

WILD TIMES

Edition 47 September 2013



**HUON ISLAND AND CHRISTMAS ISLAND
GET MAKE OVERS**

FRIENDS OF MOUNT FIELD RESTORE BELCHERS HUT

THE 2013 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Editorial

Well, Spring is certainly in the air and with it a feeling of movement. Light is returning to our beautiful island and the cycle starts all over again. I can almost hear the movement of the sap in trees and I watch fondly as the birds in the gardens get about their chores. If you are lucky, you can drink the snow melting off the mountains via the creeks and gullies that are flowing down to the sea.

Death, just as life, is part of this cycle and I am sad to see a dear friend and contributor of Wildcare – Craig Saunders – has been lost to us. Craig was not only Wildcare’s Treasurer and previous Editor of this newsletter, he was a Wildcare Board member and an avid participant in many working bees and groups around the state. Please see the article on the opposite page for a look at his enormous contribution to Wildcare.

Wildcare is pleased to feature Friends of Mount Field who have recently restored Belchers Hut; an exciting three day adventure to a little visited island called Christmas Island coordinated by the Friends of Freycinet; and a celebration of 10s with friends of Maatsyker Island celebrating their 10th birthday and a successful contribution as part of the Ten Days on the Island.

Congratulations to the winner of this year’s photographic competition. This year the theme was People Caring for Places



as you can see with the selection of photographs from the entries on page 16 and page 17. The winning entry featured on the front of this *Wildtimes* has won \$1000 and has donated that money to Friends of Tasman Island Thanks again to the judges for giving their time to the competition.

Lastly in this edition we have the sought-after Wildcare Lighthouse Calendar order forms - page 12 and selected items from the Wildcare shop are available for purchase.

Jodie Epper – Editor

WILDCARE Gift Fund Donations

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

Tracey Simpson, Andrew Smith, Phillip Wyatt, Fr James Collins, Brigid Watson, Lisa Marshall, Tracey Gregory, Dick Smith, Barbara Enraght-Moony, Graham Family Funerals, J Clayton Isles & E Orr Isles, A Mackenzie, Ross Baguley, Open Gardens Australia, Dr Marion Lustig, Dr Julie Lustig, Melinda Lambourne, Craig Saunders Funeral Service Donations, Stephen Bennett, John Hamilton & Jean Taylor

Wildtimes Publication Schedule

EDITION #	COPY DEADLINE	PUBLICATION
48	1 December 2013	1 January 2014
49	1 April 2014	1 May 2014
50	1 August 2014	1 September 2014

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

ON THE FRONT COVER:

This years winner of the 2013 photography competition goes to Ian Ross with the photo, “Hello Tasman Tower, landing calling – Will Forsythe with the original phone at Tasman landing – Tasman Island.



Farewell Craig...

Craig Saunders was an extraordinary person, and was very well known to Wildcare Group Presidents. He was involved in many different aspects of Wildcare for over 12 years. He was a board member, treasurer, past Wildtimes editor as well as an avid group participant. Here are just some of the things people have said about his contribution to volunteering and the environment.

Craig Saunders was an inspiration - a person who wanted to live forever in order to do all the things he wanted to do. He managed to do more than most of us, driven by his enthusiasm, sense of adventure and incurable curiosity.

Craig's contribution to Wildcare Inc was enormous, as Treasurer and Board member, and through his position of PWS Volunteer Facilitator. Hundreds of people now participate in the conservation and care of Tasmania's natural and cultural environment and heritage as a result of Craig's ability to encourage, welcome and support volunteers. Many people are now involved in life-changing experiences. Craig's enthusiasm, boundless energy and creative thinking is sadly missed.

Craig was a volunteer extraordinaire who lived life to the full - cycling, sea canoeing as well as a member of the Huon Concert Band. Craig will be fondly remembered by many FoTI members for his help through Wildcare & his work as a volunteer coordinator & as a volunteer himself. He is sadly missed.

Craig was incredibly highly regarded colleague and friend and does continue to inspire me in my life .



Craig was always so patient (and persistent!) with us in our early days re any financial enquiries/transactions until we had everything, more or less, running smoothly. Sadly he never made it to Tasman but I am sure it was on his bucket list.

Craig was an inspiration.



The Problem with Lake Belcher

A report from Greg Kidd on the problems the Friends of Mount Field encountered in the effort to repair the hut at Lake Belcher in Mount Field National Park.

LAKE BELCHER HUT – MOUNT FIELD

Lake Belcher Hut sits on a mound of glacial till in the Humboldt River valley surrounded by Mount Mawson, Florentine Peak and Tyenna Peak.

In January 2011 the Friends of Mount Field (FOMF) had a working bee to paint its exterior. This was just a temporary measure as many of the old Tas-oak vertical boards were in a bad state of repair.

In fact some of the boards were so rotten that they crumbled when touched!

THE SOLUTION - Apply for a small Wildcare Grant!

FOMF was successful in June 2011 and purchased a 200 metre pack of premium treated pine boards (100mm x 25mm).

These timbers were air dried for six months, pre-cut to various sizes (for specific replacement), and the best face had its two edges planed and then given two coats of paint.

The prepared timber was trailered to the Mount Field helipad, strapped and ready to go. At the time the managers at Mount Field thought that they might be able to have it airlifted however funding constraints meant that this was not possible.

One member of our group estimated that to carry in 30 boards (2.5metres) for the replacement of the rotting north-west wall, it would take about 90 person hours (a return trip is normally 5 hours)!

The 4 fascia boards (5 metres) and remaining assorted lengths would take.

THE SOLUTION - Apply for another Wildcare Grant!

Again successful (to the tune of \$850), the FOMF spirits were lifted as we waited for the opportunity for a helicopter to be in the vicinity and could make a small deviation.

Over time there were a number of delays. On Tuesday 9 April



Back of the hut – photo by Greg Kidd

2013, whilst Peter Franklin and I were cutting and pasting boneseed (with Conservation Volunteers) in the foothills of Mount Wellington, a phone call from Helicopter Resources came, and they said they planned to lift the timber on the next day or two. YES!!

With an eye on the weather forecasts and with less daylight hours we saw a window of opportunity on May 8.

Greg Bell, Dave Tucker and myself met at Granton at 6.00am and were joined by John Blyth at the Mount Field Visitor Centre. With a clear sky and four 'keener than mustard' volunteers it was full steam ahead.

A very pleasing outcome for all the team knowing that the Lake Belcher Hut would now be able to withstand many more winters.

But alas there's more!

The corrugated iron is rusting and four lengths of flashing to cover the fascias would finish it off.

Another Wildcare Grant????



After removing the wall – photo by Greg Kidd



After the wall has been replaced – photo by Greg Kidd



From the CEO's desk

In the May edition, I introduced myself. In each future issue it is my intention to publish a regular column to keep you informed of progress with my various activities as CEO and keep you up-to-date with key decisions made by Wildcare's Board.

I mentioned in the last issue that a robust communication strategy was needed so that we are able to communicate with each other in a meaningful way and offer opportunities for engagement. Wildtimes is an important communication medium to help address that need.

Strategic plan 2013-2016

This has been one of the key developments in recent months.

The former plan had come to the end of its life. The new plan has been created as the result of feedback from an online survey conducted with a range of stakeholders and a one-day workshop in which Directors of Wildcare participated.

The plan identifies five strategic areas where we will focus our efforts over the next three years. These are Marketing and communication, Stakeholder and community engagement, Governance, Emerging opportunities and Sustainability of operations.

Communication is at the heart of everything we do. It will come as no surprise, therefore, that this is the dominant strategic focus in the plan. Actions have been identified to enhance communication and delivery of services to members and make communication with branches, groups and volunteers relevant and timely. The need to make Wildcare's online presence more contemporary, effective and user-friendly has been acknowledged in the plan, as has the need to increase recognition of the Wildcare brand.

Governance is an ongoing work-in-progress.

Stakeholder and community engagement is a vital strategy and necessity to achieve successful conservation outcomes. It starts with the valued relationship with our principal partner, Parks and Wildlife Service. Engagement creates supporters, partners, advocates, sponsors and champions. Wildcare recognises and accepts that by engaging more people and expanding audience groups, an expectation for, and commitment to, conservation will result.

Emerging opportunities are an exciting strategic focus. Our actions recognise the continually changing operating environment and the need for timely identification and evaluation of emerging conservation issues. There is also the broader opportunity that Wildcare offers to progress social inclusion in Tasmania through targeted initiatives and mainstream projects that address cultural barriers and isolation, promote health and wellbeing and build skills and knowledge.

Sustainability is critical to successful achievement of outcomes. Wildcare has identified a range of strategic actions aimed at delivering sustainable operations, observing prudent financial management and deriving the most from limited resources.

The plan is currently in draft form and will be the subject of discussion at the Board meeting in mid-August. Once it is finalised, the plan will be posted to the website.

Financial management appointments

Wildcare has recently filled the part-time contract position of Finance Officer. Lindie Lupo starts in August 2013.

Carol Pacey will continue to play a key role in branch liaison, data entry and accounts processing. Many of you expressed praise for Carol's work and we have been very pleased to retain her



valued services in the restructuring of the finance function.

Friends of Tasman Island

I was pleased to facilitate a one-day workshop to assist Friends of Tasman Island to develop their strategic plan.

A draft plan has been produced, aligned to that of Wildcare. Friends are now going through the process of reviewing the draft with a view to adopting the plan by the end of September.

Annual report 2013

Wildcare operates on the calendar year. As part of a more robust communication strategy, it is intended this year to produce a comprehensive report, showcasing projects from around the State and highlighting what Wildcare is all about.

Contributions from you by way of text and photos are most welcome.

Implementation of the strategic plan, in all its facets, will be the prime driver of my future activities. Please contact me at any time to discuss an issue, seek guidance or pass on information. Your contribution is very much valued.

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



Let's boost our presence online together!

The last issue of the Wildtimes newsletter encouraged members and their friends to 'like' our Facebook page. We have had some success with our likes increasing to 131 at the present time - that is an increase of around 45 people. There is still a way to go though, with our goal being to reach 6,000.

It is great to see stories and photos of work being done to help wildlife, the environment and cultural heritage through links to group pages and individual members. We would encourage you to continue keeping us all informed about your efforts.

Our Facebook page is a great place to let the world know about your group, its needs and what it is doing to make a difference in the world! Help raise our profile by encouraging your friends and family to 'like' our page so we can help you!

To find us, simply type 'Wildcare Incorporated' in the search bar. We look forward to seeing our 'likes' grow!

From our Appointed Co-Chair...

This year has been one of continuing great work by our groups and members. The work undertaken by members, whether in the field for days on end, working on a roster, spending the afternoon weeding, caring for wildlife 24/7 or assisting in the Wildcare office every week, is outstanding.

There have been some new things happening this year too. The Get Outside program, providing opportunities for recent immigrants, including refugees, to get out into our parks, with the support and friendship of Wildcare members and Parks staff, has been a life changing experience for both participants and leaders.

The funding for this program comes from the Scanlon Foundation and thankfully they have agreed to fund a second year of the program.

Together with Parks and Wildlife Service, Wildcare will grow this program, building connections, providing a welcome and helping to develop a sense of belonging and place for people who are now part of our community.

Tasmania's wild places are helping to heal and strengthen people and build relationships.

We all know they can do that – after all its part of why we spend as much time as we can in the outdoors, in the bush, in reserves. Many volunteers see the motivation for what they do as paying back to the environment that has given so much.

I would like to thank two key staff involved with the delivery of this program – Jodie Epper, the Wildcare Facilitator and Sam Cuff, Interpretation and Education Officer with the Parks and Wildlife Service.

They have made a great team and have made a great difference to many people's lives.

Wildcare has also received funding from the Save the Devil Fund to establish a Friends of the Devil network to support the Devil conservation program.

Over time volunteers will build the skills to provide assistance to the education program, captive management, roadkill surveys and so on. If you are interested in being involved in either of these programs contact Jodie for more information wildcarefacilitator@gmail.com

Discussions began during the year about establishing an Oil Spill Response network, dedicated to wildlife rescue and care following oils spills. This network is modelled on the Wildcare Whale Stranding First Response Team network.

Hopefully members will never be called on because we won't see an oil spill occur – however, we will have people ready to respond if that happens. Oil spills in the past in Tasmania, and all over the world, have demonstrated the value of volunteers when it comes to clean-up and caring for wildlife affected by the spill. Keep an eye on the web page for when these groups are established.

Wildcare appointed a CEO during the year. This is a significant step for the organisation, reflecting the size, scope and complexity of the organisation nowadays.

Malcolm Macdonald was appointed and has since been working on a strategic plan, various governance issues, fundraising approaches, meeting stakeholders and partners and so on.

Malcolm intends to be out and about a bit so keep an eye out for him in your area.

There are a number of people who tirelessly work in the background and often get overlooked who I would like to thank ...

Jodie Epper for her efforts in the role of Facilitator, and coordinator of the Get Outside program and Friends of the Devil projects.

Malcolm MacDonald, the CEO, who although only recently appointed is already having a positive effect on the way Wildcare operates and governs itself. The future has always been bright for Wildcare but Malcolm is really buffing up the shine.

Carol Pacey, Wildcare's bookkeeper, is a familiar contact for groups, Presidents and Treasurers. Carol does a great job, without fuss, making sure the funding for many dozens of projects ends up where it should. Her service to the groups is faultless and always friendly and supportive.

Mike Bowden, Sally Salier, Ron Fehlberg, Nanette Jaksic and Stephanie Clark for their efforts in the Wildcare office, for their outstanding persistence and reliability, processing memberships, answering emails and phone enquiries. Wildcare would not be able to operate without the Wildcare office volunteers.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank ...

The Park Rangers and Volunteer Facilitators who work alongside, supervise, support and encourage volunteers and who clearly value the efforts of Wildcare volunteers. We are in this together and together we make a difference.

The Presidents and other office bearers of the Wildcare groups. So much of the project funding and a huge amount of on-ground practical work results from the efforts of these people, as well as communications with members, managing websites and managing project finances.

The donors and sponsors, both large and small, who contribute to Wildcare's capacity to support reserve management, nature conservation and cultural heritage conservation.

The Board members, who are taking on increasing responsibilities in charge of a growing, healthy, organisation that handles hundreds of projects and hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

And the tireless, the passionate, Will Forsyth, Wildcare's Elected Co-Chair. Will just never stops thinking about, caring about, and promoting Wildcare and its members, and its partners.

He constantly has new ideas and wrangles with new approaches to doing things – inspiring from someone so young.

And finally, the members. So many! Such outstanding effort. While many volunteering sectors are shrinking and finding it hard to attract new members, Wildcare's membership continues to grow in numbers and capacity, making essential contributions towards managing reserved land and natural and cultural values of Tasmania.

Andrew Smith
Founder, Co-Chair Appointed



From our Elected Co-Chair...

Well, once again we have had a big year in Wildcare with the appointment of our first CEO, a significant step in the organisation's history. I welcome Malcom Macdonald to the role and look forward to seeing him deliver on some big ticket items for us. I am excited to see new Wildcare branches forming regularly and our membership base stable.

In my role as Co-Chair I have regularly met with Parks and Wildlife Service General Manager, Peter Mooney, and liaised with Head Office staff – ensuring that the partnership between Wildcare and the Parks and Wildlife Service is robust and healthy.

I have also met with the Minister for Parks, Brian Wightman, when able, ensuring that he is knowledgeable about the crucial role that Wildcare plays.

My time spent in the field includes the role of liaison with field staff around the State – the backbone of our partnership. I have participated in numerous working bees - Melaleuca and Save the Orange Bellied Parrot Program to name two.

In my role of Co-Chair I have attended numerous Friends' Annual General Meetings and group meetings. I also participated in the Wooden Boat Festival assisting the joint stand of Friends of Maatsuyker, Tasman and Deal Islands.

This year I met with Graeme and Ingrid Roberts who are the principals of the Tasmanian Bushland Gardens on the East Coast Highway near Buckland. We discussed how Wildcare could assist them in the future.

Peter Marmion agreed to stand as President Rep for the Friends of Melaleuca and become part of the Wildcare Board.

With the help of Peter Mooney, contact was arranged and correspondence become regular with Greg Moore, CEO of the Golden Gate NP Conservancy in USA.

This organisation can be used as a role model for Wildcare into the future. The Co-Chairs met with Greg in Melbourne and discussed future directions for Wildcare.

I am please to say that Wildcare has had another exciting year and I take the opportunity to thank the volunteers, the Branch Presidents/Coordinators, the Wildcare office volunteers and the Board members.

Without such an effort on the part of so many people this organisation wouldn't be as successful as it is today.

Will Forsyth
Co-Chair Elected

Deal Island Working Bee - May 2013

Dallas and Shirley Baker, Christine Sedevic, Shirley Fish, Will Forsyth, John Higgins, Laura Sherman-Hayes and Mel Lambourne made up the Friends of Deal Island work team who headed out to Deal to continue the FoDI management plan in May.

Christine, Shirley F, Laura and Mel progressed the weed management plan and gave the errant sea spurge and other unwanted weeds a considerable beating.

If the same energy and direction is applied in the next two working bees it should eradicate all adult spurge on the island.

Shirley B, Dallas, Will and John focused their energies into the maintenance program and painted the external walls of the visitor's house, installed new screen doors on the museum, put a new stronger wire mesh cover on the vegetable garden as well as many smaller maintenance tasks on other



Shirley painting the visitor's house.

buildings and tracks on the island.

The energy and cooperative spirit of the team made for a successful bee especially as the weather deteriorated and delayed the return trip by a week.

Forward planning with extra food supplies meant there were no meal shortages.

Speaking of meals, every night saw a culinary delight created by the rotating chefs.

The resident caretakers, Virginia and Jim regularly came to evening get-togethers including as our guests for a roast dinner. Jim was a wiz on the flute and accompanied Dallas on guitar for several sing-alongs.

The team returned to Tasmania fully satisfied with the success of the program and their contributions.



Master chef John serving up the evening's meal.

Little Christmas Island Working Bee

May 25-31, 2013

Rob Connell, Parks Ranger at Freycinet National Park had wanted to tackle the African boxthorn infestation on Little Christmas Island for many years. Stage 1 of the job was completed at the end of May, with the help of a grant and 26 willing volunteers.

Little Christmas Island is only about 2 or 3 hectares in size, just off the coast, 2 km south of Mayfield Beach, on the east coast of Tasmania. It is a nature reserve and home to roughly 200 penguins, and was heavily infested with boxthorn, which has recently been gazetted as a weed of national significance.

The call went out and volunteers came from far and wide, including Wildcare members from Friends of Freycinet, Friends of Rocky Hills, some locals, and even a couple of rangers from Maria Island on their day off. Local landowner, Bruce Dunbabin, kindly offered us the use of a hut on his property, only a short distance from the island, so we were able to have our kitchen/lounge room out of the cold plus a luxurious portalo!

Ranger Rob had organised the dates to perfection, and we had a full moon and low tide in the morning and afternoon, so that we could easily wade back and forth to the island. However, if anybody wanted to knock off early, the penalty was a thigh deep wade back to the mainland.

Volunteers spent anywhere from 1 day to 8 days helping to cut the boxthorn, using chainsaws and loppers and plenty of glyphosate. The busiest day saw 17 volunteers on the Island, making huge inroads into the infestation.

The evening entertainment was mainly digging out splinters, but also included a couple of camp fires, barbecues and playing in the spectacular phosphorous on the beach. On one evening 4 volunteers and Rob made good use of the offer of a hot shower at Pete and Donna's place in Swansea. After a pub meal we were treated to a magnificent concert by guitarist Matthew Fagan. Who could ask for more?

About 75% of the boxthorn has been treated now so there will be a follow up working bee in a couple of months. This will involve burning the already cut material and, depending on numbers, hopefully removing the last of the primary infestation.

So keep a watch on the Wildcare calendar for the dates for the next working bee. Although the work was tough, and the

weed even tougher, everybody had a wonderful time. There was great comradeship, the sunsets and sunrises were spectacular, and we were frequently visited by a pair of sea eagles who showed us how to catch fish, something, alas, a couple of us were unable to do, no matter how we tried.

Sally Salier



Happy hour.



Chris Sedivic, Tony Barber, Chris Barber and Greg Kidd.



View towards mainland and home.



Moving house!



Huon Island Tree Planting

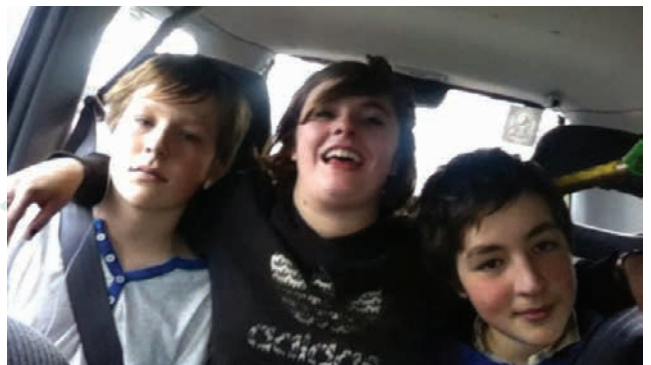
National Tree Day 2013

What a day, what a team, what a feast of food, friendship and hard work. Eighteen wonderful people of all ages scrambled up and down the Huon Island foreshore, planting, seed collecting, weeding and visiting sleepy-head penguins.

Our National Tree Day activity will become, by popular demand, an annual event. We are determined to bring this island to a state reflecting the comments of the 18th century, enlightened French explorers; "an isle of tall trees" (very rough translation).

The Great Depression saw the last of the foreshore trees razed, the springs dry up and the rabbits come, multiply and destroy. But now the worm has turned, and the Friends of Huon Island have committed to a twenty year (just as well there are fine young folk amongst us.) restoration project. Interviews with penguins suggest they would prefer a native understory world to blackberries and other unsavoury weedy characters.

The day started with a young Wedge-Tailed Eagle checking out the work site and finished with two sea eagles and a lone dolphin supervising the last ferry trip back to the mainland. We are hoping that in time, we will expand the range of birds (46 species so far recorded) who call this island home. We envisage an attractive tourist destination for the elusive Swift Parrot, as their favourite eucalypts grow and encourage them to linger longer.



Our WILDTIMES proofreaders...

Wildtimes is our newsletter, it tells our stories by our membership. it is also polished by a team of volunteers. we invite you to meet some of them - the proof readers!!

Meet Lisa...



So Lisa, which is your favourite national park and why?

Cradle Mountain National Park – Its a 40 minute drive away from Tullah (where I live), this mountain still blows my mind every time I see it.

I have been lucky enough to work as a day walk guide in the Park, volunteer with Wildcare as a smiley, meet and greet person at the Visitors Centre and in the Park, and spend my own leisure time wandering around, exploring and taking photos

(though that's not as often as I would like these days).

Why you are a member of Wildcare?

I wanted to get back in touch with Tasmania's wild places when I first arrived back in Tassie after 11 years away in WA, the NT and an 'around Australia' caravan trip. I also wanted to contribute if I could through volunteering.

What do you like about being a Wildcare proofreader?

As I live in the west coast, and full time study keeps me busy, I am unable to get to a lot of the Wildcare activities around the state.

Proof reading, is a small way I get to contribute to Wildcare from home. AND, I get the scoop on what's happening out there in the Wildcare world!



Meet Lena...

So Lena, which is your favourite national park and why?

I haven't seen enough of Tasmania to have a clear favourite yet but I love the alpine environments of Cradle Mountain and Ben Lomond.

Kosciuszko National Park is my favourite for some of the same reasons: the sweeping views, the abundance and variety of alpine heath vegetation, snow and with it the possibility of skiing!

I worked at Thredbo for a few seasons in the 80s and my days off were spent out on the Main Range both in winter and summer... it is an achingly beautiful landscape.

Why are you a member of Wildcare?

I joined up to Wildcare when I moved to Tasmania. I did this to find out about volunteering. I believe in the work they do and I hope my little bit helps.



What do you like about being a Wildcare proofreader?

I like using my skills whilst being involved in a worthwhile cause.



Meet Linda...

So Linda, which national park is your favourite and why?

I think Freycinet is one of my most favourite places. I have lots of wonderful childhood memories from there. My family would spend summer holidays at



Swansea and spend lots of time visiting my cousins who holidayed at The Fisheries in the Freycinet park.

It was mandatory to walk up the Divide and back before breakfast! I haven't done as much walking in the park as I'd like but I love the beaches and bays and wonderful scenery. The pink granite, orange lichen and bush, beach and sand are just magic - at

any time of year.

Why you are a member of Wildcare?

I'm the President of the Friends of Woodvine Nature Reserve, which is one of Wildcare's wonderful groups. Woodvine is a 377 hectare property in the bush behind Forcett and has outstanding natural values as well as a collection of heritage listed farm buildings - including the original house built by my great great grandparents when they took up land at Woodvine in 1861!

Woodvine passed down the family until Ernie Shaw, the last to live there, gifted the property as a reserve. FoW have had wonderful support from Wildcare and I'm full of admiration for all the work they, and the army of volunteers, do. Most of the reserve burned in the January fires this year but, thanks to some wonderful neighbours, the buildings were saved.

What you like about being a Wildcare proofreader?

I'd love to be able to do more volunteering with Wildcare groups - some of our Friends members are involved in half a dozen groups - but I have to work etc. I'm also not a natural handyman so don't have lots of useful skills for maintaining old buildings etc. I do, however, have a bent for proper punctuation and grammar so proofing is a way I can be more involved and make use of my writing skills. I like getting a sneak peek at the new crop of stories too.

Meet Marg...

So Marg, which national park is your favourite and why?

Maatsuyker Island... Wanted to see it for many years and finally got the opportunity in Dec 2011-Jan 2012 when I was lucky enough to be artist-in-residence, painting and drawing the native flora.

I spent 9 inspiring weeks in paradise. Thanks to the hard work of P.W.S and F.O.M.I volunteers, the island is mostly weed-free, so the native plants flourish.

Why you are a member of Wildcare?

Although I live in the beautiful Blue Mountains of NSW, I have always loved the Tasmanian wilderness. We holiday in a Tasmanian National Park - Cradle Mt, Mt Field, etc - once a year, and I am member of Wildcare because I know we cannot take these wild places for granted.



What you like about being a Wildcare proof reader?

I would -love- to be more active and participate regularly in Wildcare activities but at least proofreading is a way to help Wildcare remotely.

Friends of Tasman Island Wildcare Inc

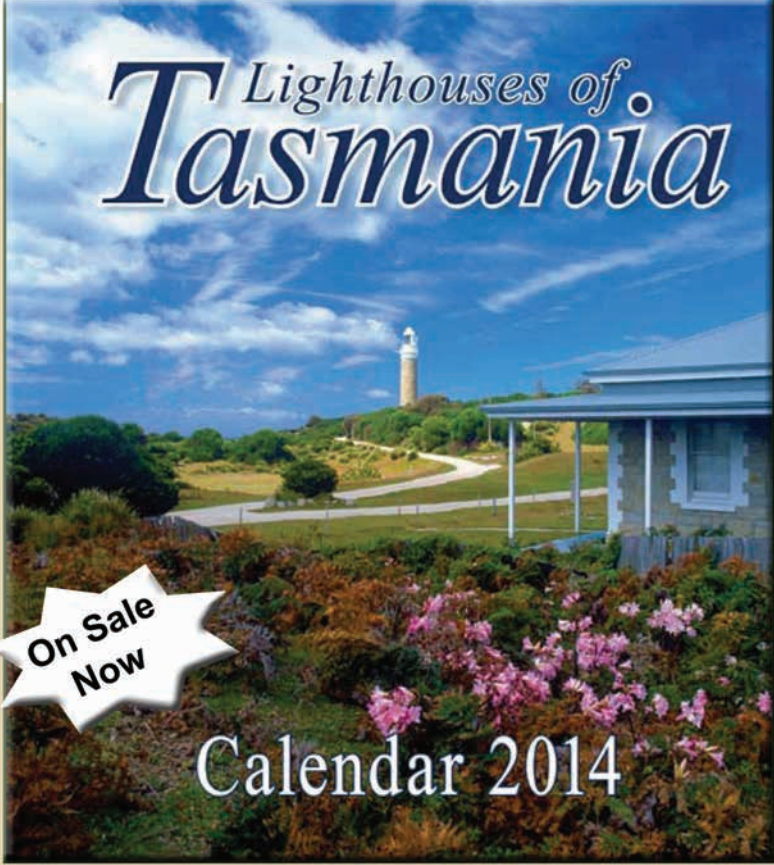
Friends of Tasman Island Wildcare Inc

Spectacular

Lighthouses of Tasmania 2014 Calendar

An all Tasmanian production

"I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve."
George Bernard Shaw



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

Lighthouses would not exist today if they didn't serve a compelling practical purpose and despite modern technology, lighthouses are still relevant in modern times. They keep watch, albeit automatically, their majestic towers located in remote places of incredible beauty or amid the hustle and bustle of busy harbours.

These unique and spectacular structures are once again celebrated. The latest edition of the Friends of Tasman Island's Lighthouses of Tasmania calendar features stunning photographs of some of our iconic lighthouses. The images, donated by both professional and amateur photographers, include lighthouses at Maatsuyker and Tasman Islands, Cape Bruny, Eddystone Point, Low Head, Mersey Bluff, Table Cape, Point Home Lookout, Rocky Cape and Macquarie Harbour's Bonnet and Entrance Islands. Historic images of the lighthouse at Cape Rochon on Three Hummock Island, destroyed in a bushfire, are also featured.

Working in partnership with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, the Friends of Tasman Island are another Wildcare Inc

group of dedicated volunteers, carrying out many hundreds of hours of work each year towards the restoration and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Tasman Island.

The 2014 calendar, the 8th in the series produced by the Friends of Tasman Island, is an all Tasmanian production - published by Tasmania 40° South and printed by Mercury Walch. Thanks to sponsorship from the Cascade Brewery Company, Australian Maritime Systems and Wildcare Inc the Lighthouses of Tasmania calendar is our annual major fundraiser.

Now a collectors' item, the 2014 calendar is available in selected book shops, newsagents and other local stores around Tasmania. Or you can place your order by emailing friendssoftasmanisland@gmail.com

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

Erika Shankley
Friends of Tasman Island



2013 Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Awards

Landcare Tasmania invites you to attend the 2013 Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Awards, Linking Landscapes and People, 6-7 October 2013 at St Helens.

Convened every two years, the event brings Tasmanians together from across the state to discuss current projects, meet new people, see local sites, share experiences, and socialise.

It also acknowledge the huge achievements of the community Care movement through the State Landcare Awards ceremony and celebration.

The event includes field trips, dinner and conference proceedings.

The conference will feature great guest speakers including Keith Bradby, Director, Gondwana Link and five workshop



streams around the themes of Biodiversity, On Farms, On the Coast, Community and Communications.

NRM South and NRM North are providing support for community volunteers to attend.

For the full program and registration details visit www.landcaretas.org.au or call 6234 7117. We hope to see you there.

Nesting Boxes

A great day today for this project with the handing over of 200 nesting boxes made by the magnificent men of the Bruny Island Mens Shed.

The attached photo shows a delighted Amanda receiving the boxes - now comes the hard job of putting them in place ready for breeding season.



The Wildcare Shop



Wildcare sells jackets, vests, beanies and caps (amongst other things).

Its a great way to stay warm and support Wildcare.

It helps spread the word about who we are and what we do.

Check out the Wildcare Clothing form on page 22 to place an order.

POSITION VACANT

– have you ever wanted to play shop?

The Wildcare shop is run by a volunteer who has always secretly wanted to play shop.

It is NOT a very big job (average 4 hours a month).

You do NOT have to have much space.

You WILL be supported. Please contact Jodie if you are interested. Jodie@wildcaretas.org.au.

Just some of the Volunteer Opportunities over Summer...

- Cockle Creek Camp Ground Host
- Cape Bruny Caretaker and Weather Observer
- Mount Field Caretaker
- Mount Field Camp Ground Host
- Bruny Island Quarantine Station Caretaker

Some of these positions are seasonal and some run all year round.

Contact Pip Gowen at phillipa.gowan@parks.tas.gov.au or call her on 0427 648463 or check out the Wildcare web site for the PWS website or more details



Ten Days on the Island 2013

Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) – Wildcare presented a wonderful exhibition at HuonLINC in Huonville as a part of the 2013 Ten Days on the Island Festival in March.

Highlighting the natural and cultural values of Maatsuyker Island to the general public, the artwork included painting, drawing, writing, textiles, photographs, books and paper by artists who have spent time on Maatsuyker Island: Sue Lovegrove, Jonah and Evie Wiltshire, Kate Hansford, Ailsa Fergusson, Marg Beal, Marsha Durham, Judith Kentish, Robyn Mundy, Matt Newton, Margie Jenkin and Gwen Egg. Marg and Marsha travelled from NSW to be present for the exhibition and FOMI and Ten Days Festival events.

Robyn travelled all the way from Western Australia and while in Tassie walked the South Coast track to research for her latest novel which is set, in part, on Maatsuyker Island.

Other FOMI activities in Huonville while it was a Ten Days on the Island town included conversations at DS Coffeehouse Café, photographic displays at the Parks and Wildlife shop, Stihl Huonville and Griggs butchers, book readings by 'The Lighthouse Kids of Maatsuyker Island' at the library and the Huonville Primary School and a slide presentation and talk by writer and former caretaker Robyn Mundy. Anna Broome and Adam Gittins had just returned from their time as caretakers on Maatsuyker.



Above: Attending the 10 day on the island event and (r) a Pencil drawing 'Blandiflora' by Marg Beal



Adam performed original music composed during his time on the island at the exhibition opening and shared some of his Maatsuyker writing at a conversation in the café where those present were also delighted to have the opportunity to question Violet Armstrong and hear her talk about her life as a light keeper's wife on Maatsuyker during the '50s and '60s.

Customers at the Stihl shop were very interested in the photo pin-ups of caretakers at work on the island with the Maatsuyker mowing machines.

HuonLINC was a fabulous venue. Staff and regular clients were very enthusiastic about the

FOMI exhibition which was also visited by many Ten Days on the Island enthusiasts. FMOI's Ten Days on the Island exhibition and activities were generously supported by a Wildcare grant.



Gwen Egg next to her textile work – "Receiving".



Jonah and Evie doing a book reading of The Lighthouse Kids of Maatsuyker Island.

Happy Birthday FOMI!

Yes, that's right, FOMI is celebrating its 10th birthday! Who would have thought that when a small group of Maatsuyker Island enthusiasts attended a community meeting in 2003 - braving what back then was a cold, wet, winter's night – FOMI would go from strength to strength to become the strong, vibrant and successful group that we are today.

Highlights of our first decade include publishing the Maatsuyker Island Visitors Guidebook and winning a string of competitive grants to fund projects on and off the island.

Such projects include volunteer working bees to remove weeds and make repairs to the lighthouse keepers' quarters, and archiving John Cook's photographic collection from his time as one of Maatsuyker's longest-serving lightkeepers.

FOMI has also led annual day trips to the island since 2004, providing members of the community with the opportunity to visit this special island. In doing so, FOMI has worked closely with the island's manager, the Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service, to develop visitor access guidelines to ensure Maatsuyker's environmental and cultural values continue to be protected for future generations.

Other achievements during our first decade include a State

Landcare Award, the purchase of original plans of the Maatsuyker Lightstation Master's Quarters and Tramway (now safely housed with the National Archives of Australia), and participation in significant State events such as the biannual 'Wooden Boat Festival' and this year's hugely successful Maatsuyker exhibition at the '10 Days on the Island' festival.

To celebrate our 10th birthday, FOMI Committee members past and present will attend a dinner in Hobart later this month.

Then we have even more birthday celebrations planned for all FOMI members to coincide with the Tall Ships visit Hobart in September.



Four past and present FOMI presidents celebrate 10 years of success.



Update on the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Program

The Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) National Recovery Team held their annual meeting in Melbourne in early April 2013. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss how the wild and captive breeding populations fared through the breeding season, review progress of work on Recovery Plan priorities and decide what the priority activities will be for 2013. The Recovery Team is encouraged by the observed stability in the small wild population between December 2011 and December 2012 and a productive breeding season in summer 2012/13. Maintaining ongoing funding remains an issue and the Recovery Team continues to seek funding support from a variety of sources for the recovery of this critically endangered species.

Breeding in the wild population

The 2012/13 breeding season was productive for the wild OBP population at Melaleuca, southwest Tasmania. During the summer, nine females (all banded) and ten males (eight banded, two unbanded) were sighted at Melaleuca with possibly a further two banded males (identities not confirmed) present (Table 1).

Therefore, at least 19-21 adults arrived in spring, which compares favourably with recent years (at least 22 in 2011/12*, 21 in 2010/11 and 23 in 2009/10). These are minimum numbers because some birds are not banded and cannot be accurately identified and counted, and some birds may not be recorded at the feeding tables at Melaleuca.

[*NB: most of the 2010/11 juveniles were collected at the end of the 2010/11 season as founder stock for the captive breeding population.]

Eight nests were recorded in nest boxes. It is possible that the ninth female occupied a natural nest as she was not observed for several weeks during the incubation period. One nest contained four eggs which failed to hatch.

The remaining seven nests produced 24 fledglings from 36 eggs. Nineteen of the fledglings were banded at the end of the season and five fledglings remained unbanded despite attempts to capture them for banding (Table 1).

Table 1: The minimum number of Orange-bellied Parrots known to be alive at the start of the 2012/13 breeding season, the minimum number of fledglings produced and the minimum number presumed to have migrated at the end of the season.

	Spring arrivals	Known to breed	Presumed to have migrated
Adult Males	8-10 banded 2 unbanded	8	8-10 banded 2 unbanded
Adult Females	9 banded	8	9 banded
Fledglings			19 banded 5 unbanded
Total			43-45

A significant bushfire in the Giblyn River area within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area caused some concern this summer. During January 2013, this fire burnt approximately 49,000 ha - mostly buttongrass plains and



scrub. While the bushfire was over 20 km from Melaleuca, there was some concern that the fire could move south and threaten nesting OBPs at Melaleuca.

Members of the OBP Recovery Team drafted a contingency plan in case evacuation was required and this plan will be further developed before next summer.

The fire did encroach on potential OBP habitat in the Davey River area. However, it is unlikely that there was any negative impact and the burn will probably enhance feeding habitat over the next few years.

Breeding in the captive breeding program

The Captive Management Group (CMG) met in early December 2012 and late March 2013 to discuss matters relating to the captive husbandry of this species. A number of new institutions have joined the CMG and participated in breeding/holding over the past year – including Melbourne Zoo, Priam Parrot Breeding Centre, Halls Gap Zoo and Moonlit Sanctuary.

This is in addition to the three long-term participants – Tarroona, Healesville Sanctuary and Adelaide Zoo. The new institutions are integral to expanding the OBP breeding population capacity and the total overall numbers of birds that are able to be produced for release into the future.

The captive breeding population had a productive 2012/13 breeding season with 160 chicks hatched and, of these, 101 chicks fledged.

This is a large increase in productivity from the 2011/12 breeding season (100 chicks hatched and 58 fledged). As at the 21 June 2013, there were 281 birds in the captive breeding population.

Winter monitoring 2013

The winter monitoring program remains an important measure of how the wild population of OBPs is faring and enables assessment of winter habitat locations.

Regional Coordinators and volunteers will be continuing to search habitat in South Australia and Victoria to locate over-wintering birds. The first coordinated survey weekend was completed in May with a further two survey weekends planned for 27/28 July and 14/15 September 2013.

An update prepared by
Sheryl Hamilton, Orange-bellied Parrot National Recovery
Program Coordinator

June 2013

Wildcare Photo Competition

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

The subject this year was:

"Wildcare volunteering – people caring for places"



Janet Fenton – Chris Crees – yes its working now.



Erika Shankley - Replacing the sash cords.



Karl Rowbottom – Erika Shankley tending to a fushia plant at Quarters 1 Tasman Island.





Chris Creese – Carol Jackson admires the cake.



Felicity Crowthers – Beaconsfield Primary School helping out.



Erika Shankley – Janet Fenton admiring a huge spanner at Melaleuca.



Oil Spill Emergency WILDCARE Response Teams Established

WILDCARE has joined forces with staff from the Parks and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservation Branch and the EPA to establish a First Response volunteer network for oiled wildlife rescue around Tasmania.

Five groups across the state have been formed (South, North, North West, Flinders Island and King Island) and WILDCARE is encouraging volunteers to register their interest via the website.

A major oil spill along the Tasmanian coastline could affect large amounts of wildlife and a potentially large contingent of volunteers may be required to help the rescue efforts.

Thankfully major oil spills don't happen very often, but if when they do, this first response volunteer network will be a vital part of the emergency response effort.

Unfortunately, unless seabirds are treated immediately, even small amounts of oil on their plumage can be lethal, as it may cause drowning, hypothermia or acute toxicity.

If you are interested in assisting with oiled shorebird and other wildlife rescues in the event of a major oil spill, then join



Little Penguins await pool rehabilitation after the Iron Baron Spill. Courtesy of AMSA.




WILDCARE Inc and register for oiled shorebird and other wildlife rescue on the membership form.

You will receive information about WILDCARE Inc Oiled Shorebird rescue courses, formation of First Response teams and will be contacted in the event of a major oil spill where assistance from volunteers is required.

Check out our WILDCARE Oiled Shorebird Rescue First Response Teams under Groups.


DID YOU KNOW? When the Iron Baron ran aground off the Tamar River in July 1995 over 2,000 Little Penguins were collected and treated for oiling by 100's of staff and volunteers over a 50 day period.



Parks Shop

22 Main Street Huonville

Ph: 03 6264 8460




- Range of pre-visit information relating to Tasmania's National Parks & Reserves
- Parks Passes
- Maps
- Books - Adult and Children's Range
- Souvenirs
- Clothing – Socks, Beanies, T Shirts and Gloves
- Posters
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10% discount to WILDCARE members

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Help get the FOX OUT of Tasmania




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1300 369 688

All calls are strictly confidential and your information may be important

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





Threatened Plants Tasmania

Volunteers Brush Up Their Skills

Following another very busy and successful field season over the spring and summer of 2012-2013, Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT) kept some volunteers busy over this winter as well.

Thanks to a funding grant from NRM South, TPT was able to offer a Field Botany course designed and delivered by Environmental Consulting Options Tasmania (ECOtas).

Mark Wapstra and Fred Duncan developed the course with an emphasis on identifying and locating threatened species, which will support the work of TPT.

The course was advertised in May and quickly filled to capacity with both TPT members and non members. A few weeks later, seventeen eager participants turned up at the Wapstra residence each Wednesday for 4 weeks and learned about the diversity and evolution of Tasmania's flora, taxonomy and nomenclature, how to identify the major families, the ecology and identification of eucalypts, how to use keys and other (many) references, to identify patterns and processes in Tasmania's vegetation.

The course also covered how to identify vegetation community types and identify other site features such as geology, which are important in the distribution of plants, especially threatened species. Time was spent describing where to survey in a given site to maximise the chance of finding threatened species, and understanding the link between data collection during monitoring and vegetation management for conservation management of threatened species.

Stacks of resources (literally), and a huge array of plant material and specimens were on hand for identification exercises and were very helpful for learning the unique features of common families such as Myrtaceae, Ericaceae, Proteaceae and Asteraceae.

A useful strategy when trying to identify plants is to eliminate whole families to reduce work and time, and made these exercises very valuable.

The first field trip was a staggered journey up Mt Wellington, and armed with the field key to Tasmanian species of eucalypts developed by Fred Duncan, everyone worked at identifying the eucalypt species growing at different levels on the slopes of the Mountain.

The key was given a good workout at each stop! The trip was also a good opportunity to see how to collect and prepare specimens for herbarium submissions and take photos for identification purposes.

Though the second field trip is scheduled for September when the flowering season has started, TPT was keen to get feedback from participants sooner as the information would help planning the next year's activities. According to the evaluation forms received from participants, the course has been very well received and the responses were overwhelmingly positive on all counts. Given the widely differing levels of expertise among the participants, from beginners through to being quite experienced, and the variety and depth of the material covered, this was a great result and due in huge part, to the unstinting effort of the two trainers. A notable outcome is that volunteers believe this training will assist them with future paid and volunteer work.

Given the success of this course, TPT is planning to offer similar

training event in early 2014 in the North West. While details have not been finalised yet, anyone wishing to tentatively register is welcome to email Phil Collier at phil@rubicon.org.au

For more information on TPT generally, see www.tpt.org.au



*The field day started at the base of the mountain and here participants are working through the eucalypt key to reach the correct conclusion that the tree in question was a *Eucalyptus obliqua**



The classroom with all the comforts of home including bountiful refreshments. Fred Duncan (pictured) and Mark Wapstra were ably assisted by Emily Wapstra (centre)



*The field day concluded at the top of the mountain and the *Eucalyptus coccifera* was successfully keyed out in quite brisk conditions*

Birthmark

©Bruce Pascoe 2013

I met a man who could tell me the name of my great grandmother and another who drew the Australian Alps in the sand of Wave Hill as if he'd been there. He hadn't but he'd been brought up with the story of the great snake's journey.

Hundreds of Aboriginal people from all around the country came to Daguragu in 2012 to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Gough Whitlam's passing sand into the hand of Vincent Lingiari, representing the return of the traditional land to the Gurindji.

We won't be able to expend aviation fuel like this in the future, nor will it be deemed respectful to descend on traditional lands in lumbering Winebagos, claustrophobic hulks that smell of effluent and plastic. The sand was much cleaner and the wheel of stars above your face etched the old stories into the frail skin of your eyelids. Eyes closed, dreaming awake.

Dagaragu locals told me Frank Hardy stories. My daughter says the only times she has seen me lose my temper and swear badly was when I was laying a kilometre of polypipe on a steep Cape Otway hillside ... and when Frank Hardy was staying in my house. He was intolerable. And wonderful. Any money you put in his hand would end up in the bookmakers' pockets as if he was determined never to have money, determined to be a good, penniless Communist.

The ghost of the skinny lunatic travelled with me to Daguragu because he is remembered there. His spirit was with me but not on the sand or eating slaughtered bullock. Frank was allergic to sand and couldn't abide having dirty shoes. One look at the slabs of meat resting on gum branches and kept imperfectly from the affections of flies would have him retching. He ate eggs and drank tea. He loved Vincent Lingiari although he could never sit with him in the sand. But he did know injustice when he saw it and was one of the few Australians who understood the massive lie of the nation's mythology.

The other compulsion to be at Wave Hill was to be with my brothers and sisters on the land of Aboriginal dissent. The Gurindji were just faces in photographs until that visit. The two old ladies who quietly and gracefully swept the inside perimeter of Daguragu's basketball stadium with gum branches had stared at me for years from their faded photographs, but to see them cleansing bad spirits so that we would be safe and at peace with the country was such an elegant act of grace that you were swept up into the country's embrace.

But I was still a stranger to the people, and their land, it was my brother and sister writers, artists and musicians whose company alone could drag me from the comfort and reassurance of my own country. Their voices, the slow smoulder of their passion, their gift for generosity and love is irresistible.

A Tasmanian man knew my great grandmother and drew a small sketch of my family's passage through time and across country. No-one else had been able to do that for me and I was struck dumb by the knowledge. I'd heard our family name for the first time.

I had felt the eyes of another old man carefully calculating my part in the Aboriginal world and on the last day he called me

over and began to draw the Australian Alps in the sand. He'd never been there but had been told by elders and dreamed in his own sleep how they lay upon the land. He drew the concentric lines of their contours and the gorges between them, the story of the great snake's travel from Cape York to Rottneest Island. He was related to a great uncle on the white side of my family. Suddenly another new layer of family and responsibility was revealed as if a magician had whisked a veil away from my eyes. I was different and my brothers and sisters could see it. None of this conferred any special privilege or wisdom but it did reflect the confusion, denial and anguish of our country's past. All of which emotions I had experienced.

I boarded the plane home still with the dust of sand in my pores and a new family on my mind, lost on the other side of the magician's veil, rising into the air on wings.

There below me was my birthmark, the amorphous island on my flesh the doctor's had tried to remove with dry ice. Defiantly it reappeared, a faint pale blur. And now there it was below.

The ability of Aboriginal people to imagine the country's skin was evident long before aeroplanes could allow anyone with a hundred dollars to see the same thing. The astral dreaming of the ancestors provided them with knowledge of places they had never seen with open eyes. It allowed them, for instance, to see the Alps from Cape York, it allowed them to draw the representation of that land as if seen from thousands of feet above the land.

The people of Cape York paint figures with their legs trailing dreamily, their feet flexed at the ankle to drift forgotten behind them. They are dreaming. Of country. If I see those paintings accidentally, for I avoid them if I know they're near, it makes me feel as if I'm in space, my knees bent and feet trailing, arms splayed, a spaceman separated from the umbilical of his spaceship, and drifting in the wilderness of space. I feel as if I've died and I'm looking back at my old self as if through a dirty shower screen, blurred, fading, drifting in this dream of space and moving ever further from umbilical security.

Johnny Mawurndjul, looks more like a benevolent angel than a mystic but I'm in his thrall. He paints the spirit figure Yawk Yawk and it scares me to death. To come around the corner of a gallery and be brought face to face with Yawk Yawk makes my pulse race and my heart plunge.

Three years ago I was led into the labyrinth of the Mount Borradaile burial and art chambers. You can feel the shoulders of ancestors pressed to yours, you can smell their skin. I felt then as if the top of my head had come off, as if I'd been scalped for my sacrilege. Art can make you sick.

When I look at Rover Thomas', Two Men Dreaming, I feel the same unease, but when I think of the painting a cousin gave me in Lockhart River last year I am swamped by a wary peace. The gallery manager, an earnest white woman, apologised to me for the painting being an odd shape. 'It's not square you know, you'll never get it in a frame.' My cousin glanced at me for the briefest second, like Yawk Yawk. That painting struck me like a velvet fist.

It's called Night Island and has that ochrey blur of Rover Thomas' dream and, once again I feel my ankles fold back,



my knees bend, I feel myself adrift in the night, lost in a dream I've had for forty years, the dream that had me question my sanity. My cousin knows that feeling and made sure I got that painting ... even though it isn't square.

Lin Onus' stingrays fly in a stateliness of ceremony which breaks my heart. The stingray is the poor man's shark in white culture but in Aboriginal lore she is a much different kind of bird. She flies underwater, slowly, like a drugged metronome, a symbol of dream and grace and ... heaven or something like it, a black heaven, a quiet dreamy haven.

In seat 32a I felt I was as close to that state as I might ever be. Quantastral dreaming. In previous flights across the centre of the country I had whispered the word 'birthmark' when I saw the land's stained and blistered hide, I was remembering the stains of meconium and blood on the tender flesh of my children, the blotches of the naevi and pigment imperfections, the warning to the parent that their children are people not angels.

I was largely oblivious to the commerce and human interactions of the plane as I saw spirit hands gesturing from salt pans, the arms of giant figures raised in entreaty or admonition from the scars of eroded soil. Some marks were like liquid spilt on a dry surface, quenched on the instant of splash, only the faintest stain of their existence still visible.

The pilot says we are travelling at 20,000 feet and will be in Melbourne at 1800 but there won't be much to see today because we are too far west of Ayers Rock, but later we'll cross the suburbs of Adelaide. I look down at not much to see and the giant images of Mawurndjula's Yawk Yawk stare like the ghosts they are, the dreamstate points and strokes of Johnny Warangkula Tjupurrula carpet a threadbare land, the bold lines of Emily Ngwarray map the earthly universe, and all as if seen from 20,000 feet. Not much to see.

My heart swoons, cringes, gasps for my country, for this great Australia printed all over by Aboriginal images or rather the images that are printed on Aborigines, the giant red tattoos of the spirit beings, the pale, wavering figures of the law men. Nothing to see until the suburbs of Adelaide.

There's a device in Broome's bird sanctuary for crushing cans but a pilot's voice can do the same to a heart. Nothing to see! It's Australia, it's our land, it's us. You can't see Yawk Yawk? You can't see the old Creators? This is no challenge at all to your god because these silver spirits have no jealousy, no pride, their modest patience is born from being here before any footprint, before men and women, before stumbling stegosaurus.

Look down now, Captain, behold the giant head of Wandjina, the huge eyes covering ridge line and gutter, salt pan and spinifex plain. It is not sacrilege to ask you to accept these images, to speak in warm tones of what they represent, because none deny another god, none wish to divide, for how can the faint print of a ghostly bird's foot do anything but record the past where a gently stepping bird peers about the land for the first time. Where that gaze falls lakes are formed and ridges of parallel sand erupt like initiation scars. No-one is turned into salt, no-one is asked to kill his son, and neither are those tales maligned nor forgotten, but here the temples of Jerusalem are nowhere to be seen, it is just Wandjina here and the print of dry deltas like marooned boabs. God is still here but he's a birthmark, a red stain on a cream land, his hand

reaching out in an appeal for peace. This god holds no grudge, will neither intervene, nor condemn, but he is very good at waiting, thank goodness, for it gives us a chance to wake up to the country.

Gaze upon your land where whole swathes of paisley are pointed with the clover leaves of dotted vegetation and divided by silver and grey streaks of salt lakes. An image of a bird is splayed all red on a grey green ground with one darker blob where the eye would be if you were painting a Nankeen Night Heron.

These images spread over thousands of hectares, crossing hundreds of ridges in complete image as if geography has conspired that they would defy its undulation and varied composition. This is a giant canvas worked by a giant imagination. To paint this you would have to walk the land of your dream and feel it with your marrow, perhaps walking for weeks, and during sleep, dreaming an image of the ancestors.

Some of the figures have tassels streaming away from their heads to the north, east or west, braided strands floating away from the waist and wrists like stretched summer cloud.

Are these vast red stains simply uprisings of rock, the remnants of erased mountains, smudges on the land reshaped by the wind casting grains of sand, grain upon grain for millions of years, accumulating like the poor man's reward of wheat for inventing the game of chess for the King's entertainment, grain multiplying grain so hugely, square by square, the confounded King cannot pay?

Oh, the King will pay one day. These faint spirits are not here just to tinker with the temporal images of Christian wars. Even the tracks radiating from the crowns of cattle stations have been transmuted into art by a country that has always dreamed itself as one canvas, lines erupting from a prosaic centre of sheds and homestead flash across the land like Karrngin Ngarrangkarni's giant star.

So pervasive are these spirit figures that they can still erupt out of the cubism created by agriculture. There on the pastures and vineyards of South Australia a giant hand gestures, the tassles of a spirit dancer fly from the head as if spun by a Dervish.

I drive from the airport with a sky bleeding from the dying sun. All night I drive beneath stars to reach my distant home. I stop by the river and launch my rowboat and stroke through the fiery galaxies of phosphorescence. Night Herons admonish the disturbance to their reverent river patrol, the nightjar's hooting warble wobbles across water calmed to a perfect black canvas of dark glass and just to prove that life is not always serious, cormorants gabble and scold at their roosts, annoyed by the appearance of a long silent shape in their night, and then, recognising a man, they laugh and bray like insolent goats.

Home again to resume my watch.

2312.



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

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



Yes, I want to update the groups I am attached to

- Please tick a group that you would like to be involved with!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CArEs Coal Mines / Lime Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> FO Maatsuyker Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FO Truganinni / Mt Nelson | <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Barretta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CArEs Narawntapu | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Maria Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Care - Jericho Heritage Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildcare Coastal Custodians |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CArEs Simpsons Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Maria Island Marine Protected Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Macquarie Harbour Historic Site | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Cradle Mt - Lake St Clair | <input type="checkbox"/> CArEs Southern Caves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Marks Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Injured & Orphaned Animals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Deslacs | <input type="checkbox"/> Central North Wildlife Care & Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Melaleuca WILDCARE | <input type="checkbox"/> KarstWatch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Friends of Bay of Fires | <input type="checkbox"/> Derwent Avenue Group for the Dave Burrows Walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Mt Barrow | <input type="checkbox"/> Killora Coastcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Stone Wall Preservation Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildcare Friends of Bruny Is Quarantine Station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Mt Field | <input type="checkbox"/> milaythina muka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Friends of HighField | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Bass Strait Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Redbill Point Conservation Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Mole Creek Karst Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Friends of Woodvine | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Bellbuoy Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Snake Island | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Animal Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Gordon's Hill NRA | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Claytons House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Tasman Island | <input type="checkbox"/> Rivers wild care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Native Wildlife Rescue - Birralee | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Coningham |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Franklin River | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Wildlife Rescue and Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE SplATs | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Deal Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the OBP | <input type="checkbox"/> Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE SPRATS | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Freycinet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Tasmanian Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened Plants Tasmania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Springbay | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Huon Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Thompson's Park Hut | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellington Park Bushcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Tinderbox Marine Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Lillico Penguins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of Trevallyn Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Whale Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDCARE Wildlife Rescue and Rehab | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Carers - East |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILDSC'OOO Voluntary Educators | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilmot Heritage Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Response Whale Rescue (please circle) : | |

Bruny Is, East Coast, Eastern Shore, Flinders Is, King Is, Freycinet, Launceston, Marrawah, Narawntapu, South, Strahan, Stanley

List those skills that you wish to use with us when you volunteer

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Botany | <input type="checkbox"/> Bricklaying | <input type="checkbox"/> Bushwalking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brush Cutting | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Chain Saw | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical | <input type="checkbox"/> Chem Cert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Databases | <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics | <input type="checkbox"/> Horticulture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Library records | <input type="checkbox"/> Map Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign language | |



Ian Ross – Wildcare Ghosts of Tasman Island



Marina Campbell – What a day!



Marina Campbell – We found the weeds now which way home?

WILDCARE Inc

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

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