

WILD TIMES

Edition 45 January 2013



WILDSC'OOOLS - INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

WELLINGTON PARK BUSHCARE - THARK RIDGE

FRIENDS OF WOODVINE - ECHIDNAS, DOORS AND SKILLIONS

FRIENDS OF YORK TOWN HISTORIC SITE

Editorial

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I do hope you have enjoyed the silly season and that the New Year finds you and your families well. I am looking forward to an exciting 2013 and look forward to sharing the Wildcare stories of it with you.

In this edition of WILDTIMES we welcome 2 new Wildcare groups, one at the top of this beautiful island (Friends of Yorktown Historic Site page 3) and one at the very bottom (Friends of Far South page 5), we check out the International Lighthouses and Lightship Weekend and we have a good look at what it takes to get the Cape Bruny Island Lighthouse into good condition (see photo opposite, story page 4).

An international literary prose competition in the genre of nature writing, sponsored by Wildcare, is now open and you can check it out on page 12. Go on have a go!

This edition also checks out how Wildcare volunteers are delving into devils, working alongside the Tasmanian refugee communities, going hunting for black tipped spider orchids, and working with Thanks, stables and skillions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our WILDTIMES volunteer team, Lisa, Lorraine, Lenna and Marg for the fast proof reading services. Once again I am pleased to bring you such a wide variety of Wildcare stories.– I hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

Jodie Epper
Editor



Volunteer scraping back the paint on Bruny Island.

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

Ingrid McGaughey, Dr Tonia Cochran, Marion Lynk, Rebecca Barnett

Donations up to \$100

Neville Ludbey, Lynne Sparrow, J & DJ Sikkema, Alistair Deane, Jean-Daniel Keller, Arthur K Clarke, Craig Hursey

Wildtimes Publication Schedule

EDITION #	COPY DEADLINE	PUBLICATION
46	1 April 2013	1 May 2013
47	1 August 2013	1 September 2013
48	1 December 2013	1 January 2014

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

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area, through Wildsc'ools, inspire the next generation (see article on page 10).



The Hysterical Society

An insight into the Friends of York Town Historic Site

The Yorktown Historical Site is 7km north of Beaconsfield on the road to Greens Beach. The 34ha site begins at Bowen's Rd, which some know as the back road to the Asbestos Ranges and Narawntapu National Park.

Yorktown was the first permanent settlement in Northern Tasmania - In 1804 Col William Paterson was sent to establish a settlement in the north to prevent the French from doing so. He believed Yorktown would provide good water and pasture for stock and so began clearing and building. At its height the settlement was home to 300 convicts and soldiers and some free settlers. Poor soil and difficult access for shipping led Col Paterson to commence settlement in Launceston. The two settlements co-existed until Yorktown was largely abandoned in Dec 1808.

The Royal Society of Tasmania erected a monument in the 1950's in recognition of the historical significance. The West Tamar Historical Soc. decided to develop the Yorktown site and recognise the bi-centenary in 2004. In 2001 work began on removing the thick gorse which covered most of the area. Since then signage and walking paths have opened the area to the public. Over the years it has been astounding to see the amount of natural regrowth that has occurred after gorse removal. Now the site is an important area of protected remnant vegetation.

A new WILDCARE group has been formed to look after the area. It is called the Friends of York Town Historic Site. The following are snippets of conversations with two of the members from this new group.

"Our working bee went excellently today. We had 9 people come with 4 new folk joining us, Chris and Tony found our working bee on the Wildcare website. Thank you for setting everything up for us. The weather was gorgeous and we cut heaps of gorse. It was lovely meeting new people, too. I guess the reason for starting the group is that the more people we have interested the more wonderful the site looks. It is a real picture and this will continue through the next couple of months. At first I was challenged by removing the impossible



One of the beautiful flowers in our reserve.

gorse. Through the 10 years I've been working there, it has been exciting discovering all the different plant species growing at Yorktown. Each year we seem to find new plants. It is quite an orchid hotspot and I have seen 23 different orchids flowering. Spotting and hearing the many different species of birds and animals is great too. While the remains of the original settlement are hidden underground the natural history documented by both Colonel William Paterson and Robert Brown on his visit is still evident today. Yorktown is a very beautiful place to be and visit."

"After 10 years of working (mostly on hands and knees) at Yorktown I guess anyone could wonder why, but the results have been remarkable and the rewards mind blowing. I have learnt so much about our wildflowers, particularly orchids and lilies; when we started removing gorse we thought we had to replant, but no, we realised "just wait" and up come dozens of species of native plants that must have been lying dormant for many, many years.

One of our favourites to re-appear is the Patersonia; it is just coming into flower now, along with many other heath land plants. The only downside to removing the gorse is the loss of bird nesting sites, so we still replant into some areas. But the gorse is still plaguing us with its regrowth, so we have started a "Friends of Yorktown" group to hopefully bring along some new people to help out now and then and also enjoy the wonderful wildflowers with us.



Gilly, Alison, Margaret on a recent working bee.

Cape Bruny Light Station

The Call Out for All Hands on Deck was Answered Ten Fold

I love the way when something needs doing, I put a call out to Wildcare groups and am greeted with many enthusiastic emails back! On this occasion it was a call to assist with work on Quarters One at Cape Bruny Light Station. Sixteen months ago the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) took over management of the site after it had been leased for 17 years.

So for 16 months now in all weathers, many Wildcare members have volunteered their time for one to two months at a time as Cape Bruny Light Station Weather Observers and Caretakers. Their duties have ranged from three weather observations each day for the Bureau of Meteorology at 6am, 9am and 3pm; site monitoring of power and water systems; meeting and greeting the public; sharing information about the history of the Lighthouse Keepers, their families, and the natural history of the area; and helping Ranger Bernard Edwards with many maintenance tasks.

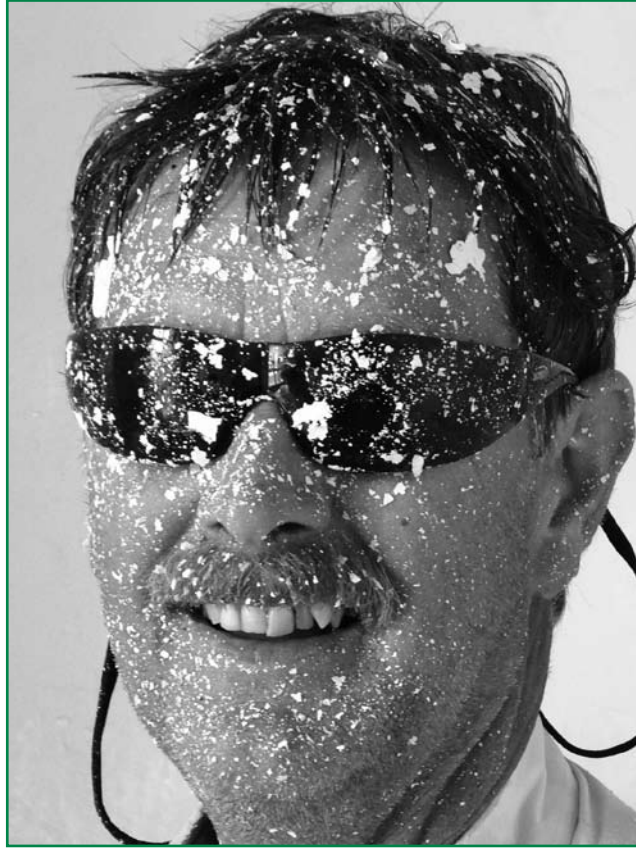
It's been a BIG job to set about the spring cleaning and storing of the Quarters. The before and after photos of the inside of Quarters One and Two would have to be seen to be believed! I have been so impressed with the variety of skills, knowledge and expertise that volunteers have been able to bring to assist.

It seems many, if not all, have fallen in love with this special place and all its weather - (could you say that on a blustery winter morning when you are up doing the weather at 5.30am in the morning?)

Everyone who has volunteered on the site has helped out in their own way, whether that's helping with essential plumbing; making of curtains; gathering historic information; making up interpretive sheets; photographing and presenting PWS with comprehensive information on the flora of the area to share with visitors; offering experience from running of other historic light stations; and setting up the vegie garden - honestly the list of skills offered goes on.

I have enjoyed watching the smile on Ranger Bernard Edwards' face just get bigger as he experiences the generosity of our volunteers. On 19 and 20 November we held the first two day working bee with six people able to give us a hand - a wonderful effort this close to Christmas.

Volunteer placements for Cape Bruny are now aimed at two months with three day training in weather observation



Painting – did any get on the ceiling?

beforehand. Any Wildcare members interested in being involved in either future working bees or a volunteer placement contact: Pip Gowen - Regional Volunteer Facilitator (South) on email: pip.gowen@parks.tas.gov.au or M: 0427648463



Scraping back the paint – oh what a view.



Sewing curtains for the new quarters.



PWS ranger and Wildcare volunteers – what a team!



Friends of the Tasmanian Devil

Wildcare Inc. is currently forming a new Wildcare group - the Friends of the Tasmanian Devil (FOTD). This group will provide a coordinated army of locals who are committed to working with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program team to save the Tasmanian Devil.

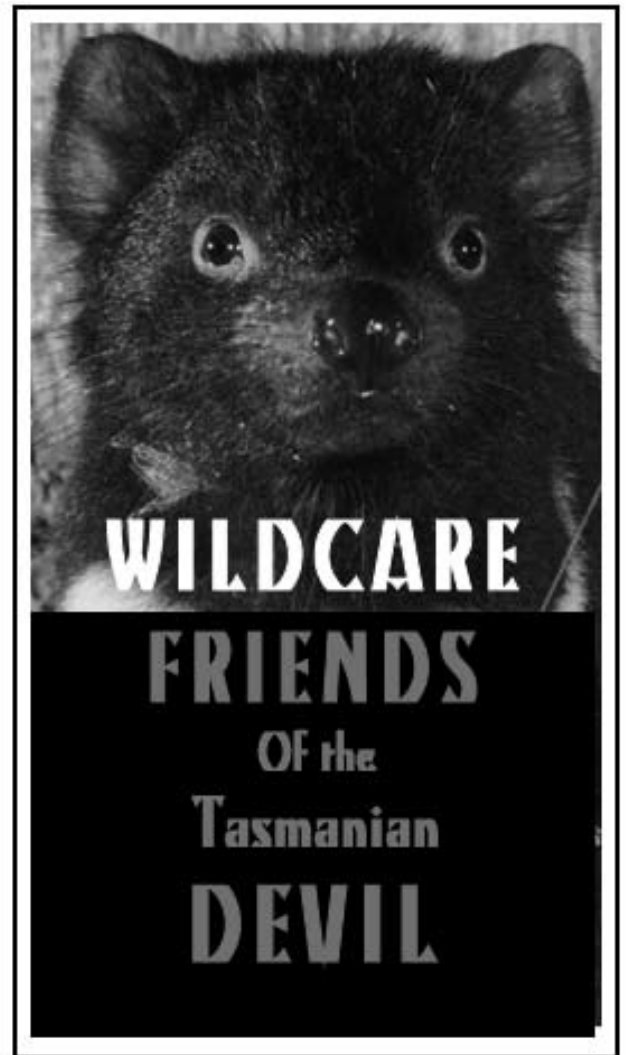
Wildcare Inc. will be facilitating the Devil Needs Friends project which will establish the FOTD group to assist with programs such as the Devil Road Kill Project; the management of insurance populations (e.g. looking after enclosures) and monitoring and surveying devil populations in the wild.

In addition, Friends of the Tasmanian Devil will incorporate and support the educational messages relating to devil conservation through the WILDSC'OOOL program. WILDSC'OOOL is offered in partnership between Wildcare Inc., the Parks and Wildlife Service and selected schools in the North West and South.

The Devil Needs Friends project time will initially be spent setting up the FOTD and building teams; opening communication channels; establishing key contacts and partnerships within and between project areas and the STTD Program; developing and providing training for volunteers; and support as required.

The Devil needs Friends project will also grow the FOTD group through membership drives over and above the current Wildcare promotional campaigns for expressions of interest.

If you are interested in finding out more about this new Wildcare group, please contact Jodie at Jodie@wildcaretas.org.au



Wildcare Friends of Far South gets a Discovery Ranger to Cockle Creek and Hastings Caves

Congratulations to a newly formed group - "Wildcare Friends of Far South", for being successful in gaining funding for a Discovery Ranger at Cockle Creek and Hastings Caves this summer for the first time.

Five days of activities are scheduled from 24 - 28 January 2013, thanks to the Wildcare Inc Internal Grant funding.

An additional 3 days has been funded by the PWS Discovery Ranger Program meeting and greeting visitors to the area and promoting the activities.

Wildcare Friends of Far South (FOFS) ran their first working bee on 23 November at Hastings Caves.

Willing workers did important follow up work on erica eradication opposite the Hastings Caves Visitor Centre, that another Wildcare group Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area have worked on as a side venture in last 2 years.



Enjoying the Hastings Caves area.

Initially the Wildcare Friends of Far South plan to have 3 working bees a year. Anyone interested in getting involved please update your Wildcare details to include this group.

73 stories told so far – 63 to go – don't miss them!

73 stories have been told, whilst undertaking a simple bush walk. We are looking forward to hearing 63 more over the summer and we want to share them with you

Bushwalking is vehicle that is helping new Tasmanians from refugee backgrounds connect to place and to people. So far Wildcare volunteers have taken 73 new Tasmanians on a nature experience in a national park. We do this to help them feel welcome, to help them feel connected to this place, and to help them make friends. We have more events planned for the summer.

This story is about a walk to the top of the world – Mt Wellington, and what a rollercoaster of a bush walk it was. We started to walk at the Chalet with seven volunteers and seven young people from Burma, Sudan and Nepal and one Discovery Ranger. The young women ran off ahead careering up the track whilst I stayed at the back walking as fast as Luka our four year old volunteer could go (pretty fast really). We all caught up at the junction to the Zig Zag track. Apricot delights (food) were eaten all round and then we started the uphill ascent.

The cloud was rolling in, the groans of “oh no not more up!!!” were heard on more than one occasion. The group staggered on and spread out, going silent as we got to the really steep parts of the walk.

The mountain is still, the clouds teasingly part and then close in again. When we reached the top of the steep incline, the feeling of celebration was strong. A victory yell was heard from one of the men. The sun came out and we were able to see the glory of the Derwent River below us and we had fun looking through binoculars to see their houses far below. Lunch was eaten in the shelter, the local newspaper came along and interviewed us and then we all had a small warm rest in the bus- I had organised the bus to met us at the top of the mountain for safety reasons.

After a good rest I started trying to get the group ready to prepare for our descent – “come on guys get out of the bus, it's time to walk again”. No way were they going to get out of that bus, that warm, sheltered, comfortable bus. It was dry, it was heated and everybody knew that it was going to drive along the road back to our starting point - so why would you get out?

Eventually I coaxed them out and we prepared for our decent and it was fun. I have never been on a bushwalk where young women danced their way down the mountain listening to Nepalli music – in fact I have never been on a bushwalk and listened to music – but with this group it worked!!

I asked all of the participants to say one word to describe their



Enjoying the waterfalls at Mt Field National Park.



After a long climb we got to the top of Mt Wellington. experience of the bushwalk. Here are some of the words used.

- Dance • Beautiful • Tired • Birds • Interesting • And up


Thank you to Wildcare volunteers Maria and Luka, Bron and Leith, Cynthia, Rodney and Linda for your time, your keenness to share your love of walking and your friendliness. Thank you also to Fiona the Parks and Wildlife Discovery Ranger who led the walk.

The **Get Outside Project**, a partnership between Wildcare and the Parks and Wildlife Service, is aimed at old Tasmanians taking new Tasmanians outside for a natural experience. It is the hope that as a result of these outings, in the future, experiencing the natural environment through our beautiful national parks is an easy and safe option for many people new to the state.

Jodie can be contacted at Jodie@wildcaretas.org.au if you would like to join in over summer on these walks.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

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Thark Ridge

For quite a number of years the Wellington Park Bushcare Group has had an involvement with work on the Thark Ridge walking track. The main objective of the group is to tackle weeds within that are threatening Wellington Park, but has also branched out into work on selected tracks. The longest association with tracks by far has been with Thark Ridge.

It may seem a strange name for an area to have such a name and some reports suggest that a theatrical play that was on in Hobart at the time inspired the name. It was used as the name of a hut built out there below the ridge and presumably the ridge eventually also was given that name. It seems an alluring name and somehow feels appropriate for the area.

If you went back some 20 years or so there was no track on Thark Ridge and even the pad along the flank was pretty minimal; however since then it has received more usage, and markings and pruning of vegetation gradually made an impact on the area. The start of track in particular became a degraded affair with multiple pads over the wet plain and then further along an unsightly section of with destroyed pineapple grass that was now just a bog. The Wellington Park Management Trust walking track strategy indicated that the track needed rerouting to avoid these wet areas or some other remedial action taken.

Most of the track falls within by the area managed by Parks and Wildlife and the initial target for action was to replace the ad hoc paint and rock cairns with marker poles. PWS had them dropped in by helicopter, but by the time on ground work was planned the service was short of funds. This brought a phone call from a PWS officer to see if the Wellington Park Bushcare Group would be willing to help with the installation work. Thus began our association with the track and Thark.

Several caches of poles were located over the ridge and whilst some of our group hauled the poles, to the locations where they were to be installed, the others tamped them into the track and eventually little yellow directional indicators were screwed on. Other work at the very end section in particular included clearing back thick overgrowing vegetation. In all this work was spread over nine working bees between January 2009 and April 2011.



Peter Feil from Parks & Wildlife, Greg Bell, Ted Milne, Allison Street and Greg Kidd.



Mountain Rocket (Bellendena Montana) It is almost exclusively an alpine plant, widespread and locally abundant on mountain plateaux.

During our excursions to Thark PWS and some of our lot mapped out a route for a new start of the track to direct walkers away from the degraded wet plain. The plan was approved and over another three working bees, between January 2012 and April 2012, we cut the new track and hardened a few spots with rock. This new start is 900 metres long to where it joins with the old track.

This isn't the end of the story however, as stage two is to be done during 2013. This will be a reroute of some 300 metres to avoid the wet pineapple grass section mentioned earlier.

We are pretty pleased with the work and feel that a real contribution has been made to helping the environment of the area. Already we can see some of the degraded spots beginning to recover. One other benefit has been to enhance a closer link with PWS staff.

Each volunteer has their reasons for willingness to help with these projects, but apart from the obvious that are often mentioned, there seems to be something else that motivates; perhaps it just good for the soul.

Photos and story by Peter Franklin



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Friends of Tasman Island

This, our first winter working bee, was timed to run in conjunction with International Lighthouses and Lightship Weekend (ILLW). This annual amateur event, first conducted in 1998, is sponsored by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group in Scotland.

During this weekend amateur radio operators converge on lighthouses all around the world and try to make contact with as many other stations as possible.

Over the years the numbers have continued to grow with about 450 lighthouses and lightships in some 50 countries participating each year.

The event also promotes public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration and at the same time promotes amateur radio and fosters international goodwill.

Soon after we arrived our amateur radio operators and former light keepers, Mike Jenner and Anne Landers, set up their equipment and over the next 24 hours made over 90 contacts with other stations including lighthouses on the Australian mainland and overseas. Here is their report.

International Lighthouses and Lightship Weekend Report

With the generosity of FoTI (Friends of Tasman Island) we were given the opportunity to operate from Tasman Island for the ILLW this year. FoTI voluntarily attend to the repair and maintenance of the buildings on the island and generally visit



Amateur radio operators and former light keepers, Mike Jenner and Anne Landers.

the island three times a year. This year they chose to make their first winter visit to coincide with the ILLW.

The group funds the cost of the helicopter transport to Tasman by publishing a very high quality calendar each year.

Our bedding, most of the radio gear and other items were deposited at the Parks and Wildlife 5 Mile Beach Depot on Thursday 16 August for transport to the helicopter pick-up point at Safety Cove near Remarkable Cave.



(Back row) Peter Rigozzi (PWS), FoTI volunteers Penny Tyson, Tim Kingston, Ron Fehlberg, Mike Jenner, Bob Tyson, Keith Darke; (middle row) Glenda Fehlberg, Anne Landers; (front row) Chris Creese, Erika Shankley & Lyndon O'Grady (AMSA). Photo taken by - Bec Coote.



We were due to fly out on Saturday morning, 18th August. We planned a 5am start for a 0700 rendezvous with Anne, VK7BYL at Midway Point ensuring we arrived at the Taranna Parks and Wildlife depot at 0815.

The morning was wet, windy and murky with very low cloud, and as we were departing Midway, we received word that the mission was aborted and would be re-appraised at midday.

Back home and a morning of watching the skies but it was still a no-go and we would try again Sunday. This time there was no problem. We duly arrived at Taranna at 0800 and parked the cars.

We were transported, together with the trailer load of gear, to the pick-up point by Parks and Wildlife personnel. In the meantime five of our crew had left Cambridge airport in the chopper for the half hour flight to Tasman Island.

After dropping off the first load, Hotel Romeo Delta- a Squirrel; alighted at Safety Cove and Dave, the pilot, supervised the loading of the sling net of gear.

Then Anne hopped in the front seat and the remaining four of us crammed into the back seat, complete with life jackets for the ten minute over-water trip to Tasman Island, where we arrived at 1010.

Dave returned to Safety Cove and half an hour later arrived back at Tasman with the sling load, which he neatly deposited right at the back door of the number 3 quarters where we were to be housed.

Unpacking the gear, we climbed the light house to rig one end of the half wave on 80, the other end being tied to the back fence of Number 3. The TV ribbon J Pole for 2 metres was hung on a convenient tank stand and the IC 7000 was plugged in and tested prior to having lunch.

We notified the local southern amateur community on R2/5 that we were firing up on 40 and at 0305 UTC we contacted Bill, VK7WR; the first of a string of VK7s.

From then on it was like a contest! Five or six at a time were calling us and by 0842 UTC we had contacted most of the 92 stations we spoke to. This included a contact with Spain on 20. Contacts were made with 17 Australian lights and two New Zealand lights.

Operation was shared between Anne and Mike, one speaking and the other logging, taking turn about as voices and brains gave out!

We took a break for the evening meal, and to thaw out. It was freezing at our end of the house! The intention was to operate all night if conditions and activity warranted it, but by the time we got back to the shack, the bands were very quiet activity wise.

We had one further contact with the Cape Capricorn light house in Queensland at around 0700 local time Monday morning but there was virtually no ILLW activity and the bands were fairly dead.

During the remainder of our stay we had several contacts on HF and 2 metres, and packed up all the gear on Friday afternoon ready to fly out Saturday morning.

It was a great week. The comradery was great. The food was fabulous. The weather was very kind to us. The planned works program was completed and everyone was very happy with the outcomes of the expedition.

Mike would like to take this opportunity to thank Winston, VK7EM for providing coax, and a squid pole antenna as a replacement for the dipole if it came to grief in the weather. He also recorded some of our contacts.

Thanks to Bill, VK7WR who lent us his nice little lightweight power supply and the two metre J pole antenna.

A huge thanks to FoTI for providing the means to activate Tasman Island for the first time since 1969 when Anne and Mike were light keepers on the island.

Mike Jenner, VK7FB and on behalf of Anne Landers, VK7BYL



The radio aerial off the lighthouse

The Wildcare Lighthouse Stations Fund is now open!

Tasmanian's wild places and wildlife give us our inspiration, a sense of wonder, identity, character, heart and soul and health. The WILDCARE Gift Fund's new Lighthouse Stations Fund is a unique way to say thank you.

WILDCARE Inc and Bruny Island Safaris co-founded the WILDCARE Lighthouse Stations Fund in November 2012.

It raises money through donations to support the care and maintenance of the stations and surrounding environment and volunteer programs and groups operating on lighthouse islands and other lighthouse stations around Tasmania.

In the 1990s all lighthouse stations around Tasmania became automated, and the old lighthouses and keepers houses, along with surrounding land, were transferred to care of the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Since then WILDCARE Inc has worked in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service to provide volunteers to live in and care for lighthouse structures and the surrounding public land.

WILDCARE Inc Friends groups have been established on Deal Island in Bass Strait, Maatsuyker Island in the Southern Ocean and Tasman Island in the Tasman Sea, and volunteer caretaker programs operate on Deal Island and Maatsuyker Island and at Cape Bruny on Bruny Island, with volunteers living on site for periods of up to six months.

These heritage and maritime places are of the utmost importance to the story of Tasmania. Bruny Island Safaris and WILDCARE Inc invite you to give generously to protect and care for lighthouse history and heritage.



Gwen Egg a recent care taker of Maatsuyker Island.

"What a brilliant concept. Our caretakers have often asked if there was somewhere to make a donation to and now there is! Thank you for your consultation and forward planning. Keep up the good work. We shall promote the idea of gift funding to anyone who will listen."

Dallas Baker OAM
President Friends of Deal Island - Wildcare Inc.

"Thank you very much for your email, it definitely looks promising for the future of our beloved Tassie Lightstations. Congratulation to both Wildcare and the Parseys for this great initiative."

Marina Campbell
President
Friends of Maatsuyker Island - Wildcare Inc.

Bruny Island Safaris

Bruny Island Safaris' founder, Craig Parsey, spent a large part of his childhood years on lighthouse stations around Tasmania with his lighthouse keeper parents and two sisters ... including Cape Bruny, Maatsuyker Island and Eddystone Point.

Craig and Lelle are members of WILDCARE Inc. In addition to being co-founders and Natural Partners for the WILDCARE Lighthouse Stations Fund, Craig and Lelle make regular donations to the fund from their business.

The experience they provide to their clients involves ten enthralling hours of spectacular touring with nature, wilderness, coast and heritage and the Bruny Island Gourmet Trail.

Limited edition calendar featuring the lighthouses of Tasmania. Purchasing this collectors' item will help with the restoration and preservation of the iconic Tasman Island lightstation.

To obtain your calendar
SMS: 0417 357 269 or phone and leave a message
Wholesale enquiries: Tim Kingston 03 6245 0814 (after hours)
email: friendsoftasmanisland@gmail.com for an order form



Tasman Island - a look at the weeds

The weeding team was Penny and Bob Tyson. One purpose of the visit was to review progress being made in the control of weeds, so that the island Weed Plan can be updated. Our last visit to the island was 3½ years ago and the changes to both the weeds and the condition of the buildings and infrastructure was remarkable. However, winter isn't the ideal time to look for yarrow and Californian thistle, but is good for early spring bulbs. Weedy material such as montbretia corms, scrambling groundsel, pelargonium and the succulents which could re-sprout were bagged up and taken off the island. Blackberry canes, Hebe and wild turnip and radish, were left to dry and rot.

Yarrow: Only one or two rosettes were found in the patches near the top house (Q3), and two dead flower heads and a couple of rosettes in a patch towards the lower house (Q1) which was marked with a stake. Rosettes were dabbed with glyphosate.

Garden Pelargonium: Two clumps have been retained in the garden of Q3. One 10 leaf plant was cut and pasted from the bank east of Q3.

Scrambling groundsel: One twenty leaf plant and a small one were cut and pasted from the bank east of Q3. Another small one was removed from against the garden fence.

Succulents-pinwheel and green cockscomb: Three of each of these were removed from the bank (ranging in size from 6 to 10 leaf). These are able to regenerate from the smallest fragments.

Grape hyacinth: Two clumps were dug from the bank and replanted in the garden of Q3. Another clump was dug from the bracken patch and also transplanted to the Q3 garden.

Jonquils and wild daffodils: These were in full flower in the gardens of Q1 and Q2. As well, several clumps were found between and around Q3 and Q2, a few clumps in the rank grass east of Q1 and towards the waterhole. Dozens of clumps were in the bracken patch, all within the original fenceline. All clumps found outside the fenced gardens were dug and transplanted to the front gardens of the closest house.

Wild turnip and radish: Pulled about 100 plants from around Q2, another 50 plus from the bracken patch garden, and one or two from both Q1 and Q3. Some were seedlings at the 2 leaf stage.

Montbretia: 100 plus plants amounting to 6 to 7Kg were dug from the front garden of Q1 and the track and grassy area east of Q1.

Californian thistle: only three rosettes were found – definitely too early as rosettes don't normally appear until September and begin flowering in December - January.

Spear thistles: a few rosettes around the houses and along the track were dabbed with glyphosate.

Hebe: two plants were found 15 metres east of the front fence of Q1 in the edge of the scrub. One was a metre tall, the other 60cm tall. Both were pulled. None were found immediately around Q1.



Penny and Bob Tyson - meticulous weeding required here.

Blackberry No sign of any regrowth from the original patch behind Q1. However, we stumbled into a new patch when walking between the eastern cliffs and the main track between the winch and the top of the haulage. (See the location map on the next page.) The route to the patch starts from the second telephone pole back from the fence at the top of the haulage way. It is marked with wooden stakes.

There were at least 50 clumps in the 10mx10m patch, with one to ten canes per clump. The lower 15cm of each cane was scraped and then painted with glyphosate. The remainder of the cane was cut and the stump pasted. The cut canes were dumped on top of adjacent vegetation mainly to the north, along with a considerable quantity of flaxlily, mother shieldfern, bracken, and grasses weeded out to give access to the canes.

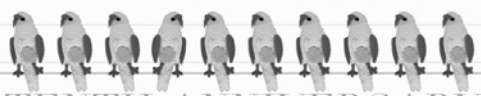
Amaryllis lily? A clump of large papery bulbs with long strap like leaves was found in the bracken patch garden. It is possibly Amaryllis belladonna, common name belladonna lily or naked lady which produces large pink lilies in late summer. We will have to wait for the flowers to get a definite i.d.

Hybrid pittosporum A single Pittosporum undulatum subs. Xemmettii growing below (NW) of the track midway between the winch and the top of the landing was cut and pasted.

Other weeds there was no sign of arum lily, shasta daisy, or gazania.

Weed dumps The sheep dip plastic cover was removed – remaining contents appeared well rotted. One montbretia was removed from the weed tank.





TENTH ANNIVERSARY

WILDCARE TASMANIA

International Nature Writing Prize 2013



An international literary prose competition in the genre of nature writing, open to entries in both fiction and nonfiction with a first prize of SA5000 and a wilderness residency in Tasmania.

WILDCARE Inc
Caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage

WILDCARE Inc is Tasmania's largest and fastest growing incorporated volunteer organisation with 5,000 members supporting natural and cultural heritage conservation. In the past year members have contributed \$6,000,000 worth of volunteer work. Since 2009 they have generated over \$1,000,000 of funding for on-ground projects. We are pleased to be offering the WILDCARE Tasmania Nature Writing Prize to encourage a better understanding of the special connections between us, our minds, our hearts and our wild places.



ENTRY CONDITIONS

Submissions

- Prose fiction or nonfiction in the genre of nature writing (see definition)
- One entry per person
- Entries must be between 2000 and 4000 words
- Entries must be sent by BOTH post and email. The email address is: wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au
- Entries must be anonymous. The entrant's name should appear ONLY on the entry form, and not on any part of the manuscript
- Hard copy must be printed on single-sided A4 paper in 1.5 spacing
- Email entry must be sent as a .doc or a .docx (Word) file
- Entries or part thereof published prior to the announcement of the award or entered in any other award will not be deemed eligible
- The official entry form or a photocopy of it must be used
- Employees of *Island* and competition administrators and organisers may not enter
- Confirmation of receipt of entries may be obtained by emailing office@wildcaretas.org.au
- Manuscripts will not be returned
- *Island* and *WILDTIMES* will publish the winning entry and have the option to publish runner-up and other entries

Announcement

The Prize will be awarded in March 2013 and presented during the Tasmanian Writers' Festival, March 21-24, 2013. The place and date of the announcement of the Prize will be advertised in advance on the Tasmanian Writers Centre website: www.tasmanianwriters.org and on the WILDCARE website: www.wildcaretas.org.au as will the results of the Prize

Judges

The Prize will be judged by **Dael Allison** (award-winning writer of fiction, nonfiction and poetry based in NSW) and **Adrienne Eberhard** (award-winning Tasmanian poet, essayist and short fiction writer)

Prizes

- First prize of SA5000 plus return economy air fare to Hobart to undertake a two-week Tasmanian wilderness residency sponsored by the Parks & Wildlife Service. It is a condition of the Prize that the winner:
 - 1 undertake the residency between March and November 2013; and
 - 2 prepare and present a writing workshop while in Tasmania
- Two minor prizes of \$250 will be awarded at the discretion of the judges

Entries close 31 January 2013





WILDCARE TASMANIA International Nature Writing Prize 2013



Nature Writing, for the purposes of this Prize, may be generously defined as literary prose whose major inspiration and subject matter is the natural world, not necessarily excluding its significance for humans and/or their interactions with it.

Orange-bellied parrot by Bradley Trevor Greive

ENTRY FORM Please complete in block letters

Title of entry:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email :

Entry fee enclosed (please tick):

SA20 SA15 (*Island* subscriber or WILDCARE member)

I wish to become a subscriber to *Island* at a special rate of \$65 for 4 issues.

I would like to know more about WILDCARE. Please send me information.

Total Amount Enclosed: SA

I enclose a hard copy of my entry

I confirm that I have also emailed a copy to wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au

Payment: Cheque (within Aust only) Australian or SA International Money Order

Credit Card: Visa Master Card

 Expiry Date:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Send an email copy of your entry to: wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au
ALSO send a hard copy to: WILDCARE Tasmania Nature Writing Prize
c/- GPO Box 1751 Hobart Tasmania 7001 Australia

Entries close 31 January 2013

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Meet the Wildcare Inc. Board

Wildcare Inc is made up of over 5000 volunteers, organised into work crews (called Branches) and also runs long term programs (e.g. island care taking program).

Wildcare Inc is managed by a board that have volunteer positions on it. These people are elected every year by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Peter Marmion is one of these people and we would like to introduce you to him.

Peter has recently retired from teaching after 25 years as a principal in schools across the state.

He has a long held interest in the wild places of our island having been a keen bush walker, sailor, canoeist and rafter for most of his life. Peter has worked as a volunteer on Threatened species projects for over 30 years.

He regularly visits the South West to support the Orange Bellied Parrot Recovery Program and is an active member of the Friends of Melaleuca.

Peter believes Wildcare is a vitally important way to preserve our cultural heritage and to help protect the magnificent reserve system we have been able to create in Tasmania.



Peter Marmion - navigating the Wildcare board is easier than navigating the mud!

Thank you, Thank you, THANK YOU!

The sun shone on us again this year as we gathered to say many thankyou's to those of our volunteers who were able to join us at the Pelverata Hall on 3 November.

It's around this time of the year that Bridget Jupe of Kingborough Council, Jocelyn Scopes of Huon Valley Council and Pip Gowen of Parks and Wildlife Service combine efforts to thank volunteers for all their hard work during the year.

The event is an annual coming together of like minded people to share land, wild and coastcare stories, experiences and highlights. This year like others, there was a great feeling of camaraderie. It is a chance to mill about, chat and relax.

Bridget, Jocelyn and Pip passed on messages of thanks from managers, rangers and councillors and we also had the opportunity to wish BJ and husband Duncan all the best for the birth of their first child. Look out for BJ next year, you may well see her turn up sometime with a baby in her backpack to say hello.

SO... to ALL our land, wild and coastcarers - please know your work creates real change. There is no way we could take care of our beautiful reserves without your enthusiasm, knowledge and skills, good company and your plain hard work. Thank you for inspiring and encouraging us!

Pip Gowen Parks and Wildlife Volunteer Facilitator.



Volunteers gathered to celebrate the friendships and work achieved over the past year.



Hunting for Tasmania's Rare Plants

Spring is survey time for Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT) volunteers. Spring finds TPT volunteers with their eyes keenly focused on the ground as they hunt for rare plants.

The Executive Committee of TPT, in collaboration with the Threatened Species Unit of DPIPWE, draws up a schedule of field trips each year and advertises them on the TPT and Wildcare websites (www.tpt.org.au and www.wildcaredtas.org.au) allowing volunteers to sign up and join particular trips.:

A wide variety of plants often appear in the first two years following a bushfire and so burnt areas are fruitful locations to hunt for threatened plant species. TPT had two field trips to recently burnt places last October.



TPT volunteers looking for rare plants at Powranna Nature Reserve.

The first trip was to Powranna Nature Reserve in the Northern Midlands to look for some spectacular plants such as the spider orchid, *Caladenia lindleyana*, and many small ephemeral plants that grow in damp areas.

We didn't find *Caladenia lindleyana* but we did extend the range of the black-tipped spider orchid, *Caladenia anthracina*. Our expert botanist, Richard Schahinger, had just said, "This looks just the right habitat for a spider orchid", when an excited call went up from a volunteer who had found one.

The group was able to find five new threatened plant species in



*The Arthur River Greenhood, *Pterostylis rubenachii*, is very small in comparison with a pencil.*



*The windswept spider orchid, *Caladenia dienema*.*

the area and confirm healthy populations of several others.

Later in the month a group of eleven volunteers spent a weekend in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area looking for 19 threatened plant species; thirteen of them threatened orchid species. The orchids ranged from the tiny greenhood, *Pterostylis rubenachii* to the spectacular spider orchid, *Caladenia dienema*.

We counted the numbers of *Pterostylis rubenachii* plants in an area where they have been counted for the past three years.

We were disturbed to find that the numbers are steadily dropping as the surrounding vegetation thickens up. The densest patch of these orchids was in the gravel on the edge of the road – a very precarious place for them.



*Flags mark the positions of *Pterostylis rubenachii* plants on the roadside.*

We shall be recommending that some slashing or burning is carried out before the population disappears altogether.

The situation for *Caladenia dienema*, the windswept spider orchid, is a much happier one. We found hundreds of these beautiful plants on rocky outcrops.

TPT relies on volunteers with keen eyes to spot rare plants so that they can be monitored and protected into the future. If you would like to join the hunt, please contact the TPT President, Viv Muller, by email at president@TPT.org.au.

by Robin Garnett

Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area

Inspire Next Generation

All those involved in the Snug Wildsc'ool Program hoped that there was a way to encourage local young people and their families to appreciate the very special reserve they have in their backyard and, just perhaps,... to inspire the next generation to help care for the reserve in the future.

WELL! watching and listening to the Grade 6 students from Snug Primary School give their end of year Wildsc'ool presentation to the grade 5s (who would be taking over the baton in 2013) and the volunteers who helped them, was a highlight for all involved.

Each group, who had been mentored by Wildcare Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area and other specialists, summarized their achievements with a very impressive Powerpoint including photos of their work and tips for the grade 5s.

Pride, knowledge, teamwork, commitment, ownership are just a few words that came to my mind as I listened to the students speak.

A unique feature of this particular Wild'scool program is the commitment by the Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area to working with the students on a 'learning resource' that will last into the future.

The students have uploaded their information onto the Snug Primary School's Intranet so information is available for other classes to use.

It is hoped that this will also be posted to the School's external site for use by families and visitors to the area.

The Snug Primary School Wild'scool Program with the support

of the Wildcare Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area will be in its third year in 2013, which is a terrific effort!

WILDCARE Inc, in partnership with Parks and Wildlife Service, trains members to support the WILDSC'OOOL program in schools in the North West and South of the State.

Volunteers support classroom environmental education sessions, assist with school garden developments and accompany field excursions to local reserves and National Parks where the students undertake volunteer projects, assisting the Park Rangers.

Following training, WILDCARE inc volunteers commit to a minimum of 50 hours each year in support of their partner WILDSC'OOOL.

If you would like to get involved in WILDSC'OOOL, join us by joining WILDCARE Inc, and we will let you know when a training course is next on offer.

Email us at wildscool@wildcasetas.org.au if you are interested in finding out more about the program.

Very special thanks go to Wildcare Friends of Coningham members Graeme and Sue Cooksey and John and Jean Taylor. Without their involvement this program would not have happened.

Thanks also go to Snug Primary School Teacher Tracey Ozkilinc; Oliver Strutt of Understory Network, Tess of SETAC; Matt Pauza of DPIPWE and PWS staff Jennifer Mudge, Graham Sanders, and Jessie Digney.



Students at Margate Primary School with Wildsc'ool supporters.



Friends of Woodvine - what we have been doing!



Friends of Woodvine held a very successful working bee on 28 October. We managed to get a group photo after lunch.

One of the major jobs we were tackling was to cut wooden brackets for the spouting to go on the stable. The brackets will match the few originals still on the building and attach to the rafters. Unfortunately, we discovered the spouting will sit a long way away from the edge of the roof iron and we'll need advice from Parks' Heritage Officer about how to deal with that. There are at least 3 low points across the front of the building too - three downpipes anyone?

We have locked up the old bike that was lying against one of the small sheds. I was contacted by someone who had been walking at Woodvine and recognised it as an Austral, made by Malvern Star, probably in the 1920s. We've photographed the markings on the front forks and the serial number on the seat tube and will try to research further.

Other jobs completed included putting a safety barrier around the debris that's fallen from the dead pine trees at the gate, putting wire cages around a couple of gooseberry plants to try to keep the fruit intact and removing bracken from the cottage garden.

We also removed all the loose material inside and on top of the collapsed skillion on the 1860s building - and found the original

door. We took lots and lots of photos of the construction and timbers. The wooden roof had iron laid on top and then Malthoid (thick black bitumen coated material) was laid on top for waterproofing.

The cement water tanks near the 1910 cottage have been leaking for some time. David Reynolds put new taps on them.

We wouldn't recommend drinking the water (we've got a nice new tank on another cottage for safe water) but we can use it for watering and washing tools etc. Rod Barnett propped up the pipe draining into one of the tanks.

And several times during the day we saw this little fellow trundling across the paddock below the buildings. A PhD student from UTAS is currently undertaking a remote wildlife camera survey at Woodvine.

She is investigating the decline of the eastern quoll and looking at the relative abundance of feral cats versus eastern quolls.

She is surveying at around 12-16 different sites around the state and each site will have 20 remote cameras for about three weeks. It will be very interesting to hear what she finds at Woodvine.

Linda Forbes

Friends of Woodvine Nature Reserve



WILDCARE Inc CLOTHING ORDER FORM

Note: prices include GST and postage to Australian address.



Polar Fleece jacket. (Green, full zip)	
Circle size	XS, S, M, L, XL
Item cost	\$60.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$



Polar Fleece vest (Green)	
Circle size	XS, S, M, L, XL
Item cost	\$45.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$



Rugby top (Green/white)	
Circle size	S M L XL
Item cost	\$45.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$



Beanie (charcoal)	
Circle size	One Size Fits All
Item cost	\$12.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$



Polo shirt (Green)	
Circle size	S M L XL
Item cost	\$30.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$



Cap (Green)	
Circle size	One Size Fits All
Item cost	\$12.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$



T shirt (Green)	
Circle size	S M L XL
Item cost	\$25.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$



Broad-rimmed hat (Green)	
Circle size	S M L XL
Item cost	\$16.00
How many?	
Total cost this item	\$

Name Address

..... Telephone

Payment details **Total cost of all items \$**

Cheque or Money Order attached (made out to **WILDCARE Inc**)

Credit Card VISA Mastercard

Credit card number _____ Expiry ___/___

Name on card

Card holders Signature Date

Mail order to: **WILDCARE Inc GPO Box 1751 Hobart Tasmania 7001** (A Tax invoice will be posted with your order)



Common Invertebrates of Tasmania



Tortoise leaf beetle

Very sticky feet allow these beetles to cling to foliage on windy days. Larvae often cluster together when feeding on leaves.



Inchman

Very primitive ants that live in colonies of about 300. This species has a powerful sting but is usually only aggressive near the nest.



Jackjumper

Regarded as the most dangerous native animal in Tasmania, this ant defends its nest aggressively.



March fly

March flies emerge as tea trees come into flower in Tasmania. They feed on nectar to give them energy and blood to give them protein.



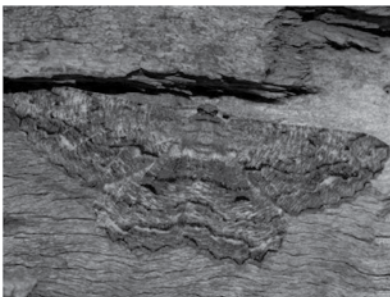
Crane fly

A slow flying harmless fly that is an important pollinator. The vestigial second pair of wings is reduced to a pair of club-like structures which give stability in flight.



Grasshopper

There are many species in Tasmania, usually found in sunny areas such as grasslands and alpine heaths. Grasshoppers don't go through metamorphosis like moths or flies.



Geometrid moth

Moths are nocturnal insects that usually rely on camouflage to avoid detection. Like butterflies, baby moths are caterpillars.



Leaf hopper

Leaf hoppers are bugs, having sucking mouthparts. They feed on sap, excreting sugar which is often eaten by ants, who 'farm' many species.



Beetle-weevil

Weevils have a characteristic long nose, with their angled antennae sticking out below their eyes. They are the most diverse group of animals on the planet.



Millipede

Millipedes are generally vegetarians, hiding by day beneath logs and leaf litter. They have two pairs of legs per body segment and are often highly poisonous to eat.



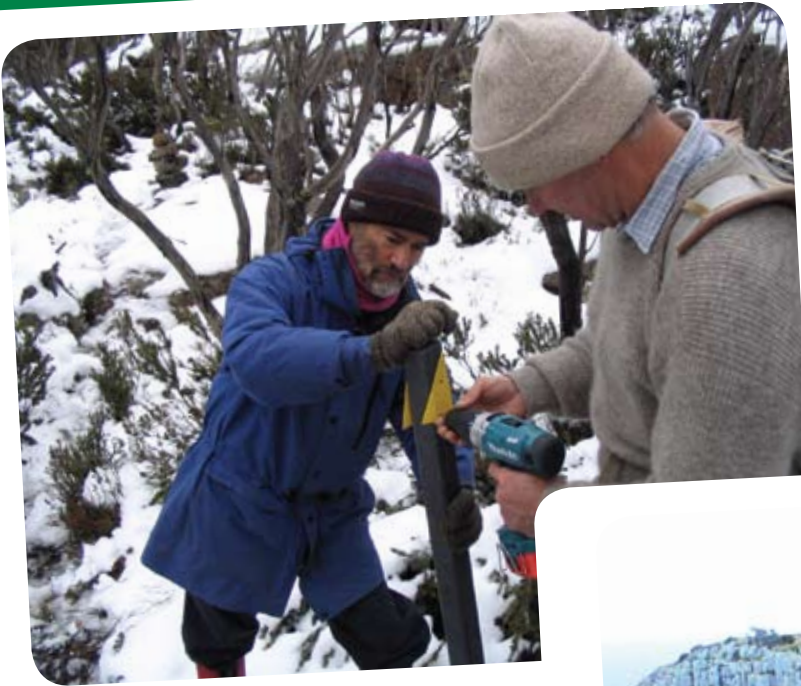
Cockroach

Cockroaches are often regarded as household pests but the majority are harmless and play an important role in decomposing plant material and providing food for other animals.



Jumping spider

Jumping spiders are alert, intelligent hunters with a large pair of eyes on the front of their heads. They are a diverse group of usually small spiders that are fascinating to watch.



*Installing markers on the posts.
John Street is holding the post whilst Greg Kidd
(on right) is drilling in the marker plate.
Photo by Peter Franklin.*



*Mike Jenner and Anne Landers
– former lighthouse keepers on
Tasman Island.
Photo by Erika Shankley.*



*Making friends - newly arrived and local Tasmanians join together to walk to the summit of
Mt Wellington. Photo taken by Jodie Epper.*

WILDCARE Inc

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

C/o GPO Box 1751 Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

Phone: 03 6233 2836

Fax: 03 6223 8603

E-mail general: office@wildcaretas.org.au E-mail newsletter articles: wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au

Web: www.wildcaretas.org.au

