



August 2016

Issue 1



Black Bluff Range marker pole replacement

In this first issue of the Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail (PCT) newsletter thanks must be given to members who gave freely of their time and assisted with stage one of the marker pole replacement along the Black Bluff Range. Our group was fortunate to have a donation from the Patricia Dukes Foundation for manufacture of a brochure, maps and signage (including the poles) for the PCT. We are well on the way with design for the brochure and map. Another working bee or two should finish the marker poles. We can then concentrate on the seemingly never ending up keep of the remaining 60 km of track that starts

at the scenic seaside town of Penguin and finishes at the Cradle Mountain Village complex.

The work was hard as approx. 1.6 tonne of poles (from 5 strategically placed helicopter drops) were carried and driven in along 15 km of the range, but with this came a great sense of achievement as we looked back over the hills at our conga line of new poles...and believe it or not, we actually had fun. This wasn't a male domain either as the girls were keen to hop in and help with the heavy lifting. A base camp was established at an elevation of 950 m so we could complete the poles in the central section of the range.

We flew in water, brush cutter and tools with one of the pole drops, but packs and camping gear was carried (all gear was carried out).

A well earned rest in late afternoon light



Last pole for the day...yippee!

Floods take their toll on the PCT

This year as all are aware has provided some extremes of climatic conditions. A dry summer with devastating bush fires in alpine areas and in early winter a rain event as not seen for many years damaged or destroyed infrastructure around the state. Unfortunately the PCT was not immune from these events. We have lost several sections where the bank along the Leven River has disappeared, land slips have occurred and many tonnes of trees whose root systems were sitting in saturated soils were unable to withstand the strong winds that came our way and have fallen on the track. Two of the scenic sections were along the Lobster Creek Tramway near Penguin and the other was through the Leven Canyon from Gunns Plains to Loongana. Currently we are exploring options to once again make the PCT a delightful wilderness walk.



News and events:

- Pole party was a great night...a BBQ with yummy food was enjoyed by members who assisted with the recent Black Bluff pole replacement project.
- Preliminary discussion with Council and PWS on the future of the Dial Range Recreational Area and PCT...watch this space.