H&A Wapstra





Top: Spotted galaxias

Above: Jollytail B. Mawbey/Inland Fisheries Service

enough to catch a glimpse of a small native galaxias if you stand quietly by the water. Polaroid sunglasses reduce the glare and make it easier to see into the water. In Romaine Creek there are **jollytails** and **spotted galaxias**.

Jollytails are slender with an olive-coloured back and silver belly; they grow to about 180 mm long. Spotted galaxias are stouter and strikingly coloured with distinct small dark spots and often bright orange fins with black edges. They grow up to about 200 mm. In streams near the coast, both species migrate between sea and freshwater during their life. Adults live in fresh water and lay their eggs in Autumn in the stream or lower down in the

estuary. When the eggs hatch the tiny larvae are washed to sea, where they live for 3-6 months. Then they return up the rivers in spring, in 'whitebait runs'. These masses of small fish usually contain several species.

The juvenile galaxias are only a few centimetres long. Unlike trout they cannot jump, and any barrier in the stream such as the weirs on the Emu River and Romaine Creek, prevents free movement of the fish upstream. They can only

Platypus C Baars/Nature Conservation Branch



get further up if flow conditions are right or there is a bypass such as a rocky ramp to help them over or around.

Short-finned eels and pouched lampreys also live in these streams. They too migrate between sea and rivers, but unlike most galaxias they are good climbers and can negotiate many barriers. Lampreys are parasitic only when they live in the sea, suckering on to other fish with their round mouth. The adults come up rivers to breed, and don't feed.

The blackfish is a well-known native fish living in Fern Glade pond. It stays in rivers for its whole life, and needs hollow logs to lay its eggs in.

The Waterwatch Program has personally introduced to Burnie residents the many strange and fascinating water bugs (or macro-invertebrates) living in the waterways. They include stonefly, caddisfly, mayfly and dragonfly nymphs, amphipods (sideswimmers or scuds), riffle beetles, water mites, freshwater crabs and shrimps, worms, and lobsters. The water bugs' presence (or absence) indicates the health of the system.

Water birds around the pond include: **Pacific black ducks**, sporting their stylish black eye-liner; **chestnut teals**, the male of which has a distinctive bottle-green coloured head; the grey, tall and patiently stalking **white-faced herons**; and black, small, white-billed Eurasian coots visiting from the mainland in Summer.



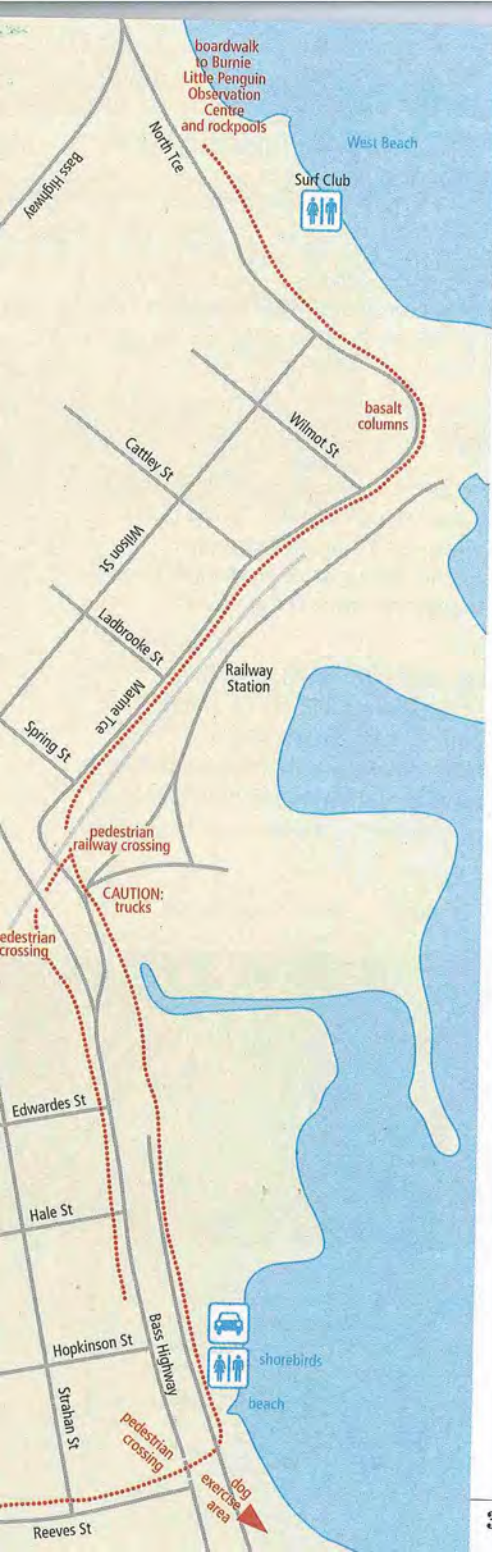
Left: White-faced heron P Tonelli
Below: Chestnut teals D Cummings



Below: Pacific black duck on eggs T Waite



The walking track continues on from the pond at the overflow (North end, near playground) through an area undergoing revegetation works, recovering from willow removal. When the walking track ends, follow the street footpaths back down to the sea.



10 ROMAINE CREEK TO THE SEA

DISTANCE: 2500 m

TIME: 50 mins

Keep an eye out for some familiar, yet very important little creatures you will find just about anywhere along this track. Look in footpath cracks and edges, up tree trunks and under almost any rock or piece of rotting wood and you'll probably find them. They fluff up more soil than earthworms, helping to circulate nutrients and keep land ecosystems healthy.

Although you sometimes see them out on their own, they are all sociable critters, living in highly developed colonies. They are ... ants!



D Steele/Central Science Laboratory, University of Tasmania

Ant societies feature a system of castes that include winged males, winged females and several subcastes of workers, each with a particular role within the ant community.

A sophisticated communication system goes hand in hand with this living together. They mostly interact using a range of chemicals (pheromones) but they also use touch and sound to convey messages of attraction, recruitment, alarm, identification of other castes, and working out who is a nestmate and who is a stranger. Watch an ant trail and you will notice that the ants are constantly touching each other with their antennae – this is ant speak! And if you hear a high pitched squeak being emitted by an ant, it is achieving this sound mechanically – not vocally – by stridulation. Near the waist there is a thin scraper that rubs a series of fine parallel ridges to send vibrations to other individuals.

From the trail-forming little black ants (or LBAs to their friends), to some of the largest and most primitive ants – the all Australian jack jumpers and inchmen (*Myrmecia*), ants influence the lives and evolution of many plants and animals. Some are predators of insects and spiders and some are scavengers, collecting unhealthy, dead and exhausted insects from the ground and foliage while generally cleaning up the forest floor. Yet others harvest seeds for food and are inadvertently responsible for spreading a large number of plants.



You might notice a hole in the soil surrounded by a "funnel" of soil particles. This is a doorway to the underground colony and is constantly being added to or replaced after disturbance such as being stepped on or washed away by rain. The surface of the yellow-jawed jack jumper colony mounds is often patterned by uniform items such as fine pebbles or twigs.

Take care – even some of the smallest ants can inflict a painful sting!

11 BURNIE YACHT CLUB BEACH

Silver gulls are nesting in large numbers in the Summer breeding season on the rock walls around the Burnie Port. But it's getting pretty squishy out there and machinery at the port sometimes slides dangerously in a layer of gull guano (droppings) where the birds roost on the wharf! They are excellent scavengers and an increased food supply has led to increased breeding and overcrowding. They eat lots of things that we leave around and give to them. You can help stop the overcrowding by just admiring them while you eat all your own chips. You can tell the older, more experienced birds by their red legs and white irises (eye).

Pacific gulls are the larger gulls 'wearing lipstick'. Gannets and pelicans can also sometimes be seen flying, diving and floating around the coast of Burnie. Albatross may also be seen gliding above the swell, particularly from the lookouts. Shorebirds that may be seen, perhaps even breeding, on our No Dog beaches include: pied oystercatchers, hooded plovers, and red-capped plovers.

Walk west along the grassy area on the sea side of the highway. Walk around the port roundabout (take care, this is often busy with trucks) and follow the footpath over the allocated pedestrian railway crossing. You can follow Marine Terrace all the way around town, or cross through the CBD, to West Beach and the boardwalk that will take you back to the little penguin colony.



Left: Silver gulls with eggs S Foale
Below: Pied oystercatcher T Waite
Below right: Pacific gull P Tonelli



PARSONAGE POINT

You might like to try a rockpool ramble around the headland from the west end of the beach.

Stay down in the intertidal zone as the human-built sea wall may be destabilised by wave action. Plenty of daylight, low tide and calm weather are the best conditions for observing life in the rockpools which includes sea weeds, anemones, flat worms, starfish, crabs, chitons, and barnacles.

Warning

Small blue-ringed octopus may be living in these pools. They are beautiful and intriguing but **DO NOT TOUCH!** A bite from one of these is very dangerous.

Know and use the first aid and seek medical attention immediately.



Biscuit star S Foale



Anemone S Foale



Soldier crab H&A Wapstra



Starfish S Foale

creating wildlife friendly space at YOUR place

If you have never thought about the wildlife in your garden, take a few moments to look around. At different times of the year, and the day and night, you may see your wildlife neighbours finding food, resting, and communicating with each other. They and their families have probably been there, or somewhere nearby, for longer than you have, so a welcoming committee won't be necessary when you discover them. Get to know them by watching and listening, keeping a comfortable distance between you. Keeping notes to refer to can give you a better picture of what they are up to over time.

If you wish to entice wildlife into your garden planting the right mix of local native species will soon provide suitable habitat and a good food source for birds such as fairy-wrens or honeyeaters, which may soon choose to nest in your garden. A shallow dish of fresh water placed up high, out of reach of pets, will attract birds. Rocks and logs provide shelter for insects and a warm place where skinks can bask. Do not relocate logs from the bush to your garden and leave old trees standing. Instead you might like to try building some nest boxes to see if you can provide a safe space for parrots, microbats or the many other creatures that use hollows. (See section 5 and the reference list at the back of the guide.)

If you live close to bushland and reserve areas wallabies, bandicoots and other wildlife may enter your garden as part of their feeding range. Ensure that your domestic waste is securely stored away from curious foragers. Use of garden poisons should be carefully controlled as they may be attractive



Left: Eastern barred bandicoot

H&A Wapstra

Right: Jewel beetles L. Rubenach



Above: Beautiful firetail
Left: Brown tree frog

T Waite
H&A Wapstra

as a food source. Please do not put food out for native animals and birds. They all have very specialist diets, and your kind thoughts can often cause them ill-health.

If you do not want the local wildlife getting too comfortable in your garden then an appropriate fence will assist in keeping them out. A small gauge wire mesh or solid boundary fence incorporating a concrete or masonry plinth can be effective. You will never be able to prevent birds and very small creatures from entering your garden. Remember, most wildlife is protected, and you cannot trap or destroy native creatures without a Permit from the Parks and Wildlife Service. (See section 4 for information about plovers.)

Creating little wetlands and ponds for frogs is a very popular activity for kids. It is best to set up your wetland and see what moves in rather than bring frogs or tadpoles from elsewhere. Make sure your wetland is maintained and safe for small children. Remember shallow water can be just as dangerous as deep water.

You need to find the right personal space between you and your neighbours and try to avoid what freaks them out. It is most likely that the local CATS are having an impact on your wildlife, especially frogs, lizards and birds. Keep your cat indoors or in its own outdoor, spacious wire enclosure. Ask your human neighbours to be responsible cat owners too. If cats stray into your wildlife-friendly space, deter them. A few gentle squirts with the hose quickly gets the message across, only hurting the cats' pride. Dogs can be ratbags too so please keep them under effective control and respect the No Dogs and Dogs on Leashes Only zones.

Urban traffic is constantly taking its toll too, especially at night. We may not notice it as much in the city as the council removes dead animals from the roads for our comfort. Possums and birds and even blue-tongue lizards often go under the rubber. So please drive slowly, especially at night – thinking of wildlife might even save you some cash in speeding fines!



Do you know where your cat is RIGHT NOW?

Feral and domestic cats have huge impacts on wildlife. Cats are instinctive hunters even if they are well fed. Being responsible for your cat can minimize that impact:

- Keep your cat inside at night – this will reduce its hunting home range and reduce the number of animals killed.
- Construct a large, comfortable wire enclosure outside for your cat.
- Fit your cat with a collar and 2 bells.
- Have your cat de-sexed. It is a simple procedure that can be conducted at your local veterinary surgery.
- Feed your cat inside to avoid skirmishes with opportunistic wildlife helping themselves.



foxes

Foxes are not welcome in Tasmania.

Our wildlife is precious and unique but if the red fox gets established here it could wipe out much of Tasmania's wildlife, as it has done on the mainland. Not only would this be a tragedy for the animals themselves, it would be a disaster for our increasingly valuable tourism industry. Foxes would also be a major agricultural pest, killing stock and introducing disease. They create alarming human and animal health issues such as carrying hydatids and distemper.

In mid-1998 a fox was spotted running onto the Burnie wharf off a container ship from Victoria. Despite an extensive search it was never caught, although its footprints were found near the scene only days later. Foxes learn quickly and survive very well in urban areas so it is just as likely that you would see one right here, in or around Burnie, as in the bush. Keep your eyes open. Foxes are a problem for the whole community.

Foxes leave distinctive footprints and have extremely bright golden-yellow eyeshine at night if caught in torch or headlights. More information is available on the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service Website. Immediately report any sightings or information you may hear to the Fox Hotline 1300 369 688.



C Emms/Fox Taskforce

scientific names of plants, fungi and animals mentioned in this guide

ANIMALS

- Anemone *Actinia tenebrosa*
Beautiful firetail *Stagonopleura bella*
Biscuit star *Tosia australis*
Black-faced cormorant
Phalacrocorax fuscescens
Blue-ringed octopus
Hapalochlaena maculosa
Blue-tongue lizard (or blotched
bluetongue) *Tiliqua nigrolutea*
Brown goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*
Brown tree frog *Litoria ewingi*
Burnie burrowing crayfish
Engaeus yabbimunna
Chestnut teal *Anas castanea*
Chocolate wattled bat *Chalinolobus morio*
Common brushtail possum
Trichosurus vulpecula
Common froglet *Crinia signifera*
Dung beetle (introduced)
Geotrupes spinager
Eastern banjo frog or pobblebonk
Limnodynastes dumerili
Eastern barred bandicoot
Perameles gunnii
Eastern spinebill
Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris
Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*
Forest raven *Corvus tasmanicus*
Fox (introduced) *Vulpes vulpes*
Giant freshwater crayfish or lobster
Astacopsis gouldi
Golden whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*
Green rosella *Platycercus caledonicus*
Grey fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*
Grey goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
Grey shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*
Hooded plover *Thinornis rubricollis*
Huntsman spider unknown species
Jewel beetle *Castiarina virginea*
(page 15), *Castiarina flavopicta*
(pages 36, 37)
Jollytail (fish) *Galaxias maculatus*
Kookaburra (introduced)
Dacelo novaeguineae
Large forest vespadelus
Vespadelus darlingtoni
Little penguin *Eudyptula minor*
Little pied cormorant
Phalacrocorax melanoleucus
Long-nosed potoroo *Potorous tridactylus*
Lowland copperhead snake
Austrelaps superbus
Masked lapwing (formerly spur-winged
plover) *Vanellus miles*
Metallic skink *Niveoscincus metallicus*
Millipede *Amastigogonus*, undescribed
species
Pacific black duck *Anas superciliosa*
Pacific gull *Larus pacificus*
Pied oystercatcher
Haematopus longirostris
Pink robin *Petroica rodinogaster*
Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*
Pouched lamprey *Geotria australis*
Purple swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Red-capped plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*
Ringtail possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*
Scorpion *Cercophonius squama*
She-oak skink *Cyclomorphus casuarinae*
Short-finned eel *Anguilla australis*
Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*
Silver gull *Larus novaehollandiae*
Smooth froglet *Geocrinia laevis*
Soldier crab unknown species
Spotted-tail quoll *Dasyurus maculatus*
Spotted galaxias *Galaxias truttaceus*
Spotted pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*
Starfish *Patiriella calcar*
Strong-billed honeyeater
Melithreptus validirostris
Striated pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*
Sugar glider *Petaurus breviceps*
Superb fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*
Swamp harrier *Circus approximans*
Swamp rat *Rattus lutreolus*
Swift parrot *Lathamus discolor*
Tasmanian devil *Sarcophilus harrisii*
Tasmanian froglet *Crinia tasmaniensis*
Tasmanian pademelon
Thylogale billardieri
Tasmanian native-hen
Gallinula mortierii
Tasmanian thornbill *Acanthiza ewingii*
Tiger snake *Notechis scutatus*

Tree martin *Hirundo nigricans*
 Wedge-tailed eagle *Aquila audax*
 White-bellied sea-eagle
Haliaeetus leucogaster
 White-faced heron
Egretta novaehollandiae
 White-lipped snake *Drysdalia coronoides*
 Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*
 Yellow-tailed black-cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus funereus
 Yellow-throated honeyeater
Lichenostomus flavicollis
 Yellow wattlebird *Anthochaera paradoxa*

FUNGI

Vegetable caterpillar *Cordyceps gunnii*

PLANTS

native to Burnie

Tree-fern *Dicksonia antarctica*
 Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon*
 White gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*
 Tea-tree *Leptospermum scoparium*
 Scented paperbark *Melaleuca squarrosa*
 Swamp paperbark *Melaleuca ericifolia*
 Swamp gum *Eucalyptus ovata*
 Tall sedge *Carex appressa*
 Woolly tea-tree *Leptospermum lanigerum*
 Dogwood *Pomaderris apetala*
 Pale rush *Juncus pallidus*
 Prickly Moses
Acacia verticillata var *verticillata*
 Kangaroo apple *Solanum laciniatum*
 Native musk *Olearia argophylla*
 Dusty daisy bush *Olearia lirata*
 Satin woods *Nematolepis squamea*
 Tallow woods *Pittosporum bicolor*

Tasmanian natives

Blue Gum *Eucalyptus globulus*

WEEDS

Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* agg.
 Montpellier broom
Genista monspessulama
 Gorse *Ulex europaeus*
 Poa aquatica/Reed sweet grass
Glyceria maxima
 Fuchsia *Fuchsia magellanica*
 Cumbungi *Typha latifolia*



Grey goshawk
 C Baars/Nature
 Conservation Branch

Large forest
 bat H&A Wapstra



Burnie
 burrowing
 crayfish
 H&A Wapstra

other places to visit in Burnie to see wildlife

Fern Glade for platypus, birds, orchids and fungi, only minutes drive or ~ 3 hour return walk south east from the CBD;

The **beaches and foreshores** for shorebirds and waders;

The Lookout for whales and albatross;

Guide Falls and other waterfalls for fish and the unique freshwater sponge;

The **Rhododendron Gardens** for birds;

Upper Natone Reserve: easy 1 hour walk in varied habitats and home for spotted-tail quolls.

contacts

Greening Australia (Tasmania) for plant identification, weed control and planting advice. Burnie Office Ph: 03 6432 1405 Email: greening@burnie.net. Hobart Office Ph: 03 6223 6377 Email: general@tas.greeningaustralia.org.au

Waterwatch: State Office Ph. 03 6336 5254 or www.tas.waterwatch.org.au

Bushcare Extension: Ph. 6431 7219.

Coastcare Facilitor: Ph. 6431 8251.

Burnie Field Naturalist Club Inc.
PO Box 455, Burnie or
www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/burnats.

Burnie Visitor Information Centre, including information on wildlife tours. Ph: 6434 6111 Email: travel@burnie.net

Burnie City Council website (including information on wildlife tours and live footage from a local wildlife camera): www.burnie.net

The Understorey Network for planting information Ph. 03 63695333 Email: understoreynet@vision.net.au Website: www.understorey-network.org.au

recommended field guides

Fenton, Janet (1997) *Where to find Common Insects in Tasmania*, Tasmanian Environment Centre

Frogs Tasmania: *Natural History and Calls of Tasmanian Frogs*, CD and cassette available from Central North Field Naturalists, 68 Dynans Bridge Road Weegeena TAS 7304

Gould League of Victoria Inc. (1997) *The Nest Box Book*

Hutchinson, Mark, Swain, Roy and Driessen, Michael (2001) *Snakes and Lizards of Tasmania*, Fauna of Tasmania Handbook #9, Nature Conservation Branch, DPIWE

Launceston Field Naturalists Club (2000) *A Guide to Flowers & Plants of Tasmania* Third Edition

Shattuck, Steve O. (1999) *Australian Ants: their biology and identification*, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia

Stewart, David *Australian Bird Calls - Tasmania*, Nature Sound, Mullumbimby NSW (compact disc, available in book stores)

Tasmanian Field Naturalist Club Inc. (1994) *Butterflies of Tasmania*

Tasmanian Marine Naturalists Assoc Inc. and Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (1999) *Between Tasmanian Tide Lines*, Hobart

Watts, Dave (1999) *Field Guide to Tasmanian Birds*, New Holland Publishers, Sydney

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, frog poster and wildlife notesheets

Tide Timetables for rockpool rambling are available from the Burnie Port Authority

The Gould League for guides and educational material website

ABC Gardening Australia are publishing a book on habitat/wildlife friendly gardening by Hobart-based author Peter Grant in 2003



Natural
Heritage
Trust

*Helping Communities
Helping Australia*

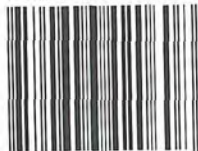
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CITY COUNCIL

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