



WILD TIMES

May 2017 Edition 58

2017 Craig Saunders Photo Competition Winner



WINNER: A winch revealed after 50+ years on Three Hummock Island. Photo by Mark Dickerson

This annual competition dedicated to one of our wonderful past volunteers was heavily subscribed this year with many gorgeous photos. Thirty-nine images were submitted and judged by three independent judges.

The topic this year was “Who is doing what in the bush?” We were looking for the best photo showing people DOING things anywhere WILDCARE activities take place.

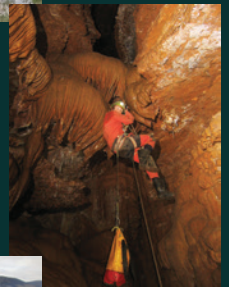
I am pleased to announce the winner of this years award goes to **Mark Dickerson**.

This photograph wins prize money of \$1000 which will be donated to a WILDCARE Branch of Mark’s choosing.

The runners up are also featured in this edition and congratulations to them all. For a look at all the photo entries check out the WILDCARE Facebook page for the slide show. Thank you to all the contestants who entered this year’s completion and to the judges who had a hard decision in awarding this year’s prize.



Surveying wetlands in Cape Portland – Threatened Plants Tasmania
Inger Visby



Toby on his way to work Tailender cave
David Wools-Cobb



Winners are grinner
Henk Broolsma



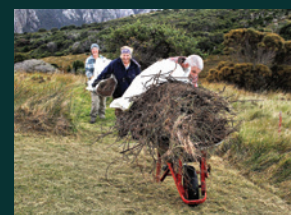
A toilet finds its new resting place Three Hummock Island
Mark Dickerson



The haulage – Maatsyker Island
Sheryl Hamilton



A good burn – Roydon Island
Kat Hopkins



A mammoth load of weeds on Tasman
Erika Shankley



Maatsyker
Dianne Masters



Malcolm MacDonald
CEO

CEO report

Since the last edition of *WILDTIMES*, the prime focus of activity has been production of the 2016 Annual Report – Yearbook and holding the AGM for 2017.

Similar to previous years, the Annual Report was published in yearbook style, comprising 60 pages aimed at showcasing WILDCARE's projects and activities around the State. In 2016, 15 Branches were featured, five times the number that participated in 2013. It is pleasing to report that contributions from four Branches were featured for the first time.

You can access the 2016 Annual Report by using this link: [WILDCARE Annual Report 2016](#).

The 2017 AGM was hosted by the Bruny Island Quarantine Station WILDCARE Branch at the Quarantine Station on Saturday, 25 March 2017. The result of elections is reported on elsewhere in *WILDTIMES*. AGM formalities were followed by a tour of the Quarantine Station and a barbecue lunch. The weather was kind to us and contributed to a successful event.

Malcolm MacDonald
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Cavers do it in the dark

WILDCARE MOLE CREEK KARST CARE

Mole Creek is near Deloraine at the foot of the Great Western Tiers. It is about a 45-minute drive from Devonport and a 1 hour drive from Launceston. The area is famous for the quantity and quality of its limestone caves. There are 2 tourist caves in the area and several hundred "wild caves", some of which are considered amongst the best in Australia.

Our members assist the Rangers with a wide range of management

activities, mainly underground. These activities include cleaning, track marking, placement of advisory signs and surveying. Some of these caves are under a limited access code requiring affiliation with the Australian Speleology Federation (ASF), others are less restricted. Some projects require extensive vertical skills to access the work sites, other involve only basic caving skills. The KarstCare coordinator supervises all projects, with all equipment being supplied.

Volunteers cleaning Kubla Khan Cave



Cooks Beach Hut gets TLC

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF FREYCINET, story by Adrian Sullivan

During their stay at Cooks Beach as Track Wardens, two WILDCARE volunteers (Bart Witte and Adrian Sullivan) with building skills took the opportunity to do some upgrading of the restored farmhouse. Its last major restoration took place in 2007. But encouraged by the Rangers who delivered window glass to replace broken panes the Wildcarers were spurred into action. Once complete, they returned with their tools to start on other jobs. This included replacing a rusted out water tank with a spare one found at the back of the house. A further tank stand was built from remnant timber for the other spare tank found in the bush.

Other maintenance work carried out included the refitting of the detached back door, fitting of mesh filters to the tanks and tailoring scraps of corrugated roofing iron to cover gaps in the end wall cladding.

There is more work to do which includes fitting door closures, installing roof flashing for the roof ends, connecting the tanks together, replacing particle board external wall cladding with existing split timber palings and rebuilding the hut's table. Plans are being developed to continue this work as time and availability of builders allows. Stay tuned for more.

Annual General Meeting

25 MARCH 2017, QUARANTINE STATION, BRUNY ISLAND

There was a good turn out for the WILDCARE AGM this year held in the Quarantine station on Bruny Island. The meeting started on the dot, and the business part of the meeting was dealt with very efficiently including the election of the new board, which remains largely unchanged. The positions of Treasurer, Secretary and Legal Advisor were filled mid year with Robert Dyson stepping in as Treasurer, Suzanne Crowley as Secretary and Kate Mooney as Legal Advisor. Sally Salier stepped down from the position of Co-chair, and Ian Ross stepped down as a general member of the board in order for Sally to be able to stay on as a general board member.

Most discussion occurred around WILDCARE's financial status. The Treasurer Robert Dyson explained that whilst WILDCARE appeared to spend more money in 2016 than it earned, the money spent was grant funds tied to specific projects. The membership is growing, and the philanthropic interest in WILDCARE also continues to grow. Andrew Smith reported on the wonderful generosity of Hilary and Alan Wallace who gave a significant donation to support back country tracks. The Wildcare Gift Fund now has significant funds to contribute to nature conservation and continuing to grow these funds will be an ongoing focus of the board.

Discussion also centred on the increasing costs for those groups involved in conservation work on Tasmania's many islands. Travel costs to these islands often takes the bulk of any small grant provided. There was interest expressed in raising the amount of funds available to small grants from \$2000 to \$3000. The counter argument being that this could mean funding fewer successful applications. However, Sally Salier also pointed out that a group could apply for a small grant more than once in a year. WILDCARE has received fewer government grants

and increasing the organisation's income for the work of the various groups needs to be the ongoing focus of the board.

Sally Salier was congratulated for all her effort in her term as Co-chair.

Kathy Duncombe of Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station then gave an interesting presentation on the various inhabitants of the land around the station acknowledging the Nuenonne people, the traditional owners of Bruny Island. Those interested took advantage of a tour led by Kathy that included the mortuary and the health officers' quarters. By one o'clock everyone was ready for the bbq, salads and freshly made deserts provided by the volunteers of the Bruny Island Quarantine Station. Their hospitality and generosity was appreciated by everyone attending.

Attending: Andrew Smith (Co-chair), Sally Salier (Co-Chair), Suzanne Crowley (Secretary), Alan Sanderson, Alison van den Berg, Bill Forsyth, Dave Harris, Dave Reynolds, Erika Shankley, Gaylene Cowle, Glenda Fehlberg, Ian Ross, John Duggin, Kate Mooney, Kathy Duncombe, Malcolm MacDonald, Michael Simco, Pip Gowan, Richard Moyer, Rob Dyson, Ron Fehlberg, Sally Simco, Stan Matuszek, Trauti Reynolds, Richard Moyer, Ken Wright, Anne Thwaites, Ruth Pye, Cindy O'Dea, Alison Moore, Angus Moore.

Threatened Plants

Threatened Plants Tasmania (Wildcare) (TPT) was established in 2008, with a list of aims to enhance the chances of survival of Tasmania's threatened plants. TPT has been able to pursue these aims consistently ever since.

The key to this has been the enthusiasm and commitment of our volunteers, the generosity of botanists and others with expertise and the unwavering support from the senior botanist at the Threatened Species Unit, Dr Richard Schahinger. From this base, we have been able to enter into strong partnerships with the NRM network in Tasmania and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) that further our aims.

Along with supporting our field activities, the resources these partnerships bring are being used to develop TPT's expertise in plant identification and data management skills through training courses, tailored for our volunteers. As time goes on, this further increases the value of our surveying, mapping and monitoring activities and will contribute to a long term understanding of threatened species.

Threatened plants survey



3,965,000 plants removed – what a job!

FRIENDS OF NARAWNTAPU, story by Helen Plaister

A partnership between WILDCARE Tasmania, Sea Spurge Remote Areas Teams (SPRATS) and the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) was set up in November 2015 at Narawntapu National Park. It was to be known as WILDCARE Friends of Narawntapu.

As I had been involved in the have remote weed management (mainly sea spurge) for the last eight summers in the Conservation area along the coastline between Cape Sorell and Cockle Creek and saw there was a possibility of helping PWS deal with the sea spurge problem that exists at Narawntapu NP by using volunteers on a regular basis.

We are committed bushwalkers based on the North-West coast who have seen a need to continue the good work and try to rid the coastline of the invasive plant sea spurge in Narawntapu National Park.

In 2016 under the guidance of the PWS team we have set up a weeding program using volunteers on a regular basis, usually 2 days a month. We have targeted an area between Griffith point and Bakers point. The aim is to hand weed the sea spurge mapping, recording relevant data, including the seas birds as we go. There has been follow up spraying of this area by PWS.

The volunteers came from the two-bushwalking groups I walk with. Mary's Monday Mob, and the North-West Walking Club Inc. They know and trust me so with a bit of arm twisting and the bribery of sausage sizzle and carrot cake they willingly turned up when asked.

The PWS personnel were the parks ranger Clinton Dowling, Assistant Ranger Ted Bugg and in the beginning Daniel Bowden and ex forestry worker. Unfortunately, Daniel was transferred early when the fire broke out in the Mersey area and the appointed in that region. I say unfortunately as he was

one of my main support crew as he had all the necessary spraying credentials to do the follow up spray when we needed it. Six people from the SPRATS Program came as their knowledge and skill are invaluable and finally a Latrobe Contractor (contracted through me by PWS) who with his team could conduct extensive spraying along the eastern part of the beach with monies made available from an NRM Coastal Care grant of \$10,000

The results and activity so far: 2016 – 10 sessions

- 7 weeding sessions were held with an average of 7 people working for 42 people hours each session= 343 man hours and approximately 214,733,000 (nearly a quarter of a million plants hand weeded).
- 3 more volunteer sessions working with PWS where we cleared Koybaa camp sites, chopped thistles, raked and levelled out the Springlawn campsites and walked the length of Bakers beach (5kms) collecting plastics and rubbish.
- The successful application for funding of \$10,000 and the

agreement by PWS to see if they could spray a section of sea spurge, and make a difference. The quantities of the stuff at the park are enormous and some drastic support is needed to even make any inroad into it. Having seen and photographed the results I am hopeful NRM will see its way clear to award us similar funding this year to continue the work.

In February, this year (2017) I asked I asked volunteers to trial a camp session so we didn't have to keep travelling. This occurred 22-27 February 2017. The results for that session were 5 core people stayed all the time with 22 others visiting over the 6 days.

This turned out to be fabulous with a great deal of hand weeding done along the Griffiths point-Bakers point section we had started with. Apart from 50 metres it is almost cleared and will just require a day to walk through each year. The total for that camp is 334 person hours weeding 3,965,000 plants.

What an achievement !!

The crew works hard and plays



Get Outside with Community (GO) program celebrates World Wetlands Day

The Northern Get Outside with Community (GO) group joined in with the celebrations for World Wetlands Day this month at Tamar Island & the Wetlands Centre. With a couple of carloads of participants following the bus we had over 30 participants from the Hazara & Bhutanese Communities including some familiar and some new faces.

There was plenty to do for the kids and families in the centre with arts & crafts, snake watching, fishing for bugs & experimenting with a model wetlands ecosystem. When ranger John returned from his first trip out to the Island he took us on a guided walk out to Tamar Island and was given a pretty good run for his money by a young, two year old Bhutanese toddler who virtually ran all the way out to the Island and back! Once we were out on the island, the families enjoyed a picnic, adding a multicultural touch to the day handing around Bhutanese and Afghani cuisine.

After lunch there were plenty of activities to do, and the children thoroughly enjoyed participating in Jewellery making with the native reeds, creating birds' nests and constructing



Sophie King, Get Outside with Community Program Coordinator – North, enjoys making art with the children.

Mandalas from natural resources found on the island thanks to the West Tamar Arts Group (WTAG) and Aboriginal artist Vicki West. For many of the Get Outside participants it was their first visit to Tamar Island and the Wetlands environment so as well as a great morning out it was also an educational and hands on experience.

The highlights of the day included “seeing real snakes” on the Island.

A big thanks to everyone who made it such a successful day and a wonderful experience for new arrivals to our state: Amber Travica and her group of volunteers, Tamar Natural Resource Management, West Tamar Arts Group, Conservation Volunteers, Australia, Birdlife Tasmania, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and Discovery Ranger John Bowden. Thanks also to our bus driver Stephen Rednianko.

A day of relaxing and learning at the Tamar Valley Wetlands.





Return to Return Point

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF MARIA ISLAND NATIONAL PARK, story by David Reynolds

After an absence of about a year, eight volunteers from WILDCARE Friends of Maria Island returned to Maria Island to continue our coastal weeding program on the western coastline from Return Point along the headlands to 4 Mile beach. This program of weed control has been targeting horehound, mignonette, thistle (Californian), sea spurge and mullein.

Methods used are cut/paste, spraying and manually digging out some weeds. PWS transport us to Return Point and provide us with water, tables, chairs, gas stoves or BBQ and 2 marques. Camp is set up behind the beach foreshore. Dates for this trip were from the 3-6 March 2017, camping for three nights at Return Point.

At Return Point large swathes of last years growth of mignonette (dead bushes and new growth) covered

the open headlands. Horehound and thistles on the upper slopes of the headland were sprayed with herbicide and the mignonette was manually removed. Outlying patches of mullein were removed on the 20-minute walk to 4 Mile headland. Here a large carpet of mullein and horehound covered this headland encroaching towards the sea front. A day and half was spent working in this area. About 90% of these weeds were removed.

Fine weather, over the first 3 days meant we could spray safely. A bonus was the perfect weather for swimming in the afternoon at fantastic beaches.

We had a beach walk to Point Lesueur on the Sunday, where we found horehound at Bloodstone Bluff and sea spurge in the dunes below the coastal lagoon, which we removed. We also found thistle and mullein at Soldiers Point. Marine debris was collected along the beaches.

A change in the weather on Monday meant that PWS picked us up early and we left in the early afternoon on the ferry. A return to this area for four days in September/October will be advertised later to continue the weed control program.

The Friends of Maria Island would like to thank WILDCARE for the internal grant funding to help defray the cost of ferry transport to and from the island and the ongoing support from the Parks staff at Darlington. NRM South supported the FoMI with a 'small bits grant' to purchase herbicide and dye. NRM South has supported this project through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. Volunteers on this trip included – Greg Kidd, Lorraine Cotter, Dave and Christine Harris, Nigel Ricketts, Colleen Combs, and Zok Malceski, David Reynolds – we thank them all.

Thank you to these people for their donations: Tracey Simpson, Andrew Smith, Melanie Walsh, Saffire Freycinet Guests, Robert Brooke, Malcolm Cocking, Craig Parsey, Lindsay Wilson-Barker, Martin Whatmough, Dionne Jolly, Virginia Lang, Robert Greenwood, Adam Soffer, Matthew Cloudsdale, Alan & Hilary Wallace, Brian Robinson, Brendan Sheales, Darren Spooner, Petrina Boles, Helen Cunningham, Lucia Clarke, Sam Allsop, Troy Hueston, Jacob Grossbard, Heather Robertson, Freycinet Adventures, Huon Valley Caravan Park Guests, Pennicott Foundation, Phil Buksa, JT Hamilton & JE Taylor, Jessica Harrington, Danielle Bendall, Julie Allford, Rissa Williams, Kingborough Boat Club, Miss Chloe Grace-Baker, Melaleuca Walkers and David and Trauti Reynolds.

THANK YOU CHLOE

At the Freycinet National Park Centenary Festival, Miss Chloe Grace-Baker from the Swansea Primary School presented WILDCARE Inc with a large tin of coins to the value of \$202.00 for the WILDCARE Save the Whale fund. This donation was collected from students and parents from the school. Chloe was very clear that this donation was to save the whales. David Harris from the Board of WILDCARE assured her that her donation was in good hands and that the future was looking bright with such environmentally aware young people on the east coast.



Share your story

Send your submissions to wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au
Deadline for the next issue is 30/6/2017.

WILDCARE Inc

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

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