



# WILD TIMES

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Friends of Deal Island receive the award

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## *We won an award!*

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF DEAL ISLAND

Friends of Deal Island were delighted to hear that we had won the NRM North / Landcare Community Group Award, and really appreciate this recognition of the work that our group has been doing. We were presented with a trophy – a beautiful hand blown glass figure of a possum (made by James Dobson) and a Mitre 10 gift voucher which will be put to good use. Thank you to both organisations. A bonus was that as the presentation followed the NRM North annual general meeting at Inveresk, we had the opportunity to meet some of the people we had previously only 'met' by phone.

Deal Island is the largest island of the Kent Group National Park and it lies in Bass Strait about half way between Flinders Island and Wilsons Promontory. You could say that Deal is a hub of volunteering. It is manned by volunteers who spend three month stints as caretakers in a program organised by the Parks and Wildlife Service. In addition, there is a program of working bees conducted by Friends of Deal Island. Since 2002, seventeen

working bees involving 71 different people have been held, and the next bee is about to take place. Work has been done to support both the natural and historic heritage of the island.

Most of our effort has been spent on the development of an extensive and ongoing weeding program. Significant progress in the management of weeds has been made. Marram grass has been eradicated (only a couple of small patches) as has weedy cumbungi (one small pond). Arum lilies, which used to be a feature of East Cove – entry point of the Island – have all but been cleared, and their numbers elsewhere greatly reduced. In addition, horehound infestations are now hard to find and the thistle population is significantly less. And we have put effort into keeping a major ragwort infestation in check until we can deal with that weed.

Huge effort has been put into controlling sea spurge on the Island. Our aim is to show that once established infestations are removed, it will take only a relatively small



Deal Island

amount of work to keep the island free of this weed. So far we have completed primary weeding of the two major infestations totalling an area of nearly 10ha. Follow-up weeding, a big task, continues. Natural re-vegetation is also being supported on the slopes of East Cove by fencing the local wallabies out of fragile areas, thus preventing damage done by their grazing and movement across the site.

None of this would have occurred without the support of our funding bodies which include the Australian Government through Envirofund and Caring for Country, The Tasmanian Community Fund, NRM North, and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.



**Malcom McDonald**  
CEO

## CEO report

This year is certainly moving along at a brisk pace! Here I am inviting contributions already for the 2015 Annual Report! Our goal for this report is to showcase the activities and projects of as many Wildcare Branches as possible and present them in a yearbook style. The ultimate aim is to have each Branch make a contribution. It may be just a few lines, a paragraph or something more significant. That's up to you.

For 2015, think about what other Wildcare Branches would be interested to learn that your Branch is doing. What do you consider the highlight of your year? What particular challenges did you overcome, from which other Branches could benefit? Need some help? Simply send a series of dot points with some photos and we will craft something for you. It's that easy, **but the time to act is now**. Submission to CEO@wildcaretas.org.au with some high resolution photos with captions.

### Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail

We are delighted to acknowledge a generous donation of \$40,000 from The Patricia Dukes Foundation.

The intended purpose behind this donation is to support the development of the Penguin Cradle Trail in north-west Tasmania. Planned activities centre around directional signage, improved safety for walkers and mapping. More information about this exciting development will be provided in a future issue of *WILDTIMES* once the Gift Fund Committee has considered the project plan.

# Return to Return Point

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF MARIA ISLAND Story by David Reynolds

A continuing program on the control of coastal weeds primarily Horehound, Mignonette, Mullien and Cal. Thistles.

Two trips over 4 days a year have changed the coastal headlands from Return Point to 4 Mile beach. Large areas of weeds have been removed by spraying, cut & paste and grubbing out methods. Native flora is taking over these previous weedy areas. This has encouraged extensive foraging by wallabies, kangaroos and wombats.

Normally the FoMi group camp at Return Point, with added equipment provided by Parks, including, marques, chairs, tables water etc. making for a comfortable and productive days camping on site. Forays are sometimes taken to Point Leseuer, Soldiers Point checking out weed hot spots. Marine clean-ups of the beaches also are in the program if time permits.

On request from Parks we were asked to help in the making of igloos for penguin protection, this took up most of Saturday afternoon at a workshop in Darlington. About 25 igloos were constructed with a sand mould and 2 layers of concrete and wire mesh as part of the process of building the igloos. We started weeding at 4 Mile headland on Sunday, after being driven down to Return Point and a short walk

along the fore shore to the site and started pulling out Horehound, Mullien and Mignonette.

Monday was a perfect day (no wind) and some spraying was undertaken at Return Point on some large patches of Horehound. Other members of the group pulled out Mignonette, Thistles and cut & pasted some of the larger plants. Late afternoon Parks arrived and took the large water tank and equipment back to Darlington plus the FoMi group. Large areas at Return point are now covered in native bulbine, small ground hugging plants and some of the headlands have big patches of bower spinach.

Friends of Maria Island thanks the staff on Maria Island for the ongoing support on these programs on the island and the volunteers who have contributed.

Lunch break at 4 Mile headland

Photos: David Reynolds



Mignonette removal at Return Point.



# Craig's seat

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF MELALEUCA Story by Janet Fenton

Most Wildcare members fondly remember Craig Saunders. Craig was a highly organised and competent outdoorsman who loved to pass on his various skills to others. He made a huge contribution to Wildcare through his energy, enthusiasm, intelligence and practical skills. While working for the Parks and Wildlife Service, he spent a lot of time in the South West on tracks and infrastructure, including the Needwonnee walk and the grand new Gough toilet at Melaleuca. He helped many Wildcare groups in his role as the Southern Region Volunteer Facilitator. Craig was super efficient in his role as Treasurer and Board member of Wildcare, and maintained his interest in volunteer groups after leaving PWS, working hard on Maatsuyker Island and at Melaleuca.

Craig helped to establish Friends of Melaleuca, and was involved in a number of our working bees. He masterminded and worked on the re-roofing of the Charles King Memorial hut, undaunted by the curved Nissan style roof, which added to the complexity of the job.

After Craig's tragic death in a cycling accident in 2013, Friends of Melaleuca wanted to create a lasting tribute to him in recognition of his strong ties with the place and the volunteers who

worked with him there. We decided that a sculptural seat, made from local timber and placed sensitively in the campground at Melaleuca, would make an appropriate tribute. At the family's request this would not bear Craig's name, but would be Craig's seat for those who knew him. Craig always camped there and enjoyed the peace of the spot under the trees, close to the shores of Melaleuca Lagoon.

Leading Australian furniture designer, Kevin Perkins volunteered his considerable skill and talent to create the seat. We are thrilled that such an eminent artist volunteered his time for this special project. Kevin is regarded as one of Australia's foremost furniture designer/makers. His designs can be found in many public buildings and important collections, including the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra and the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

A boomerang shaped huon pine log was found half buried in gravel at Balmoral Beach, weathered silvery by decades in the sea, and furry on the ends from bashing about on rocks for so long. What was the history behind its travels? Fascinating to dream and speculate...Perhaps it was cut by the piners a hundred and fifty years ago in the Spring or Davey River, or even

further up the coast at the Spero. Perhaps it wandered up and down the coast, fetched up now and then on remote rocky shores, only to be spun back into the sea by massive breakers. Then to wander into Bathurst Channel to be washed up over winter on Balmoral Beach – just for Craig.

The Parks and Wildlife Service kindly gave permission to re-locate the log to its new home by the shores of Melaleuca Lagoon.

Volunteers arrived for the working bee on Saturday 21 March and the log was collected by boat that afternoon, with Kevin, Desley (Craig's partner) and Chris Creese as Geoff's crew. Ian Volpe, the Melaleuca caretaker, went along to film the move. The operation turned out to be quite easy. The log was soon pulled down to the water, hoisted aboard Poinduk, and motored back to Melaleuca. At the home wharf, many hands made the unloading a breeze. The log was set up on trestles in our boatshed/woodshed, so that Kevin could work on the job whatever the weather, and run power down to the work site. Then we left the artist in peace, more or less.

It was fascinating to watch the seat take shape and fresh yellow timber emerge. Over the next couple of days

Inaugurating Craig's seat. Photo: Ian Volpe





Kevin fitted the legs, prepared the site and carved an exquisite CS (Craig's initials) on one end. By Tuesday the seat was ready, and was taken over the lagoon by boat for installation in the chosen location.

Final adjustments were made, and on Wednesday afternoon we all gathered for a small and simple ceremony. It was very special that Desley could be there for the whole process, from collecting the log to installing the seat.

The curve of the seat nestles snugly into a nook in the slope, and the seat affords a vista over the lagoon to Mt Rugby. The timber feels silky to the touch, and the seat is so very comfortable. Being elegantly understated it is in tune with the location. And Craig would have appreciated the fact that it is useful, as well as beautiful. Thank-you, Kevin. Valé Craig.

Kevin shaping the log. Photo: Geoff Fenton



## Natural values of the Cape

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF CAPE DESLACS

Visitors to Clifton Beach can now learn more about the natural values of the area, thanks to stylish new signage in the adjoining picnic area. The sign provides information about the three adjoining reserves that make up this conservation area.

Clarence City Council Mayor Doug Chipman and Councillor Sharyn Von Bertouch were present at the unveiling of the sign, designed by Kath Chapman, of Design Soiree, Cremorne.

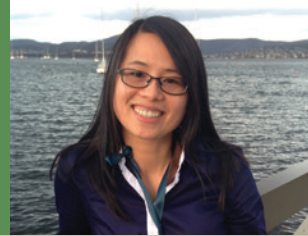
The Council has been very supportive of Wildcare Deslacs and has been a valuable partner in maintaining the group's momentum. The natural values sign was funded by a Clarence City Council Community Support Grant. It marks another step in the implementation of the *2013 Clifton Beach Coastal Reserve Activity Plan* – collaboratively developed by Clarence City Council; Wildcare Deslacs; Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service; the Clifton Beach Surf Lifesaving Club; and other interested members of the community.

Clarence City Council has provided funding to work in partnership with these stakeholders to:

- undertake landscape and revegetation activities
- upgrade beach access and dune fencing
- planting in the local park and along Clifton Beach Rd
- supported the rubbish clean up days.

Peter Feil, PWS Ranger expressed appreciation for the work of Wildcare groups, such as the one operating at Clifton Beach. Wildcare Deslacs work with PWS on protecting the short-tailed shearwater rookery on the Cape Deslacs reserve.

Alice  
Youyin Yu  
Treasurer



## Meet our new treasurer

At its August meeting, the Wildcare Board of Management welcomed its new Treasurer, Alice Youyin Yu.

Alice grew up in Guangzhou, China and came to Tasmania to study in February 2009. She graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of International Business and Master of Professional Accounting, including the widely regarded Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) designation.

Alice's work experience has been in small, medium and large companies in Tasmania. She has lived in Tasmania for more than six years and now proudly calls Tasmania home. She has a passionate interest in wildlife, bushwalking and photography.

"I am really looking forward to contributing to the success of Wildcare", Alice told *WILDTIMES*. And with the enthusiasm and professionalism that she has already demonstrated, she is off to a great start!

Cape Deslacs Reserve Working Bee Crew



# How many?

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF BRUNY ISLAND

With visitor numbers on the rise over the past two years the The Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station (FOBIQS) have been actively improving visitor facilities with the kind support of a National Conservation Grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife – Parks for People via Wildcare.

FOBIQS's aim is to develop better visitor and interpretation facilities at the station site on North Bruny, in line with Parks and Wildlife Service's aim to improve facilities and enjoyment for all. The recent working bee was supported by volunteers, caretakers and Park's staff ( including Senior Ranger Jeremy Hood) saw Phase 1 of the toilet facilities upgrade completed (septic tank installed and drainage field work initiated). The new toilets will form part of the new visitor's facilities in the decommissioned Plant Quarantine Building.

FOBIQS is looking forward to completion of the next phases of the visitors facilities upgrade in preparation for another busy summer visitor season. Come and visit us over summer.



Walking the pipe grid over to the bed

# A jolly jam in June

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF FREYCINET

The June Freycinet working bee was certainly jam packed (starting off with jam, cream and scones), and pretty jolly as well. Thirteen Wildcare volunteers spent 481 hours around Coles Bay and the far flung beaches to the north, weeding, raking, burning, cleaning, clearing drains, picking up rubbish, pointing (rock work, not looking at views), putting up signs, eating and drinking and generally being jolly.

Most of us spent the seven days housed in the comfy Le Repaire des Diables (rangers' house) however one hardy volunteer camped in his cosy van, and a couple of even more (fool) hardy workers braved the rain in their tent. It must have been okay, as they did not want to move in with us! It was great that a couple of 'locals' (shack owners) joined us, plus a (slightly less) local from Little Beach.

The first task was to clear the leaves, bark and branches from around the Visitors Centre, which was creating a fire hazard. I doubt that this had been done for many, many years as it took a lot of people a lot of days lighting lots of little fires. Camp ground host gear was sorted, washed, packed away and tents pitched, cleaned, mended and sent off for repair.

Then it was off to the northern beaches to check for sea spurge from Chain of Lagoons to Falmouth. The highlight was when the Wildcare volunteer and manager of White Sands Estate, Mauricio Pontalti, provided us with a lovely picnic lunch at his

Resort. We could get used to this! Two teams pulled lots of sea spurge plants, including 68 at the Edge of the Bay, plus removed thistles from Friendly Beach lagoons, psoralea from a roadside reserve in Coles Bay and thistles and sweet pittosporum at Richardsons Beach. Track clearing and dune rehabilitation was also undertaken at Richardsons Beach, which well and truly deserves the Keep Australia Beautiful award it received. We also carted and spread 2 loads of woodchips to the staff quarters courtyard.

The evenings were not all eating and drinking and doing puzzles. We were lucky enough to have "Fulcrum Phil" to teach us the joys of mapping using Fulcrum and smart phones. It is brilliant, and if I can learn it in one easy lesson (well, a bit more, maybe two ), then anyone can! We now have a map of Freycinet covered in tell-tale dots so we can monitor our weeding progress.

The final day was spent repairing and repointing some rock walls at the Wineglass Bay car park – another new skill to add to our CV.



# Winners

This years Craig Saunders Photographic Competition winning entry is by Marina Campbell – congratulations! Marina has nominated the \$1000 prize be donated to Friends of Maatsyker island. I hope you enjoy the runners up, also in this edition of *WILDTIMES*. Congratulations to all the volunteers who submitted entries and thank you to the judges who had a very hard decision this year.



*1<sup>st</sup> place*



## Thank you

### To these people for their donations to the WILDCARE Gift Fund:

Andrea Cameron, Andrea Lewis, Andrew Smith, Ben Clark, Caz Timbrell, Craig Parsey, David Budds, Douglas Adams, Hong Khuc, James Collins, Jenny Grundy, Judy Clarke, Mary Stary, Nicole Lowrey, Peter Ryan, Phillip Stary, Robert Brooke, Guest from Saffire Freycinet, Tracey Simpson.

### Share your story

Send your submissions to [wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au)  
Deadline for the next issue is 1/12/2015.

### Wildcare Inc

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