



NATURE TRACKERS



What is Claws on the Line?

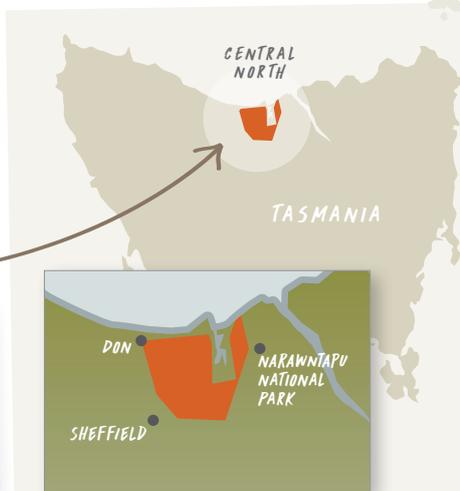
Claws on the Line is the Bookend Trust's second NatureTrackers project: its aim is to monitor Tasmania's burrowing crayfish with the help of schools and the community. We're starting out by focussing on the endangered **Central North burrowing crayfish**, which is found **nowhere else in the world** except a small patch of northern Tasmania.



Are Central North burrowing crayfish really so few in number – and are they still declining?

Previous efforts to map out Central North burrowing crayfish burrows found them very thinly scattered through their range, occupying a total area of less than 100 hectares! – and that this was shrinking!

Burrowing crayfish can be detected by the openings of their burrows, often marked by a chimney of excavated pellets. Most of our 30 species live nowhere but Tasmania – and the Central North burrowing crayfish can only be found between the Don River, Narawntapu and Sheffield.



Much of this area is made up of privately owned properties – so, to find out exactly what's happening to the species, the information is needed from many different people.



HELP FIND OUT...

Can you help spot and record crayfish chimneys? The aim is to create and maintain annually:

- ▶ A detailed **map** of areas where Central North burrowing crayfish definitely are and definitely aren't – together with a decreasing set of areas where this information isn't yet available.
- ▶ In future: an approximate but still meaningful **population estimate** of how many Central North burrowing crayfish there are in the world.

This information will help confirm details of the species' threatened status (currently Endangered on the state and federal lists, and Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List) – and also set a baseline for its conservation. Over time, together we can monitor whether we are succeeding in protecting the species and helping it recover, or whether its distribution and numbers are continuing to decrease.

WHAT IS NATURE TRACKERS?

NatureTrackers is an initiative of the Bookend Trust, a not-for-profit founded in Tasmania in 2008, which inspires people of all ages and abilities to develop careers and interest in the environment, and to find positive solutions to environmental problems. NatureTrackers is the Bookend Trust's overall program of 'citizen science' projects, coordinating schools and the community to track the progress of our threatened species and better understand their needs.



YOU CAN ALSO FIND US AT:

- @nature_trackers
- facebook.com/NatureTrackers1
- youtube.com/user/BookendTrust/videos

Email: info@naturetrackers.com.au

Education: www.expeditionclass.com



How you can help



PLEASE GET IN TOUCH, AND...

What is a citizen scientist?

A POTENTIAL, AMATEUR, OR PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIST, OFTEN LEARNING FROM AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS, VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC WORK.



Tell us about your area

Are there any crayfish 'chimneys' in your area? Whether you have lots or none, and even if they're unlikely to be Central North burrowing crayfish, you can ultimately help improve the maps for all species.

There's a **questionnaire** to fill out on our website naturetrackers.com.au Record what you've seen, or perhaps invite a detailed survey in future by volunteers.

You can also record what you've seen on the **smartphone app iNaturalist**. Download the app (it works for both Android and iPhone), and join the iNaturalist project 'Claws on the Line'.

Follow the instructions to record your observations to the project and ensure that everyone's privacy is respected. Precise locations of crayfish chimneys will not be shared elsewhere without your permission.

Help with more surveys

Some landowners are inviting Claws on the Line to thoroughly survey their land, so that we can map Central North burrowing crayfish locations in detail. Could you lend a hand? Provide your details in the **questionnaire** on our website naturetrackers.com.au

Learn more

Would you like your school to get involved? Our Expedition Class trials have been very popular! Or would you like a community workshop? Let us know via the **questionnaire** on our website naturetrackers.com.au

WHAT'S A BURROWING CRAYFISH?

Usually all you see of a burrowing crayfish is the opening to its burrow – a 2-5 cm diameter hole in the mud. Below the surface, however – sometimes a metre or two below, depending on how far it needs to burrow to reach the water table – is a little crayfish.

Often the hole is easy to spot, as it's surrounded by a 'chimney' made out of the burrowed mud from the hole, which can be anywhere from barely noticeable to more than 30 cm high. On the other hand, it may still be hard to see if it's hidden by vegetation such as ferns or blackberries.



GET MORE INFORMATION

Can you recognise a species by its chimney? How many different burrowing crayfish species are there in Tasmania? What does it mean if I have them on my land? Answers to all this and more are on our website naturetrackers.com.au



naturetrackers.com.au