



WILDTIMES

Edition 50 September 2014



WILDCARE TOP 50

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

GET OUTSIDE WITH COMMUNITY IN LAUNCESTON



Editorial

Congratulations to the winner of the Craig Saunders 2014 Photographic Competition - Mick Stratham. I have never seen a toilet, a cordless drill and a glue gun look like so much fun before.

I do hope you enjoy the winning photo on the front page and the runners up found on the middle and back pages of this edition.

I have certainly enjoyed looking at and pondering the different types of partnerships that were demonstrated in all of the entries and would like to thank all those people who participated in the competition.

I would also like to thank the judges for their time and



consideration this year, it was a hard choice.

As I write this editorial I'm enjoying the deep blue sky and still weather that only a late winter in Tasmania can give.

The wattles have peaked in my valley (and so has my hay fever!) and the birds are definitely getting on with business.

In this edition of Wildtimes we explore Tasmania's east coast with two different Wildcare branches – Friends of Freycinet and Threatened Plants Tasmania (pages 3 and 4).

We have short updates from Friends of Conningham and Friends of Luemeah Point (page 10), a good look at the latest working bee at Melaleuca (page 8) and we are happy to showcase to you the Wildcare Top 50. This is where we asked Wildcare Branch Presidents to offer some of their top experiences, interactions with Parks and Wildlife Staff, plants, animals and favourite wild places (pages 18 and 19) – I hope you enjoy it.

Finally a big thank you to the volunteer proof reading team, whom join together electronically every four months from all around Tasmania and the mainland to assist with the production of Wildtimes. I enjoy working with you all.

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, Erin Heaton, Nicole Lowrey, Andrew Smith, Dick and Pip Foundation, Glen Skanky, Louise OBryan, Karen Alexander, Ed Thexton, Yasi Spencer, Peter Allen, Fr James Collins, Craig Parsey, Ben Clark, Russell Fisk, James Saunders.

Wildtimes Publication Schedule

EDITION #	COPY DEADLINE	PUBLICATION
51	1 December 2014	1 January 2015
52	1 April 2015	1 May 2015
53	1 August 2015	1 September 2015

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

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Claytons Loo celebrations, Ian on throne with Kate, Mick, Sally, Jim Janet, Helen and Geoff.



Expect the Unexpected

Or, another few days at that most magnificent office, Freycinet National Park

We had great expectations of this working bee. Ten eager members gathered at the Field centre on Easter Monday for a pre-trip briefing and paperwork, followed by a brief AGM at which Dave Harris and Sally Salier (the new Wildcare Inc. Co Chair) were re-elected President and Secretary. Eleven members were in attendance. The partnership agreement between Parks and FOF is well underway and nearing completion.

At the meeting it was confirmed that we would travel to Schouten on the Wednesday. After this we all went to the pub for a meal and bonding session.

As expected, we were the noisiest lot there!

The next day we did various jobs. Some went weeding at Saffire (well, their waste water treatment enclosure), some cleared vegetation around the Visitors Centre and some went sea sparging at Friendly beaches. Others measured, cut and oiled boards for the lookout on Richardsons beach, and one volunteer went up to Cape Tourville to assist in repairing damage caused by 'hoons'. That evening we gathered at Le Repaire des Diables and had pizzas from Tombo.

That was unexpected.

Thanks to PWS and Federal Hotels, we embarked on the Saffire boat the next day-after the guests of course, and though we were a motley mob we were still referred to as "our lovely volunteers" by Saffire staff and it was a special trip. The rest of the day was taken up by setting up our tents, preparing our work gear, tools and PPE, attending a toolbox meeting run by Sally, and looking around the weeding sites. We were very impressed by the extent of the 'Vinca' die-off, and the work of



Friends of Freycinet volunteers walking to Saffire en route to Schouten Island.



Volunteers and paying guests travel in style.



Delivering the gear.



Hmm, we found a carpet, what can we do with it? Greg Kidd, Ian Fitzallen, Ian Haworth.

Let's take it for a walk and lay it on the vinca, Greg Kidd, Dave Harris, Ian Haworth, Ian Fitzallen.

the campground hosts who had done some weeding there.

The next four days we sprayed periwinkle (Vinca), we hand pulled periwinkle, we covered periwinkle with plastic, we lugged heavy old carpet from Crockets beach and covered more periwinkle, (we did not expect that). After giving the periwinkle the push we hand pulled or cut and pasted 10,540 gorse plants. Yes, we did count them! We used 190 litres of herbicide, as opposed to 560 litres for our first spray eighteen months earlier. The total area covered by plastic/carpet was 124 sq m, and we worked a total 574 hours.

Did we have time off? Yes! and it was expected that we would, so some went beach walking and birdwatching, some went to Bear Hill and mingled with some students from the AMC boat Bluefin, some went to the waterfall, one went up Milligans Hill, one went fishing and caught a pair of blue finned underpants, (most unexpected), and one painted much of the cottage, some handrails, fixed some steps, and did some other odd jobs. That was certainly expected.

We half expected that we would be extracted early and that was the case. On Sunday afternoon we were told to be ready for the first load at 8.30 the next day, so we started to run around a bit. You see dear reader, we not only had the gear we bought, but also had to dismantle and pack all the summer campground host gear. In all, it took four return trips by the PWS boat! Well, it was expected to be four, but in increasingly lumpy seas and as the third trip was leaving, the skipper shouted out to the two people left..."see you on Thursday". Was that a problem? No. You see we do expect this on our island working bees and we plan for it, so why not come next time and see what happens?

Coles Bay weekend, March 2014

Viv Muller from the June 2014 Threatened Plants Newsletter

An enthusiastic group of eight TPT volunteers arrived in Coles Bay on Friday 21 March, prepared for some adventurous weekend surveying. Thanks to grant funding from NRM South, TPT were able to provide accommodation for our group as well.

On Saturday we were fortunate to have local ecologist/botanist Nicky Meeson along for our surveys of the dolerite slopes of Daggs Hill and Cusicks Hill in Freycinet National Park. The area had been burnt in the Bicheno wildfire of January 2013, and our surveys revealed the expected post-fire swathes of the rare *Gyrostemon thesioides* and the (increasingly less) endangered *Scaevola aemula* (fairy fan-flower).

Small *Spyridium obovatum* plants were widespread, as was the diminutive sedge *Lepidosperma inops*; in the moister areas we also observed *Clematis gentianoides* and *Correa reflexa*, as well as a frequent *Pomaderris* species and an occasional *Hibbertia* species.

All this occurred under regenerating “half-barked” *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, as well as patches of *Allocasuarina verticillata* and *Kunzea ambigua*. Our other main activity was the mapping of the poorly-known *Lobelia rhombifolia* on the gravel flats to the east of the Coles bay road extending in the direction of the Apsley Marshes.

This area had also been burnt in the 2013 fire, and supported *Eucalyptus amygdalina* coastal forest, with *Hypolaena fastigiata* and *Lepidosperma concavum* common elements. The *Lobelia* was found to be quite extensive, though many plants had been heavily browsed; it was in full flower in the shadier areas but had already formed seed in the sunnier places.

James Wood and the seed bank at RTBG will be the beneficiary of some of this! Our mapping on Saturday and Sunday has provided a considerable insight into the extent and abundance of the *Lobelia*, a species that has been recorded in Tasmania at just a few sites in the past 30 years.

To finish off Saturday, we trekked into the west side of Coles Bay Road to a sedgey wetland, where we located a new population of the vulnerable *Gratiola pubescens*.

We spent a sociable Saturday evening, partly around the barbeque having a business meeting, including our election of office bearers for the year.

There were some comments about not having a proper quorum, but since we are not an incorporated body, and have no constitution, the rules about this appear to be non-existent so we went ahead anyway.

On Sunday, a small intrepid group ascended Mt Mayson at the eastern end of The Hazards, discovering a small new site for *Lepidosperma tortuosum*, and spotting a few *Philotheca freyciana*. They were also hoping to see some *Corunastylis morrisii*, but alas, no luck.

Corunastylis pumila was present though. While the mountain goats were enjoying the scenery, the rest of us were checking out the *Thryptomene micrantha* along the Hazards Beach track.

There is a considerable population of this along the track and visible for a few metres in, but in places it is being affected, presumably by the *Phytophthora cinnamomi* which is known to be present here. One or two grass trees still exist, although that population has also apparently been badly affected.



Scaevola amongst the *Gyrostemon*. Photo: Viv Muller. Inset: *Scaevola aemula*. Photo: Carol Rue.

We did not venture off track, for fear of spreading the dreaded disease. Due to our botanical expert being at a considerably higher altitude, we did not realise till later that we had also spotted a small population of *Spyridium vexilliferum* (helicopter bush... well done Carol!) and one plant of *Conospermum hookeri* (Tasmanian smoke bush, well done Magali!) which we had surveyed in a different area of Coles Bay last year.

The low-altitude team then had time to return to the west side of Coles Bay Road opposite Cusicks Hill, where we looked unsuccessfully for *Gratiola pubescens* in another small wetland. We did find one lovely flowering specimen of *Spiranthes australis* though.

Then we spent the rest of the day mapping more *Lobelia rhombifolia* on the western side of Coles Bay Rd in areas burnt in January 2013, before meeting with the mountain team and making our way back to Hobart.

Threatened Plants Tasmania Newsletter July 2014



Alvin, Richard and Sabine make first contact with *Gyrostemon thesioides*. Photo: Viv Muller.



The mountaineers, Christine, Sabine and Alvin. Photo: Richard Schahinger.

From the CEO's desk

I am pleased to report on three issues. They all have one thing in common – a strong focus on communication.

Presidents' Forum

The inaugural Presidents' Forum was held at The Grange, Campbell Town on Saturday, 31 May 2014.

Seven speakers participated in the program. They were:

- Paul Muller on volunteering.
- Anne Booth (Friends of Maria Island) on her role as President.
- David Harris (Friends of Freycinet) on his role as President.
- Phil Wyatt on Wildcare's new website.
- Oliver Bodak on workplace safety.
- Andrew Smith on the internal grants program.
- Malcolm MacDonald on 'From the CEO's Perspective'

A question and answer panel was also featured in which participants had an opportunity to raise issues and questions. Panel members were Andrew Smith, Sally Salier and myself.

Participants were invited to complete a formal evaluation at the end of the day. This produced an overall satisfaction rating of 87.1 per cent.

Presidents' Forum for next year

Planning is now under way for the 2015 Forum.

Based on feedback from participants who attended this year's Forum, it has been decided to hold this Presidents' Forum after the Annual General Meeting. This will be at The Grange, Campbell Town on Saturday, 28 March 2015. Put this date in your diary now!

The theme for this Forum will be philanthropy. Branches are now invited to suggest topics and speakers consistent with this theme.

Annual Report 2014

Work has commenced on preparing the 2014 Annual Report. It is a work-in-progress.

What we are seeking to do is develop a yearbook to showcase the activities of Branches around the State. You are now invited to submit a story, ideally with photos, that describes what your Branch has been doing.

It can be a series of dot points, a few lines, a paragraph or two or something more substantial. I would be happy to wordsmith it for you, if you provide me with the basic information.

Please email your contribution to ceo@wildcaretas.org.au on or before 15 December 2014.



Sponsorship Workshop

In recognition that Wildcare Branches are increasingly turning to sponsorship as a source of funding for their projects, a one-day workshop titled How to Attract the Sponsor's Dollar will be delivered on Saturday, 8 November 2014 in the timeslot of 10-5pm. Another date for your diary!

The sponsorship market is becoming more and more crowded and it is considered important that a consistent, professional standard is observed by Wildcare Branches. Ample opportunity will be offered for you to do some hands on work on a real life project for which your Branch requires sponsorship. The workshop will be supported by a comprehensive workbook to take away as an ongoing reference.

Please register early by emailing me at ceo@wildcaretas.org.au on or before 15 October 2014.

Contact Me

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@wildcaretas.org.au
(03) 6334 3990



Spectacular 2015 Lighthouses of Tasmania Calendar

- an all Tasmanian production -

*Sentinel it stands upon projecting cape,
And guards the reefs along the ocean's verge.
Starts into life a dim, gigantic shape,
Holding its lantern o'er the restless surge.*
Arthur Frederick King, lightkeeper.

Building lighthouses around Tasmania's precipitous and isolated coastline must have been a daunting prospect. One newspaper correspondent wrote that "the person who had suggested the construction of a light on the top [of Tasman Island] was not altogether compos mentis..."

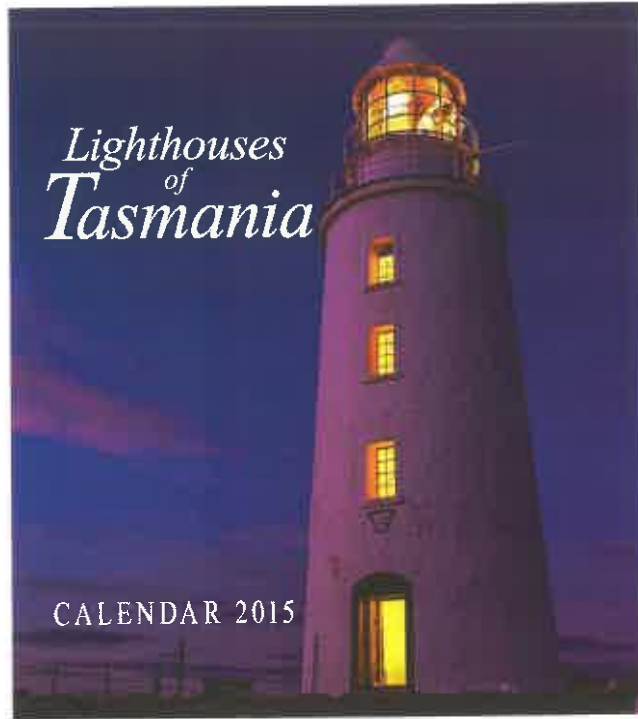
The difficulty of access to Tasman Island continued to cause comment when two members of the Hobart Marine Board... slipped and got a good ducking... when attempting to make a site inspection. Later that year, prospective building contractors also discovered the problems they might encounter when "Some members of the party were unable to land, while those who succeeded ... were most forcibly impressed by the natural difficulties to be overcome in carrying out the contract.

Modern-day occupational health and safety legislators would, no doubt, cringe at some of the conditions workers endured.

These unique and spectacular structures are once again celebrated along with the people who built them. The latest edition of the Lighthouses of Tasmania calendar features stunning photographs of some of our iconic lighthouses.

Images include lighthouses at Maatsuyker and Tasman Islands, Cape Bruny, Iron Pot, Eddystone Point, Low Head, Table Cape, Bluff Hill Point, Rocky Cape, Highfield Point and Cape Sorell. The historic lighthouse at Blinking Billy Point in Hobart and its replacement, the John Garrow light, are also featured.

Working in partnership with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, the dedicated Friends of Tasman Island volunteers carry out many hundreds of hours of work each year towards



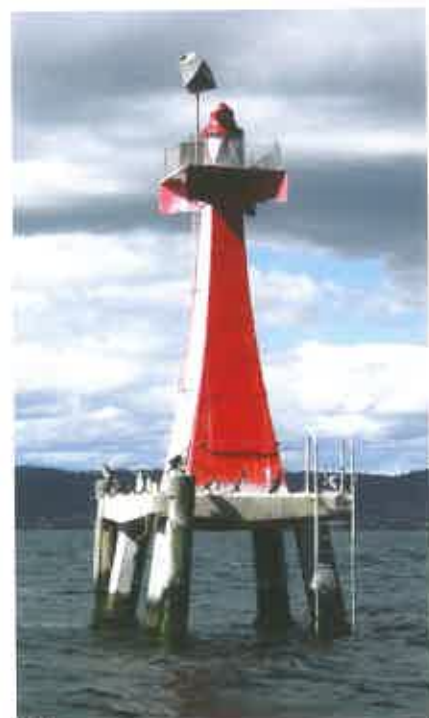
the conservation and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Tasman Island.

The 2015 calendar, the 9th in the series produced by the Friends of Tasman Island, is an all Tasmanian production. Thanks to sponsorship from the Cascade Brewery Company, Australian Maritime Systems and Wildcare Inc the Lighthouses of Tasmania calendar is a major fundraiser.

Now a collectors' item, the 2015 calendar will soon be available in selected book shops, newsagents and other local stores round the State.

Or you can secure your copy of this unique limited-edition calendar by emailing friendsoftasmanisland@gmail.com. For only \$20 + postage you will be helping to support ongoing work on Tasman Island.

Erika Shankley
Friends of Tasman Island



Northern Get Outside with Community Program reaches important milestone

Following a successful volunteer recruitment drive, the Get Outside with Community Program in Northern Region is moving ahead with the completion of a cross cultural training session last week.

The induction and cross cultural training session was held at Prospect for volunteers and staff to provide knowledge and understanding about Work Health and Safety responsibilities and cross cultural awareness, in preparation for the program's first outing.

The induction package for staff and volunteers included an introduction to the Get Outside with Community program highlighting the success of the southern program and the key aims.

Further discussion about cultural competency was explored with presenter John Nyagua from the Launceston Migrant Resource Centre and special guest Quasimi, a Hazari man new to Launceston.



John Nyagua from the Launceston Migrant Resource Centre and special guest Quasimi, a Hazari man new to Launceston with Chris Colley.

This allows these experiences to be self-sustaining and contribute to an individual's overall social and physical well-being.

A critical aspect of this program is the opportunity for new Tasmanians to meet and share stories and fun experiences with local Tasmanian volunteers who are passionate about our natural places and have a genuine interest in people from diverse backgrounds.



Regional operations manager, Stan Matuszek provides assistance to volunteers during the training.

Northern program coordinator Jen Kreusser said the training stimulated awareness of the diversity of new community members settling in the north of the state.

"There were 17 volunteers ready to offer their skills, experiences and most importantly, enthusiasm to support the program," Jen said.

"I was so delighted to meet our volunteers and it was clear that they were all genuinely enthusiastic about wanting to make a difference to the lives of new Tasmanians and contribute to excursions through cultural exchanges. There is so much value in this kind of program where there are many tangible and non-tangible benefits to volunteers, participants and PWS staff."

The program's aims are to engage community members from Culturally and Linguistic Diverse (CALD) backgrounds with natural places whilst developing social connections with Wildcare volunteers, PWS staff and other members of the CALD community through excursions to national parks and reserves.

An overarching goal is to identify individuals with leadership characteristics and facilitate their growth to become future volunteers and independent leaders of excursions to parks with their friends and families.



Regional Manager North Chris Colley welcomes volunteers and PWS staff to the training session.



Participants discuss the Job Risk Analysis form.

Friends of Melaleuca Working Bee, March 2014

The annual Friends of Melaleuca working bee was scheduled for 14 - 21 March, with the hope of settled weather to enable outside work, especially painting.

As in other years the aim was to tackle a variety of projects in the World Heritage Area of Melaleuca and on the private leaseholds of the King/Fenton and Willson families.

Principal among these were rust removal, protection and painting of the red shed and amenities shed in the former Deny King mining lease, ongoing underfloor restitution of the King/Fenton house, and the weather proofing and maintenance work at the Willson smelter.

We were very pleased that Ian Marmion and Jeremy Hood from Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service could be there as part of the group.

Two days before departure Mick and I accepted a request to double up and monitor the Orange-bellied Parrots during the working bee and for some indeterminate time after that.

Most of the parrots were apparently continuing to enjoy the Melaleuca hospitality (i.e. daily free feeding) and showing no signs of migrating north.

Janet and Geoff flew in a week early and had gear sorted when Ian, Jeremy and volunteers John Willson, Helen and Jim Thyne and Mick and I arrived on the 14th.

Other participants had been chosen to suit the major projects on the works list, however three were unable to come at the last minute, and unfavourable weather conditions prevented boat access by another three.

Fortunately Kate Wilson flew in with Sally Brown a couple of days later to boost our numbers.

Incidentally Sally was supposedly on holiday but seemed to do as much work as anyone else.

Volunteer Campground Hosts Chris and Tony Barber joined in when time permitted.

Work at the red shed started on the first day and hopefully is



Red Shed back wall reconstruction with Ian, Jeremy and John.

now finished. The clear weather of the first two days enabled us to remove rust and apply rust seal.

Deteriorated sheets of iron from the back wall, curved roof and front were replaced, and an extra fibreglass sheet was added at the back.

Jeremy and Ian took turns beavering on the roof while the rest of us stayed lower on ladders or terra firma.

The gods weren't helpful after that and painting had to be abandoned until fine weather later in the week allowed us to apply the primer.

Janet, Sally, Mick and I painted the first coat of red – well all we could reach – over the following two weeks.



Red Shed before



Red Shed afterwards.

The top strip was left for Jeremy's next visit. The glow from ground level is already striking (see photos) so we can only imagine the view from above on completion!

The four of us also sanded, sealed, primed and applied the first coat of red paint to the amenities shed.

At the smelter, Ian, Jeremy, Helen and John applied fish oil to all the bare metal in and around the building. They replaced 2 sheets of corrugated iron cladding and oiled rusty sections of cladding and roof.

Four plastic 'windows' were replaced with fibreglass sheeting. The drain away from the smelter was widened and extended – heavy wet work accomplished under south west showery conditions.

Geoff and Jim spent most of the week on the floor project. This tedious job involved working stretched flat out or on knees carefully cutting small holes in the kitchen, bathroom and hall floor, removing bucket loads of soil and rubble, and replacing stumps to realign the foundations.

Apparently some sections of floor were raised or lowered several centimetres.

Part of the side wall was jacked to make it more upright and special steel angle brackets were fitted below two roof trusses.

With 14 more of these brackets planned, realigning the floor and base is progressing slowly and soundly but still has a long way to go.

Mick and I built a new tank stand at Karina's and were joined by Helen to pull down half the ceiling – complete with torn insulation, nesting material and a mummified rat (*Rattus rattus*) – and replace it with MDF (the other half had been replaced at a previous working bee).

Sally and Kate painted the ceiling plus a host of other jobs. The following week we replaced some rusted iron sheeting on the porch.

On Wednesday, with showers still threatening, we all moved focus to Claytons Corner, Jeremy having arranged special permission for Geoff to take us in Poinduk.

This was an easy day for most of us with small jobs in and around the house. Sally, Kate, Jim, Mick and I were lucky enough to get a chance to climb Mt Beattie and be thrilled by the stunning 360° views.

Well there was a little bit of track clearing done en route. Back down the hill Ian and Geoff spent the day tackling the embarrassing problem of the loo with the result of a much improved temporary structure.

Janet and Helen assisted and also tackled small jobs on the list. Mick's birthday, the evening was celebrated with a sumptuous dinner of chilli beans and corn bread followed by plum cake – thank you Sally and Kate.

Janet was at everyone's beck and call all week, in between



Jim at work on the King Fenton floor.

attending to her own list of projects that included drains maintenance and various small paint jobs, and making new cushions for Win and Clyde's former home at Claytons Corner.

With horror forecasts for both the Friday and Sunday, Kate and Ian both flew out a day early on Thursday followed by Helen and Jim on Saturday.

And what about the OBPs? Well that was full on and quite chaotic at times.

Over the three weeks we were monitoring we identified 52 individuals and there were often 20+ on the feeding tables at one time.

What a privilege and joy it was to see so many, especially wheeling around in flocks of 10 or more. We just hope a good number return to breed next season.

When we left there were still over 30 individuals present and Chris and Tony graciously agreed to take over the monitoring.

Janet, Geoff and Sally left the day after us by which time I think nearly all jobs on Janet's list had been ticked off.

A very happy and successful working bee.

Friends of Melaleuca are grateful to Barbara and John Willson for the use of their comfortable house during the working bee.

Helen Statham

Just Add Water...

Recipes are made from of a list of ingredients followed by a method. In a way, a working bee is similar. First you need to assemble the constituent parts, (the ingredients) and then combine them to achieve the required outcome.

For our spraying working bees the Friends of Coningham NRA need the following:

- PPE - supplied by grants from Landcare Tasmania and Wildcare - Check
- Chemicals - supplied by grants from Wildcare - Check
- Labour - supplied by our loyal group of 'certificated' (not certified) volunteers - Check
- Water - ah, now there's the rub.

Many of our spraying areas are either sited some distance from tracks or roads, or if near roads, often need 4WD access. In the past we have relied on the strong backs of our volunteers to transport water to these sites, but now with painful hips and knees or advancing age, that is getting rather problematic.

Several years ago PWS rangers on the East Coast acquired a number of large (about 100 litre) plastic barrels which had been liberated from an illegal plantation.

We were fortunate to receive two of these barrels and with the help of PWS ranger Andrew, placed them close to a spraying site and also close to a fire trail so they could be refilled as necessary by a PWS fire unit.

These barrels were bright blue, and were visible from some distance. The system worked well for several months, although syphoning water into our spray units proved difficult when water in the barrels was lowered to about half.



That became academic when someone driving illegally through the reserve, decided that their need for barrels was greater than ours. Back to square one and more hard labour.

Several months ago PWS ranger Ben decided he could help out and replaced the two blue barrels with one grey barrel which is far less conspicuous - sited further into the bush, mounted on a wooden stand and tapped. Oh bliss.

Seeing our need for more water at another site, and not to be outdone, senior ranger Jen and field assistant Brett devised a camouflaged barrel. They knocked up the housing from old fence palings, complete with very attractive lichens, sourced from Jen's farm, fitted a tap and we all installed it at our July working bee. It truly is the crème de la crème of barrels - aside from its close resemblance to a country outhouse - perfect.

Oh, and the method? Add the listed ingredients, whip up lots of enthusiasm and add a fine day. Well, the last can be a problem, but we're working on a better connection to the weather god.

An update on Friends of Lumeah Point

On 1 March this year, a local Wildcare Branch was established, the residents elected members of the Wildcare: Friends of Lumeah Point Committee, endorsed the Management Plan and participated in a sausage sizzle to celebrate the formation of a group we hope will lead to the strengthening of a vibrant and co-operative community where many more generations will have the opportunity to live and grow. Residents and other interested folks are welcome to join the committee or attend meetings at any time.

Wildcare Friends of Lumeah Point received Crown Land Services' agreement to its five year plan and approval to undertake the first year's program. As the manager of the foreshore Crown Land Services retains overall authority to undertake or approve any work from property lines to the waterline.

With this approval we can apply for funding grants, undertake proposed maintenance outlined in the plan, and with Wildcare providing structure and insurance cover, organise volunteer participation.

First Feral Oyster clean up a great success:

Our first event was held on Sunday 6 April when we started tackling the feral oyster problem with the assistance of Pipeclay Lagoon Oyster Growers Association (PLOGA) and Windsurfing Tasmania. Thirty four volunteers managed to clean up in excess of 9 tonnes of feral oysters in the space of about 2.5 hours. Windsurfing Tasmania worked on the lagoon sand flats whilst others worked on the foreshore north of the access track. The group participated in a well-deserved sausage sizzle and everyone seemed to be excited

about the prospect of our next clean up – even though there is a huge area to cover.

Thanks to Jan Kasteel and Mike Webb for their excellent organisation and to all who participated. With winter upon us clean up days will recommence in spring.

Track maintenance project 1:

Crown Land Services have generously agreed to fund the first track maintenance project. A \$2,000 grant will cover the cost of materials and delivery while labour will be provided by volunteers. The aim is to restore the tracks to a level of sustainability to limit dust and revegetate the North East Point without encouraging more traffic into the Reserve.

At North East Point we used crushed base which allows water to seep through then we finished off with bush sand. The finished job has a slight slope towards the north so any excess rain or super high tides will run off quickly. The bush sand can then be sown with salt tolerant native species recommended by Parks or Wildcare. The area will be temporarily fenced off and sown for regeneration through winter and spring.

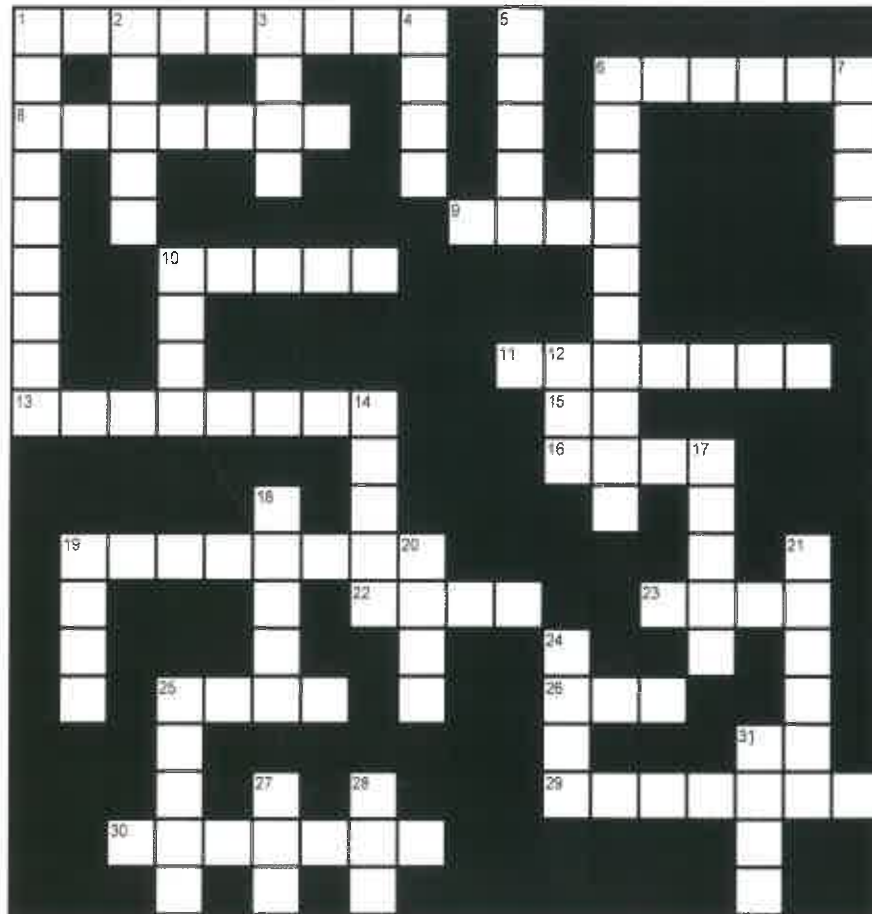
The area can be opened up once it has dried off, probably November, depending on the season. On the Northern Track we run a narrow layer of fine gravel along each wheel track. This will allow the centre of the track to regenerate to grass. The small northern foreshore access track needs a small quantity of crushed base to stop further erosion.

President Garry Hulme





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 _____ botties 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 _____

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

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 _____

www.parks.tas.gov.au



The Craig Saunders Annual Photo Competition

Some entries from the competition. The subject this year was:

"Partnerships and teamwork - together we make things happen"



That's how we get out Cumbungi! Photo by Kathy Duncome.



Tasman Island Gutters! Photo taken by Jan Perkins.



Helen Statham starting on new ceiling in Karina's hut. Photo by Mick Stratham



Shirley Fish snipping the last seedy sea spurge on Deal Island, the culmination of 13 working bees involving 66 people over 11 years to clear 9.5ha of this obnoxious weed. Photo by Bob Tyson.



Sharee, Ellen, Sarah, Bek and Lorraine - erecting pens for wombats. Photo by Lorraine de Weys.



Sewing cushions for Claytons' house on Win Clayton's old sewing machine. Photo by Geoff Fenton.



Heritage maintenance at Melaleuca mine site. photo by Geoff Fenton.



Helen Statham, Sally Brown, Janet Fenton painting the Red Shed. photo by Mick Statham.



PWS Field Officer Brett and David Harris are unloading a drum and housing to be used to supply Friends Of Coningham NRA with water for spraying Spanish heath.



Friends of Deal Island volunteers weeding great mullein in abysmal weather from the lighthouse precinct. Photo by Bob Tyson.

First Nation knowhow to help save our landscapes

The deep knowledge of First Nation (Aboriginal) people is being called on as part of a nationwide effort to stem the tide of extinction and decline that is engulfing the Australian landscape and its wildlife.

At a major scientific meeting in Canberra, a new website will be unveiled which brings together thousands of records documenting Aboriginal traditional knowledge about Australian native landscapes, plants and animals.

The knowledge is presented in the form of a world-first map that records publicly available Australian Indigenous Biocultural Knowledge (IBK) that is place based.

The detailed content of the identified documents is only made available with the express permission of the Aboriginal communities that own it.

Aboriginal people and non-Indigenous scientists and managers are currently working together on hundreds of projects across Australia to understand and better manage country using a combination of Indigenous biocultural knowledge and ecological science.

The map draws together, for the first time worldwide, the wealth of projects, documents, reports, research and management plans where Indigenous biocultural knowledge is being used and Aboriginal people are adding value to today's understanding of Australian ecology and land management practices.

This website maps the places where projects have been or are being carried out, documents results, and provides examples of current leading practice, useful information and case studies of 'living knowledge' and its practical application.

These include cases of Aboriginal-led landscape restoration, fire management, knowledge about native plants and animals, and knowledge about wetlands and other important ecosystems.

'This is the first time that Aboriginal knowledge about landscape and Australian ecological science have been brought together across the whole continent in a single resource,' says ACEAS director, Associate Professor Alison Specht.

'It also represents a major contribution to documenting and preserving traditional knowledge for future generations, both for Aboriginal people and all other Australians.'

The project is part of a worldwide trend to bring the knowledge held by First Nation peoples together with science and conservation policy, and makes Australia one of the global leaders in this field, she says.

'We have shown that all of Australia's conservation priorities could be greatly informed by Indigenous biocultural knowledge — although the existing opportunities far outweigh the advances made to date,' says the team behind the project, in a



soon to be published discussion paper.

The ACEAS IBK Working Group is led by Dr Emilie Ens and includes twenty Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers and land managers from around Australia.

'Threats to global environments are increasing, so it is timely to rethink our ecological knowledge base and develop more holistic and inclusive research, management and funding options for the future.

'Enhanced cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary engagement has great potential to strengthen global capacity to build socio-ecological resilience for inclusive, sustainable environmental management strategies.'

To view the website go to: <http://aibk.info/>

(Thanks to Bird Life Tasmania for this article.)



EVER WONDERED...

Have you ever wondered what Wildcare Inc does to support wildlife care, rescue and conservation?

Wildcare wildlife care branches include:

Central North Wildlife Care and Rescue, Southern Wildlife Rescue and Care, Wildlife Rescue and Rehab (NW), Native Animal Rescue (Launceston), Wildlife Rescue (S), Roaring Beach Wildlife Rescue, Friends of the Raptor and Wildlife Refuge.

Wildcare Inc has a number of other branches who assist with the conservation of Wildlife in the wild:

Friends of Lillico Penguins, Friends of the Giant Freshwater Lobster, Friends of the Orange-bellied parrot, Friends of the Tasmanian Devil.

Wildcare Inc has branches who respond to wildlife emergencies (fire, stranding, oil spills) working in cooperation with the Environment Protection Authority, Parks and Wildlife Service / Department Primary Industry Parks Water and Environment and Tasmanian Fire Service:

Veterinary Emergency Response Team Tasmania, Oil Spill First Response Team – North, Oil Spill First Response Team – Furneaux, Oil Spill First response Team - King Island, Oil Spill First Response Team - North West, Oil Spill First Response Team – South, Whale Rescue First Response Team - Bruny Island, Whale Rescue First Response Team – Devonport, Whale Rescue First Response Team - East Coast, Whale Rescue First Response Team - Eastern Shore, Whale Rescue First Response Team - Flinders Island, Whale Rescue First Response Team – Freycinet, Whale Rescue First Response Team - King Island, Whale Rescue First Response Team – Launceston, Whale Rescue First Response Team - Marrawah, Whale Rescue First Response Team - Narawntapu, Whale Rescue First Response Team - South, Whale Rescue First Response Team – Stanley, Whale Rescue First Response Team - Strahan.

Wildcare Inc also has a tax deductible Gift Fund with a number of sub-funds. The following sub-funds are specifically to support wildlife care, rescue and conservation:

Wildcare Save the OBP Fund, Wildcare Whale Rescue Fund, Wildcare Caring for Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Fund, Wildcare Tasmania Coast Conservation Fund (coastal reserves, marine mammal and seabird conservation).

If you would like to support our wildlife carers you can join one of the Branches, update your membership details to be contacted about training courses in rescue or donate to one of the special funds listed above <http://www.wildcaretas.org.au/donation>



Wallaby



Orange Bellied Parrot



Fairy Penguins.



Fresh Water Lobster.



Brush Tail Possum.

Thank you event puts spotlight on unsung heroes

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Southern Region hosted a volunteer thank you event earlier at Greening Australia's Sustainability Learning Centre, Mount Nelson, as part of National Volunteer Week celebrated in May.

The event was organised by volunteer coordinator Pip Gowen and a team of staff and volunteer helpers. Pip said the aim was to provide a very special thank you to longstanding volunteer leaders, conveners and their groups.

"These volunteers are mostly locals who spend hours doing the hard on-ground work, organising working bees, motivating others, writing funding applications, doing administration work, caretaking at remote sites and much more", Pip said.

Thirty groups working at thirty PWS sites around the Southern Region, including caretaker programs at Melaleuca, Maatsuyker Island, Cockle Creek, Cape Bruny Lighthouse and Bruny Island Quarantine Station and the group working on the WildSC'OOOL program at Coningham Nature Recreation Area, in partnership with Snug Primary School, were all acknowledged.

The very special partnerships and positive relationships built with local rangers supporting volunteer work on their 'patch', was a highlight for most participants, and the rangers presented certificates of appreciation to individuals while Acting Regional Manager Paul Black, presented the certificates to groups.

The support framework provided by Wildcare Inc. was also recognised and acknowledged as a critical facilitating factor and the financial contribution of funding bodies including the

Australian Government, NRM South, the Tasmanian Landcare Association and Tasmanian Community Fund, amongst others, was highlighted.

Visitor Services Director, Stuart Lennox spoke to the gathering on behalf of general manager Peter Mooney and the PWS executive team about the importance of the community partnerships that allow for the immense contribution made by volunteers to natural and heritage values in parks and reserves.

"We have professional and motivated staff as land managers, but we have a job we can't do on our own", Stuart said.

"It's strategic and essential that we have strong connections with the community and the systems and processes in place that allow for meaningful participation. We are grateful for the strong and fruitful partnerships we have with community on so many levels and the passionate and committed contribution of volunteers"

Participants expressed their appreciation of the opportunities volunteering provides them and were grateful for the rare chance to catch up at the afternoon tea, which was very much valued by all.

Thank You!



Volunteers take part in an activity to show the extent and diversity of the work they perform.

TPT in the lab

Orchid Conservation Project at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Viv Muller and Magali Wright

This project is an ongoing long-term effort, led by Dr Nigel Swarts and Dr Magali Wright and hosted by the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG).

TPT volunteers and volunteers from the Friends of the RTBG are involved in helping with both the laboratory and the nursery phases of the project. In the last newsletter we reported that there was some successful germination of *Prasophyllum incorrectum*.

These experiments were not done at an ideal time for the plants to survive planting out in the nursery, as they need the longest possible time in the nursery with cool temperatures to produce tubers to survive their first summer dormancy, but were more a test of the culture and growing systems being established.

There are a few of the *Prasophyllum incorrectum* still surviving in the nursery, but subsequently we were able to initiate a better-timed program, aimed on this occasion at *Caladenia saggicola* and *Caladenia caudata*.

In the laboratory, we volunteers helped first of all to isolate the mycorrhizal pellets from the orchid roots (in *Diuris*, *Prasophyllum* and *Thelymitra*) or stem collars (in *Caladenia* and many *Pterostylis*), and to culture the fungus on agar plates.

Eventually, in December last year, the surface-sterilised *Caladenia* seed was spread over agar inoculated with species-matched and (except for some of the *Caladenia caudata*) site-matched mycorrhiza. After 8-12 weeks in a controlled temperature cabinet, many of the seeds had germinated!

The babies were transferred to intermediate growing vessels made with sand over agar for a few more months, still in the laboratory under controlled conditions.

Finally, in May, after we were initiated into the special plant



Nigel demonstrates the planting out technique. Photo: Magali Wright.

hygiene practices in the RTBG nursery, we were able to place over 150 *Caladenia saggicola* and 50 *Caladenia caudata* seedlings into pots.

So far they are looking good, growing around 5-10mm in the first few weeks. Many of these plants continue to grow well, although at present there is some intensive control happening for a fungus gnat attack.

So fingers crossed for their future!

Nigel and Magali hope to extend this conservation work to other Tasmanian threatened orchids, as well as doing more basic research work on the specificity of mycorrhizal-orchid interactions.



Fine work for good eyes.

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



WILDCARE'S TOP 50

As this is the 50th edition of Wildtimes, we decided to do something a bit different. We decided to ask Branch Presidents to nominate what their Top 50 favourite places, parks staff, plants, animals and volunteer experiences were – we hope you enjoy the results.



2. Freycinet National Park
- fabulous, french, flavour

3. Maria Island National Park
- wildlife, beaches, restful

4. Schouten
-shhhhh!! it's paradise

1. South West National Park & World Heritage Area
- isolated, awe-inspiring, expansive

6. Bruny Island Quarantine Station
- History, flora and fauna combined

7. Deal Island
- beaches, isolation, delightful

5. Cloudy Bay
- isolation, raw beauty

10. Ian Marmion
- dedicated, reliable, helpful

8. Maatsuyker
- wild, windy, wet

9. Scott Thornton
- efficient, informative, courteous

11. Sam Cuffs
- open, friendly, big picture

12. Fiona Everts
- fantastic, funny, facilitator

13. Elena Hrasny
- energetic, effective, effervescence

14. Bernard Edwards
- efficient, informative, courteous



15. Wombats
- square, powerful, family

16. Blue wren
- focussed, exquisite, blue

17. Echidna
- the wobbly walk

19. Kangaroos
- boing boing boing



20. Weedy sea dragons
- weedy, small, vulnerable

18. Quolls
- cheeky, playful, unusual

22. Spanish heath
- pretty, prolific, pestiferous (weed)

21. Epacris impressa
- bright, red, winter-flowering

23. Wattles
- winter golden sunshine



24. Brockenspectre at Tasman Island
- nature, spectacular, sharing

25. Unusual transport
- helicopters, boats, row boats

26. Friendship, community, pride

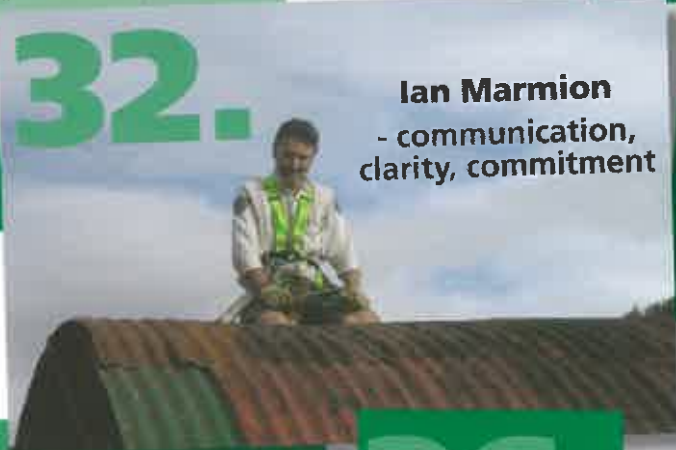
27. Seeing a devil - and not seeing any foxes

28. - Sharing, culture, food

29. Caves - dark, solid, earth

30. - Picking up devil poo

31. SW National Park - wild, windswept, watery



Ian Marmion
- communication, clarity, commitment

33. White Bellied Sea Eagle - soar, swoop, sea

34. Narawntapu National Park - animals, animals, animals

35. Mount Field National Park - tall trees, big mountains, tarn lakes

36. Dolphins - sleek, fast, shiny

37. Eucalyptus regnans - history, timeless, truly magnificent

38. Watching a seal eat a penguin like a bird eats a mouse

Lying on sandstone after it has been warmed by the sun

40. Big seas - crashing into beaches

41. Eucalyptus - big gumtrees with white trunks

42. Wedge tailed eagle - circling slowly overhead

39.

43. Eucalyptus - colours when wet



The handmade object at Woodvine we couldn't identify! It was fun watching everyone speculate what it was and how it worked (and we're still not sure!)

45. Woodvine Nature Reserve - Family history, nature

46. Alena Hrasky - she cares about Woodvine Reserve

47. All orchids - sweet, silent, secretive

48. Donna Lee Young - helpful, enthusiastic, fast on a pushbike

49. Pip Gowan - busy, helpful, effervescent



Steve Mansfield - achiever, dedicated, organised

50.

In the wrong place at the wrong time

Interview with Kathy Duncombe, President of the Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station article from GeschiMagazine.

She is an author of many publications about the history of Tasmania especially Bruny Island. She is also a dedicated historian and president of the Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station (FOBQS). Her latest book Bruny Island's Quarantine Station In War and Peace includes a chapter about the internment of Germans, among them also the crew of the SS Oberhausen, during the First World War.

Kathy Duncombe presenting her book "Bruny Island's Quarantine Station In War and Peace". Foto: Copyright K. Duncombe, FOBQS

GeschiMag: Mrs Duncombe, in the context of your research concerning the Bruny Island Quarantine Station you also found information about the crew of the SS Oberhausen being interned there between 1915 and 1916. What can you tell us about their time there, what legacy did they leave?

K. Duncombe: In February 1915 the prisoners of war were moved to the Quarantine Station on Bruny Island, and were put to work felling timber and clearing land.

They appear to have been given quite a bit of freedom as oral history states they also cleared land outside the quarantine station boundaries. Although new buildings were commissioned by the government during the World War I period, the internees themselves appear to have erected some of their own.

These included at least two woodcutting camps on the southern end of the peninsula well away from the main base.

A German named Hugo Fernolz was allowed by the military authorities to construct a small wooden building just outside the fence and to run a store in it.

Archeological interpretation of one the chimney remains,



Kathy Duncombe, President of the Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station.

indicate the unusual use of clay pise construction which might imply its construction by German inmates.

There is also a hand dug water hole nearby which may have supplied their water needs for a temporary stay. And they had the use of a boat for fishing, a necessity when supplies were low.

GeschiMag: The number of the German internees on Bruny Island varies between 55 and more than 70. Quite a manageable number, compared with other camps.—

How many members of the Oberhausen crew were among them and where did the others come from?

K. Duncombe: We have the names of 32 seamen from the Oberhausen being interned at the quarantine station on Bruny Island. A few days after the outbreak of war, a proclamation was issued under the 'War Precautions Act 1914', which called on all Austrian and German (enemy) subjects to report themselves to police stations, and register to be placed on parole.

Some of the other german internees had lived in Tasmania for many years, one for 35 years as fishermen, farmers, miners etc.

GeschiMag: Due to inadequate treatment there were massive complaints until in 1915 most of the Australian internments camps were closed and the prisoners were concentrated in the Holsworthy camp.

It's said, that at the same time the internees of Bruny Island went on strike. Can you tell us a bit more about the circumstances of that strike?

K. Duncombe: It was July 1915 – payment for work had still not come through and the German and Austrian prisoners revolted. Soldier Ray Searles' in letters to his mother 1915:

'They pelted the guard inside and refused to go to work. The telephone was laid on to the Captain's house so he rang up Claremont. When we got near Bruny we were ordered to load and fix bayonets.

We landed and drove the Germans down on to the beach. They were pretty troublesome but we managed to arrest 6 of them and drove the rest of them inside. Then the guard was liberated and the Captain ventured out.



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
- And more

**10% discount
to WILDCARE members**



There was only two shots fired. One when they landed and one at a big German who started to run through the bush. The six we arrested were taken to Hobart gaol.' [ref: Soldier Ray Searles' letters to his mother 1915 – courtesy of Craig Searle]

GeschiMag: In the chronology of the FOBQS homepage a certain Hugo Fernholz is mentioned, who "still ran a shop" whilst in April 1916 the Germans were interned in Bruny Island, when most of the other camps were closed and absorbed in Holsworthy. Can you provide us with any background information on that?

K. Duncombe: On March 13th 1915 the Australian Military Force informed the O. C. guard (Officer in Charge) that it would be necessary to open a dry canteen managed by a committee, consisting of members of the guard, price list fixed, at which interned prisoners will be permitted to purchase articles at the canteen. No ales or spirituous liquors to be kept or sold. Hugo Fernholz was allowed by the military authorities to to run the store.

I don't know why he was not transported to other camps when the Bruny Island camp was closed. Perhaps he had a good business going and wished to stay.

A resident of Bruny at the time remembered Hugo Fernholz carrying on his trade. One half of his shop opened on Quarantine ground and the other half opened to the general public of Bruny. On June 14th Fernholz died at the age of 56 years.

GeschiMag: This year is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 and you are looking for contacts to German relatives of the internees of Bruny Island. Would you please tell our readers some more about the reasons for this search?

K. Duncombe: We would love to know more about the seamen who were 'in the wrong place at the wrong time' and felt their families may wish to know that although their payment for timber cutting was delayed, in general they appear to have been treated with respect, and had a certain amount of freedom.

I think the answers above and the arrest note following verifies this:

Russell Young was a naval reservist that led the boarding party that went to Port Huon and arrested the German crew. He was a Hobart lawyer and reserve Lieutenant in the navy as well as the inaugural Commodore of the Derwent Sailing Squadron in Hobart.

When war was declared 5 August 1914, Russell Young was dispatched in his capacity as sub-lieutenant in the Naval Reserve, with an armed party of 11 men, to travel to Port Huon to seize the Oberhausen and its crew.

It was reported on arrival that evening, Russell Young drew his naval issue dress sword and used it to secure the warrant to the mast of the Oberhausen.

He arrested the captain and crew and sailed the vessel back to Hobart overnight. On the way the German crew broached the ship's liquor stores and by the time they arrived in Hobart



View of chimney showing stone base interior and clay capping (photo taken 2000) Photo Copyright K. Duncombe, FOBQS

everyone including the reservists was quite drunk.

We have a list of the names of the 32 men and their description and would love to learn about their lives and families after the war. We would welcome the opportunity to communicate with these families and to tell their ancestors' story.

Perhaps they may care to join our group and receive newsletter updates. Maybe they would send us a photo of their ancestor, or have oral history about their stay on Bruny during the war.

GeschiMag: Apart from preserving the history of the quarantine station, there are other issues the Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station are concerned with. Could you give us an outline of the work and aims of your initiative?

K. Duncombe: Since the Plant Quarantine Station closed in 1986 the 128 hectare site was neglected and no-one was allowed on the premises.

In 2003 it was handed back to the State government and in 2004 I wrote a book about its fascinating history. Many people were not aware of the different eras and uses of the site.

In 2011 the book became the catalyst for the formation of the 'Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station' which work closely with Parks & Wildlife and our aim has been to open the site to the public to enjoy the history and its natural values as this site has a very diverse flora and fauna.

The new Heritage Interpretive Walk will keep visitors enthralled for about two hours as they travel around the site visiting the first European settlers' cottage, the quarantine buildings where saloon and steerage passengers were lodged, to the hospital area, to the campsites where soldiers were quarantined on their return from World War 1.

We now have volunteer caretakers living on site for four week periods and the site is open to the public every weekend.

We have already had German tourists visit the site since we opened in October 2013, and to make contact with descendants of the Oberhausen crew would allow us to pay tribute to their contribution at the quarantine station.

GeschiMag: Mrs. Duncombe, thank you very much for this conversation.

Kettering Workshop

On the 22nd and 23rd July Wildcare Inc. funded two one day workshops at Kettering for a range of specialist volunteers and staff who would be involved with oiled seabird rescue.

There were over 30 participants including vets, members of Birds Tas., specialist wildlife carers as well as PWS, DPIPW, Antarctic Division, Tasports and Tassal staff.

Darroch Donald, a world expert on oiled seabird response and cleaning, showed volunteers and staff how to clean, hold and proof oiled seabirds.

Letitia Lamb from the Environment Protection Authority presented an overview of an oiled seabird response and Ingrid Albion detailed safe working practices for staff and volunteers.

Nick Mooney provided everyone with his first hand experiences at the Iron Baron oil spill in 1995 and demonstrated how to handle and transport a range of different bird species.

The two workshops enabled individuals and agencies likely to be involved in an oiled seabird response to understand the processes involved and how to ensure that staff and volunteers follow safe work practices.

Networking between the highly skilled participants and staff at the workshops will also be of great benefit in progressing the oiled seabird response plans for the future.

A further two specialist workshops were run in the northwest in June. It is also hoped that a short ten minute dvd that outlines the roles staff and volunteers will be developed for future training.



Going deeper - discovering our marine environment

Bec Hubbard, Environment Tasmania and Wildcare member

The diverse and unique marine life of Tasmania, found between the high tide mark and the 3 nautical mile limit, are as unexplored and unknown to some in our community, as the geology of the moon.

Beside leatherjacket and whale, what wildlife exists beneath the thin blue line? What invertebrates survive inundation each day? Is any of it important or even worthwhile conserving?

The 'Tasmanian Marine Discoveries' program bring people closer to our marine environment – to help them understand what is there, why it is important, how to enjoy it, and what we can do to help conserve it.

Through exploring this truly incredible environment, we learn to love it, and how to better care for it.

The Marine Discovery Weekend at Bicheno was held on the Anzac Day long weekend, 2014, following a similar event at Maria Island earlier in March. Over twenty adults and children attended the Maria Discovery event and over 30 people explored Bicheno through the program.

With the assistance of volunteers, PWS Discovery Rangers, and local business operators, we took a group of intrepid explorers into the inter-tidal zone, and then beyond.

On Maria Island, we explored the rockpools adjacent to the Painted Cliffs and then snorkelled into the chilly water surrounding the cliffs to find leatherjackets, banded morwong, jewel anemones, crayfish, sponges and lots of glorious seaweed.

The Maria Island Marine Discovery event also included a presentation from Bec Hubbard on what makes Tasmania's marine environment so unique, and what benefits the Marine Reserve have bestowed on our scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and our biodiversity.

Bicheno is the gateway to Governor Island Marine Reserve and so many different activities delving into the oceans, that it was a no-brainer as a location for a Marine Discovery Weekend. Across the weekend, our group – from toddlers to retirees – was exposed to a magnificent array of marine wildlife. We explored the different rockpools of the south facing blowhole platforms and the north-east facing platforms near the break wall at Waubs Bay, described below by Tasmanian Naturalist Jane Elek.

We had BBQ's about birds, puppies and policy with the local Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council, workshops on citizen science with RedMap founder Dr Gretta Pecl, and an incredibly informative film night and presentation about how we live with the sea/life and what's shifting due to climate change.

Sunday brought sun and calm seas, so we set off to go deeper into the underwater world. The chilly water temperature didn't discourage our group of a dozen snorkelers from launching off from the boat ramp into investigating the marine life of Waubs Bay.

There was a bundle of comb jellyfish - beautiful, clear little jellies with flashing lights going up and down their bodies. Amongst the ubiquitous kelp, we saw plenty of life including mackerel, cowfish, mullet, sponges and jellies.



To finish off the Bicheno Marine Discovery Weekend, we rode the Glass Bottom Boat through the gulch next to Governor Island - the only one of its kind in Tasmania!

We saw a school of mullet, banded morwong, snails, abalone, banded stingarees, a huge sting ray, shark, kelp, seals and dolphins. What a brilliant, accessible (and warm) way to get into our oceans!

The Tasmanian Marine Discoveries Program will be exploring the Bay of Fires later this year, as we continue to take people a little deeper into their marine environment, and a little closer to the nature that covers 70% of our planet.

www.marinediscover.com





Busy on Tasman Island. Photo by Jan Perkins.



Shiva and Laurel enjoy a Get Outside outing to the Tessellated Pavement.



Danielle and Yol - cleaning out cage ready for possums. Photo by Lorraine de Weys.



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 6165 4230

Fax: 03 6223 8603

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

Web: www.wildcaretas.org.au

