

Access : Open for research

**TASMANIAN BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1937 – 1983**

AND BIOLOGICAL CLUB 1937 -1959

In the 1920's and 1930's scientists studying animals began to realise that little attention was being paid to how animals lived and how they reacted to their environment and each other. Thus a worldwide interest in their general ecology began.

In 1936 a Biological Survey of Australia was recommended with all states being represented.

The Tasmanian representative, Dr Joseph Pearson, director of the Tasmanian Museum, sought the help of the Biological Club and in May 1937, the Tasmanian Biological Survey was born. A committee was established consisting of Pearson (chair); Prof. V V Hickman (University – Spiders); Dr D Martin (CSIRO - Botany); J W Evans (Dept. of Agriculture – Entomology); D Colbrum Pearson (Museum – as secretary).

Later others joined : Dr H Gordon (University – Botany); Prof. H N barber (University – Botany); Mr L Miller (Dept. of Agriculture – Entomology) & Dr E Guiler (University – Mammals).

T 1/1

- (a) Objectives of the Survey.
- (b) Minutes of the Executive Committee 18 June 1937 – August 6 1953.

T 1/2 (a) Replies to circular letters, requesting contributions/help for the survey.

- (b) Booklet containing list of letters sent June 1937 – September 1952.

T 1/3 General File – letters inward and outward.

- (a) 1937 – 1940
- (b) 1940 – 1951

T 1/4 Grants 1936 – 1942

T 1/5 Collectors of specimens

- (a) Letters, 1938 – 1940
- (b) Record of equipment used and returned.

T 1/6 Reports (Survey reports, annual reports, newspaper articles).

T 1/7 Classifications

- (a) Reptilia
- (b) Entomology
- (c) Spiders
- (d) Diptera
- (e) Coleoptera
- (f) Hemiptera
- (g) Lepidoptera

T 1/8 Specimens sent away for identification

A5 hard bound ledger book.

T 1/9 Biological publications.

**T1/10 Stock**

- (a) Stock orders, 1937-1940 (for books, tubes, jars, etc.)
- (b) Stock book

**T 1/11 Scientific survey expedition to Lake St. Clair, February 1941.**

**T 1/12 Draft of article by Eric Guiler for the Tasmanian Historical Research Association, Papers and Proceedings, Vol. 43, no.3, Sept. 1996.**

**T 1/13 Finance - receipt book, bank books, petty cash book, accounts, receipts, etc.**

- (a) Receipt book local orders
- (b) Bank books
- (c) Petty cash book
- (d) Accounts book (record of inward and outward monies)
- (e) Accounts (receipts for payments for books, subscriptions, material etc.
- (f) Booklets for – general accounts, research projects, gear for collectors.

## **T1/14 Minute book of the Biological Club 1937 -1959**

A meeting was held on 6 June 1935 at the house of Dr WL. Crowther (later Sir William Crowther) to discuss a proposal that a Biological Club be formed in Hobart. In addition to Dr Crowther, WM. Carne, VV Hickman, D. Martin and J.W. Evans were present at that meeting. The ground rules for the Club were set up, most of which are still in existence. Summarised briefly, the rules provided for informal monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month during April-November, later changed to March-November, held at members' homes and chaired by the member at whose home the meeting was held. The papers delivered were to be connected in some way with one of the biological sciences and it was considered desirable that only papers be presented that were of general interest, or were on subjects capable of being rendered intelligible to a majority of the members, with topics that promoted subsequent discussion being preferred. In addition to papers dealing with the special interest of any one member, subjects could be chosen of wide and general interest, for which one member was asked to gain familiarity, for the purpose of subsequently delivering a paper on the chosen topic. Distinguished scientists visiting Hobart could be invited to attend any meeting, and the host of the evening was permitted to introduce one or two guests. Hospitality provided at meetings was to be of the simplest nature. Minutes were not kept until 1944. Earlier records were reconstructed from such notice papers as had been preserved, and from members' personal records compiled by H.D. Gordon, Honorary Secretary from 1944 to 1947, and drawing upon the memory of other early members, particularly T.D. Raphael.

For more information see:

Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania, Volume 144, 2010 p.37-42

A LITTLE-KNOWN SCIENTIFIC CLUB IN HOBART, TASMANIA -ITS EARLY YEARS by D. A. Ratkowsky

<http://eprints.utas.edu.au/15993/>