



# WILD TIMES

May 2016 Edition 55

## Quarter of a million plants!

FRIENDS OF NARAWANTAPU Story by Helen Plaister

A few friends, who I often walk with, had been volunteering each January in southwest Tasmania for the SPRATS team. The task was to see if the conservation area from Macquarie Harbour to Cocker Creek could be freed from the scourge of the dreaded weed, sea spurge. Ten years later, we have done it! Ten years later we are jobless – well, volunteer-less! Time to turn our hard-earned weeding skills to our local area.

After having a chat with PWS Narawantapu Ranger Clinton Downing, and with the support and knowledge of Field Officer Daniel Bowden, we entered into a trial partnership. It was an experiment to see if we could clear, by hand weeding, one of the access routes to the beach, Griffiths Point. Not being used to having volunteers in the park, the boys were a bit sceptical. It was up to us to show what a keen and enthusiastic group of volunteers can do. With the support of PWS and the personnel at Wildcare, Friends of Narawantapu was formed.

As the photographs attest, the task was daunting. After seven sessions, with an average of seven people working a total of 42 hours, we managed to pull 214,733 plants. Yes, nearly a quarter of a million plants reeled from the ground.

Still in its infancy, this project will see the volunteers working through the winter months. On the last Friday of each month, we will survey the park with the PWS, set a few priority areas, and note areas to be sprayed, ready for hand weeding.

To some who have seen the sea spurge along this beautiful area it will seem a huge task. Already, volunteers from Birds Australia have noted that some of the sea birds are not returning due to this weed covering their nesting sites. The Friends of Narawantapu group is thinking, if we can just make a small inroad to eliminating this weed – even if it is just an experiment – it will be a project worth doing. Maybe it is a small thank you to a National Park that has given us a lot of pleasure over the years.

Right: Volunteer Frank Wilson hard at it pulling sea spurge – it's a big job.

Below: The team at Narawntapu – pleased with the work so far.

## In this issue

New Wildcare group Cradle Mountain

A special day Bruny Island

Bush getting better Wellington Park

AGM Report Summary Co-Chairs

Leadership looking strong Get Outside

Lighthouse restoration Maatsuyker







**Malcom MacDonald**  
CEO

# Another new Wildcare group

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF CRADLE MOUNTAIN

## CEO report

Since the last edition of Wildtimes, two big events have been the 2016 Annual General Meeting and release of the 2015 Annual Report.

### 2016 AGM

This year's AGM featured two guest speakers. Greig Clarke, President of the recently formed Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail Branch, spoke on a program of major works his Branch is doing on the trail.

Professor Greg Woods, Principal Research Fellow at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research at UTAS, delivered a presentation titled DFTD: A Double Dose of a Devil of a Disease.

Both presentations were well-received.

### 2015 Annual Report

Each year, we aim not only to produce an Annual Report that satisfies compliance requirements, but to showcase as many programs, projects and activities of Wildcare Branches around the State as possible. In that sense, the publication is more in the style of a yearbook.

In the 2015 Report, 14 Branches are featured, up from 10 the previous year and three in 2013. Several Branches contributed for the first time, which is very pleasing to see. The make-up and activities of the Wildcare Gift Fund Committee are also featured, as well as a special feature on the Orange-bellied Parrot. Thank you to those Branches who made a contribution.

It is not too early to plan for the 2016 Annual Report! Keep alert for activities and events that would make an interesting read. And remember, we are not seeking to duplicate what is published in Wildtimes. We need a story, supported by some high resolution photos, with captions. Assistance is available to help you put it together. I look forward to receiving a contribution from your Branch!

Tasmania's iconic Cradle Mountain forms the northern end of the Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park, and is the centrepiece of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. With over 200,000 visitors per year, this area of outstanding natural value needs ongoing work to make sure that it is not "loved to death." Its varied landscapes of rugged mountains, rainforests, glacial lakes, buttongrass plains and alpine moors offer some of the finest scenery and best bushwalking anywhere in Australia.

Friends of Cradle Mountain (FoCM) are a new Wildcare group that aims to work with Parks and Wildlife staff to help protect and conserve this iconic Park in Tasmania's northwest. Some of our working bees will suit those who want to get out into the mountains and stretch their legs, while, at other times, we will focus closer to home. Tasks are varied and suit a broad range of skills and interests, including walking track work, weed control, conservation works on historic buildings, fauna monitoring and revegetation.

FoCM was formed in 2016 to recognise the invaluable contributions made by volunteers, locals and visitors to Cradle Mountain in past years. We will undertake a range of works that cater to our group's skills and interests, as well as the needs of Park management. Our work will cover both remote and day-use areas. The first working bee will be in April or May 2016. This will be a great opportunity to get involved, meet fellow members and have input into the future direction of the group. Check out our page on the Wildcare website.



The backdrop for a new Wildcare Group – Friends of Cradle Mountain.





# *A special day*

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF BRUNY ISLAND  
QUARANTINE STATION

Saturday 20 February 2016 was a special day for the descendants of Anthony Cox & Jane Daly, two convicts who resided at the Bruny Island Quarantine Station site from 1856 – 1902. The descendants of their eleven children came from near and far and gathered at the Quarantine Station after scattering John & Mavis Crane's ashes at the Killora Jetty site. John's father, Edward Crane, was caretaker of the station for forty years from 1918 – 1958. John's mother, Violet Crane (nee Summers), died from the influenza pandemic on Boxing Day in 1919. John was only eight months old. John's father went on to marry Catherine Delaney (the granddaughter of Anthony & Jane) and have three more children. According to one of the family, Mavis (nee Reid) was sent down to the Quarantine Station in the late 1930's to recuperate from peritonitis and, as John was living onsite, they met and fell in love. When Mavis visited, John would take the cart around to Killora Jetty to pick her up. They married in 1942 at St Paul's Church, Glenorchy, and had three children. The youngest family member, John & Mavis's great granddaughter, Gracie May, was born in January 2016. She will no doubt carry on the family memories of the site, passed down to her through the generations.

Bruny put on its best sunny weather, and volunteers, caretakers Kelly and Elise, and Kathy, from Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station, were on site to mingle and answer questions. A great time was had by all, exchanging memories such as the times John was locked in the sulphur (fumigation) room when he was naughty, and productive fishing excursions in the bay. People had driven from Georgetown and Launceston to pay tribute and their respects. A lovely photo of the couple took pride of place on the picnic table.



A family reunion on Bruny Island.

# *The bush is getting better*

WELLINGTON PARK BUSHCARE

Getting a lift up to Goat Hills is a great boon, but when we have to get back on foot the old route is a much more pleasant way, both visually and for ease of walking. To enable us to go this way, a car shuffle was arranged and it worked out well.

Some plants in the work area were looking in a poor state and that included quite a quantity of our 'number-one enemy' up there, Erica. Initially, those on the flatter spots were cleared, and despite it being very dry the plants were mostly able to be pulled out with the aid of pliers. The soil was gritty enough not to resist. This was not always the case on the rockier locations higher up, where much more cutting was needed. Here, also, the understory of *Acacia riceana*

is quite prolific, so there was a lot of weaving about to avoid the spikes when searching for Erica.

The upshot for the day was that the entire planned work area of 2.5 hectares is now cleared of Erica. It has taken us four sessions, but we have been in that position a few times in the 15 years working the site. But it is getting easier and quicker, which is encouraging. Our plan is now to push the front further west into a new zone, which is in difficult terrain due to the vegetation denseness, impeding access to locating the weeds.

We enjoyed the bush at Goat Hills, but we certainly didn't appreciate the illegal trail-bike rider zooming along the fire trail, nor the noise they generated!

Enjoying some time out (photo by Peter Franklin).



# The Combined Co-Chairs' Report 2015

Written by Andrew Smith Appointed Co-Chair and Sally Salier Co-Chair (Elected)

## Summary from the Annual General Meeting

2015 has been a year of great successes again. The volunteer effort and the financial contribution of Wildcare Inc continues to astound and make a real difference to our reserves, wildlife and cultural heritage. There have also been continuing frustrations, this is a large and complex organisation. It requires some serious management at Board of Directors' level. The Directors have continued to work hard to make sure members; Branches and the environment get the best returns possible. A lot of this effort is invisible to members and people outside the organisation, but it is extremely important and we thank them.

Membership continues to grow.

New Branches continue to form and a massive amount of volunteer time is provided to projects. The Wildcare Gift Fund also has been very active this year. One of the highlights resulted from a very productive coffee break last year with the Manager of Saffire Freycinet. By the end of that meeting, we had agreed to jointly create the Wildcare Saffire Devil Fund within the Wildcare Gift Fund, to which Saffire would donate \$25,000 each year.

By the end of 2015, the first donation had been made, added to by guests of Saffire, and Wildcare Inc was able to grant \$29,000 to the Menzies Centre to support its research into a vaccination for the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease.

Other donations continue to be received, ranging from a few dollars, right up to the annual \$100,000 from Dick Smith. Around \$200,000 has been allocated to projects, ranging from wildlife care support and Devil research to walking track maintenance in wilderness areas and the conservation of the Orange-Bellied Parrot. I thank everyone who has made a donation to the Wildcare Gift Fund or one of its sub-funds.

Branches continue to apply for and receive grants for projects, from various external funding sources. Almost \$1 million has been received since 2010. These grants are all managed by the Branches who apply for them. The Presidents or Treasurers of the Branches work closely with Carol Pacey, our "bookkeeper", to ensure bills are paid and project money is spent appropriately. Many hundreds of payments are made on behalf of the Branches each year. Thank goodness for online business banking. Lindie Lupo, our Finance Officer, keeps an eye on financial processes, auditing requirements, financial reporting to the Board, BAS reporting and so on. Carol and Lindie are a great team and we thank them.

As I do each year, I thank our Wildcare Office volunteers for continuing to provide a service that is often invisible to people outside the organisation, but is absolutely essential to the existence of the organisation. Members' records and enquiries, payment receipting and processing and responding to correspondence are completed impeccably. Phil Wyatt, in the voluntary role of webmaster, has continued his fine work, sorting out issues with our provider and the Parks and Wildlife Service. The result is we have a fairly good website and member database now. Jodie has been providing training to Presidents to help them take advantage of the Branch management capabilities of the site.

Finally, I give heartfelt thanks to Sally Salier, the Elected Co-Chair for Wildcare Inc. Sally is a very active volunteer in the field and also gives enormous amounts of time and energy to the conduct of the organisation. I have once again enjoyed working alongside such an intelligent, committed person who has a clear picture of what Wildcare Inc is and where Wildcare Inc can go. Wildcare Inc is not a simple organisation, points of

view and passions are as varied as the members themselves. Sally is able to tread with surety in the right direction while recognising, acknowledging and incorporating those varied points of view and passions.

Wildcare Inc is now in its 19th year and Wildcare has grown beyond expectation, it has adapted and changed in a variety of ways. It has responded to the needs of our partners and our membership. The overriding purpose of Wildcare Inc remains to support reserve management, nature conservation and cultural heritage through volunteering and fundraising. I think the organisation is very successful at that. That success is a result of the extraordinary efforts and goodwill of you, our members.

## Wildcare's Board of Management

Each year Wildcare members elect individuals to perform as office bearers for the year, this is in addition to appointed expert positions. This year Sally Salier was reelected as the Co-Chair and the following people were elected onto the Board of management, Bob Tyson, John Duggan, Ian Ross, David Harris and Erika Shankley. We welcome the contribution of these people who volunteer their time to ensure that Wildcare Inc. is managed well.



# Leadership is looking strong for Getting Outside

WILDCARE – GET OUTSIDE

The 2016 three-day leadership event for the Get Outside Program was a huge success. This course was wrapped around the Harmony Day Celebration at Mount Field National Park, where 130 people spent the day going on bush walks, having picnics, playing soccer and dancing. The new and the experienced leaders were fantastic, taking turns to work at the discovery table, lead soccer, dancing, as well as taking/leading walks.

The event was a great training opportunity. Stepping up to take a leadership role in the Get Outside Program is a big job. Friday was spent training new leaders at Mt Field and organising for the next day. Saturday at 11.00 am, 130 participants turned up for a perfectly delightful day. The sun started to shine and everyone looked excited to be in a National Park. When the buses carrying the participants arrived, they were welcomed and offered a choice of a long or short walk, led by Get Outside leaders. After all the walkers returned to the central location, a picnic ground was set up with music, dancing and a space for soccer. Food was shared and friendships

were made and at one stage there was a 100-person conga line dance! The participants left at 3.00 pm and the leaders headed back up to Mount Field Government Huts to debrief.

After the leaders debriefed on the day, the night was spent with everybody cooking, laughing and joining in on a Quiz Night. On Sunday morning, the new leaders took turns in leading a walk to Tarn Shelf, including undertaking sensory experiences and safety checks.

Thanks to the leaders who took the walks to Russell Falls, Tall Trees and to Tarn Shelf on the Sunday. Thanks, also, to the volunteers who shared the day with us.



Participants and leaders on one of the walks on Harmony Day.



# Volunteer of the year

**Congratulations to Marina Campbell, Friends of Maatsuyker Island**

**Winner of inaugural Tasmanian Volunteer of the Year Aon Environment and Conservation Award**

On Monday 9th May 2016, the winners of the inaugural Tasmanian Volunteering Awards were announced at a function at Government House, Hobart. Wildcare Inc. congratulates Marina Campbell, Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) for winning the Tasmanian Volunteer of the Year Aon Environment and Conservation Award. The award recognises Marina's significant contribution to the conservation and protection of Tasmania's biodiversity and cultural heritage through her volunteering with both FOMI and Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc.



Marina Campbell accepting her award at Government House.



# Maatsuyker lighthouse restoration and museum exhibition

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF MAATSUYKER ISLAND Story by Fiona Taylor

The Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) Wildcare Inc. celebrated, at the Maritime Museum of Tasmania on 15 April 2016, the achievements of recent restoration works on the Maatsuyker Island lighthouse undertaken by FOMI and the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).

Maatsuyker Island is Australia's most southerly light station and, in 1996, was the last to be de-manned in Australia when a stand-alone automated beacon was installed. Maatsuyker Island has the most intact example of a pre-1900 lighthouse in Australia, essentially unchanged since it opened in 1891. It is the only First Order lighthouse that has retained its original roller pedestal, upon which the light mechanism rotates. The lighthouse mechanism is also one of the few original mechanisms in working order and in situ.

In 2014, FOMI and PWS commenced planning and preparation for much needed lighthouse conservation and restoration work. A huge in-kind contribution, the securing of a Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (FNPW) grant, donations, other fundraising as well as a government funding and PWS staff support resulted in the ability to undertake a major four week project in March 2016. During a period of (mainly!) unseasonably fine weather, essential works including waterproofing of the lighthouse dome and lantern, corrosion management and painting the exterior of the lighthouse was completed by three amazing lighthouse restorer/painters, Mark Sheriff, Mick McNamara and Brian Burford.

A FOMI exhibition highlighting the importance of the Maatsuyker lighthouse and ongoing restoration works is open daily at the Maritime Museum of Tasmania (16 Argyle St,

Hobart) between January until the end of May 2016. Museum entry fees apply (show your proof of Wildcare membership to receive a discount). FOMI merchandise and the Maatsuyker booklet are also available for purchase at the Museum shop. All funds raised go towards conservation of the island's historic and natural values.

For more information on FOMI, our other Maatsuyker projects (on and off-island) and how to get involved please contact [wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com](mailto:wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com), visit our website ([wildcaretas.org.au/branches/friends-of-maatsuyker-island/](http://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/friends-of-maatsuyker-island/)) or find us on Facebook.

*FOMI thanks the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (FNPW) for supporting the heritage conservation works on the lighthouse, and FNPW and the Maritime Museum of Tasmania for supporting the temporary exhibition.*



Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse, March 2016 (photo by Marina Campbell).

**Thank you** to these people for their donations: **Robert Brooke, Lauren Faulkner, Ragnild Hannah, Saffire Freycinet Guests, Bethany Hunt, Chiari Airoidi, Katherine Meares, Craig Parsey, Nicole Lowrey, Ian Vaughan, Jennifer Cooper, Jackie Cullen, Matthew Cloudsdale, Eleanor Stark, Hannah Kench, Alecia Brown, Julie McKenzie, Susanne Freund, Tracey Simpson, Andrew Smith, Philip Wyatt, Craig Parsey, Rhitu Rao, Rudi Smith, Hayley Sucic, Michelle Mossfield.**

## Share your story

Send your submissions to [wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au)  
Deadline for the next issue is 1/6/2016.

## Wildcare Inc

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