



# WILD TIMES

Edition 51 February 2015



**WILDCARE HAS A BRAND NEW WEBSITE**



**THREATENED PLANTS TASMANIA GO  
LOOKING FOR PINKBELLS**



**FRIENDS OF GIS - MAPPERS ARE READY TO GO**

# EDITORIAL



The time between Christmas and New Year is one of my favorite times. It's like the rest in between breaths, if you slow down enough to notice.

A rainstorm is happening here as I type, and a moment ago the sun was shining. I can see dark grey clouds sitting over Marion Bay, where 14,000 people are currently camping in a private nature reserve enjoying that beautiful part of Tasmania and many other people at this time of year are scattered around our wonderful state, camping, relaxing, playing and of course attending volunteer working bees.

In this edition of Wildtimes I am very excited to announce the new Wildcare website and I encourage you all to get online and have a look at it.

Log in using your email address, update the branches that you want to be kept informed about, check out the calendar and update your skills and interests. This new site has been a long time coming and I hope you all enjoy it.

Cheers

Jodie Epper

Editor

## Thank you Saffire Freycinet!



Saffire Freycinet has decided to donate \$25,000 annually to the Wildcare Gift Fund to support vaccination research in relation to the Tasmanian Devil.

This will involve the creation of the Wildcare Saffire Devil Fund within the Wildcare Gift Fund. The first donation is likely to be in January. Thank you Saffire Freycinet .

Wildcare welcomes discussions with other businesses that would like to be involved in nature conservation activities.

Please contact us at [office@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:office@wildcaretas.org.au)

# WILDCARE Gift Fund Donations

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

*Catherine McKenzie, Australian Geographical Society*

*David Thornton, Nicole Lowery, Craig Parsey, Jane Long, Jack Buzelin, Andrew Smith, Tracey Simpson*

## Wildtimes Publication Schedule

EDITION #	COPY DEADLINE	PUBLICATION
52	1 April 2015	1 May 2015
53	1 August 2015	1 September 2015
54	1 December 2015	1 January 2016

*Submissions to Wildtimes Editor at [wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au)*

### ON THE FRONT COVER:

Photograph taken by Dave Harris - Christine Harris and Sedevic after the crossing river.

by David Harris



# The Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) Scourge

Most Wildcarers are aware of the huge problem posed by this weed which has colonised much of our coastline, as well as the Bass Strait islands. A number of our Wildcare groups have been active in controlling and eradicating sea spurge within their areas e.g. SPRATS and Friends of Deal Island.

For a number of years now the Friends of Freycinet (FoF) have been checking the beaches within their area, which extends from Falmouth south to Nine Mile Beach. This includes Four Mile Creek, Lagoons, Seymour, Templestowe, Denison, Friendly, Nine Mile, Richardsons and Muirs beaches to name the main ones, as well as Schouten Island.

Their efforts this year resulted in 4445 plants pulled, with only a very few large ones needing cut and paste which is pleasing. It is also encouraging to find that the numbers are decreasing, e.g the northern mouth of the Douglas River is one of the 'hot spots' and numbers here have been reducing by almost exactly half each year.

Last year a small infestation was found on Muirs Beach just below the Saffire and Edge of the Bay resorts, evidence that it is spreading to areas where it has not been found in the past.

Because of this increasing invasion we need to ramp up our efforts, and FoF have decided to hold two large working bees each year from now on, as they have not been able to cover all the beaches in one go. In addition to this, more local involvement and education about this weed is needed.

To this end Fiona Everts at PWS Freycinet has produced a credit card



Settling into island life.

sized laminated card with a very good picture of the plant on one side, and on the other side a request that people phone the Freycinet PWS number provided and report sightings.

A caution not to handle the plant is also included as the sap can cause skin and eye irritation (as some of us know to our cost). These cards have been handed out to locals, dog walkers, beachgoers and surfers, and have been very well received, being able to be carried in a wallet or purse, are waterproof, and have immediate impact.

This initiative is one we think should be replicated throughout the State.

The Friends of Freycinet assist PWS with a wide range of management tasks but none are more important than the control of this very invasive weed.



David Reynolds, Christine Harris and Dave Harris at the Douglas, photo by David Reynolds.



Rangers Fiona Everts and Steve Everts, with volunteers Darcy and Anton, loading their gear, bound for Schouten Island.



Christine Harris and Dave Harris at mouth of Douglas River, photo by Christine Sedevic.



David Harris, Chris Sedevic, Christine Harris and David Reynolds, photo by Chris Harris.

# The Wildcare Board



Here is a bit of information about the board who manages WILDCARE Inc., and a big thank you to them all.

Every year a group of people are nominated and elected onto the WILDCARE Inc. Board. They are volunteers with an interest in not only their own small patch of Tasmania, but also the bigger picture of environmental volunteering across the state.

In this edition we draw attention to those people who have worked tirelessly without pay for our great organisation. We say thank you to them for their years of service.

## Andrew Smith – Co-Chair

Andrew is the founder of WILDCARE Inc. and is currently the Co-Chair (appointed). He has been either Chairperson or Co-Chair since creating WILDCARE Inc. in 1997.

As part of the partnership between government and WILDCARE Inc., Andrew holds the position of Co-Chair as a consequence of his position as Manager Community Programs, Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). He has provided this partnership link between the Agency and WILDCARE Inc. since 1997.

In his professional role Andrew manages Community Programs for PWS, coordinating and facilitating partnership programs, including volunteers and philanthropic programs, as well as managing the Interpretation & Education, Communications & Media and Community Engagement Units.

He has travelled the world presenting papers on volunteerism, community engagement and environmental education, and continues to participate in international forums and networks. He provides professional and community training in areas of community engagement, philosophy and practice, group facilitation skills, Open Space Technology, Community Based Social Marketing, environmental education, cultural sensitivity and strategic planning.

Andrew also spent 5 years as a national park ranger from 1979 – 1984 and was an education officer with PWS from 1984 – 1988.

In his spare time Andrew goes boating and fishing, potters in his garden, walks the dog, and tries to keep track of his two adult sons, Fergus and Callan and their multitude of interests and activities.

## Sally Salier – Co-Chair

Sally was employed as a library technician for many years, before becoming a counsellor and therapist. During that time she was the Australian Co-ordinator for an International Theparists' Organisation, as well as holding national and state level positions in health care and sporting committees.

In later life she became a weed officer, which lead to volunteering for WILDCARE Inc. for the last 8 years, including being Secretary of Friends of Freycinet since 2010. She has also been active in many other groups including Mt Wellington, Coningham, Tasman Island, Deal Island, Maria Island, Sprats and Woodvine.

Sally joined the Board of Management of WILDCARE Inc. in 2012 and was elected Co-Chair in 2013. Currently she sits on subcommittees regarding governance and communication, and has been instrumental in developing a new website for WILDCARE Inc. Sally keeps fit doing bushwalking and orienteering.



## Louise O'Bryan (BBus, CPA) - Treasurer

Louise is a qualified CPA accountant, who has worked for many years for small-medium enterprises managing their finance departments, including a five year stint in the not-for profit cemetery sector in Victoria.

Louise has recently been appointed to the Board of Management for WILDCARE Inc. as Treasurer, and is excited to be working with such a highly regarded volunteer organisation. Although a relative newcomer to Tasmania, Louise hopes to contribute back to the community through her involvement with WILDCARE Inc. and the associated branches.

Louise would love to become more involved with some of the branches as her working life quietens down and time permits. Louise is available to assist branches with any financial matters.



## Bob Tyson – Board Member

Bob grew up in Launceston before moving to Hobart to do a life sciences degree. He worked for the Rural Fires Board, then with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. He held a number of positions during his 30 year career, including Fire Management Officer, Regional Manager Tasmanian Wilderness WHA, and a number of positions in senior management before retiring in 2003. He had a small business working as a consultant in natural area management from 2003 to 2007.

Bob and his wife Penny have been active WILDCARE Inc. volunteers since 2003 involved in a number of groups including Friends of Deal Island, Tasman Island, Maria Island, Melaleuca, Threatened Plants, SPRATS, Coningham, Wellington Park, and Orange-Bellied Parrots.

Bob has been a member of the Board and the Gift Fund Committee for the last 6 years.



## Karen Zeigler – Board Member

Karen is an ecologist, farmer, gardener, forester, conservation planner, botanist, and lover of literature with an eclectic appreciation of music.

Karen has a great love of offshore islands and is the Friends of Bass Strait President. She finds the huge sky enjoyed from the low islands of Bass Strait enthralling, and loves kayaking, snorkeling, hunter gathering, swimming (very briefly!) in the cold waters around the islands.

With an upbringing solidly immersed with a protestant work ethic, Karen can't think of a better way to enjoy the islands than getting down and dirty, cutting, poisoning and burning boxthorn and witnessing the reestablishment of the native vegetation in the company of others with a similar affliction.

When not islanding, Karen likes exploring the many nooks and crannies of Australia and its islands, growing food, eating food, making wine out of various fruit and vegies – all preferably in the company of friends. And learning new things...

Karen is a passionate advocate for good communication and governance within WILDCARE Inc. and between the land managers and the people with interests in those places that Wildcarers' love too.



**Peter Marmion – Board Member**

Peter was a school principal for 25 years before retiring. He now works part-time at TAFE teaching the Adventure Guiding course, and works as a guide in Tasmanian wilderness areas.

Peter joined the WILDCARE Inc. Board of Management two years ago. He has been a volunteer for Parks and Wildlife, Threatened Species Unit for 35 years. Peter is an active member of the Friends of Melaleuca and the Friends of the Orange-Bellied Parrot.

He has a long track record of working on a range of boards. Peter was Chairperson of the non-government organisation STEPS for 14 years, which was an employment, training, affordable housing and community building organisation.

Peter has developed a strong interest in ensuring the good governance of the WILDCARE Inc. Board on behalf of its dedicated volunteers.

**Shane Pinner – Board Member**

Shane is currently employed by TasTAFE, and also undertakes contracted research for the University of Tasmania. At TAFE Shane primarily teaches food processing, as well as remote area navigation and survival skills.

Shane has been a volunteer since 2000 and a member of WILDCARE Inc. since then. Shane has also been President of Friends of Orange-Bellied Parrot and a member of Threatened Plants Tasmania, Friends of Melaleuca. He has also volunteered on several occasions as campground host on Schouten Island and assisted with Swift Parrot surveys. He has bushwalked extensively throughout Tasmania.

Shane likes to travel, especially to Nepal. He reads a lot and likes blues music. He has filmed, edited and produced several documentaries around nature. He has a Master of Business with qualifications also in marketing, business planning and documentary filmmaking, and also has skills in creating websites.

**Christian Bell – Board Member**

From August 2007 till March 2009, Christian was the CEO of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT). Christian has been a WILDCARE Inc. Board member for much of the last 10 years. He is currently self employed and engaged with projects that are largely focussed on coastal and marine environments, as well as Tasmanian islands.

Christian also has a strong interest in maritime heritage. In 2005 he received the United Nations Association of Australia's Award for Individual Achievement in the Environment (for marine conservation).

In 2009, he was appointed as a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

**John Duggin – Board Member**

John moved to the Tamar Valley in Tasmania after retiring from a 30 year academic career in natural resources management and environmental science at the University of New England in Armidale NSW.

Among other teaching and research activities, he had developed long-standing research interests in wetland ecology, restoration and management.

John commenced volunteering for the Tamar Island Wetlands in November 2006, was elected president in March 2008 and was then elected to the WILDCARE Inc. Board in April 2008 as a President's representative. He has have been on the board ever since.

John has a particular interests in serving on the Board so as to be involved in encouraging and assessing internal grant applications as well as participating in developing efficient and effective board governance.

John knows how important it is that branches take on appropriate projects, and that these activities are completed in safe environments with appropriate protective equipment available.



## Notice of the Wildcare Annual General Meeting

All members welcome to the  
AGM held at 10.00am on  
Saturday 28th March 2015

at 'The Grange'  
4 Commonwealth Lane,  
Campbell Town TAS 7210

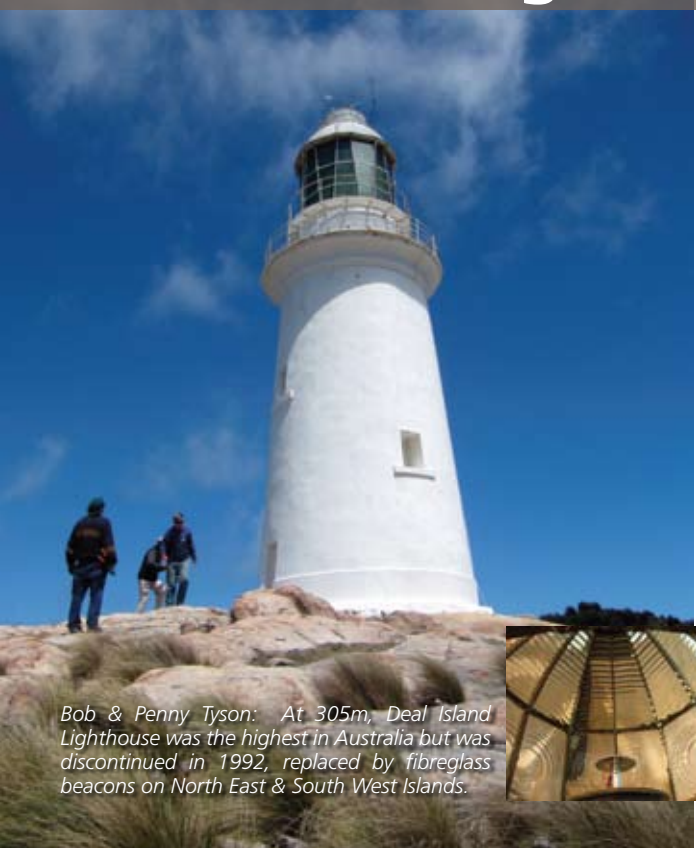
RSVP: [office@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:office@wildcaretas.org.au)



# Volunteers preserve our maritime heritage



by Erika Shankley



*Bob & Penny Tyson: At 305m, Deal Island Lighthouse was the highest in Australia but was discontinued in 1992, replaced by fibreglass beacons on North East & South West Islands.*

Ever wondered what it was like to live and work on some of Tasmania's remote offshore islands? Well, come along to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival and find out. Wildcare Inc volunteer groups Friends of Deal Island, Maatsuyker Island and Tasman Island will be there!

Just imagine life on these islands set in the Roaring Forties - gale force winds and raging seas battering precipitous cliffs. Nineteenth century light keepers and their families lived for long periods in isolation and showed incredible fortitude and resilience.

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

Indeed, one newspaper correspondent wrote in 1891 that "the person who had suggested the construction of a light on the top [of

Tasman Island] was not altogether compos mentis..."

Supplies came irregularly. "We get things we do not require and those most required we do not get" wrote Superintendent William Baudinet in 1848 at the new Deal Island lighthouse in Bass Strait.

To supplement their stores they kept sheep and cattle and grew their own vegetables. One keeper even made his own shoes using the hides of both native and domestic animals – including a dog identified as Rover.

There was a flurry of lighthouse building towards the end of the 19th century with Australia's most southerly lighthouse on Maatsuyker Island built in 1891.

Here, keepers of the historic light had to regularly clean the magnificent 1st Order Chance Brothers lens assembly, more than three metres high, made from 540 pieces of precisely cut glass.

The iconic lighthouse on Tasman Island is well known to sailors as the final turning point in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. At 276 metres above sea level it is the highest operational lighthouse in Australia.

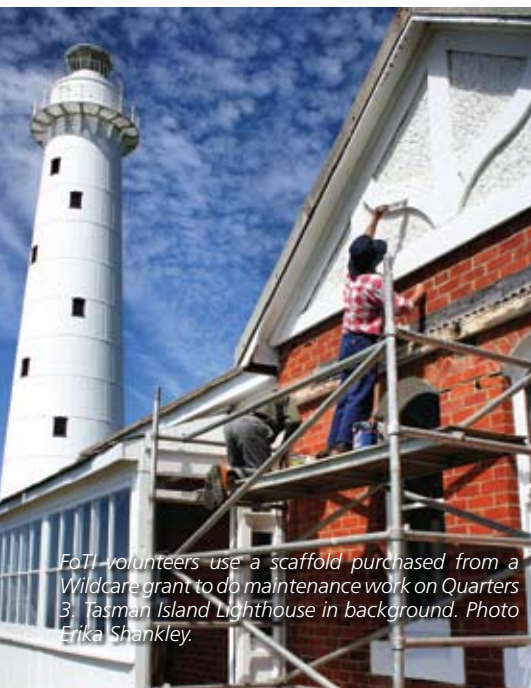
Erected in 1906, it was the last of the manned lights to be built before the Commonwealth took over administration from the States in 1915.

However, light keeping as a way of life is now a thing of the past. The historic lights on Deal and Maatsuyker Islands have been replaced by automatic fibreglass beacons while Tasman Island lighthouse now operates automatically in its original tower.

Lighthouses will always play a key role for mariners.

The islands and their caretaker programmes are administered by the Parks and Wildlife Service, but Tasmania's unique lighthouse heritage is now actively protected by Wildcare volunteers from the Friends of Tasman, Deal and Maatsuyker Islands through fundraising and working bees.

See them at the 11th Australian Wooden Boat Festival and catch a glimpse of life on these spectacular islands. Maybe you'd like to join them?



*FoTI volunteers use a scaffold purchased from a Wildcare grant to do maintenance work on Quarters 3. Tasman Island Lighthouse in background. Photo Erika Shankley.*



*FoTI volunteer group August 2012 are Peter Rigozzi (PWS Heritage Officer) FoTI's Penny Tyson, Glenda Fehlberg, Tim Kingston, Ron Fehlberg, Mike Jenner, Ann Landers, Bob Tyson, Keith Darke; in front FoTI's Chris Creese & Erika Shankley, with Lyndon O'Grady (AMSA). Photo by Erika Shankley.*

by Janet Fenton and Helen Statham



## Friends of Melaleuca

You can renew/join online <http://wildcaretas.org.au/>, at Service Tas, or by contacting Wildcare - you don't have to be an internet user to join Wildcare!

Those of you who are current members would have received an email from Wildcare about the new website which was launched on 12 December. The email asked you to set a new password.

Phil Wyatt and team have been working hard on the website, and it is looking good, though not complete as yet. Phil welcomes feedback at [webmaster@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:webmaster@wildcaretas.org.au)

### Working bee

Thanks to those who expressed interest in our annual working bee at Melaleuca. The date has been finalised to March 20-27 and we have a full complement of volunteers lined up. This time we are excited to welcome artist Kevin Perkins, one of Australia's foremost furniture designer makers, who has volunteered to create a memorial seat in the campground at Melaleuca for Craig Saunders. And cross fingers that Huey will allow us to finish the paint jobs on the two Nissen sheds at the mine.

Thanks to Wildcare for the grant money to make this working bee possible.

### Nomenclature proposals

Proposals for naming places in the WHA have to be approved in writing by the appropriate authority before applications are made to the Nomenclature Board. You may recall that we were considering several proposals for the Melaleuca area. These have been developed and will be waiting on Peter Mooney's desk for consideration in the New Year.

### Deny King Memorial Museum

Draftsman Guy Greener has completed the plans for the entry porch for the museum. Although the porch and its construction are a small job, there was quite a lot of detail to be considered. We thank Guy very much for his voluntary work.

The plans are now in the hands of the PWS engineer and heritage officer for approval. The next step is materials purchase which will be done by Parks and Wildlife Service field officer Alan Thurston. Alan will also oversee the building, hopefully in autumn.

The humidity and temperature chart recorder (lent by TMAG) has been chugging away in the museum building recording our lovely soggy humidity and fluctuating temperatures. Over summer and during the



Preparation work Red Shed, March 2014.

working bee we hope to progress with further planning of the layout of the displays, and selection and documentation of the objects.

They mightn't have the display panels but they will have the new temporary loo!

### Display panels for Claytons

Janet and Geoff had hoped to take these aboard Poinduk soon after Christmas and have them installed for the summer yachting season.

The panels have taken a long while to take shape, and there have been various 'slips twixt the cup and the lip' in the form of the Fenton software being incompatible with the printers', the printers roller breaking down, a different printer being sourced - but only one panel is printed out of the eight! It looks good though.

Now Janet and Geoff will be heading to Melaleuca aboard Poinduk before the panels are printed, but if things work out we should be able to take them all to Claytons on trip no. 2 in March.

### Autumn meeting 2015

We plan to have our first meeting for 2015 in April, when we will show photos of the working bee.



They mightn't have the display panels but they will have the new temporary loo!

# Friends of GIS



by Phil Wyatt

What do you do when you retire from Parks and Wildlife after 30+ years of service? Easy, join Wildcare and start up a new group! That's exactly what Phil Wyatt has done after also serving as our Webmaster for many years.

Phil has a passion for mapping and in particular getting volunteers using spatial technologies. These days there is a spatial component to just about everything we do and use of devices such as GPS's and smartphones has put easy mapping into the hands of many more people.

Years ago, mapping was a bit of a dark art performed by technical people in government offices but programs such as Oziexplorer, Google Earth and Google maps has suddenly made everyone interested in maps, and as volunteers we can certainly use maps to document things like our weed infestations or the extent of our work areas. These can be particularly helpful with funding submissions when trying to explain where funds will be spent, as well as work performed over time.

Unfortunately, many mapping programs are expensive so the new group, "Friends of GIS", is using free, open source software called QGIS to learn the basics of mapping. It may be free but it's very powerful and can produce great looking maps.

Wildcare has already provided a grant to the group to get all the 1:25,000 maps in a digital form to make it even easier.

At the moment the focus of the group is learning the software but Phil is keen to add extra training in the use of things like GPS's and Google Earth as well as more sophisticated software such as Fulcrum app for more detailed data collection.

If you have some data you would like mapped then feel free to send Phil an email and he can guide you in the processes of mapping. Keep an eye on the events calendar for the next session. Members have a range of special interests. We can support users on Windows, Mac and Android devices. To make things easier we are all working with version 2.2 Valmiera. QGIS was chosen as our software of choice as its open source and free. Its also supported worldwide by a very active community of developers.

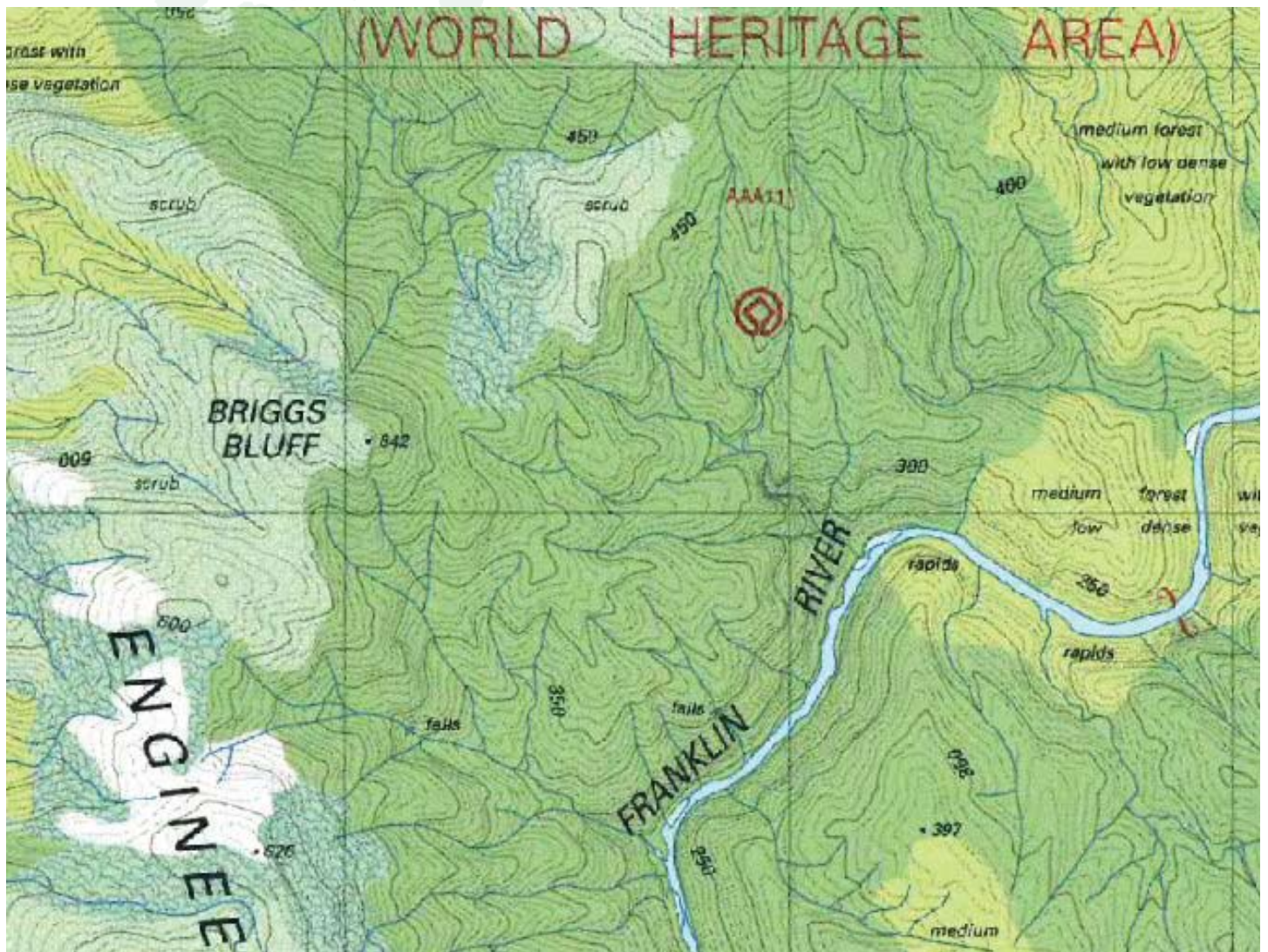
We are all learning the QGIS software as well as the fundamentals of using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). This includes the use of GPS's for data capture and may well lead to other systems such as Open Street Mapping and software such as FulcrumApp for data capture in the field. If you would like assistance in capturing data just drop us an email and will try and assist you with your issues.

Contact - [fogis@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:fogis@wildcaretas.org.au)

QGIS – <http://www.qgis.org>

Fulcrumapp – <http://www.fulcrumapp.com>

Google Earth - <https://www.google.com/earth/>





by Jodie Epper



# Get Outside



*Ranger Richard talks about local birds with participants.*

The Get Outside project was successful in receiving 3 years of funds from the Tasmanian Community Fund.

The project will focus on developing the skills of young people from a migrant background and encourage people from those communities to have experiences in our national parks.

The project kicked off with two highly successful cross-cultural training sessions in which 38 volunteers attended.

The 2015 season's first night proved wild and wet but that did not deter 19 people from enjoying the evening together.

Ranger Richard talked to us about birds, Jodie organised short introduction sessions and a buddy systems so that prior to the walk everyone had gotten to know at least one other person.

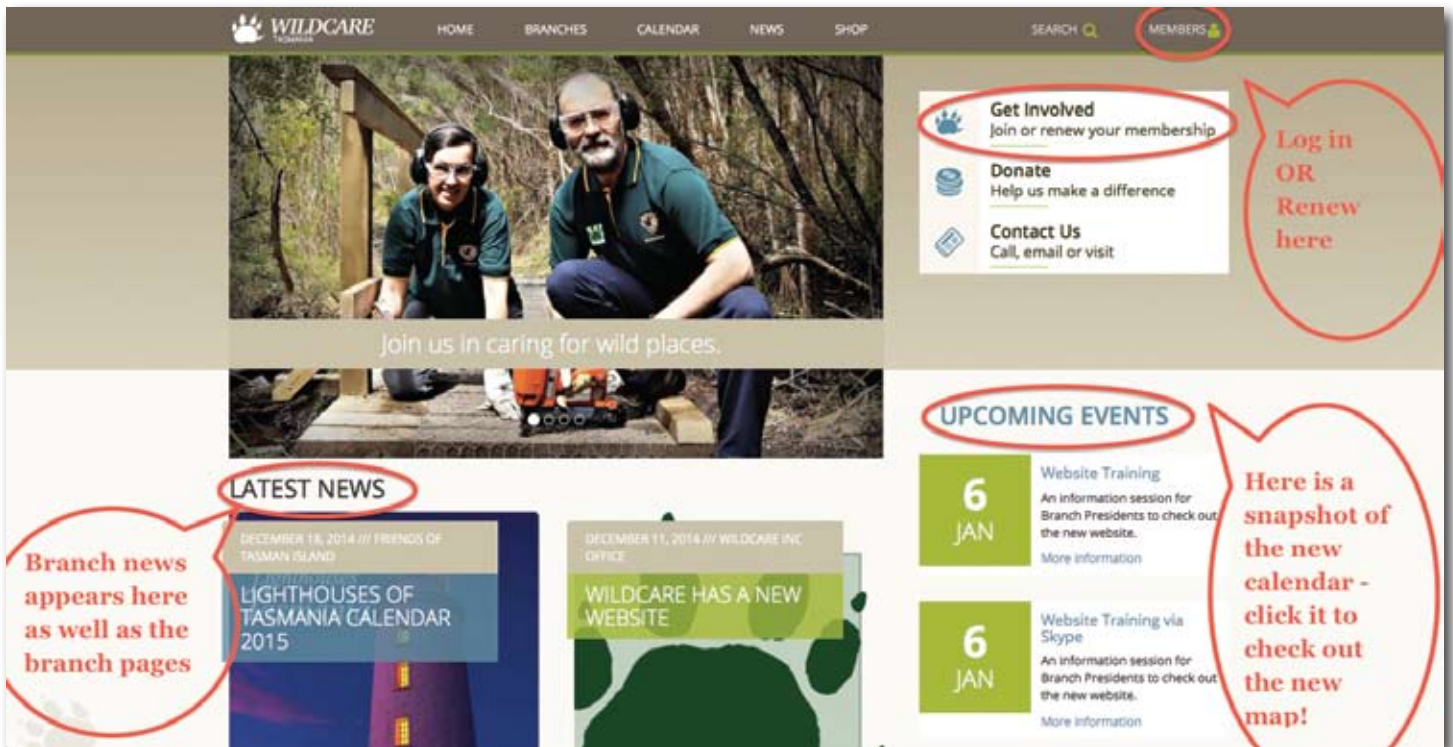
Participants and volunteers went for a walk around the reserve and a BBQ dinner was served on completion of the walk.

Feedback comments from the event include "I was very impressed with last evenings event; Your planning, organisation and delivery were impressive; Our two families had a ball".



*Getting to know each other.*

# Wildcare has a new website



The new front page looks clean and fresh. At a quick glance you can easily find where to log in (if you are already a member) or where to join or renew your membership. You can also see a snapshot of the upcoming events and when you click on this, you are taken to the event and given the option to register. Once you have registered for that event you will be given more information about it. This new site even calculates the hours that you attended and tallies this information for you! The front page also gives you a list of the latest news items that have been put up on the website by the Wildcare Branches. These news items are also located in the Branch pages so you can read more about a particular Branch if you want to.

## New Website

On 11 December 2014 we launched our new website. After many years with our old website we now have a more modern presence on the web that better utilises the technology of today.

Our original site was developed well before the introduction of smart phones and tablets and was definitely getting a bit dated! We are confident that the new development will be useful for many years.

On Monday 15 December all our existing Wildcare members were sent their new login details.

Here are a few of the highlights:

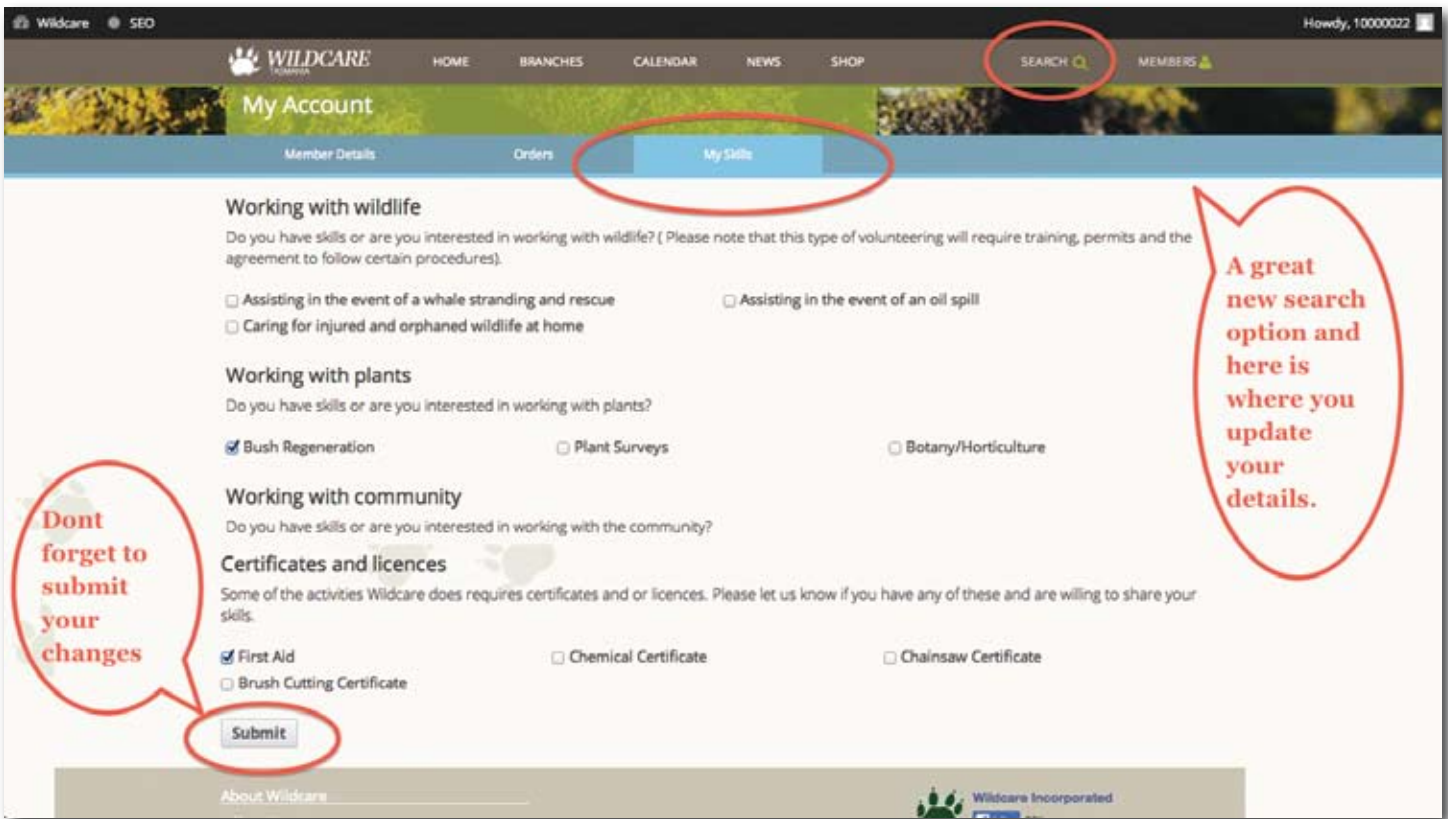
- The site is compatible with PCs, smart phones and tablets (including both Apple and Android)
- Members can manage all their own details, including recovery of passwords
- You can easily stay in touch with your favourite Branches
- You can register for events quickly and easily
- Branch Presidents can keep everyone informed with regular news articles
- You can locate Branches on a map and see what is happening around the state
- You can join and renew online (if you are logged in) with secure credit card facilities
- Online donations are handled via secure connections

In the future we will also be offering more products and members will get better feedback on the number of events they have attended

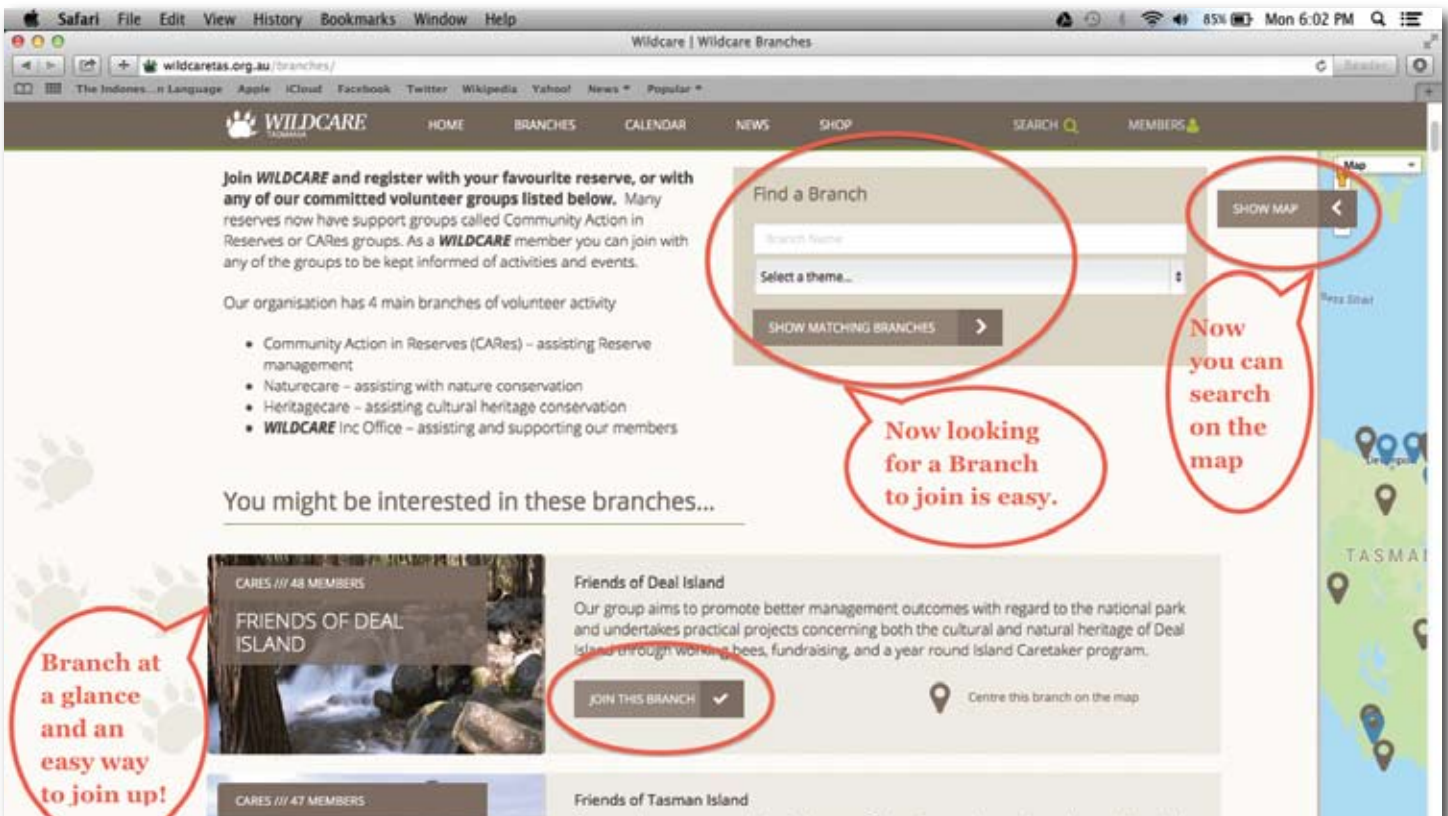
plus a tally of the hours they have committed to Wildcare projects. We know you have been doing massive amounts of work but it's easy to forget so we intend keeping a tally for you.

Have fun checking it out and if you spot any errors or glitches please drop a polite email to our webmaster via our contact form (select the Website/Technical issues option).





The Branches are the engine room of Wildcare. Now it's easier to search and find a Branch (either by theme, Branch name or by looking for a Branch on the map). It's also much easier to join a Branch. So come on inside and check it out.



Now all the information about you is located in one spot (well information relating to Wildcare). Once you log in you will be taken directly to your account page. Here you can update your details, add or remove your skills and interests, change your password and see how your orders are going in the Wildcare shop. Check out the new great Search button if you get lost.

# Hooded Plover News



by Marion Bay Coastcare



*image with thanks to birdlife.org.au*

This week it has been announced that the Hooded Plover (Eastern subspecies, *Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis*) has been formally listed as Vulnerable under our National environment legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

For the first time there is recognition of the nationally threatened status of the subspecies (South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania).

By taking this first big step toward recognising a problem and defining the key actions we need to take to mitigate threats, we make great progress in our journey to species recovery.

While BirdLife Australia has had the foresight to take action over the past decade, we now have 'top down' support via this listing, which will enable us to better detect developments that may have a negative impact, to access a broader range of funding sources, to emphasise the importance of conservation action for the species when we partake in NRM prioritisation planning, and to have more leverage in arguing for lower or negligible impacts to the species.

The listing was made possible by accruing the data that you have all played a part in collecting. There is great value in having knowledge about wildlife — one of the great pitfalls associated with the EPBC Act is that there are many species that should be listed but aren't because of insufficient knowledge of their status.

One of them, I would suspect, is the Beach Stone-curlew.

A big thank you to all biennial count participants, to volunteers who collect data on breeding pairs every season, to land managers who have approved breeding site protection and who assist with this, and specially to Mike Weston, Amy Harris, Jodie Dunn and Eric Woehler for their input into the nomination.

You can keep up to date with the work of the Shorebirds 2020 project by visiting the 'Latest news' page on the BirdLife Australia website: <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/shorebirds-2020/latest-newssb>.

You can download all the project's newsletters from this website. Also visit the website of the Australian Wader Studies Group, a special interest group of BirdLife Australia to learn more about the range of waders: <http://www.awsg.org.au>

*Dr Grainne Maguire Beach-Nesting Birds, BirdLife Australia*



*Just going for a walk down the beach, nothing to worry about.*



## A precarious place to raise a family

Marion Bay Coastcare have had more than 2 weeks of easterlies the big tides have all but swamped the beach.

Miraculously one hooded plover nest just survived the high water.

You can see in one of these photos just how close somebody trod to the nest. Be a wet sand walker this summer – walk low down near the water for hoodies sake!



*Getting closer to the nest can you see it yet?*



*Ooops nearly trod on it!*



## Possible Indian Mynah at Devonport

There has been a report of a possible Indian myna incursion (single bird) at Devonport.

The report has come from a credible witness - Canberra resident who is familiar with Indian mynas.

The witness observed what they identified as a juvenile Indian myna on the deck of the Spirit of Tasmania during berthing in Devonport on Tuesday 16 December. They subsequently reported the sighting to DPIPWE following berthing.

DPIPWE are conducting preliminary surveys and would be grateful for any additional eyes on the lookout in that area.

If you are in, or travelling through/around the Devonport area, please to be on the lookout for a juvenile Indian myna in the Devonport area and immediate surrounds.

Any sightings should be immediately reported to the Invasive Species Hotline on 1300 369 688.

Thanks for helping us keep Tasmania free of this highly invasive and destructive species

*BirdLife Tasmania*

Additional details, including images and calls are at <http://dipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/invasive-animals/invasive-birds/indian-myna>

### EMERGING INVASIVE SPECIES

## Indian myna

*Acridotheres tristis*

**NOT WANTED**



Image: Chris Tzaros

### NOT WANTED in Tasmania

Indian mynas are a serious pest in Australia and are considered one of the world's 100 worst invasive species.

### Prompt action is vital

Indian mynas are now well established in eastern Australia and continue to spread throughout the country.

Tasmania does not currently have an established population of Indian mynas.

Since 2004, there have been six confirmed incursions of Indian mynas reported in Tasmania. In each case, DPIPWE has responded and successfully removed the birds.

### History of a pest

Indian mynas *Acridotheres tristis* are highly invasive birds that can rapidly colonise new areas. First introduced to Melbourne in the 1860s, mynas are now found along the east coast of Australia from Victoria to Queensland.

Indian mynas are highly aggressive and pose a threat to wildlife, particularly birds, by competing for food and nesting resources. They can also damage horticultural and cereal crops, spread weeds and be a public nuisance by nesting in building cavities, causing noise at roosting sites, swooping people and transmitting bird mites.

Indian mynas have been identified as an extreme threat to most Australian states.

### What can we do?

The Invasive Species Branch (ISB) will respond to Indian myna incursions to prevent establishment of this invasive species in Tasmania.

**The Tasmanian public should be on high alert for this species and report all sightings.**

Early detection to allow rapid response to incursions is vital.

**Invasive Species Hotline  
1300 369 688**

### Natural range:

Asia  
Middle East  
India

### Risk to Tasmania:

Extreme

### Main impacts:

Native wildlife (esp. native birds)  
Agriculture  
Spread disease  
Public nuisance

### Status:

Indian mynas are a restricted animal under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

**Importation is prohibited in Tasmania**

# Marion Bay Coast Care



by Marion Bay Coastcare



*Good germination rates at this time of year.*

On Sunday we had a successful time of pricking out young seedlings of blue gums, white gums, white peppermints and black she-oaks (bullocks).

Some of the other species were not quite ready to go. We also learnt how to collect, prepare and plant out seeds, taking into account the different methods required for different species.

Many new seeds were sown and we had fun trying to collect some of the more of the hard to reach silver peppermint and black peppermint seeds.

The trees were grouped in trays of 50 and many people took home a tray or two to nurture them into beautiful trees ripe for planting this winter.

If anyone wants to help out at future propagating and seed collecting days through the summer you would be most welcome.



*Placing the seeds in the already prepared trays.*

by Friends of Redbill Point



## Friends of Redbill Point



*Peace and quiet – that's why we love this place.*

The Wildcare Branch looks after this wonderful reserve, ably managed by 'The Friends of Redbill Point'. The reserve is located at Beauty Point in northern Tasmania.

You can spend a magnificent day at Redbill Point Conservation Area, and it's a wonderful location for family fun during summer.

There is shallow swimming for little people on both sides, with a rocky bottom on the west and a sandy one on the eastern side.

This is also an excellent kayaking spot, and it's ideal during high tides. There are also ample BBQ's and picnic tables on site.

The group supports the Parks and Wildlife Service in the care and management of the Redbill Point Conservation Area.

Currently this includes keeping tracks clear, managing re-growth and looking after the public BBQ facilities. If you do come to visit, then please plan to take your rubbish home with you.

Your dogs' are welcome - but must be under control for everyone's enjoyment. Doggie doo bags are provided, so please think of others when visiting.

We look forward to seeing you over summer.



*This place is a great place for strolling.*



*Dogs are most welcome when under control and with owners cleaning up after them.*

# Progress with Raptors



by Wildcare Roaring Beach Wildlife Rescue



*The aviary complete.*

*Pretty nice mug shots.*

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](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fox)



Wildcare Roaring Beach Wildlife Rescue is based on the Tasman Peninsula and focuses on rescue, rehabilitation, conservation and education in relation to native Tasmanian fauna.

Roaring Beach Wildlife Conservation and education projects include habitat work in bushfire affected areas, wildlife rescue training for individuals and organisations and awareness campaigns within the community and local area.

The group facilitated the first "Wildlife and Conservation Community Fair" in 2014 with over 400 visitors.

Volunteers undertake animal rescue and transport, enclosure building and habitat regeneration work.

We can also provide support should you wish to be trained as a registered wildlife carer with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

Here is a snippet from our last working bee;

*After two very hot days in the sun the raptor hexagon is ready for action - complete with Brown Falcon fledgling.*

*We got a full 60m lap out of the little fellow so quietly confident that the design means potential non-stop flight.*

*Thanks to all that lent a hand, donated and fundraised. The slatted aviary is still under construction, the bill being \$10,000 (\$5,000 raised in donations and grants).*

*This one cost about \$250 in star pickets and cable ties (fundraised by Possum Pie) and the net and frame were donated by TASSAL.*

*Make sure you check out the Wildcare Inc. facebook page for videos of these gorgeous animals.*



*Fledglings stretching their wings.*



By Viv Muller



## Surveying at Rocky Cape

Six Threatened Plant Tasmanian members set out on a fine, windy day to map the population of the black-eyed susan, or northern pinkbells, *Tetratheca ciliata*.

We found 39 plants along the side of a track where Janine Cranney and Vicky Abblitt had found them previously. We were able to extend their known range slightly by pushing through thick scrub beside the track. The plants were hidden in the lower levels of other vegetation and would have been hard to find if they had not been flowering. Some of us pushed through thick, shoulder high shrubs to a second recorded location near Rocky Cape but failed to find any plants there.

We also found a new site for the mauve-tuft sun-orchid, *Thelymitra malvina*. As well as growing opposite the shop at Sisters Beach, we found eleven plants on a steep road cutting between the highway and Sisters Beach. Our third goal was to locate the bent native-primrose, *Goodenia geniculata*, which is common in Victoria but only just makes it to Tasmania at Rocky Cape. Janine and

Vicky guided us to an area that was burnt in autumn, where the bright yellow flowers were easy to see. We counted 41 plants in all. A second known area had been burnt this spring and will be worth surveying in the next few years.



Hunting for *Tetratheca ciliata* at Sisters Beach, Photo Robin Garnet.



*Caladenia saggicola*: photo Doug Clarke.

By Viv Muller



## Weed busters at Jordan Nature Reserve and Township Lagoon

We are really grateful to this year's on the road weedbusting group of Magali Wright (NRM South), and volunteers Kerri and Viv, who along with Parks staff Alena Hrasky and Mark Monks, and DPIPW's Richard Schahinger continued TPT's excellent weed follow-up work at these two Nature Reserves.

On October 23, we cut and dabbed small gorse, hawthorn, blackberry and rose at Jordan Nature Reserve, as well as pulling some 'mignonette' (*Reseda* sp) and great mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*). The core area of this reserve contains, amongst many other things, the threatened species *Hibbertia basaltica*, and *Pultenaea prostrata*, both of which were in flower, as well as the beautiful *Cryptandra amara* which had just finished its flower display.

We were delighted to note (confirmed by Richard's GPS) that the *Pultenaea prostrata* has actually spread a few more metres east up towards the top of the hill! Our weed efforts of last year had also resulted in a marked improvement at the Northern end of the reserve. Thanks to grants from both NRM South and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, we now have some funding for more contractor work to complete the weed removal along the old railway line. However we still need enthusiastic volunteers to maintain the follow-up work in future years!!

More recently, on November 27, the weedbusters were at it again at Township Lagoon Nature Reserve in Tunbridge. This is another very rich site for threatened grassland species. Again, the weeds in our sights were gorse, rose and 'mignonette', and on this day we took advantage of Viv's Chem Cert qualification to embark on our first attempt at using a spray pack to spot-treat some of the denser gorse and rose regrowth.

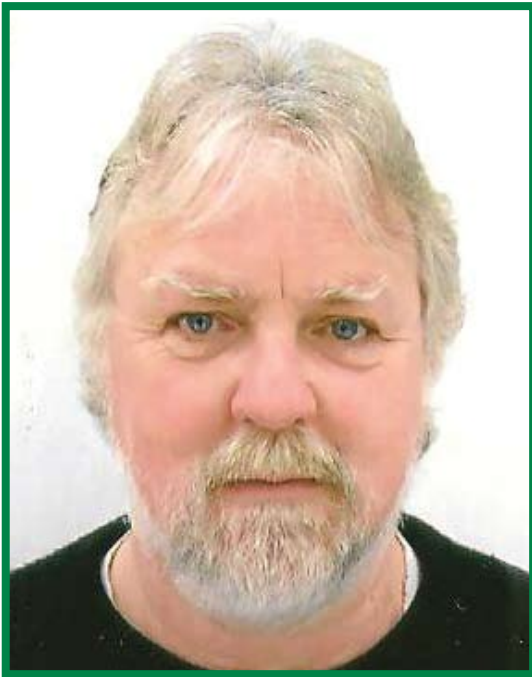
We are very grateful to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy who lent us the spray pack for the day. Overall it was a successful exercise, but still with a few logistical problems to solve around transporting gear and materials.

Extra activities included reconfirming numbers for *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolour*, and locating a fruiting *Prasophyllum tunbridgense* which will shortly be harvested for seed, for use in the ex situ orchid conservation work at the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Unfortunately there are some weed problems emerging at Tunbridge which will require addressing in future. These include salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*) and whiteweed (*Cardaria draba*). A different type of problem is occurring on the lagoon itself from uncontrolled vehicle access.

## A tribute to our web master

by Jodie Epper



Phil Wyatt has been the silent but consistent tireless worker maintaining our web site.

He is our web master! He is the man that fixed our problems, he edited the images so they fitted nicely onto our screens, and he solved the problems that Wildcare Presidents gave him, all on time and in a friendly manner with expertise and generosity.

He also was the man to get us a new web site, encouraging the non-believers and being the main conduit between the office and the new web site developers.

He was also the main agent in delivering training to both the Presidents and the Wildcare office staff during this changeover period.

And now he is retiring in this role and we wish to publically thank him for his efforts.

He has been a delight to work with, has given many years to Wildcare. Thank You Phil Wyatt and we wish you well in your volunteer efforts on mapping and GIS with the Humanitarian Open Street Map community and the Australian Red Cross.

We look forward to supporting him in his role of President of the Friends of GIS.

## Position Vacant

Volunteer Web Master with an interest in Wordpress and CiviCRM – please contact Jodie at [jodie@wildcaredtas.org.au](mailto:jodie@wildcaredtas.org.au) for a position description.

## Just an average member – I think

I joined Wildcare about 4 years ago.

At first I was too shy to register with any of the Branches. I just filled in my skills register and hoped that I would get noticed.

Since then I suppose, I have realised that Wildcare is made up of many individuals who are all just volunteering like me and I decided that maybe they, (who ever they were), were not going to call me and make me an offer and that might I need to be a bit more proactive.

So, I did some research on each of the Branches in my area and joined a few that interested me.

Then I made the effort to go along to some of the meetings and I even contacted a few of the Presidents.

It was quite a delightful response I received from them, they certainly were not used to members contacting them and offering to do whatever needed doing.

One of the things I have noticed, is that when I have been invited to join a working bee, some of the people who had also joined up for the event didn't turn up and didn't notify the Presidents that they were not coming.

Sure we all have busy lives and sometimes we can't make it along to everything, but I noticed that by being unreliable you really let the volunteer team down.

After a while I think I got a reputation for being reliable, a hard worker and generally I was pretty pleased to be given these unique opportunities.

I love my hours working with Wildcare and I encourage other members to get proactive and to get involved.



### 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**



# Cave Ecology

Dwelling in the underground world of caves is an astonishing array of fascinating creatures. Some live in caverns reaching tens of metres in diameter, while others occur in minute pores. Although all live underground, it's vital that we recognise that their ecosystem is linked to the surface above and any changes we make here can affect their subterranean habitat.

## Water is vital

Caves can form in many different rock types. In karst areas, carbonate rocks (dolomite or limestone) dissolve in water, creating some of the most extensive cave systems. Water draining underground collects carbon dioxide and becomes acidic. This then dissolves the carbonate rocks, slowly forming a cavern.

Inside the cave, dripping water redeposits minerals from dissolved rocks, creating formations such as the familiar stalagmites and stalactites.

Many cave creatures live in the water and feed on debris washed into the cave. Others feed on creatures that live in the water. For example, the glow-worm builds its silken nest above streams and uses its light to attract caddisflies and other insects (caddisflies have an aquatic larval stage). For all these creatures, maintaining an unpolluted water supply is vital.

## A stable environment

Cave environments are strongly buffered against the daily, seasonal and longer term surface climatic changes. They provide stable, sheltered and moist refuges for animals which might otherwise not survive on the surface.

## Surface food supply

Green plants cannot grow in the complete darkness of caves, so the food supply for cave creatures must ultimately come from the surface. Plant material falls or is carried in by streams while animals wander, fall or become swept underground.

Cave ecosystems directly depend upon the surrounding surface environment. This means it is essential that we maintain the natural soil, vegetation, and water quality around caves. The special nature of karst makes it particularly vulnerable to degradation and such areas should be treated with special care.

## Distinct zones

The cave environment can be divided into four distinct zones:

### Entrance zone

Here the surface and underground environments meet.

### Twilight zone

Here light progressively diminishes to zero. Plants such as ferns, mosses, liverworts and algae cannot grow beyond the limit of light penetration.

### Transition zone

Light is absent here although surface environmental fluctuations such as temperature and moisture are still felt. Cave crickets often congregate here, and on suitable nights venture outside the cave to forage for food.

### Deep zone

Remote from entrances, the deep zone is completely dark. Here the relative humidity is high and evaporation rate is low. Temperature is nearly constant all year around.

Creatures living in this zone have become adapted for life in the dark, no longer needing vision. Called troglobites, they may have reduced body pigment and eyes and longer legs and antennae to help them find food in the darkness.

Only small amounts of food ever reach the deep zone so troglobites have to survive long periods without food.

## Places to live

Within caves are a number of distinct habitat types. Some animals live in aquatic habitats such as streams and pools. Others live on sediment banks along waterways.

Terrestrial habitats include tree roots, wood, fungi, leaves, animal droppings and carcasses. It is important that cave visitors do not disturb these vital habitats.

## Tasmanian cave fauna

Tasmania has one of the richest known cave faunas in temperate Australia. Spiders, crickets, beetles, slaters, snails, harvestmen, millipedes, pseudoscorpions and many other invertebrates live in our caves.



Photo by Angela Anderson.



Photo by Marion Bay Coastcare.



Photo by Ron Fehlberg.



**WILDCARE Inc**

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

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