

WILD TIMES

Edition 44 August 2012



SOUTH WEST MARINE DEBRIS CLEANUP

FRIENDS FREYCINET OILING IT UP

FRIENDS OF REDBILL POINT CONSERVATION AREA

RAIN, HAIL AND SHINE – MELALEUCA WORKING BEE

Editorial

Thank you to all the photographers who entered the 2012 Wildtimes photography competition. There were 41 entries showing off “Wildcare Volunteering – it’s a life!” shots from all over the state, both above and below ground and from the microscopic to the macroscopic.

Congratulations to Shirley Baker with the winning photo titled ‘Removing the old water tank’ which features on this editions front cover. The \$1000 prize money is being donated to projects on Deal Island. A big thank you to the judges of the photo competition – you know who you are!

In this edition of Wildtimes I hope you enjoy the news of the latest penguin count from the north west coast, a bit of history from the Jericho Dry Stone Wallers, the adventures of the coastal custodians annual beach cleanup and rubbish collection, white washing of Maria Island and a glimpse into the world of a Bangladeshi family’s first trip to a national park.

A big thank you to the volunteer proofreading team Linda, Lena, Lisa, Bev and Marg – thanks for all your work on this edition, your quick turn around and keenness to get Wildtimes out to members.

Wildcare is Getting outside with community – here Phoenix from Hobart and Namera originally from Bangladesh are having fun at Mt Field National Park – see page 9 for more on this story.



Getting outside with Community.

WILDCARE Gift Fund Donations

The following generous donations to the WILDCARE Gift Fund have been received since our last edition:

Donations of between \$100 and \$1000

Fr James Collins, Peter Waanders, Ingrid McGaughey, Philip Wyatt, Brenton Head, Olivia Burnie, Chris Arthur

Donations up to \$100

Tracey Simpson, Jan King, Kate Stevens, Ann Hamilton, Andrea Devos, Amelie Doran, Richard Hosking, Anthony Hassell, Elisha Goss, Andrew Smith

Wildtimes Publication Schedule

EDITION #	COPY DEADLINE	PUBLICATION
45	1 December 2012	1 January 2013
46	1 April 2013	1 May 2013
47	1 August 2013	1 September 2013

Submissions to Wildtimes Editor at wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Winner of the 2012 Photo Competition – Shirley Baker with the photo – “Removing the old water tank on Deal Island”.



What a load of rubbish!

All photos by Ula Majewski

The 2012 edition of the South West Coast Marine Debris Cleanup saw the 19 crew battle the biggest swells and roughest conditions we have ever experienced. It is a credit to the skippers of the Velocity, Chieftain G and the Breaksea that we were able to make it to the West Coast and back and safely access the beaches. During the trip swells rose to over nine metres and the enthusiastic crew were still keen to clean beaches in 50 knot winds and torrential rain, despite numerous cases of sea sickness.

In total 27,317 items were collected off six beaches, totalling around three tonnes. In material terms, 94% of the rubbish was plastic (comprised mainly of rope, bottles and miscellaneous plastic pieces) and 2.5% was metal, mainly aluminium cans. Small pieces of plastic, caps and lids continue to be found in increased numbers and these, along with small pieces of rope and bait box straps, accounted for over 83% of the rubbish items collected.

This year the team recovered a back breaking 11,253 items from the beautiful Stephens Beach just south of Port Davey. This beach is exposed to the highest wave energies in Australia and had not been cleaned since 1999. It was a long day for all walking to and from Stephens Beach from Spain Bay, cleaning it from end to end, dragging the rubbish to either end of the beach and then counting the rubbish late into the evening. Thankfully for the crew we were able to access the beach by dinghy and we didn't have to haul the 24 bags of rubbish and assorted loose ropes 2.5 km back overland.

The more unusual items found on the shore this year included a chocolate Easter egg still in its foil wrapper, a toaster oven, a baby's bottle and a matching pair of walking boots. Once again there was rubbish from all corners of the globe including a Brazilian water bottle, numerous Japanese, Chinese and Korean oil and food containers, fishing buoys and trawl nets.

This year's cleanup was generously supported by Dave Wyatt of Southern Ocean Adventures, as well as local fishermen Kent Way, Darren Clark, Pat Leslie and 19 volunteer crew. Patagonia



Bags of rubbish on the beach waiting to get transported to the boat.

Australia and Pennicott Wilderness Journeys are the major sponsors providing generous ongoing financial support for fuel, boat charter, food and kitting out the team with appropriate clothing. Gillespie's Ginger Beer, The Wursthaus, The Wursthaus Kitchen, Moobrew, Miellerie Honey and the Hill Street Grocer also donated high quality produce to keep the crew provisioned for the week-long trip.

The project is run under Wildcare in conjunction with the Parks & Wildlife Service. The cleanup has now been running for over ten years and we are looking forward to another successful cleanup in 2013.

Detailed descriptions of the trip, along with some photos, can be found on our blog site: <http://wha-marinedebris.blogspot.com.au>



Mick and Karin carting rubbish collected on the beach.



Matt and Richard looking for rubbish on the West Coast.



Nightly rubbish counting on the boat.

Orchid monitoring guides management action

Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT) is possibly unique amongst Wildcare groups because some of its activities extend to private land. For example, TPT volunteers have conducted surveys for threatened species on covenanted private property in the Midlands. These trips are very popular because they provide access to places that are otherwise not accessible to the public.

In the North West, we have a long term partnership with Gunns Ltd, through their resource manager Robert Onfray. Gunns own the Henry Somerset Conservation Area near Latrobe and have important sub-alpine grasslands under covenant at their Surrey Hills estate. These properties support several populations of threatened orchid species, and are subject to management plans, including fire management plans.

The many native orchid enthusiasts in Tasmania have provided us with excellent knowledge of the different species of orchids and the location of major populations. We also know that many species of native orchid require periodic disturbance for them to appear above ground and flower in good numbers. For example, if you ever see people wandering through recently burnt heathland, you can make a fair bet that they are looking for orchids.

When it comes to threatened orchid species, which number approximately 70 of the 200 species known in Tasmania, appropriate disturbance becomes that much more critical. If plants are left dormant in the ground for many years then they can't reproduce naturally. On the other hand, if we disturb and force plants to flower too often they may become exhausted, with insufficient time for seedlings to mature and flower. In other words, we need more knowledge about the "demographics" of threatened species we are trying to protect, so that management plans can prescribe appropriate actions. TPT volunteers are currently monitoring populations of 12 threatened orchid species around the State.

At Henry Somerset CA, we have been monitoring the threatened species *Caladenia tonellii* and *Caladenia caudata* for four years. Taking *Caladenia tonellii* as a case study, we recruited 33 flowering plants into our monitoring program in November 2008. These are each marked with a numbered brass tag pinned to the ground in a known position. The table shows the emergence and flowering of monitored plants over the subsequent years until November 2011. Each year we recruit a few more flowering plants, but the trend is clear: by 2011 very few of the monitored plants were flowering. On the ground, it is obvious that surrounding vegetation is becoming very dense and this could be limiting the opportunities for the orchid plants to flower.

	2009	2010	2011
Population sample size (prior year)	33	37	42
Plants with leaf emerged	22	24	21
Total flower spikes	13	18	5
Total number of flowers	15	11	3

Our findings are included in a report to DPIWPE and Gunns A *decline in the population of Caladenia tonellii plants flowering at Henry Somerset CA, Latrobe 2008-2011*. In response, Robert Onfray offered to meet TPT on site to discuss the fire management plan, and how it could be adapted to respond to the needs

of the *Caladenia tonellii* population. Robert and his team proposed adjustments to the burn boundaries and the schedule for burning. These were then approved by a Threatened Species Botanist at DPIWPE, who also oversees the monitoring program conducted by TPT.

With the revised management plan approved, TPT volunteers were concerned about any disturbance to tags that mark monitored orchids, so we agreed to take responsibility for mowing and raking fire breaks. Gunns undertook to use their professional resources to conduct the burns according the revised fire management plan

The cooperation with Robert and his team is a big win for the threatened orchids. For TPT volunteers, contact with professional land managers provides deeper insights into the difficult discipline of fire management and might make us more restrained in our criticisms, like "the fire was too cool/hot etc." Any burn that is done safely is a good burn. For Gunns, Robert actively seeks to engage the community, and TPT volunteers provide resources to help improve management of threatened species that probably would not be funded by any organisation. Finally, we all have fun conducting these joint activities.

We would welcome any of you who would like to join us in our future activities. Each of our trips will be posted on the Wildcare calendar (www.wildcarea.org.au) as well as on the TPT web site (www.tpt.org.au). A summary of the full program for the next season is also available from these web sites.

For more information on any of our activities, contact our president Viv Muller at president@tpt.org.au, or Ph. 0422 901 438

Phil Collier
Vice president TPT



Spectacular 4-flowered specimens of Caladenia tonellii are much more frequent after a burn. Photo by Peter Tonelli.



Monitoring Caladenia caudata at Henry Somerset CA. Photo by Robin Garnett.



Boys and Girls and lots of oils

report of Friends of Freycinet Working Bee, June 25-29

Eight stalwarts gathered together at Coles Bay for a five day Working Bee. David and Christine Harris and Sally Salier arrived on Sunday. On Monday morning they checked the Cape Tourville board walk prior to starting work the next day. We then helped Phil Wicks prepare for painting the offices downstairs at the Visitor Centre. This involved sanding down plaster and generally cleaning up.

David and Trauti Reynolds, John Hamilton and Jean Taylor, and Mike Bowden arrived on Monday afternoon, in time to settle into the bottom house and do the required paperwork. The weather had been wet so while we waited for the boardwalk to dry out some of us helped with cornices and others looked for thistles and rubbish.

Tuesday dawned fine and fresh and we set off with a ute load of oil cans and assorted brushes to tackle the task in hand. The southern section of the walk was closed to the public. We competed for the sunny spots to work on.

Dressed in white protection suits and kneepads it seemed that aliens had landed at the lighthouse. We were not allowed to work underneath so we could not get a photo of us holding onto the railing with the paintbrushes between our teeth!

Good work was done and we knocked off at 3pm in order to give the oil a chance to dry before sunset. David and Trauti had a competition to see whose paintbrush most resembled a hedgehog as the most painstaking part of the project was to oil the edges of the boards between the cracks.

Wednesday dawned with a temperature of 0 degrees so we waited an hour for the frost and ice to thaw and kept warm by sweeping, raking paths and shovelling out gutters around the Visitor Centre and carpark.

Then it was back to work to do the rest of the decking. We were fortunate to have two stunningly clear and beautiful days to work, with views to die for, but alas no whales were sighted.

Thursday was another fine sunny day (well, it is Freycinet!) and three of the team went up the hill to finish the job while the rest went off to oil the beach viewing platform below the Visitor Centre.

The catchcry was 'oil together now' or was that 'oil for one and one for oil'? Anyway, we completed oiling that day and most went home after lunch. Two hardy souls stayed until lunchtime on Friday to finish off a few small jobs.

Fiona Everts, our ever helpful and patient ranger, was very impressed with the work we achieved, describing it as inspiring stuff!

It was satisfying doing a job that is totally different to our usual weeding. When you are next in Freycinet do go up to the Cape Tourville lighthouse - the boardwalk is a fantastic facility and that is the good oil!



This is the way we oil the deck, oil the deck, oil the deck on a beautiful Freycinet Day!



Mike, Dave H, Christine, Trauti, Sally, John, Jena and David R – what a team!



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69 people, 1300 Little Penguins and an abacus

Earlier this year, on the evening of 14th January, 69 people – and four children – settled into position about 20m apart along the beach at the Lillico Beach Conservation Area (some 10km to the west of Devonport) to await the arrival of Little Penguins as they returned to their nests after feeding at sea during the day.

These enthusiastic volunteers were taking part in the 2012 Little Penguin census at Lillico and helping to provide valuable data about the state of the local penguin colony, one of the largest on mainland Tasmania. The following is a summary of what they found.

The total number of Little Penguins counted by the 69 volunteers along 1400m of beach was 1300. Counts by individual volunteers, which covered the 20m adjacent to where they were positioned, ranged from 0 (recorded by four volunteers) to 92; some routes up the beach were more popular with the penguins than others and this may reflect ease of access and availability of nesting sites in the dunes behind the beach.

Most people counted fewer than 20 penguins, with nearly half the counts below 11 and a fifth of the counts between 11 and 20. The seven highest counts – all with over 50 birds – made up approximately 40% of the penguins coming ashore.

Volunteers were asked to record the numbers of Little Penguins coming ashore in four half-hour time slots between 9.30pm and 11.30pm. Nearly 200 birds came ashore between 9.30pm and 10.00pm, mostly after 9.45pm. The largest number of birds (600) came ashore between 10.00pm and 10.30pm and about 480 birds were recorded between 10.30pm and 11.00pm.

Most people stopped counting at 11.00pm but some continued for a further 10-15 minutes, observing a further 21 penguins and showing that small numbers are still arriving after 11pm.

Of the 1300 birds coming ashore, most were likely to be parent birds returning to feed their young but some, particularly those recorded towards the end of the evening, may have been non breeding adults.

Mid-January is generally the best time to estimate the size of Little Penguin populations as this is the time when the largest number of birds can be expected to come ashore and feed their young.

Most chicks at this time are still dependent on their parents but are mature enough to be left unguarded in the nests during the day while both parents go to sea to hunt for food.

Not included in the count would be any early-breeding birds that had already reared their young and were staying out to sea to feed up in preparation for their annual moult. And



Little Penguins.

the count would also exclude any late breeders which stayed ashore to guard their younger, more immature chicks. (Of these late breeders one parent undertakes guard duty whilst the other parent hunts for food at sea.) It is also unlikely that all the birds with dependent chicks came ashore that night – some may not return for a night or two, particularly if food is hard to find.

For all these reasons, the census total is likely to be a low estimate of bird numbers.

However, it does show that during the 2011-12 breeding season at least 1300 Little Penguins inhabited the 1400m stretch of Lillico Beach included in the census.

This is lower than the number counted over the same stretch of beach at the previous census in January 2008 but, given all the variables associated with these counts, we believe there is no indication of a major change in penguin numbers.

The event generated quite a bit of media interest and stories appeared in a variety of local media including print, radio and even the ABC TV news.

The organising committee for the 2012 census was made up of representatives of the Friends of Lillico Penguins Wildcare Inc., Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service and the Penguin Monitoring Group.

All three organisations were very appreciative of the help provided by the volunteers who took part. It is only with this level of community participation that we can gain a better understanding of the dynamics of the Little Penguin population at Lillico and provide appropriate management for the Conservation Area.

The organisers would like to acknowledge the Cradle Coast NRM for providing a community grant, from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program, to fund toilet hire and the production of counting cards for the volunteers and this report.



Never Give Up!

The Friends of Redbill Point Conservation Area was formed in 2009 by residents of the Beauty Point region concerned that a partnership agreement with the adjacent caravan park would see public access to the area severely limited.

Redbill Point is a coastal reserve of 33.3 ha in the Tamar estuary about 1.5 km north of Beauty Point. The reserve has north, east and west views of the Tamar and has improvements including BBQ facilities, picnic tables, rubbish bins and dog litter bags, provided by and maintained by FoRP.

The area is day use only and is closed at night by an automated boom gate installed by FoRP with a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund. Hours of opening are 7am – 6pm in winter and 7am – 9pm in daylight savings time.

Redbill Point has a history of European involvement that dates back to 1872 when the Tasmanian Charcoal and Iron Company was floated and within four years a 600ft jetty and six mile long tramway to Mt Vulcan were constructed along with a large refinery and the site was producing 300 tons of iron per week. In 1877 the furnace was blown out (decommissioned). No substantial ruins of the furnace facility are visible on the surface today.

The area also has a long history of unregulated camping and shack development until the late 70s when the current West Tamar Council and the Lands Department had all illegal shacks removed.

Parks and Wildlife Service was granted control of the public use area and the conservation area was dedicated on the 24th April 1989 by a notice in the Government Gazette.

FoRP are a diverse group who are dedicated to the preservation and the conservation of the area and to the locals' traditional use which includes swimming, fishing, walking, kayaking, dog exercise and family activities. Our mission statement is "To participate in the planning and promotion and facilitation of sustainable management of the Beauty Point coastal environment."

We hold working bees when required, usually monthly during spring and early summer and every two or three months during other times of the year. We mow the grassy areas and remove the small amount of rubbish that accumulates, clear broken



Donna Stanley (Parks and Reserves Manager) and Mike Worley – all smiles.

limbs, report to PWS on dangerous or potentially dangerous issues. Other activities include pulling weeds and eliminating introduced species of vegetation, and monitoring non-native wildlife. We have a dedicated volunteer who cleans the BBQ on a regular basis.

The group's plan for the future is to implement and ratify the draft Site Improvement plan with PWS, do a weed mapping and elimination program with NRM North and to work with both organisations on a re-vegetation plan for the area.

My personal involvement with FoRP evolved from the perceived injustice to the community from the proposed agreement by PWS and the caravan park to limit public access to the area and the network I had with local politicians. This resulted in questions in Parliament that led to the result we have now arrived at.

So to all out there fighting for your local patch that some person wants to annexe, organise a petition (as we did), advise your local polliie (of both parties, or should that be three) as to what is happening, and ask them to intervene with the Minister, who is only being informed by those who want a certain outcome. Our group has cordial relations with both sides of politics and has matters concerning our area discussed in the House and decisions made by two Ministers made in our favour.

Mick Allen

President

Friends of Redbill Point Conservation Area



What a beautiful part of the world!



Friends of Redbill Point preparing for a working bee.

Getting Outside with a Friend

It's July. Its cold and I am waiting for my lift. There is ice in front of me on the ground, sparkling like little jewels. I listen to the waves on the beach behind me. I am waiting with my friend and her daughter.

We are going to Mount Field National Park for the day. She also is cold. In fact she is much colder than me – much, much colder. My friend is originally from Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a hot country, very hot. It is vivid green and heavy with humidity. It rains a lot and floods, sometimes tragically so. My friend has moved to Tasmania to study at the University. We have been friends for nearly a year now.

She has lived in Hobart for two years and she has never been outside of Hobart. She has never seen a big tree, or a swollen waterfall filled with cold mountain water. She has never seen a wallaby or wild fungus growing under tree ferns.

Today I am taking her on her first visit to a national park. It's only an hour drive from Hobart – but for her it may as well be the end of the universe. We arrive at the park and get out at the visitor centre. She huddles by the fire to try and warm up. Our children run around making a lot of noise, enjoying the play equipment and hiding in the big log.

After a snack (our time together always revolves around food) we go for a walk to Russell Falls. My friend goes quiet. Her walking slows down a little as she looks around and takes it all in.

The green; the quiet and the cold sweet air. We slowly amble to the base of the falls. She is now wearing my sons' jacket on her hands and my spare jacket on her head, but the look on her face as we near the falls is worth it.



Phoenix, Kaleeda and Namera like the big possum at Mt Field National Park.

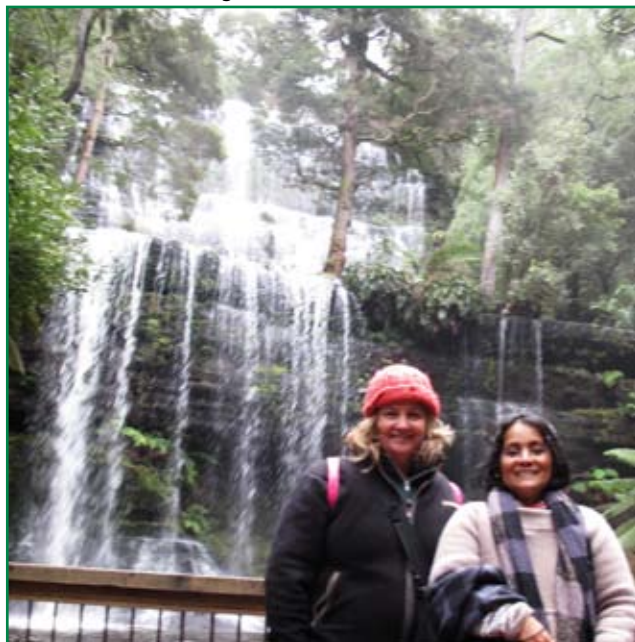
On the way back on the other side of the creek she says "everyone should have a bit of this nature in their hearts". I run along in front with the children, giving her a moment of quiet to connect to this amazing place.

As we cross the bridge she catches up to us. I have been explaining to the children about platypuses and how if we are quiet we might see one; try keeping two 3 years olds quiet! My friend points to the water and asks "what is that?" and yes, a gorgeous platypus shows itself to us and then with a splash disappears into the depths.

On the drive home my friend is quiet but looks content. I can tell that this visit and opportunity to connect with nature has made a difference to her life. She looks over at me and says "I was very tired before and now I am happy".

Wildcare is currently delivering a program called the Get Outside Project, which links Wildcare volunteers with new Tasmanians to assist them to connect with nature.

If you would like to be part of this project, then please contact Jodie@wildcarea.org.au.



Jodie from Wildcare and Kaleeda spend some time at Russell Falls Mt Field National Park.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

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Wildcare Encourages New Tasmanians to Get Outside

Wildcare Inc has recently been successful in receiving a grant from the Scanlon Foundation, which supports projects which advance Australia as a 'welcoming, prosperous and cohesive nation'.

They have initiated such events as 'A Taste of Harmony' where sharing food at the workplace is the central theme, providing for a sharing of culture.

Check out www.tasteofharmony.org.au for more information on this event.

So how does Wildcare fit with the Scanlon Foundation vision for social cohesion?

Well, we have been funded to deliver in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service the 'GO' project. 'GO' stands for 'GET OUTSIDE'.

This project will link interested Wildcare members with people who are new to Tasmania from another place and culture. The project wants to support these people GET OUTSIDE and connect to nature.

When individuals from other cultural backgrounds come to live in Tasmania (or anywhere for that matter) they will ideally become settled and well connected with their new home or alternatively, there is a danger that they may become isolated and unable to engage with their new community.

We at Wildcare believe that by getting outside and connecting physically to their new home and socially with our Wildcare volunteer community, we will increase the chances of people with different cultural backgrounds connecting with place – our place that is Tasmania.

In this way, the opportunity for new experiences is dramatically increased. Meeting new people, seeing our beautiful national parks and developing a sense of belonging to the Tasmanian community is deepened.

The benefits of these opportunities will be felt by the individual,

the community to which they belong and for the wider Tasmanian community.

Broadly speaking we want Wildcare Inc, our activities and our on ground projects to be a place where new Tasmanians from other cultures can come and feel welcomed.

We want Wildcare and wild carers to embrace new Tasmanians and help them with the basic requirements and advice needed to enjoy our national parks.

We can provide basic things like transport, advice on the type of clothes to wear, or the best picnic spot for a family gathering.

We can provide advice on which Wildcare group to join to gain work experience and help identify who might be willing to go on a bush walk and practice English with.

Are you interested in joining us? If you are then email Jodie at Jodie@wildcaretas.org.au to become involved.

GO on it will be fun!



International students from 13 different countries enjoy getting outside and connecting with our national parks.

Wildcare Photo Competition

The response to our photo completion this year was great. I received 48 photos from 15 separate photographers. The overall quality was high and all were sent off to the four judges.

The judges picked Shirley Baker's photo of "Removing the old water tank" – well done Shirley. Shirley has chosen to distribute the money to projects on Deal

Island. I have published more of the best entries on the back page and on this page.

We will be doing a similar competition in 2013 so keep those digital cameras close by when you are out and about with Wildcare.

Jodie Epper



Greg Kidd, Greg Bell and Peter Franklin preparing for the walk in KCol Hut with materials. Sue Franklin.



Dragging rubbish along the beach at Stephens Bay. Ula Majewski.



Carol Jackson & Ann Fleming moving delivery of sand & cement Tasman Island November. Erika Shankley.



Ann Fleming & Diane Roughsedge weeding Yarrow Tasman Island November. Erika Shankley.

“Wildcare volunteering – it’s a life”



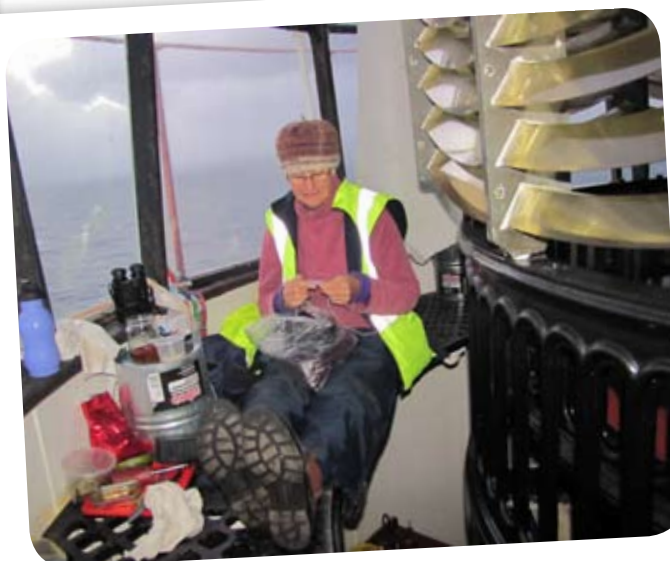
Volunteers taking a break from thistle pulling on East Cove, Deal Island. Shirey Baker.



Volunteers landing on West Cove, Erith Island. Shirley Baker.



Wildcare Board member, Peter Marmion, in his boots and Janet Fenton.



Gwen Egg - Knitting in the tower. Marina Campbell.



Students enjoying taking photos at Wildscool with Friends of Conningham. Jean Taylor.



Varied work in hail and shine at Melaleuca

Friends of Melaleuca's third working bee, partly funded by a Wildcare grant, brought 12 volunteers into the south west in March 2012. The party landed on Melaleuca airstrip on Saturday afternoon, 17 March, and after a safety briefing by Ranger Mike Garner, surveyed the jobs in hand. The following day the group split into small teams to tackle a variety of tasks.

Graham Roberts had some interesting hand luggage on the plane—lengths of stainless steel guttering which he had constructed in his home workshop. With help from campground host Trevor Walsh, 'Guttersnipe Graham' installed the new gutters on the Charles King Memorial Hut.

Water catchment being his theme this trip, he also installed new guttering and down-pipe on Barbara Willson's home and started a new tank-top at Kings', finished by Geoff. Later Graham diversified and repaired the collapsing front to the garden shed, one of the old miners' huts at Kings', while Patti oiled the weatherboards.

Will and Patti cleared vegetation from around Karina's, another of these old huts, and Will repaired its lean-to woodshed.

The Claytons Corner team headed downriver in the dinghy, armed with ladders and scrubbing gear, to remove smoke-stains accumulated over the past fifty years.

TasPaints triclenium and much 'elbow-grease' eventually made the surface paint-ready, and there was even time to pop up Mt Beattie while the house dried out a bit.

Two further trips to Claytons, allowing a full day's drying time between trips, finished the undercoat and topcoat. Gloss enamel was used in order to stand up to the damp conditions consistent with the type of paint used in the past. Lyn made an inventory of the paints in the cupboard and re-bagged sand that had spilled from a perished bag.

While the painters and scrubbers were at work, Ingrid the weeder pulled seedling foxgloves and undertook cut and paste of *Rhododendron ponticum* shoots, a follow-up from the December 'Rhododendron bash'.

Ingrid's weeding at Melaleuca was interspersed with wire-brushing some heritage pumps and giving them TLC with a coat of fish-oil. Trevor and Geoff replaced the 5 knot sign for



Graham busy with guttering at Willsons (Erika Shankley).

PWS in the lower lagoon in Melaleuca Inlet.

Sundry jobs at Willsons' included painting the house exterior cladding, applying bondcrete to bricks, revitalizing engines, repairing a shed and sorting tools.

Campground hosts Annette and Trevor scrubbed and painted the Charles King Memorial hut roof and end walls, and end walls of the Second hut, with help from our yachting contingent who arrived on board *Reflections* and who were also very helpful at Claytons.

The weather took a turn for the worse from Wednesday to Saturday, delaying a flight out for two of the crew. The intense low pressure system, spiced with frequent hail showers, curtailed some of our projects but allowed some extra planning time.

Most outdoor work went on, including fixing fences, signage redirecting tourists who crash through the scrub into the garden, reorganizing culverts and drains and re-gravelling



Painting at Claytons (Geoff Fenton).



Repairs to the lean-to, Karina's (Janet Fenton).



paths at Kings', and clearing cut tree debris remaining from the construction of the Needwonnee Walk.

On Tuesday, noting the impending change on the weather forecast, we organised a picnic outing to Bathurst Harbour in the boats, our customary 'thankyou' to the volunteers.

We enjoyed convivial evenings warming up after our working days, and sumptuous meals cooked by a different volunteer each night on the Rayburn at Kings' or on Barbara's stove.

Thankyou to all the volunteers who participated!

A month later, at the invitation of Patti Burbury, we gathered to share a sumptuous lunch and view photos of the trip at Patti's historic home 'Inglewood' at Andover. Thanks Patti!

Janet Fenton (Friends of Melaleuca)



Painting at Claytons (Janet Fenton).



Packed in like sardines! Going 'out to dinner' in the trialer behind the Fergie (Geoff Fenton).



After the working bee, Patti invited us to lunch at her historic home, 'Inglewood' at Andover (Geoff Fenton).

Many Tanks to the Granting Bodies and the volunteer installers

Friends of Deal Island, in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service set out to restore the quality of the water supply on the island by replacing the very old and leaking water tanks.

Dallas and Shirley installed the first tank (donated by a previous caretaker) on the Caretaker's house during their three-month stint on Deal in 2010. The FoDI working bee in April 2011 installed a large tank on the visitor's house and a small tank on the museum. These tanks were funded by a grant from Tasmanian Community Fund.

They also assisted Kim and Spud, the caretakers, to clean out the main concrete tanks. With one old tank remaining an application to the Wildcare internal grants was successful and this out with the old was purchased and installed by the FoDI



working bee in November 2011.

The logistics of purchasing these tanks and arranging delivery by fishing boat provided many hours of bush engineering, brute strength and collective energy. The volunteer caretakers and the working bee volunteers now enjoy fresh rainwater showers, sweet tasting teas and coffees and clean washing.

FoDI would like to thank the board members of Wildcare Inc for in with the new approving funding for that last tank. Parks and Wildlife Service also provided a new pressure pump that was installed by the November volunteers so all systems are go and life on Deal is greatly improved.

Dallas Baker OAM
President, Friends of Deal Island



Re-Vegetation on Maria Island National Park



An idea, some thoughts, and a project is taken forward. Firstly we had early discussions with Parks rangers from Maria Island National Park, then we wrote a grant application which was forwarded to NRM South Naturally Inspired Grants – Winter 2011.

The project was to revegetate 3 sites within the Darlington precinct on Maria Island. The Triabunna District High School would be involved on the project with the assistance of volunteers from the Friends of Maria Island. Parks rangers from Maria Island and a Discovery ranger would assist in the program. The aim of the project was to plant about 350 trees and bushes on 3 sites. The seeds of the selected species were collected from Maria Island and propagated at Pulchella Nursery at Buckland. Follow up programs would check the plantings for growth rates and any species that had died. All plantings would be protected with plant guards.

Early on Monday morning the 25 students and 4 teachers arrived from Triabunna on the ferry from East Coast Cruises ready and willing to start the project. After settling in and a briefing from the Ranger in Charge (Pete Lingard) on safety aspects and a brief history of Maria island and its cultural and historical values everybody walked down to the first site situated next to the Oast House track. This site was selected to plant blue and white gum trees for the benefit of the Swift parrot and Pardalote endangered species. The program was to work for 2 hours a day on plantings and other activities were to be undertaken with the assistance of the Discovery ranger. These would include a walk to the Painted Cliffs, walk to Bishop and Clerk and a slide/game/interpretation evening.

On a clear sunny morning the students were divided into groups of 2 students – 1 adult and shown the methods of planting of the native species. Dig a suitable hole, apply water, then plant the suitable species, backfilling and applying a suitable tree guard. With many willing hands within 2 1/2 hours all the plantings for the first site were completed and lunch was on – on a site overlooking Darlington and the Mercury Passage to Triabunna. After lunch the students and teachers walked to the Painted Cliffs and back to Darlington in the late afternoon.

Day 2, another early start (8.30 am) with the second site near the old Mill cottage north of the ruined cement structures of the 1920s. This site was selected to revegetate some sloping grassy ground adjacent to an old water course. Species were selected to match up with plants in the area and the idea was to continue the cover of native species spreading down the slopes. All plantings on this site were on the grassy terrain



Students & PWS Rangers planting on Maria Island

adjacent to the old water course. If the water course ever had excessive water the plantings would be protected, because of the sloping ground. By mid morning the students, teachers and Discovery ranger all walked up to Bishop and Clark. In the evening a presentation was given by FoMI on volunteering aspects on Deal and Tasman Island.

The last day turned to rain showers and a visit from the ABC afternoon show to record and play interviews with the students, volunteers, visitors and Parks rangers on the experience of volunteering and working at the World Heritage site (Darlington) and Maria Island and its cultural and historical values.

After packing up ready for a 2pm departure the group pushed for a final planting next to the campsite with supplementary plantings for protection for extra tent sites. Not daunted by the continuing rain, holes were dug and trees and bushes planted at the marked sites. Final photos were taken and a wet and happy group walked down to the jetty to catch the ferry from East Coast Cruises. A recent survey (June 2012) of the plantings has shown a healthy growth pattern with a few tree guards knocked over by grazing animals or strong winds.

The Friends of Maria Island would like to thank NRM South Naturally Inspired Grants – Winter 2011 for the successful grant for the project. The students and teachers from Triabunna District High School, Matt Carlin, Sean McCarthy, Stephanie McKean, Katharyne Ratcliffe and Principal Annette Parker. The Rangers and staff from Maria Island, Pete Lingard, Chris Howard, Sam Tacey and Donnalae Young and Discovery Ranger Will Oliver, Friends of Maria Island (Wildcare Inc.)– David, Trauti Reynolds, Jean Taylor, John Hamilton.

Written by David Reynolds.



Re-veg team on Maria Island.



Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI)

Weeding Bee

On 7 February a helicopter load of FOMI volunteers headed for Maatsuyker Island. To minimise travel costs and maximise efficiency the Weeding Bee was scheduled to coincide with the induction week for new Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) Volunteer Caretakers, Marina Campbell and Gwen Egg. The FOMI volunteer team included Trevor and Annette Walsh who were to double as the trainers for Marina and Gwen as well as helping with the FOMI weeding program. The remaining 'weeder' were Vicki Campbell, Sheryl Hamilton, Jenny Scott, Dave James, Serena Benjamin and Ross Baguley. On the first day there was a brief overlap with out-going Volunteer Caretakers Roger Kanitz and Meryl Simpson and out-going Artists-in-residents Marg Beale and Marsha Durham. Some 'weeder' had the opportunity to view samples of Marg's amazing botanical drawings.

For the rest of the week the 'weeder', ably led by Vicki, carried out follow-up checks for blackberry and *Hebe elliptica*. It was a great week and the team completed checks of all treated sites as well as surveys of some areas that needed more systematic searching for weeds. Although the amount and range of the weed species have been greatly reduced, annual checks to remove or poison seedlings continue to be essential.

Some highlights of the Weeding Bee included a very dewy night

Day Trips and Other Visitors

From Marina and Gwen, Maatsuyker Island Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) Volunteer Caretakers Feb-Aug 2012

Life is wonderful and straightforward as PWS Volunteer Caretakers on Maatsuyker Island. The days race by with the routine and fun of weather observations and caring for the island and lightstation. It has been a joy to share the wonder of Maatsuyker with our visitors.

Chas Wessing and crew on the *Jean Nichols* arrived with a gift of fresh fruit and a 10kg Stripy Trumpeter which we were just able to fit diagonally into the new FOMI chest freezer. We also had an unexpected visit from Philip and Huon from the fishing boat *Odyssey S* and then kayakers John and David who called in after rounding SW Cape and were weather-bound on Maatsuyker for almost a week before setting out for SE Cape and on to Hobart.

Marina has been the guide for several FOMI day trips so it was good to experience a day trip from a Caretaker's point of view. It was a nail-biter watching the weather as the designated dates approached. There was lots of mowing, cleaning and gardening to do to have everything shipshape. We chose to cater for the day trips to share the bounty of the Maatsuyker garden. Previous caretakers Meryl and Roger left us with a remarkable range and abundance of produce. Gwen made carrot cakes, pumpkin scones and salads. Marina made pizza and sushi from the garden fare and the visitors were toasted with rhubarb champagne.

It was fantastic for both of us to have family and friends present on the day trips. It was very special to have former lightkeeper Peter Blackwell (Gwen's brother) visiting Maatsuyker for the first time in 35 years and welcoming Jonah Wiltshire (co-author and co-illustrator of 'The Lighthouse Kids of Maatsuyker Island')



Gwen and Marina doing their weather observations on Maatsuyker Island

sleeping under the stars at the old helipad to watch thousands of shearwaters arriving at dusk and leaving at dawn, Dave consuming a gourmet 'buzzie' sandwich, and sunset drinks and nibbles in the historic Tower.

FOMI would like to acknowledge the Tasmanian Landcare Association, Wildcare Inc. and the Australian Government for their funding of the 2012 Maatsuyker Island weed control and monitoring program through the Caring for Our Country Initiative. FOMI would also like to acknowledge PWS for their support of volunteer work on Maatsuyker.



The Weeding Team having a sunset dinner in front of Quarters 1. Back row (L to R): Ross, Trevor, Serena.

Front row: Sheryl, Annette, Vicki, Jenny, Dave, Marina

returning to Maatsuyker after being here with his family in 2010. Jonah rated the trip "10 out of 10". It was interesting to hear Peter recount details of his time on the lightstation in 1976/77. Peter was on Maatsuyker while John Cook was Head Lightkeeper. The second day trip also included three lighthouse enthusiasts including Garry Searle who is writing a book on Australian lighthouses.

Both day trips were a huge success and lot of fun. It was an absolute thrill to show everyone the island including the Lighthouse, the Quarters, the Haulage Winch Shed, the weather office and the beautiful flora along the unique Maatsuyker road. We would highly recommend a day trip – they are an adventure, incredibly interesting and loads of fun.

Thanks to Dave Wyatt, owner of the *Velocity*, and skippers/crew Nick, Rory and Pat for the great boat trips. Thanks to FOMI and a huge thanks to Sheryl Hamilton and Karen Ziegler for organising and guiding the trips with fun and care. Thanks also to the PWS for their support of the FOMI day trips.

Spectacular Tasmanian Lighthouses

2013 Lighthouses of Tasmania CALENDAR

There is a wee spot they call Iron Pot

With a lighthouse upon it quite bold.

Three men are kept there and of women a pair

And children both young and old.

At the time he penned this poem, Henry Kendrick was just one of 42 men – 14 Head Keepers and 28 Assistant Keepers - and their families who lived and worked at Tasmania's remote light stations. Keeping the light was not a job for the faint-hearted. Living in these isolated areas required fortitude and resilience, both for keepers and their wives and families.

The Derwent Light, or Iron Pot as it was more commonly known, was built on a barren rock of only 1.2 hectares. There was no soil in which to grow vegetables to supplement their rations and Keeper Kendrick had to row over to nearby Cape Direction to milk the cow and tend the vegetable garden.

Things were quite different when he was transferred to Table Cape lighthouse. Here his children were able to go to school and the whole family went by horse and trap to the Show in Wynyard.

Despite the trials and tribulations of lighthouse life, lightkeeping was often passed from father to son. William Baudinet had transferred from Cape Bruny to Deal Island in 1848 and it was here that his son, Charles, met his future wife when she was shipwrecked on the island.

Charles took over when his father retired in 1860 and later went on to be keeper on Swan Island where he remained for 25 years.

Featured in the latest edition of the *Lighthouses of Tasmania* calendar are stunning photographs of some of Tasmania's iconic lighthouses.

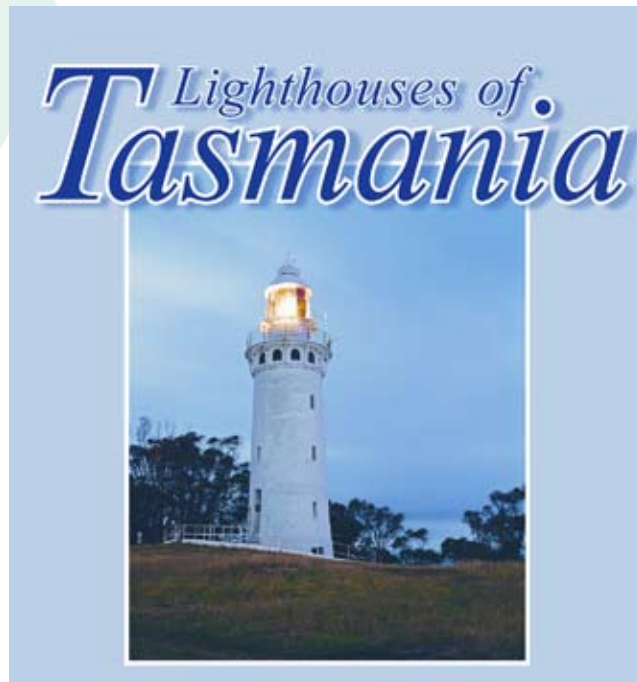
The images, donated by both professional and amateur photographers include lighthouses at the Iron Pot, Tasman and Deal Islands, Eddystone Point, Low Head, Mersey Bluff, Table Cape, Cape Sorell, Cape Tourville and Rocky Cape.

Produced by the Friends of Tasman Island and published by Tasmania 40° South this is the seventh in the much sought-after series of calendars which are now collectors' items.

Thanks to sponsorship from the Cascade Brewery Company, Australian Maritime Systems and Tasmania 40° South, the *Lighthouses of Tasmania* calendar is a major fundraiser.

Working in partnership with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and Wildcare Inc, this group of dedicated volunteers carry out many hundreds of hours of work each year towards the restoration and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Tasman Island.

The calendar will be available in selected book shops,



newsagents and other local stores round the State later in the year. Or you can place your order NOW by emailing friendssoftasmanisland@gmail.com

For only \$20 + postage you can purchase this magnificent, limited edition calendar and know that you are helping to support ongoing work on Tasman Island.

Erika Shankley
Friends of Tasman Island



People and Place

Files and stills from the far South West

Titled 'People and Place', this collection of films and stills from the far South West presented by Friends of Melaleuca Wildcare Inc. drew a crowd of 130 away from their warm homes and televisions in the middle of winter (June 28th). If you missed this event, the good news is that it will be repeated on Sunday afternoon, 14 October, 2pm at Franklin Primary School, New Road, Franklin.

The feature film of the show, 'Critchley', is an evocative 20 minute documentary by Melbourne film-maker, Bayden Findlay, telling the tragic story of Critchley Parker (an idealist seeking a suitable place to establish a Jewish colony), who perished at Bathurst Channel in 1942.

Have you heard of the Scenery Preservation Board's Firewatching Scheme? A selection of digitised slides from the 1960s taken by Charlie Vaughan was chosen to explain this initiative of the Scenery Preservation Board in 1962 to protect the foreshores of Port Davey. These wonderful images are an interesting record of a time past. Some of these shots also show working life aboard the cray-boat *Lyndenne*. A short tribute to the late Peter Willson, resident of Melaleuca for almost forty years, also depicts working life in the South West. And in case you think it's all serious, a short and quirky look at the humble gumboot by Qug soon sets you straight.

The underwater world is often 'out of sight, out of mind'. So what does live in those dark tannin-black waters in Port Davey? Fiona Rice's film explains who, what and why in a DVD about the Port Davey Marine Reserve. And to finish the show, images of beauty and mood taken by pilot and photographer Luuk Veltkamp leave us awestruck.

We were privileged to have use of the Lansdowne Crescent Primary School hall with its brand new screen and ceiling-mounted digital projector. Special thanks to Patti Burbury for organising a terrific supper, Geoff Fenton for managing the IT, Theo for the lights, Craig and Deb Searle, Janet Stephens, Peter and Robyn Marmion, Tony Fenton and all those volunteers who did sundry other necessary jobs.

We can look forward to Patti's afternoon tea after the repeat show on Sunday 14 October at Franklin. Wildcare volunteers are needed to assist with jobs for the repeat, and to bring a contribution towards afternoon tea.

If you missed this event, make sure you catch the repeat! We might even manage some live music this time.

Janet Fenton (Friends of Melaleuca)

PEOPLE & PLACE

*Friends of Melaleuca,
Wildcare Inc*

presents

films and stills from the far South West
featuring 'Critchley', a film by Bayden Findlay
plus work, fishing, fire-watching, marine life
— and more.

- Time: Sunday, 18 Oct, 2012, 2-4pm.
- Venue: Franklin Primary School, New Road, Franklin.
- A donation of \$10 per person to Friends of Melaleuca will be appreciated.
- Afternoon tea provided.

More details—Janet Fenton, phone 6239 6443
fenton@southcom.com.au
Friends of Melaleuca helps to maintain the natural and cultural
heritage of Melaleuca in South West Tasmania

Twenty Seven Trees and Twenty Seven Men - Well Twenty Six!!

In September 1918 twenty seven trees were planted as an Avenue of Honour, or Commemorative Avenue – Jericho. The trees represented the twenty seven men who enlisted in WW1. Six of these men were killed in action and another two died some years later of war – related injuries.

The original avenue was planted before many of the men returned to Australia. The trees were protected with substantial picket tree guards and a copper plaque was attached to each tree bearing the number, name and merit of the soldier in whose honour it was erected.

Jericho Avenue illustrates the point that the plantings were not only about men and soldiers. The avenue includes trees planted to commemorate Nurse Burbury as well as a naval man, Armourer J. E. Hodgson H.M.A.S. Melbourne, and Air Mechanic AFC C. Archer.

But a century on, the trees had either died, disappeared, or were in such a dangerous state that they needed to be



The avenue is getting a good make over.



Avenue replanting.

replaced. With the help of the Southern Midlands Council and the Oatlands RSL Sub-Branch the Wildcare Jericho Heritage Centre Inc. was able to have the remaining trees removed and new trees were purchased.

The weather on the September day of the replanting was wet, cold and windy but twenty seven volunteers turned up to plant the twenty seven trees. Some had travelled from as far as Hobart.

After the trees were planted, a local farmer installed a watering system and very substantial tree guards, each with an electric fence. We are now about to place plaques and plinths at the base of each tree guard, as finances permit.

Stephanie Burbury
President

WILDCARE MEMBERSHIP

Yes another year has rolled on and it's time for your Wildcare renewal (*please see the renewal notice insert in this newsletter*). Whilst we are interested in you renewing your membership – we are also interested in you renewing you other details!!

Did you know that there are new groups that have formed in the last 12 months and unless **you** indicate your interest in them by updating your details you might be missing out on some seriously great opportunities?

So take a minute, go online to our website www.wildcaretas.org.au and log on to the members section of the website. Use your email address as a 'user name' and your current 2011 membership number as your 'password'. If you don't have an email address then simply use your last name as your 'user name'. Then simply click on the manage contact and membership details, have a browse to see if your information reflects your current interests - if its not aligned then simply update it. Check out the preferred groups, skills and preferred reserves areas and remember to submit any changes (submit button at the bottom of the page) when you have finished.

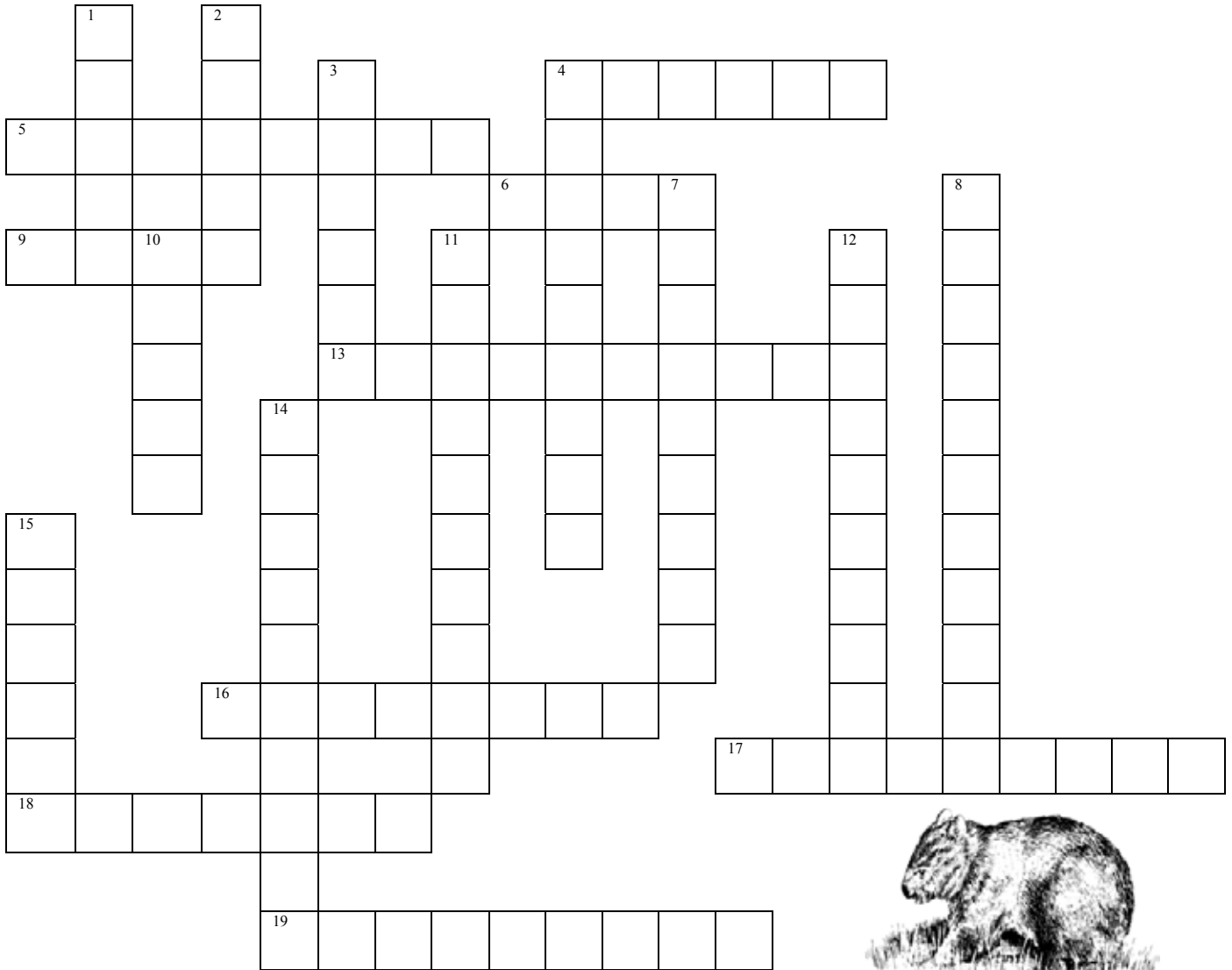
The more up to date your file is, the better service we can give you.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to do this.





Tasmanian's Special Places ★



Across

- 4. This is a popular activity at Ben Lomond National Park
- 5. Name of a popular walking track in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park
- 6. A well known pine found along the Gordon River
- 9. Name of Tasmania's highest mountain
- 13. A good place to see wombats
- 16. Name of a famous river in the Franklin Gordon Wild Rivers National Park
- 17. A famous bay at Freycinet National Park
- 18. Mt Field National Park is home to this well known waterfall
- 19. The South Coast Track is found in this National Park

Down

- 1. Mole Creek Karst National Park is famous for these
- 2. A National Park off the east coast of Tasmania
- 3. A National Park with very high sea cliffs
- 4. The largest National Park
- 7. Mount William National Park is found in the far _____ of the state
- 8. A popular outdoors activity
- 10. A convict island in Macquarie Harbour
- 11. The National Park found on Flinders Island is called _ t _ z _ l _ _ k _
- 12. A major city close to Ben Lomond National Park
- 14. Tasmanian _____ World Heritage Area
- 15. A large lake found in South West National Park



Sally Salier, Dave Harris at Cape Tourville - Oh what a place to work!



This is the secret to the Wildcare's co-chair's ability to keep on cheerfully working - a technique many of us would benefit from adopting. Friends of Melaleuca working bee.



Wildlife Carers and the volunteers fund raiser.



WILDCARE Inc

Tasmania's largest incorporated volunteer organisation, caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage.

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