



WILD TIMES

Edition 46 May 2013



2013 NATURE WRITING PRIZE WINNING ENTRY

**SOUTHERN WILDLIFE RESCUE AND CARE
SUPPORTS FIRE DAMAGED COMMUNITIES**



**YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US WHY THEY REALLY
LIKE NATIONAL PARKS**



Editorial

I am pretty excited to feature in this edition, the winner of the 2013 Wildcare Nature Writing Prize Tanya Anne Massey. I am sure that you will enjoy reading her piece titled – Trees.

In this edition of Wildtimes we have a report on the March 2013 working bee at Melaleuca where a variety of maintenance tasks were tackled, and we also have hut wardens at Waterfall Valley and light house caretakers from Bruny Island, share their experiences.

The Southern Wildlife Rescue and Care response story from the recent fires is told through first hand accounts from both the Dunnalley and Molesworth fires.

The Wildcare Get Outside project winds up for the summer with a last trip to Maria Island for seven Afghani and Pakistani men recently released from the Pontville Detention Centre. This project aims to connect people new to Tasmania with place and people via visits to national parks with local volunteers.

The 2013 photo competition is now open with calls for photographs taken from the previous summers activities to be entered.

Thank you to all the people who sent in stories – it makes for a great read. Thank you to the team who help put this edition together, the volunteer proof readers and the photographers.

Happy reading

Jodie Epper



A moment to contemplate those people who have come before us - a visit to the cemetery Maria 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

Sharne Vogt, May Lok, Philip Johnson, Davin Searle, Helena Telfer, Neta Prior, Roland & Karl Martini & Scheurlen, John Holland employees, Jade Spotswood, Christopher Arthur, Philip Wyatt, Anna Laughland

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47	1 August 2013	1 September 2013
48	1 December 2013	1 January 2014
49	1 April 2014	1 May 2014

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

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Sam Cuffs Discovery ranger PWS enjoys the twilight with local Hazara community members recently moved to Hobart from Pakistan and Afghanistan (see article on page 18).



Wildcare Southern Wildlife Rescue & Care assist in the Dunalley and Molesworth Bushfires

For some time now Wildcare Southern Wildlife Rescue & Care (WSWRC) has been looking at setting up a Wildlife Emergency Response & Education Unit (WERE Unit), which consists of a specialised trailer and trained teams.

Whilst preparing for this we have team members already trained in the assessment and treatment of burnt wildlife, this course being one of the prerequisites to work with the WERE Unit. Participants have not only completed the burn treatment course but have also passed theory and practical application of knowledge competencies.

With the recent bushfires these trained people came to the fore and were able to further their skills and training through hands on involvement.

Tasman Peninsula

WSWRC tried to get into the fire area in the Tasman Peninsula as soon as possible. Whilst we were waiting for permission from the relevant authorities to go in, we rang the wildlife carers in the fire areas to see if they were okay or if they needed help. Two carers had already been evacuated and that same night we received a call from another carer who was preparing for evacuation. So Wayne White drove down to the said carer's home and picked up her wildlife to be placed in temporary care with other carers. Southern Water came to the rescue by transporting six wildlife joeys from Nubeena from another carer.

We gained access to the site on the 14th of January. It was determined that we would enter in a "Recovery" capacity rather than a "Response" although we did go to Dunalley on the 13th of January to do reconnaissance and evaluate the area, for tent setup locations and to make our introductions to the rest of the fire fighting team.

Set Up at Dunalley

We had a great week, gathering all the information we could from locals, getting approvals to set up food drop locations, and assisting locals in feeding their own populations of wildlife. After gathering the information (as best we could), we set up feeding locations and food caches in key locations to provide on-going food drops. We mapped that information and set up a roster for teams of two to go out during the day and food drop every three days. We have assisted some areas to feed their own local wildlife, including topping up of established food caches for people to get ongoing supplies.

Although we weren't ready to be deployed in a "Response" capacity we managed to get enough trained personnel and gear together to provide assistance with a "Recovery" response. We were able to do rescues, but unfortunately, in most cases these animals were euthanased. We also saw the many dead animals that didn't make it, which made for some rough trips out in the field.

We were also able to check on the populations of various species that did make it through: from echidnas, snakes, frogs, wallabies, pademelons, and of course birds. Even some White-footed Dunnarts survived (and are happily nesting in someone's agapanthus!) We set up an operations centre on the ground at Dunalley on the 14th of January and packed up on the 20th



This echidna was one of many rescued from the fire.

January. We returned on the 26th of January for a fundraiser at the request of the publican.

We set up teams and each team had a snake handler. We would send out teams to either set up a food and water drop point or replenish same. At all times we had a team on standby at the operations centre in case of rescue call outs or to respond to a report. We also set up a whiteboard so that we could keep track of what team was out in the field, who, where and what time they left. Each day was started with a safety briefing and each team was debriefed upon their return. No-one was permitted to go out alone, at all times there had to be a minimum of two people. Each team member also carried a portable first aid kit for themselves and for wildlife, as well as a team first aid kit. High visibility vests were worn as well as hard hats when responding to a rescue. We were overwhelmed by the locals, who wanted our help and advice.

Being a farming area, we had expectations of some resistance in our aim to help the native wildlife but we were pleasantly surprised by the locals response. Locals kept us up to date with reports of injured and burnt animals requiring assistance, and requested advice on what to feed wildlife looking for food at surviving house sites. They were welcoming and were pleased to have us there. They were more than happy to receive food from us, to allow us access to their properties, to search for injured animals, set up food stations and were grateful to have the support for ongoing feeding of their local wildlife populations. Echidnas were the big survivors and they must have been on special because they were everywhere and locals were bringing them to us.

Sadly, some animals were assessed as having suffered enough and so were euthanased in the field to avoid prolonging the suffering and increasing stress. As reported by Patsy Davies, more than half of the animals that came in to care had to be euthanased.

Fatigue became evident after five days of hard work, and the safety brief mentioned this so team members were asked to look out for one another. Whilst teams were waiting for job allocations they would cut up the fruit and vegies and make up smaller bags of pellets to use or to hand out. We were actually assessed and inspected by the Red Cross Safety Officer on the 18th of January and our practices passed with flying colours. We also developed a brochure to hand out on what

to feed and what not to feed wildlife which has proven to be a valuable resource.

The local people thanked us time and again for being there, on the ground, to help support them and their wildlife. One of the most humbling things I experienced was a couple who had lost their dream home in Murdunna, their property and the surrounding properties were totally burnt out, yet they came to us for help in feeding the animals that have been coming back into the area. They allowed us access for search and rescue (SAR) and setting up feeding stations in several areas on their property.

From the 13th to the 20th of January and then back on the 26th January, 446.55 hours were logged by 87 volunteers over nine days, not including travel time nor the ongoing time for food and water drops that continue and will continue for some time to come.

Then, on to assist at Molesworth.....

Although we had learnt so much from our time at Dunalley, Molesworth was a very different situation. Four of our members went to Molesworth to assess the situation and to see how we could help. The first person we met was the Fire Warden who became very emotional and was so thankful that we had come to help.

The 'grapevine' took off with the news that we were there to help and we were again overwhelmed by the locals response with reports of injured wildlife coming in, as well as requests for help and advice. We had hoped to go back in to Molesworth two days later with feed and a team to do SAR and set up food caches and food and water drop points, but the fires had flared up and we were told NOT to go in until given the all clear. Two days later we got the all clear and went in. We had to report in and provide a daily debrief to the Tas. Fire Service at Cambridge as well report in on the ground at Molesworth. Teams have since replenished the food and water drop points and answered other calls for help from the locals and continue to do so.

Donations & Offers of Help – Our thanks to:-

Pinnacle Bakeries; Eastlands; Woolworths; Amcal Chemist; Pet Shop and Donut King who provided morning tea for a number of days; Coles Sorell; Holts Mitre 10; Chemmart Sorell; Lush Cosmetics; two wildlife carers from Sydney, who



The centre of the action was at the tent.

sent formula and medical supplies; SAFE Workplace Solutions; Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania (AACT); Tastex Knitwear; Vicky Wakefield from Lewisham who did a street fundraiser; a Ranger at St Helens; a donation from a morning tea fundraiser in WA; a quilt donated to raffle; an offer of help with a team and trailer from Wildlife Victoria, which was not required; and an offer from IFAW to send down a vet, was also declined, due to the fact that over half of the animals presented required euthanasia by Patsy Davies (DPIPWE), and so requirements for vet care were minimal.

Donations from IFAW of medical supplies were dispatched to a wildlife carer at Bicheno, who we also assisted by going up there with extra feed, pouches, medical supplies, and so on. We also received many offers of help from individuals and other wildlife carers providing care, temporary housing, and other assistance.

Conclusions

This was our first deployment in a fire situation and even though we were not fully prepared, we did an excellent job with the resources we had. All of our people and teams are to be commended for their efforts commitment and dedication and I can proudly say we were commended by the Police, SES and Tas. Fire Service. Members of the public were also so appreciative of our efforts, and one of our team members was hugged in a shopping centre by a member of the public because "someone was helping the wildlife".

We continue to support Dunalley and Molesworth and other areas by ongoing food and water drops as well as being involved with their regeneration projects and we have been asked to do a presentation on wildlife friendly fencing and netting at the Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood Centre in March.

We hope to be ready for the next fire season: with more trained personnel and gear, and with all the authorisations in place to allow us to get in earlier, in a "Response" capacity. We are proving, on the ground, that we CAN be a valuable part of the response effort, working alongside emergency services personnel.

Please register your interest for volunteering on the WEREUnit, and we will keep you updated on our progress and advise you of upcoming training days.

We thank all of you who helped us throughout this current emergency, we really make a great team!

If you are interested in being part of the WEREUnit please log your interest to this email southernwildliferc@gmail.com, or call Rachel on 0466 888 107.



Friends of the Tasmanian Devil go to school – feel like joining us?

It is an exciting time for the Friends of the Tasmanian Devil. The Save the Tasmanian Devil Program needs our help to deliver key messages in targeted schools. We need to get key messages across to both high school and primary school students in and around the Tasman and Forestier Peninsula about the DFTD, DFZ and DPF – LOL. If you don't speak mobile phone language then here is the translation:

- DFTD – Devil Facial Tumour Disease
- DFZ – Disease Free Zone
- DPF – Devil Proof Fence
- LOL – Laugh out loud (joke).

Let's back track a bit for an explanation. The Save the Tasmanian Devil Program has been working since 2004 on a two pronged approach to saving this species.

Guard against extinction - Insurance Population – 500 healthy devils are being held in zoos and wildlife parks throughout Australia and in Devil Islands and Disease Free Zones in Tasmania.

Protection in the Wild – Disease Free Zones – Removal of the existing devils from the area and protection against invasion by diseased devils through the use of the Devil Proof Fence.

Once the area is secure and declared disease free, a population of healthy devils will be reintroduced. These devils on the Tasman and Forestier Peninsula, in future will roam wild and free, protected from the disease for future generations.

Why is this important?

Wild devils will strengthen the Insurance Population, maintain wild behaviours and provide a source of animals for future reintroductions. Keeping devils in the wild is also important for the environment.

As top predators, devils play a key ecological role, maintaining the natural balance and defending against invaders such as foxes and feral cats.

One of the exciting things about this project (unlike the introduced devils on Maria Island) is that these two peninsulas are big enough to support a wild population.

Now all we need to do is to get this message across to school children. If you are keen and willing to help with this vital work to Save the Tasmanian Devil then contact jodie@wildcaretas.org.au for more information about training days and impending school visits.



A Devil Proof Fence like this one.

The Devil Proof Fence will be erected before the end of this financial year so we aim to be in schools prior to late May and in June 2013.



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Cape Bruny Volunteer Caretaker and Weather Observer Program - GREEN LIGHT

What a mammoth effort!

What an exciting thing... to see such a great site come alive again!

In August 2011 PWS took over the management of Cape Bruny light station again after 17 years

Since then, the skills, expertise and willingness of many caretakers and volunteers on working bees, together with Ranger Bernard Edwards and Field Officer Scott Thorton have transformed the site.

I'm happy to pass on that PWS has confirmed their intention to continue the Volunteer Caretaker and Weather Observer Program for the next few years. This gives us the direction to manage the program as ongoing rather than interim.

I will be writing up, with the assistance of others, an Information Booklet and application process. So, while Volunteer Caretakers are already placed up until March/April 2014, PWS will be selecting volunteers from now on through an application process.

This will ensure that there is equity of opportunity for those interested.

Watch these websites for calls for Expression of Interest (EOI):
www.parks.tas.gov.au www.wildcaretas.org.au

The Cape Bruny Volunteer program is proving to be very popular, although I must say the 5.30am starts for the first weather observation EACH day can be a bit challenging for those who haven't seen the sun rise for a while!

Mostly I wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of you who so enthusiastically 'chipped in' in lots of different ways – GREAT JOB.

Cheers

Pip Gowen - Regional Volunteer Facilitator (South)



Jonah Wiltshire next generation volunteer light station caretaker.



Scott Fairbrother and Lynette Kaye with the Cordless Drill Donation Cape Bruny.



Cape Bruny Interim Volunteer Program Handover, Lorraine, Deb, Bernard, John and Craig.

Caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage

Wildcare appoints its first CEO

Earlier this year, Wildcare took the historic step of appointing a Chief Executive Officer. This planned move took account of the significant growth occurring in the organisation, the ongoing requirement for increased governance and the identified need for a dedicated individual to attend to many of the strategic issues that were previously carried out by the co-chairs.

The role is part-time and the person appointed is Malcolm MacDonald.

In this article, Malcolm talks about his background, the role and some of his aspirations for Wildcare over the next 12 months.

I am delighted to have been appointed to the role of CEO. Wildcare is a unique organisation with many strengths. From the outset, I have clearly recognised that one of its major strengths is you, and people like you, who have put their hand up to become involved.

Today, Wildcare has a strong membership base of over 5,000.

While acknowledged as a strength, I also see the membership base as an ongoing challenge. A robust communication strategy is needed so that we are able to communicate with each of you in a meaningful way and offer opportunities for engagement.

Do you remember why you joined?

Are those aspirations being realised through effective engagement?

These are key questions and they need to be addressed continually.

Let me tell you something about myself

I am a Tasmanian, born in Hobart. I moved to Launceston in 1983. My professional career has involved service with a life insurance company, money market dealer, merchant bank, superannuation fund and the banking industry.

In 1986, I founded my own management consulting group, Malcolm MacDonald & Associates, and have continued to own and operate the business from inception.

The firm offers management consulting, education, event management and fundraising services. Its client base includes private clients, tertiary educational institutions, public sector agencies, not-for-profit organisations and professional groups.

Of special relevance is the extensive work my firm continues to perform for the not-for-profit sector. It is actively involved in such areas as governance, strategic and business planning, marketing, event management, fundraising and sponsorship.

I am keen to apply these skills to Wildcare, share my experience and knowledge and build capacity.

What's on my to-do list?

As you can probably imagine, there is a myriad of things just six weeks into the job. I continue to learn.



Changes will be made, but this will be done through consultation, listening and identifying what is in the best interests of Wildcare.

Three key tasks stand out: Developing and implementing a strategic plan for the organisation. The existing plan has come to the end of its life and creation of a new plan will be an exciting development.

The plan will map Wildcare's future and your input will be important in this context. Compiling and implementing a practical fundraising plan to assist with the task of building a sustainable organisation.

Putting in place a robust communication strategy, inclusive of all those who have an interest in Wildcare and wish to share in, and contribute to, its future.

I cannot perform the task without you

This article started off talking about you and I would like to finish on that note.

I believe that people are the only asset that truly appreciates in an organisation. Whether you are a member of the Board, a member of Wildcare, a sponsor, a donor, an employee of the Parks & Wildlife Service or a stakeholder in some other capacity, it is important for me to say that your contribution is valued and really counts.

It is my practice to operate with an open door policy. I would always be pleased to hear from you, should you have an idea, suggestion or recommendation or simply wish to discuss something of importance to you.

I give you a commitment to listen actively.

With teamwork, everyone achieves more. The future that I envisage for Wildcare is one where we can build on the wonderful platform already established through the dedication of others, and extend Wildcare's work in exciting ways for the betterment of Tasmania, the State that we are proud to call home.

Malcolm MacDonald
CEO, Wildcare Inc
CEO@wildcaretas.org.au
(03) 6334 3990

Go on – Get Outside

Wildcare Inc in 2012 was funded by the Scanlon Program to deliver the Get Outside and Connect to your Island Home Project (GO). This project was to support people from a Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background, to encourage them to get outside and connect to Tasmania both physically (through experiences with nature) and socially (through connecting with Wildcare volunteers and each other).

This project dramatically increased the opportunities and experiences for people new to Tasmania - resulting in a deepening of their sense of belonging to the Tasmanian community.

Within the Get Outside (GO) Project there were many participants and partners and the relationships between people are multi-layered and complex. The four main groups are:

New Tasmanians: The GO Project has focused on new Tasmanians from the Polytechnic in Hobart and International Students currently participating in the Tasmanian University Community Friends and Network Programme.

Get Outside Wildcare Team: The GO team has consisted of one facilitator (one day per week) and 15 volunteers. The volunteers have been recruited from the Wildcare general member database and are people interested in sharing their love of bushwalking with people new to Tasmania. Volunteers and leaders have undertaken cross cultural training provided by the Migrant Resource Centre.

Wildcare Groups: Wildcare volunteer groups undertaking volunteer work in reserves provide both the additional activities for new Tasmanians to become involved with and the network of people, and exposure to nature based activities in the state.

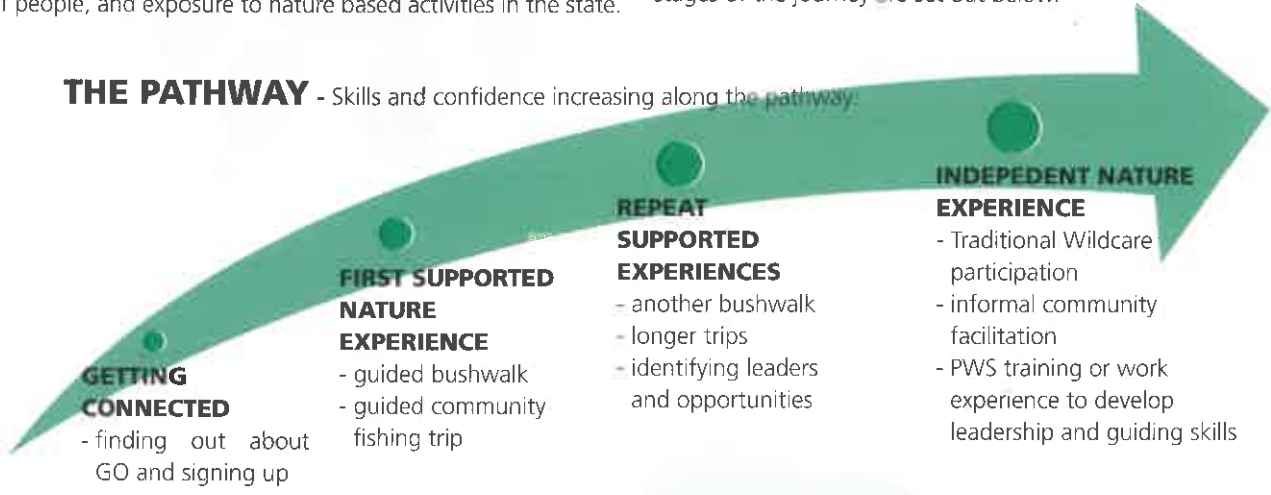


Get Outside participants, both new and old Tasmanians, enjoying getting to the top of Bishop and Clerk - Maria Island. The GO project has targeted 10 local groups (57 people) because of their proximity of activities close to Hobart.

The Parks and Wildlife Service Staff: The GO project is working very closely with the PWS Discovery Ranger Program (every GO event has a Discovery Ranger present) and with the PWS rangers in the field. The PWS have also designated a GO Program Coordinator to ensure their participation in and support for the program.

The pathway of this project comprises 4 distinct stages. Each participant gains skills and confidence along the pathway. The stages of the journey are set out below.

THE PATHWAY - Skills and confidence increasing along the pathway.



Elias, originally from Ethiopia, enjoys a trip to the Painted Cliffs - Maria Island.



Shokat from the Hobart Hazarra community enjoying time at Fortescue Bay on a Get Outside event.



FINDINGS:

Pathway progression – What has been identified is that all new Tasmanians travel along this same pathway.

They travel along this pathway at different speeds, some even skipping stages or repeating the same step numerous times but it is the **same** pathway for any participant no matter what their background. This has implications for GO project delivery.

The first stage (**Getting Connected**) for Wildcare, was initially difficult and time consuming. However six months into the program, contacts and relationships were established and the investment is paying off.

The project has identified that the second stage (**First supported nature based experience**) for Wildcare was about: training up volunteers (cross cultural training essential), transport (it is easy to hire a bus but important to also utilise public transport routes) and accessing enough protective clothing – rounding up a supply of raincoats and warm jackets and hats is essential.

The project also identified two very different types of Wildcare volunteers, with very different roles, both essential for the project to be successful. These are

People oriented people are the volunteers working in the project who care about people, have affinity with people and who want to share their love of place with people.

Place oriented people are volunteers working on the project who care about place, have affinity with place and want other people to share their love of place.

Leadership across gender lines - It became apparent that leadership uptake in the project is divided across genders.

For example the women that have partaken in the project so far are taking leadership in the cooking whilst the men are taking leadership in the physical activities – i.e. harder bushwalks.

Time frame – A first nature experience of one whole day is good, and a repeated nature experience of three days generates a significant increase in skills and confidence.

That place affects experience –

That first time nature experiences close to Hobart with public transport options were great. The choice of Maria Island as an extended three day nature experience worked extremely well.

The experience of a boat trip (a safe boat with friends), the experience staying at a historic penitentiary (comfortable beds with friends) and long mountain climbs (a journey for fun with friends) has had a significant healing impact on many of the participants.

Independent nature based experiences have not yet been pursued by participants at this stage of the project. The participants certainly want to come on events organised by the GO project, but have not yet progressed to independent experiences.

It is thought that independent nature based experiences might progress more rapidly if a more resilient structure supported by Wildcare and led by a CALD participant, was put in place.

Recommendation: From participant to leader

Seek support for one more year of funding to develop a Wildcare Group that consists of these current participants undertaking training and leadership roles in the group whilst being supported.

This formalised group structure will then give long term support to these activities being available in the long term for newly arrived Tasmanians.

The aim is to develop skills and confidence levels that will allow the participants to volunteer as GO community leaders.



20 new Tasmanians, 10 old Tasmanians, 1 Discovery Ranger and 1 Wildcare project officer - the ingredients for a very good time in our national parks.

Friends of Melaleuca

Working Bee March 2013

This year's Friends of Melaleuca working bee was organised by Janet Fenton, President of Friends of Melaleuca Wildcare Inc, and scheduled from Saturday 16-23 of March. The aim was to tackle a variety of projects in the World Heritage Area of Melaleuca and on the private leaseholds of the Fenton/King family at Melaleuca North and the Willson family at Melaleuca South.

Janet and Geoff Fenton flew in early in the week, and with a wary eye to the weather forecasts, Qug McKendrick King flew in on the Friday, clearly making the right call. With all flights cancelled on the Saturday, the rest of us - Barbara Willson, Craig Saunders, Erika Shankley, Chris Creese, Stevie-jean Paine and Mick and Helen Statham - finally took off late on Sunday morning. We spent the first afternoon settling in, having site and safety briefings, and meeting camp ground hosts Natsuko Hashimoto (Nat) and Darren Emmett who gave us a run down on the communication equipment located in the Parks Staff Quarters.

Monday morning saw us splitting into small teams. It was a typical south west grey day with some showers, but spirits were high and we all went merrily about our various jobs:

Craig tackled the heavy scrub around the Loader Shed and Red Shed with the brush cutter, ably assisted by Nat and Darren, who carted away the heaps of debris; and joined in the afternoon by Parks Ranger Jeremy Hood, who helped start wire brushing the rusty iron.

Janet, Geoff, Barbara, Erika and Chris salvaged and sorted heritage and private items from oils and other rubbish in Red Shed.

Qug, Stevie-jean, Mick and I went to Claytons. This was the first of three trips to Claytons by various teams to prepare and paint windows and doors in the main living room and kitchen; replace a sheet of broken glass; clear the Mt Beattie track; assess and spray new rhododendron sproutings following last season's mammoth cut and paste job; list useful and waste materials on site; plan a small shed to house wood and maintenance tools; and check out the loo situation. With so many boat people visiting Claytons, a functional loo is deemed essential.

The following days (mostly overcast and sometimes raining) flew by, and many jobs on Janet's list were able to be ticked off.

Thanks to a valiant team effort the Loader Shed preparation, priming and painting was accomplished by the end of Wednesday - the only sunny day all week.



Qug removing broken glass at Claytons.



Trailer ride home from dinner at Barbara's.

Several maintenance jobs at Melaleuca South were tackled by Chris, Craig, Qug and Stevie-jean, including reroofing Barbara's store; cleaning her chimney; digging out drains; replacing iron on the annex shed next to Barbara's new workshop; and de-nailing and stacking usable timber and firewood salvaged from sheds being demolished by Parks staff. Amongst other jobs, Erika and Barbara worked together to record GPS positions of Rallinga mine sites and sheds, began mapping the Rallinga mine site and photographed heritage sites and objects as well as our work activities.

Meanwhile at Melaleuca North, Geoff worked with various assistants determining what needs doing under the house in terms of restumping and side wall support, prior to the more visible long term job of reroofing and relining - a big job that I certainly was happy to leave to others! When Qug wasn't digging with him she was often found clearing drains, repairing paths or cleaning roofs. Down the garden path, Craig and Mick also had their turn in the mud as they restumped the front of the museum and rehung the door. Photos of museum and mining articles were taken, as part of a more formal museum development proposal. A bit further down the garden, Stevie-jean swung the mattock to remove ferns from beneath the orchard trees, and Mick and I had great fun digging the hole and constructing a shelter for the magnificent loo Sally had built last year. By the waterfront, Chris worked on the old Southern Cross engine, got it going and also measured it up for new bearers.

Out on the buttongrass, Craig brush-cut a firebreak around the Melaleuca North lease, and Nat and Darren worked on drainage of the track to the walkers' huts.

Between jobs there was time for chatter over numerous cups of teas and coffee, often a swim in the late afternoon, and we all got together each evening for a combined dinner at either Janet, Geoff and Qug's or Barbara's, with each meal catered by a different person or pair - a very pleasant way to unwind, chat and laugh about the day and plan the next one.

I haven't mentioned Janet much, but she had done all the planning leading up to the working bee and was busy all week supervising, advising, or helping in most projects in her calm friendly way, as well as making us all feel very welcome and appreciated.

A very happy and productive time was had by all of us attending.

Helen Statham

Best of Human Qualities

WOW what a summer! Fire Response and recovery has been huge challenge for PWS, other agencies and the Community. Given that, I do feel both grateful and proud that the Volunteer Program in all its diversity has managed to help out.

PWS staff when I have been catching up with them, have used words for the volunteer contribution like; "seamless, reliable, the volunteers have dealt with a lot of incidents this year, competent remote communication, great assistance with fire response, hardworking", and more.

Well.. like many remote journeys I've been on to beautiful parts of our planet, this summer has felt like a journey, with a whole bunch of very diverse people – what an amazing thing eg Friends of Groups, Campground Hosts, Caretakers, conveners, organizing working bees, Rangers, Field Officers, some from here, some from a little further away, some from a long way away. Everyone, in their own way, has brought the 'Best of Human Qualities' to help out over summer. Every time a PWS person would make a comment about the great assistance from Volunteers, I'd find myself saying in my head "thankyou".

My thoughts would often go, in reflection, to the many places and faces over the summer ie to the stalwart, Friends of Groups, many of whom don't hear much from me, yet beaver away with their local Ranger getting lots of useful work done for the field centre, as well as writing applications for funding to enable us to keep doing useful things together; or to the snippets of training/induction or visits to Campground Hosts and Caretakers, which would bring a big smile to me; through some comment or interaction I would really appreciate the uniqueness of each individual Volunteer and Parks person.

We did achieve a lot to be proud of... sure there were tricky times when we were all under the pump, the sort when talked about together will become insights that serve us well in the future.

Yet in sitting here tonight working out what I wanted to convey in this edition of Wildtimes, being a sailor, I'm reminded of



a favorite book called "Northern Light" by Rolf Bjelke and Deborah Shapiro. They set out on a 33,000 mile voyage which they called North Ice – South Ice. At the end of their Voyage they wrote that they took their hats off to the 'Best of Human Qualities', respect, kindness, and generosity of spirit, being the most valuable resources generated onboard and gratefully accepted from the outside world. These qualities made the voyage a success.

So too, did I think of the words describing the qualities of Volunteers and PWS staff that have made this season of volunteering a success ie... commitment, flexibility, hard work, team working, understanding, empathy, humor, collaboration, self reliance, problem solving, appreciation, creativity, competence to name a few...

With a breath..... I pause with those thoughts, my gratitude comes to the fore

Many many thanks to all who have been volunteers or supported volunteers this summer season. We have made a significant contribution to the management of Parks we care about.

Your human qualities your effort and contribution is very much appreciated in whatever capacity it was offered.

Kind Regards

Pip Gowen Regional Volunteer Facilitator (South)

Volunteer Training Program - Update!

All training will also be advertised on the "what's on" page of nature hub website www.naturehub.org.au Please check the site regularly for updates and new opportunities.

Event	Date 2013	Venue	Cost	Open to	RSVP	Additional Information
Revegetation techniques field day and training	15 March 9:45-12:45	Calverts Hill Nature Reserve (Meet at Sandford Hall, 949 South Arm Hwy)	Free	All Southern Region	Understory Network	Learn about the latest techniques and products available
In Safe Hands Workshop	20 March	Hobart, register for details	Free	All Southern Region	insafehands@cva.org.au	Run by Conservation Volunteers Australia
Apply First Aid (workplace II senior first aid) 2 day course	15-16 April 9:00-4:30	Margate Community Hall 1744 Channel Hwy	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator by 1 April	Examples used will be relevant to land/coast care
ChemCert – chemical accreditation 2 day course	1-2 May 9:00-4:00	Tas Polytechnic, Clarence Campus	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator by 14 April	This is a tailored course with NRM specific information
ChemCert – chemical accreditation 2 day course	8-9 May 9:00-4:00	Tas Polytechnic, Clarence Campus	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator by 14 April	This is a tailored course with NRM specific information
Safe use of chemicals for weed control	19 May Half day	Clarence Region, venue and time TBC	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator by 1 May	Combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills
Safe use of chemicals for weed control	22 May Half day	Hobart/Kingborough Region, venue & time TBC	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator by 1 May	Combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills
Safe use of chemicals for weed control	26 May Half day	Huon Valley Region, venue & time TBC	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator by 1 May	Combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills
Brushcutter use and safety -National Statement of Achievement	26 May 9:30-12	Hosted by Rosny-Montagu Bay Land/Coast Care (location TBA)	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator	Participants must have prior brushcutting experience and provide their own protective gear. Assessment by Skills Institute Tasmania
Apply First Aid (workplace II senior first aid) 1 day course	18 June 9:00-4:30	Clarence Region, Venue TBC,	Free	All Southern Region	Your local program coordinator by 1 June	Examples used will be relevant to land/coast care

This exciting new volunteer training program has been developed which aims to support community groups:

1. To ensure they have at least one nominated person qualified in first aid;
2. to ensure they have at least one nominated person equipped with the skills needed to safely handle chemicals and equipment; and
3. to provide an opportunity to attend informative and inspirational workshops and presentations to assist group members in understanding ecological, site planning and bush regeneration principles.

Raptor and Wildlife Refuge of Tasmania Inc.

HELPING THEM TO SOAR AGAIN



The Raptor and Wildlife Refuge at Kettering, provides assistance with maintenance of facilities and educational visits. Craig Webb is the mastermind behind the centre, rehabilitating birds of prey that have been injured, and releasing them back to the wild.

The site consists of a number of very large flight aviaries, smaller enclosures and an education centre. Part of the site is off-limits to all visitors, with some enclosures available for school groups to view and study raptors.

The primary purpose of the site is to rehabilitate injured birds and release them to the wild. The site is not open to the general public.

The Raptor & Wildlife Refuge of Tasmania Inc. was established by Craig Webb on a 20-acre property overlooking Kettering and the d'Entrecasteaux Channel. In 1997 Craig returned to his birthplace of Tasmania after many years in the Kimberley working as a veterinary nurse involved in all facets of wildlife care; he registered as a licensed wildlife carer with the Nature Conservation branch of Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

'The refuge clearly reflects dedication to caring for and protecting Tasmania's wildlife, and its proximity to the birds' natural habitat is a great help to rehabilitation. The planting and mulching of many native trees also provides a more natural bushland setting and privacy.'

The outstanding feature of this facility is three of the largest raptor flight aviaries in the Southern Hemisphere, purpose-built to flight train Wedge-tailed Eagles, Whitebellied Sea-Eagles, and other birds, during their recovery from injury.

The third massive flight aviary has increased flight facilities considerably, as we now have an in-house policy not to mix Whitebellied Sea-Eagles with Wedge-tailed Eagles, not to mention that these birds need a lot of care and often considerable time for rehabilitation.

'Along with the three huge flight aviaries there is a large owl aviary and nine slatted aviaries to house many and varied species of raptors, with one bank of aviaries built solely for quarantine purposes. These aviaries are proving to be a wonderful facility, and the water catchment plan is highly successful, providing a much needed resource for the refuge.'



Wedge-tailed Eagle - photo by Peter Grant

A wildlife drop-off box is situated at the entrance to cater for the many animals that are dropped off by members of the public.

It has a clipboard for details of the animal's history, as well as pet packs inside and information on contact details for Craig. It's a simple idea but is working well, with many animals already being left for care.

We aim to provide the best possible care to injured raptors and are proud to have Dr James Harris, one of the leading vets in the avian field, as our contractual vet. 'Volunteers are important in the operation of the Refuge.'

The Education Centre

'The long wait for the Education Centre at the Raptor Refuge is over and the building is complete and ready to function this year.

We are aiming to achieve, and we look forward to providing many opportunities for students to learn more about the care and protection of endangered species and all wildlife in Tasmania. 'This purpose-built Education Centre is an amazing, octagonal structure, with an inspiring steel eagle sculpture by Keith Smith adorning the top of its glass turret.

The centre has been designed not just to fit into the natural bush setting, but to captivate and hold the imagination of young and old alike.'

The inside holds surprises as well, with one-way glass viewing windows to three slatted aviaries.

These windows are set into three walls fitted with sound, acoustic-grade insulation. This lets people view birds with appropriate temperaments at close quarters.

The aviaries themselves, where birds are undergoing rehabilitation before being released back into their natural habitat, will not be accessible. 'Plans are on the drawing board for eagle, owl and smaller raptor species cameras, which will provide a direct feed into the Education Centre, not only to show these magnificent creatures without disturbing them, but also as a means of assessing and monitoring their behaviour and progress.'

(Adapted from an article in The newsletter of BirdLife Tasmania a branch of BirdLife Australia Number 68, March 2013)

*images and heading from group website



Wildcare – Thank you for helping our wildlife!

I had recently moved to the bush property we now live on. As a rehabilitator of native animals, it is a great place to do this: a private gravel track, no cars, 1.5kms in off the tarred road, alongside a small river as a boundary, plenty of good thick wet sclerophyll bushland and eventually running onto a bush Crown land reserve. How great is that!

However, I had to leave 8 joeys in my old pen, for which I was most grateful to the new owners, and I had to travel back each afternoon to finish weaning them and clean the pens, leaving at 4pm and returning about 7.30pm- all up for 2 months.

I also had to rebuild all my nursery sheds and put up the fencing and gates I required to look after joey marsupials until their release. It was a busy summer 2012.

It was then that I ran out of money and with the possum season on its way, I knew I needed a possum triage as well. Wildcare Tasmania came to my aid, offering me a grant with which I could start the build. I am very grateful for this help.

I was determined to improve on the one I had left at my previous home: it had to be taller so that the possums lived higher up; it had to be bigger, to offer more exercise opportunity to strengthen bodies; it had to be stronger so I could more easily place the branches and feeding stations up high and it definitely had to have less chance of causing me to hit my head!

Chris Mitchell was just the man to help me build it. He has been involved with Penguin Organic Gardens and is known for his own permaculture gardens and wildlife-friendly approaches to fencing.

So this is what resulted: a two section divided pen for ringtails on one side and brushtails on the other; small gauge wire for the possibility of housing pygmy possums and gliders if need be; and nearly 3 metres tall, though I still manage to hit my head!

It can also be used to house bandicoots and bettongs and potoroos if required, as I ensured it had corrugated iron dug into the ground around its base. Bandicoots cannot dig in nor possums out, anymore!

It was a race to finish it in time for new orphans in spring. The 2012 season has seen the raising of four brushtail orphan joeys who arrived in September/October 2012: little *Boo* raised from just furring, *Short Black* a tiny 87g, *Maple* and *Nippy*. All the possums were successfully released in January, as far as we can



Chris Mitchell assisting with the building of the wildlife pen.

tell, in a lovely stand of white gums and peppermints next to the river, as well as 3 ringtail joeys, the smallest one orphaned at 85g - all have done well.

The other macropod pens have helped to raise 16 Pademelon and two Bennett's wallabies during 2012-13. A good result all round and thank you again Wildcare Tasmania who helped me make the difference. One last thing - please slow down if you drive at night, especially between dusk and dawn! And do check the pouches of any dead motor vehicle victims. **It all helps.**

Oma Rodger



The works in progress are being observed by a local wallaby.

My Wilderness Experience

by Freja Cianchi

We went to Waterfall Valley, Cradle Mountain to volunteer as a hut warden for two weeks. It was an 8km walk in from Dove Lake. It took five hours to walk because my five and seven year old sisters came as well.

We walked past Cradle Mountain and stopped for a break. Finally we turned left and arrived at the hut. It was so sunny and hot for the first week that one particularly hot day we decided to explore more of the creek systems of the valley. We walked down the track to a little animal trail, and followed the trail to a cliff where we could look down into a canyon.

Looking down I could see the tops of fagus, King Billy pine and celery top trees. We heard a waterfall. I found another animal track going down into the canyon. My sister and I were nervous walking along the ledge of a cliff. Mum helped us down to the bottom where we could follow the creek up into the canyon.

When we go to the bottom of the canyon I shouted in excitement because there was a shallow creek with rocks that we could step on to get to the waterfall.

At one point we had to follow another animal track through the fagus. To think that no one had ever been here before! Then I screamed as a spider web went into my face. My seven year old sister, Indigo, helped me get the web off.

We pushed through some more bush and spider webs until we got to the end. All I could do was just stare. We had finally reached the water fall that we could hear from the top of the canyon. It was just beautiful with a waterfall gushing over a rock face covered in moss and lichen.

There was an overhang where the water went past. Indigo and I went under the overhang where we got a bit wet from the waterfall. Brrrr, cold! But once under the overhang and behind the waterfall we were safe from the freezing water. There was moss covering the rock and it was all wet from the spray of the waterfall. In front of us the waterfall was like a sheet of water.

The pool was too shallow to swim in but we still put on our swimmers. After a while of playing under the waterfall we came out of the water and ate some food in front of this most picturesque place.

We finally made our way back to tell Dad. After lunch we showed Dad the canyon. This time we were not so apprehensive but very excited to share our discovery. He was amazed at the beauty of the place. We followed him behind the waterfall.

The rest of the week at Waterfal Valley flew past doing walks in the bush and exploring. We discovered more pools while it was nice and warm.

One walk we did was to another hut in the rain further up the Overland Track. The hut was tucked in a forest of fagus and pines. It looked absolutely magical. It turned really cold, so cold in fact that the day we were planning to walk out it snowed.

Dad and Mum decided it was too dangerous to walk out today so we were stuck at the hut for another two days. I discovered the book Harry Potter so read that for two days. On the second day it got a bit warmer. Indigo and Saffron ganged up on me while we had a snow ball fight.

It was fun to play in the snow after being inside for so long but I did get wet and cold. On the third morning of our extra day

the weather was good enough for us to walk out. The walk out was nice and sunny with a sprinkle of snow showers every now and again. We saw a white lipped snake cross our path.

We came to a stream where we could fill up our water bottle with beautiful fresh water. There was snow on the trees. The contrast of white snow and the green pandanus trees as well as the brown cliffs of Cradle Mountain was truly magical.

We finally got back to the car where I said to my family "well, I have had a very magical adventure in the mountains."



What I like about our national parks

I have just taken a short Easter break on Maria Island. It was lovely to see so many young people and families enjoying themselves in the National Park.

We adults tend to take our experiences in National Parks for granted, forgetting what is so magical about these special places and so I went about asking first timers, all under 16, what they thought about the place and why spending time in National Parks was so important.

Due to the incriminating nature of some of the comments I have only included first names - here is what they had to say.

'I like living in a tent and listening to the wind and the waves whilst I go off to sleep. It's a lot quieter here than my home in Thailand.' - Pipi, age 14

'I like looking at the mountains and eating chocolate Easter eggs in bed.' - Daniel, age 5

'I like riding my bike where there are no cars – I can ride for ages and see lots of things – and get away from my mum and dad because they can't keep up with me.' - Lachlan, age 9

'I like chasing the wombats.' - Miriam, age 4

'Because there is no internet here I can't go on line and this means my brain gets a rest and I feel relaxed.' - Sunny, age 14



'I like the animals and watching them eat grass and I like sleeping in the tent with Mum.' - Phoenix, age 4

'I don't like the walking but I like playing with my friends.' - Amy, age 5

'I like relaxing with my friends and snorkelling to see the fish.' - Taylor, age 13

'I like this experience – it is different from hanging out at home.' - Jess, age 12

'I like the majesty of the place.' - Ziah, age 15

'I like riding my bike from one end of the island to the other – I get tired by the end of the day and that's fun.' - Nick, age 12

'I like watching the wombats coming out at night time. Last night we got really close to one - they are amazing to watch up close.' - Issac, age 12



Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

Wildcare Inc is proud to announce that they will be the host for the next Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (AWRC) in 2014.

The AWRC, formerly known as the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (NWRC), is a national conference for those dedicated to the welfare, rescue and rehabilitation of native wildlife.

The conference has been held annually since the inaugural event in Melbourne in 2003, but since 2010 it has become a biennial model.

In each Australian state and territory there are individuals and groups dedicated to the rehabilitation of native animals. The aim of the conference is to disseminate the latest scientific and practical information about rescue, rehabilitation and release of Australian native fauna.

The conferences also provide a forum for learning and networking. Previous conferences have had presenters from across Australia, including speakers from wildlife care organisations, government, the veterinary profession, research institutions and the RSPCA.

The conference is designed to provide a forum for discussing the range of challenges and ethical issues faced at a state and national level, with a particular focus on building relationships and working together to promote wildlife welfare and seeks to examine and contrast the varying approaches taken to wildlife rescue and rehabilitation across the country.

Previous approaches for Tasmania to host such a conference have been refused until in 2010 when some delegates from Tasmania, attending the conference in Adelaide, were approached by the AWRC Committee to host such a

conference and of course we said 'YES'.

Tasmania is the only state/territory to not have hosted this conference with Queensland now having held it twice.

This is an ideal opportunity for Tasmania to showcase our unique and distinctive fauna, as well as highlight the research and scientific advances made to help our precious wildlife, it's time for Tasmania to shine.

We have our conference committee who have already been working very hard preparing and making plans for 2014, as well as some special people working behind the scenes assisting us, with more people to come on board as we get closer to the actual conference.

The conference usually runs for four days and we will be putting out a call for presenters and papers in the coming months.

It is also a great opportunity to showcase equipment, medical supplies, wildlife craft and wildlife carer products, etc. through the trade tables on display throughout the conference. Information on previous conferences, including papers, is available at – www.awrc.org.au

As well as our conference committee being AWRC 2014 Hobart, we have two Tasmanian representatives on the AWRC committee at the national level, being Oma Rodger and Stephanie Clark, both of whom are members of Wildcare.

AWRC 2014 Hobart hopes to go 'live' in April by announcing our conference dates and venue, so watch this space for more information as it comes to hand and for details on how to be included on the mailing list for the latest news and updates.



AWRC 2014 conference committee hard at work.



Wildcare Photo Competition

Wildcare will again this year be sponsoring a photo competition open to all members.

The subject this year will be:

"Wildcare volunteering – people caring for places"

This year's prize will be \$1,000 paid to a Wildcare Branch (nominated by the winning photographer) to assist with that group's work

Any member may submit a maximum of three digital photographs, to be emailed to the Wildtimes editor at wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au no later than Friday 2 August 2013.

Photographs should be in JPEG format with file size around 1-3 MB each.

Photographs must have been taken over the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and not previously published.

The winning entry will be published on the cover of Wildtimes Issue 47 due 1 September 2013.

Entrants must make all entries available to Wildcare for publication in future issues of Wildtimes or other publications as required by Wildcare Inc.

So get those digital cameras clicking or search through those photos already in the can from this summer's work in the field. I'm sure your group could use the prize!

Jodie Epper



11 men on an island - and me!

Seven Pakistani and Afghani men recently released from Pontville detention centre have had a 'life changing' experience on Maria Island. This trip was made possible through the assistance of three volunteers and Discovery Ranger PWS Sam Cuffs.

Activities included fishing (outside the marine reserve), snorkelling, making sand sculptures, cricket, soccer, gathering for communal meals, spot lighting, walking and investigating the history of the island. This project aims to connect people new to Tasmania with both place and people.

There was much interest shown by the men in the history of the island, both the indigenous history and the European history. The Spotlighting activity at night caused lots of excitement, especially when we all worked out that the row of red eyes were actually safety reflector signs! It was nice to introduce them to the underwater world where six of the men had their very first snorkelling experience. This was an interesting exercise as most of the men could not swim. You can see a lot in chest deep water just with your head in the water. I also had fun teaching one man to float on his back.

At the closing circle I asked the men what was one thing that they would remember about the trip. Abdul, a young 20 year old man said "this trip has been the best two days of my life".

This trip was the last of the Get Outside activities for the season. It is hoped that this good work will continue next season with an emphasis on training the next generation of leaders who will be able to continue this work into the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Discovery rangers Fiona and Sarah and the team of 23 volunteers involved in the Get Outside project so far. These connections to place and to people are what make this project so successful – thank you.

Jodie Epper



Strong Family Connections to the Bruny Island Quarantine Station

At the Bruny Island Quarantine Station Open Day on 10th March, 2013 we were pleased to welcome a family group of 18, including grandchildren and great grandchildren of Ed Crane.

The Crane family came from many parts of the State, including as far away as George Town and Burnie, for the family visit.

Edward Crane took part in the second landing at Gallipoli in 1915, later lost an eye while fighting in France and on discharge from the army in 1919 was offered the role of caretaker at the Quarantine Station.

He held this position for 40 years before retiring to Dennes Point where he bought a house, which today is still used as the family shack.

The family group included descendants of John, son from Ed's first marriage to Violet Summers and other descendants from his second marriage.

Violet died of influenza when John was 8 months old and Ed married Catherine Delaney, the granddaughter of Anthony and Jane Cox (Daly), the first European settlers on the land.

The Cox family lived in the tiny Shellwood cottage from 1856 until 1884 and produced 11 children. Sadly only the foundations of the cottage remain.



Descendants of Ed Crane and Catherine (nee Delaney – granddaughter of Anthony Cox).

The senior members of the family among the visitors well remember visiting their grandparents for holidays at the Quarantine Station and contributed to knowledge about life as it was during Ed Crane's period as caretaker.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Help get the
FOX OUT
of Tasmania



Please report fox sightings or any possible evidence of fox activity to the 24 hour hotline

1300 FOX OUT
1300 369 688

All calls are strictly confidential and your information may be important

Fox Eradication Program
www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fox



CALL TO ACTION
– join the **social media storm!**



Social media is an increasingly important tool for not-for-profit organisations. Not only is it a useful communication tool, but it is invaluable in raising the profile of any organisation and contributing to its fundraising efforts.

Wildcare Inc is no exception. At the present time, we have 86 'likes' on our Facebook page. With a 2012 membership of over 4,500, we certainly have scope for increasing the popularity and use of our page.

We would encourage our members, and your friends, to visit and 'like' our Facebook page. It would be great to see our members getting involved by leaving comments. We would be happy to hear from members about their volunteer work, stories or interesting anecdotes that have occurred in your time with Wildcare.

To find us, simply type 'Wildcare Incorporated' in the search bar. We look forward to hearing from our members and seeing our 'likes' increase at our Facebook Wildcare Incorporated page!

Tree

My small nephew is teaching me how to learn our world; his chief instruction being question everything. Each day gifts him pieces of life not yet known- leaf, ant, northerly wind, eagle- of which he asks names, reasons and stories, and then pockets within his small frame. Should they meet again, he can recognize these new acquaintances, and greet by name.

We lift our heads from a game of tackles one evening to watch Crimson Rosellas racing the dusk in a sudden red pulse of song.

What are the birds saying? Why are they birds?

I distract him by pointing to the almost full moon arising over his heart shoulder, and execute a stealthy tackle. He pops up with grass in his hair and the inevitable question- why does the moon come?

I tell him that question is too big for me, and drop beside him to watch it rise over the top branches of the old pine tree. In his quietness I feel another question looming, so switch tack, asking my own, curious to hear his explanation.

What is a tree?

He is four years old, his preferred medium pure physical so he does away with words. Instead he jumps feet together, draws torso straight and stretches one arm up towards the sky, his right arm askew with an elbow crook. For magpies, he informs me.

He is all tree. A blue eyed laughing tree.

Were I to take this question to more conventional, learned realms, I would no doubt receive a wordy answer of Oxford dictionary lineage: a tree is a 'woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground'. These words bewilder me – within them I find no trace of trees.

Nor do I find traces by trawling through my education and schooling in conventional Euro-Australian institutions. I have received no guidance or instruction on how to know a tree. Define yes, classify, even describe- but know? My head is full of figures from end of semester cramming; trends in deforestation, in climate induced forest migration. Books of numbers and words to pull out in the frenzy of exams to illustrate a point, clarify an argument, but I cannot feel them in their light exact objectivity, nor comprehend the swathes of emptied land and decapitated stumps they signify.

In 1968 at the General Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in New Delhi, Baba Dioum, a representative from Senegal, spoke these words:

In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand.

1968 was an explosive year for environmental awareness. Garrett Hardin's *Tragedy of the Commons* was published, so too Paul Erhlich's *The Population Bomb*, and the first *Whole Earth Catalogue*. The decades since have been populated with scientific studies, books, articles, movies, campaigns and global summits alerting us to pressing environmental issues, calling for action and pleading for change. Forty five years later I am sitting on the grass beside a four-year-old blue-eyed laughing tree; climate change predictions for the patch of Australia we call home tell us that we are tracking for a temperature increase of between 1.5 and 5 °Celsius (depending on the

IPCC emissions scenario) in his lifetime. We don't know what this means for the world he is learning by sight, question, story. Are unsure how much it will be altered, tree by bird by lizard. It is likely that some if not most of the names and forms he has stored away, will be obsolete.

This vast global scale and rocketing pace of change shrinks me whisker width. I grasp for the light thrown by the conversation with my nephew, by his joyous physical answer, bent magpie crook. His embodied knowing -intimate, relational, individual- that travels further than word and number knowledge, and resonates.

We will conserve only what we love.

Over summer we lost a towering old lean of a candle bark to lightning strike in a sudden evening storm that raced east from the mountains. My father mourned its passing for he had known this possum hollowed tree all his life. It was an anchor point in an open stretch of country. The rain dried up again following that lightning storm, and the country burnt yellow. So every evening after feeding the dogs Dad watered the cluster of tree seedlings marked for autumn planting –as part of a design to link remnant pockets of vegetation and seed further biodiversity across our landscape. The working day on a farm is long in summer, he made it yet longer for those trees, telling me we have a forest at our feet

Pathways are lit by these acts of love, of knowing, and I follow their lead to trees I know at skin level, palm to bark.

I am told there weren't many trees on the family farm when my grandfather arrived early last century to take charge.

Their scarcity we think is due to a number of factors. Firstly the farm lies along a weave of 'naturally' treeless plains called the Monaro, where basalt soils and cold air drainage discourage forest growth. It is understood that the use of fire by the Ngarigo of the region may have helped or further enforced the big unbroken horizons. *Narawallee* is their word for this country –long grass country.

I am told there weren't many Ngarigo left either, by the time my grandfather rode down the main street of Cooma in 1928. The official story spoke of removal to Missions, but since then additional subterranean tales of massacres and poisonings have risen closer to the surface. You still have to dig.

It is a landscape defined by absence, and so one notices trees. Where they rise naturally on hill and creek bed, granite outcrop and scrubby nook, in sociable gatherings of candle bark, ribbon gum, snow gum, black wattle.

My grandfather added to their ranks with blatant disregard of both modern day protocol around species native to place, and for the early twentieth century norm of establishing only European trees out of nostalgia for homelands. Instead he bequeathed us a glorious, ecologically heretical hodge podge of an inheritance –candle bark curves white beside elm, silver poplars nod across the driveway to swamp gums, pines mingle with peppermint.

Trees known, and loved.

The run of elms he planted along the shearing shed race that we all bless each shearing when drenching, classing, drafting, branding in their shade.

The twisting pale snow gum we assume dates back pre European invasion, whose trunk provides the ideal perch for



watching the weather roll in from the mountains, a wizened pillar for contemplation. I take big questions to this tree.

The Golden Ash at the front of homestead that for each generation provides the base for *Hide and Seek* and *Spotlight* feuds, the host of tea parties and hammocks, initial tree climbing attempts, leaf fights, a natural marquee for celebrations.

This list of home trees, of known trees, stretches back through childhood -and is added to with each bush exploration and sheep muster.

Ask me now what is a tree- and I will follow the lead of my nephew, will indicate their shape, map the imprint left inside by these trees I know.

I read that there was a Sultan in Niger long ago who created the following law: People found guilty of pruning a certain tree would have their limbs amputated, and those convicted of felling trees would lose their heads.

My abhorrence of the death penalty aside, I find a beautiful sense of natural justice in these barbaric laws. They recognize a kinship and equal value- paying for a limb with a limb, a life with life-that our wake of destruction belies.

I lose this kinship when I relocate to a new city, where trees are unknown. A new process of scouting out trees and ways to fit them into my days begins, and I realize I have to be systematic in this urban jungle scarce of trees. There's a slender spotted gum that marks the halfway point on my ride to work. It breathes wild elegance into my mornings.

A sprawling dash of black wattle saplings at the top end of my local park bolster me up when I feel less substantial than a seedling. Lithe, vital and full of dance they send me springing. I am yet to locate a big question tree.

These efforts are teaching me that there is nothing quite so steady after a computer rimmed, human and word bounded day as busting out of the office, heading straight for a tree and taking time to get acquainted. It is so easy to forget in this people dominated realm that we have other kin, and that our clever words and complicated numbers are pointless if they fail to take us past head level to the heart. Only when we reach this chamber are we more likely to water the little forest at our feet.

In his famous essay titled *Self Reliance* Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote 'being sure of the information when he wants it, the man in the street does not know a star in the sky. The solstice he does not observe; the equinox he knows as little; and the whole bright calendar of the year is without a dial in his mind'.

The wealth and assured certainty of information in this saturated age is blinding us to a bright world. We no longer know, bodily, at heart depth, and so distance grows. A distance that enables us to call up the honor roll of extinctions, environmental degradation and mass destruction, and yet feel detached. So detached that we pause only briefly before marching on.

To remove this distance we need all available spaces within to be crammed with tree knowing, bird trace, star book, wind map, so that we glow with all the 'bright calendars of the year'.

The alternative is horrific. Experts say we have less (much less) than ten years to prevent the unthinkable – a planet pushed beyond the point of life for many organisms.

The 2012 State of the Worlds Forest Report found that if deforestation rates continue at their current level, it will take 775 years to 'lose all of the world's forests'.

Can anyone truly comprehend the reality of a forestless world?

In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand.

The urgency makes me tremble. I want to climb to the top of the towering mountain ash forests that mark my way home and holler, awaken us all from slumber. Slice through passivity and crumple apathy but these approaches haven't worked; so far nothing, be it apocalyptic visions, cautionary tales, extreme weather events, global campaigns, has worked on a big enough scale to force a sizeable shift to the current steady course.

I sit beside my blue eyed laughing tree, so small against the sky, and ponder his big questions.

I can only begin here, with him, small in our wonder.

Tell him gifts that grow wonder, that:

Scientists believe larch trees remember caterpillar attacks, and so alter their leaf structures the following year. Studies have found that if trees are shaken, they remember that shake, and grow thicker.

Trees remember.

Biologists are studying a tree in Costa Rica that is host to 4000 different species, and the count is rising yet.

Despite modern science, exploration, classification, colonization, we simply don't know the total number of tree species in the world. We are still counting.

A recent US Forest Service study found that in areas invaded by the emerald ash borer, an infestation that led to mass diebacks of ash trees, there has been an associated increase in human mortality rates. The relationship 'between trees and human health' the study finds, is very strong- but they can't comprehensively explain why.

I receive far greater gifts in return:

rekindled awe

a questioning eye

and a blue-eyed laughing tree.

Each day in the city I find more trees to know. The park across the road from my office is blessed with Moreton Bay Figs that sprawl wide and tall. At the start of challenging days I find one to stand beneath. Five minutes is all I need as peak hour traffic swells. I trace the firm lipped roots up trunk, through leaves to sky; am small in its shadow and cool in its shade.

This incredible being is self-building, self-feeding, oxygen, shade and shelter giving; has grown through sun, wind, heat and rain.

In those brief minutes beneath the tree I grow tall knowing we are kin, for that same life force flows in me.

in us.

Discard all numbers and hold to that.

WILDCARE Inc CLOTHING ORDER FORM

Note: prices include GST and postage to Australian address.



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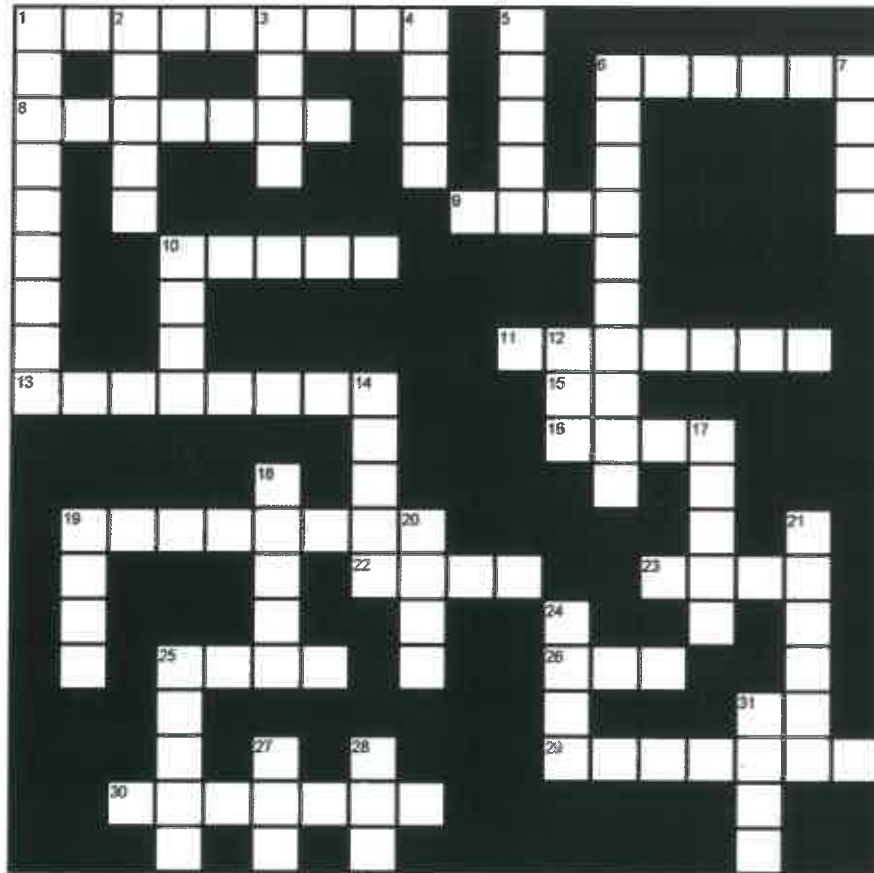
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Marine and Coastal Crossword ★ ★



ACROSS

1. Creatures that glue themselves to rocks, boats or even whales are called _____
6. A marine reptile that has four legs and scaly skin _____
8. Sea creatures covered with spines _____
9. Often after storms you can find many _____ bottles washed up on the shore _____
10. _____ is a very important food source for many whales _____
11. Animals that are different from each other and don't mate are called different _____
13. Huge and like velvety slugs, _____ snails can be found in the shallow water _____
15. Chitons are molluscs that look a bit like slaters. Usually you will see them stuck _____ rocks _____
16. The Marine Reserve habitats of the Kent Group National Park include shallow and _____ water reefs as well as sponge beds _____
19. The Spotted Handfish is only found in _____
22. A _____ is a crustacean with a flat shell, five pairs of legs and claws or pincers _____
23. The Butterfly shell is _____ centimetres long. _____
25. Animals with fins and gills _____
26. A long slippery marine creature _____
29. No _____ is allowed in Tasmania's Marine Reserves _____
30. Marine Reserves are fantastic places to _____

5. Many sea creatures are covered with a hard _____ to protect them from prey such as birds _____
6. Animals and plants that are very rare are called _____ species _____
7. Some rays and sharks keep their _____ in a camouflaged case while they develop _____
10. Big brown seaweed that creates underwater forests is called _____
12. A group of dolphins is called a _____
14. Detergents, fuel and oil can be _____ to marine life _____
17. The _____ whale is the most common whale to strand in Tasmania _____
18. Marine Reserves are like under water National _____
19. Please do not _____ any living or dead material from marine reserves _____
20. Octopuses have eight _____
21. The creature pictured above is a type of seahorse called a sea _____
24. A narrow ridge of rocks near the surface of water that are dangerous to boats _____
25. Tasmania's Marine Reserves protect a diverse amount of flora and _____
27. Australian fur seals _____ wholly protected _____
28. Fairy penguins spend most of their life at _____
31. Marine Reserves are good breeding ground for _____

DOWN

1. The largest animal that has ever lived _____
2. Look under _____ to find crabs and other creatures _____
3. _____ shells can shoot venomous darts into their prey _____
4. _____ snails crawl under the surface of the water shallows _____

www.parks.tas.gov.au





Restumping the hut at Melaleuca.



A Tasmanian Devil gets a hand from Wildcare volunteers.



Southern Wildlife Rescue and Care post bush fire support team



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

