

WildCARE Incorporated - 10 months down the *wildtrack*

Well, its been a productive 10 months, but I think that maybe we aint seen nothing yet. Since the launch of *WildCARE* in December 1997 *WildCARE* Incorporated has:

- gone from no members to 500 members
- become an incorporated non-profit organisation
- provided 3500 hours of volunteer assistance to Parks and Wildlife Service staff
- raised \$21,000 cash from sponsorship (thankyou Paddy Pallin and Malcolm Murchison) and membership fees
- received a promise from ATCV to provide 4 weeks of work free (worth \$8000)
- removed unlicensed shooters hides from Moulting Lagoon
- rescued and relocated endangered seastars from Midway Point causeway



- planted endangered Tunbridge buttercups at Township Lagoon Nature Reserve
- revegetated a wildfire site at Bagot Point
- revegetated the campground and stabilised the track at Whitewater Wall
- removed 20,000 gorse bushes from Schouten Island
- assisted Launceston Walking Club with a cleanup and repairs of Scott Kilvert hut
- planted white gums for 40 spotted pardalote habitat on Bruny Island
- collated walker registration information
- collated information for the endangered species unit
- assisted with whale rescues on the west coast
- conducted a 2 day course in Environmental Education (*WildCARE/Coastcare*)
- conducted a 6 day course in Facilitation Skills Course (*WildCARE/Coastcare*)
- conducted a one day course for trip

leaders (*WildCARE/Understorey Network*)

- conducted 6 half day courses in whale rescue (*WildCARE/Greencorps/Surfrides Association*)

All in all, *WildCARE* Incorporated has been able to contribute the

funding, or can be funded by the Parks and Wildlife Service, will continue to come up during the year, and we will be direct-mailing members, who have registered for that type of work or promoting the events through the Newsletter.



equivalent of around \$60,000 to the Parks and Wildlife Service in just 10 months!

In August we sent a call for joint project submissions to rangers, nature conservation staff and cultural heritage staff. As a result, the *WildCARE* Fund will be supporting a number of projects (see article elsewhere in *WildTIMES* for details). This time around most of the applications have been initiated by staff who have contacted wildcare members for support, but as we develop I hope that applications will be generated by wildcarers with the support of staff and through the CAREs groups be a truly collaborative effort. All projects submitted needed to involve *WildCARE* members, (preferably in the project selection, design, implementation and in an on-going way), were unlikely to be funded by other means, promoted *WildCARE* and the work of its members, with a preference for on-ground work.

It would have been very difficult to undertake these projects without the existence of *WildCARE* Incorporated and a dedicated membership. Parks and Wildlife staff responsible for the projects will be in touch with *WildCARE* members once the projects are organised. Other projects, which do not require

All *WildCARE* members should be very pleased with what has been achieved in such a short time. I also wish to thank the Parks and Wildlife staff who have recognised the benefits of community involvement in their projects and supported *WildCARE* activities. *WildCARE* is, after all, a joint program between the community and Parks and Wildlife Service — delivering benefits to everyone who is involved, but most of all to natural and cultural heritage conservation.

The coming membership year promises to be an exciting one. We are aiming to raise our membership to 1000 by this time next year (suggest your friends join too!). I hope also to see the formation of a number of Community Action in Reserves groups for specific reserves

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WildTIMES

Newsletter of *WildCARE* Incorporated

Community Partnership Section, Parks & Wildlife Service
GPO Box 44A Hobart 7001
Ph 03 6233 2185 Fax 03 6223 8308 E-mail: wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au



over the coming year. Already we have groups going through the, very simple, process of formation at Cradle Mountain, Mt Field National Park and Mt Direction Historic Site. Many reserves now have sufficient numbers of Wildcarers registered with them to warrant the formation of a formal support group. If you get a call from your favorite reserve to attend an inaugural meeting, go along, get involved and support your reserve and its staff.

Andrew Smith
Chairperson
WildCARE Incorporated



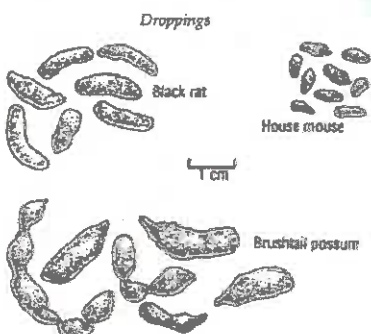
Living with BrushTail Possums

Trichosurus vulpecula

The lively brushtail possum is one of Australia's most familiar marsupials. The Tasmanian brushtail *Trichosurus vulpecula* is the same stock as the mainland form but has several characteristic differences such as larger size and longer, thicker coat.

Their natural and preferred habitat is forest, where they nest in tree hollows. They will also co-habit with humans in cities and towns where they seek shelter, warmth and protection in the dark recesses of buildings. A favoured spot is between the ceiling and the roof and this can be a problem to some people. They can damage crops and gardens because they are partial to exotic plants, pasture grasses and vegetables as well as native plants.

Each year the Parks and Wildlife Service receives hundreds of calls for assistance to solve these possum problems and the following notes provide practical information to satisfy the house and landowner



without harming the animal. Remember, brushtail possums are protected by law and cannot be bought, sold, taken or harmed except by permit.

Possum Life

The brushtail possum is a nocturnal marsupial spending the daytime asleep in its nest and feeding at night. It is the size of a domestic cat with a pointed face, long oval ears, pink nose and bushy black tail. The Tasmanian brushtail has 3 main colour variations: silver grey, black and gold. The very dark possums inhabit denser, wetter forests than the grey. Pure golden possums occur only occasionally. They are tree living or arboreal animals and so are well adapted for climbing with their sharp claws; a hand-like back foot for grasping and a strong flexible (prehensile) tail for curling around branches. Brushtails also spend some time on the ground searching for food.

Social life

Brushtail possums lead a largely solitary life. However in areas where numbers are high and shelter is in short supply several may share sleeping places. Home ranges vary from 1 to 15 hectares. They communicate by sound and scent. Those ferocious sounding screeches and guttural growls are used often, particularly in the breeding season, to ward off intruding possums near the nest or home range. Brushtails rub secretions from glands

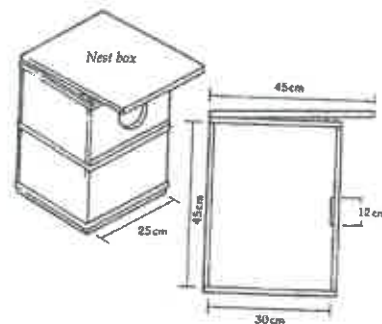
under their chin, on the chest and near the anus to mark home ranges and define occupancy of a homesite. If a homesite is vacant or undefended because the occupant has died or been removed then another brushtail will claim it!

Breeding

In Tasmania, the main breeding time is autumn. Most females breed annually after their first year. A single young is born 17-18 days after mating and spends 4-5 months in the pouch, attached to one of two teats. A further 1-2 months are spent suckling and riding on the mothers back until fully weaned. You will see this from September to November.

Like many of our native animals, mortality is high once the young brushtail possums leave the pouch to establish their own home range. The majority of brushtails killed on our roads are young males.

Their main predators are owls and devils but, if lucky, a possum can live to 11 years old.



Possums in your home

Is that noise in the ceiling a brushtail possum? Catching and removing the animal never works — not because the brushtail finds its way back but because it is replaced by another from nearby. We could go on removing them forever! Brushtails are strongly attached to their homesites and those which have been removed usually face a slow death, either because the release area is unsuitable or it is occupied by another brushtail which will defend its territory vigorously. Conflict for food and shelter usually means that the released possum dies.

WildCARE is on the net:
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/tpws.html>
then hit the WildCARE button.



Whilst people object to brushtails living in ceilings or under floors, most wish them no harm. Since possums' chances of survival are best in their own territory, the following strategy is suggested:

- Find where the brushtail is getting in and out. More than one place may be involved.
- Make the necessary repairs to prevent entry. This can be done on a fine night between dusk and 10 pm when the brushtail possum is outside feeding. On wet and windy nights, a brushtail may leave later. Repairs need to be sound as brushtails are quite strong and will work hard to re-enter their shelter site. They can squeeze through a nine centimetre gap and are able to move loose tiles aside! If the brushtail has been trapped inside, its noisy attempts to escape will alert you.
- Alternatively, repairs can be done during the day. The brushtail(s) must then be trapped using a cage trap inside the ceiling. Use sliced apple with a dash of vanilla as bait. Don't forget the necessary permit.
- Liberally splash the old entry areas with a strong smelling substance such as disinfectant, camphor or naphthalene to destroy the scent, otherwise the possum will try and re-enter.
- If you do not hear the brushtail for a few nights it has probably found a new home.
- Brushtails can be encouraged to stay in your yard by providing a nesting box, either a hollow log blocked at one end or a homemade nest (see diagram). It should be waterproof and placed four to five metres above the ground.

Possums on the farm and in the garden

The Service encourages people to try preventative methods before more

drastic methods of brushtail possum removal are allowed. If these methods fail, and serious economic damage is occurring, permits may be issued for control culling.

Preventative planting

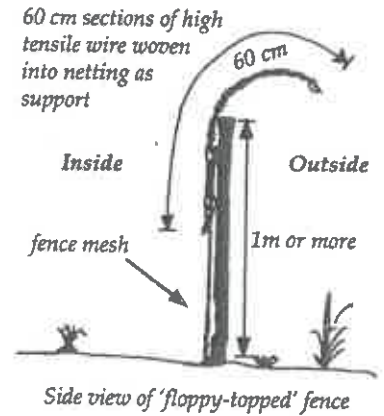
If planning a garden try and select plant species which are unpalatable to brushtails such as prickly and spiny grevilleas and hakeas; tough and woody banksias and melaleucas (tea-tree) and plants with smelly foliage such as chrysanthemums, mint bushes, geraniums and daisies.

Roses and fruit trees can be devastated unless protected. Trees can be protected by attaching a broad 40cm band of metal around the trunk, at least at least 50 cm above the ground. Make sure that the brushtail cannot gain access from nearby trees!

Possum proof fencing

Possums readily climb fences but many can be possum proofed. Brush possums can only jump about 1m vertically and cannot climb sheer walls. Therefore, a well made tin or paling fence (with the frame on the inside and the palings butted but not overlapped) about 1.5m high will keep them out. Wooden fences will of course need a tin section — at least 33cm wide and 80cm from the ground — around the corners. A simple 'floppy-topped' fence has proved very effective against possums climbing over ordinary fences. This is based on a netting, picket or other fence that possums cannot get through. The fence is fitted with a netting top that overhangs on the outside. As the possum (or cat or quoll!) attempts to

climb the overhang, it bends down and the possum will let go and fall to the ground. The floppy top then springs back to the original position (it is set on high tensile wire) ready for another assault.

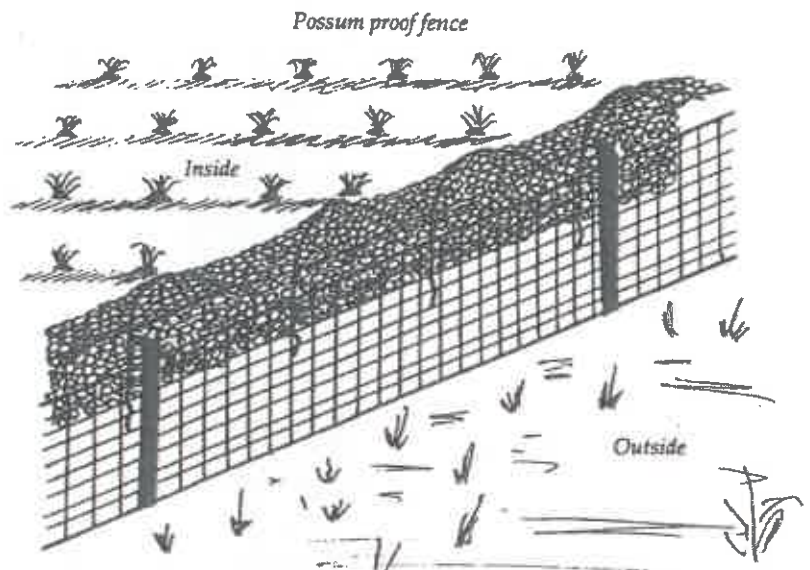


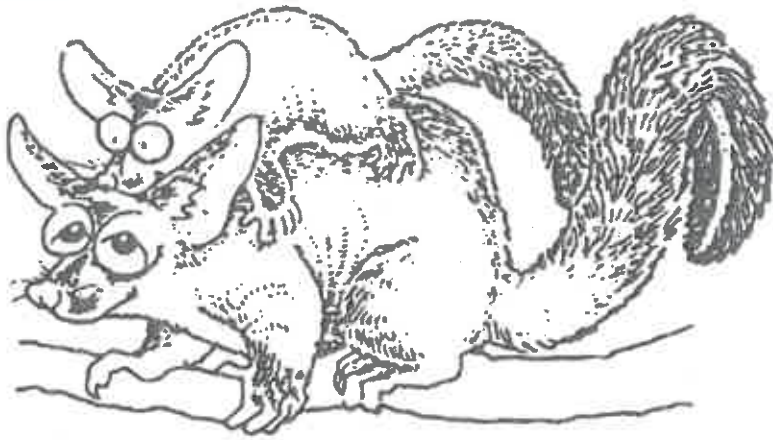
Repellents

There are a range of chemical repellents which can be applied to individual trees or shrubs for temporary protection against brushtail and other possums. They are applied to the bark or foliage depending on the type of repellent used. It must be remembered that repellents give only short-term protection and give no protection to new growth. Repellents will not work on plants that are very attractive to animals.

The most common repellents are:

- Egg powder. Mix 200g dried egg powder per litre of water with a wetting agent and spray plants. This treatment is more effective than most but may cause leaf death if the plants are suffering from water stress.





- Blood and bone. Place it at the base of plants. This substance may attract dogs to the area because they like to eat the blood and bone.
- Mutton fat and kerosene. Mix nine parts melted fat with one part kerosene and leave to cool. The mixture is wiped lightly onto the stem and lower branches. Avoid the leaves as this treatment may cause browning on some species.
- Quassia chips extracts. Add 100g of chips to 400ml boiling water. Leave to stand for five minutes then add one litre of cold water and leave chips soaking for 24 hours. Strain and add wetting agent. Spray mixture onto plants.

The two most effective repellents available are egg powder and mutton fat mixed with kerosene even though both can cause some damage to the plants.

Trapping and relocation

Possums may be trapped and relocated if all else fails, but remember, if buildings are in good repair and possum-proofed then brushtails will be denied access and potential problems avoided. Extensive research has shown that most relocated possums quickly die, so we now prefer not to do it. A Permit is required for any trapping and must be obtained from the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Handle with care

Remember: brushtail possums are wild animals and though they look cuddly they can bite and scratch severely, especially when injured or afraid. Wear protective gloves or restrain the possum in a blanket or towel if you need to handle it.

Possum conservation

Conservation is important even for common animals like the brushtail possum. This species occurs in all our National Parks. You can help by retaining areas of natural bush on your land and by learning to live with these animals.



40 spots

A group of 30 volunteers (including 15 *WildCARERS*) local residents and Parks and Wildlife Service officers Bernard Edwards, Sally Bryant and Robbie Gaffney joined forces to plant over 1,500 white gum seedlings at the Dennes Hill Nature Reserve on north Bruny to convert some of the cleared areas of the reserve into future habitat for 40 spotted pardalotes.

The endangered forty-spot relies on white gum for nesting and food. Restricted to just a few locations along the east coast especially Flinders

Island, Maria Island, Bruny Island, Howden and Tinderbox Peninsula, the major threat to the species is loss of white gum through clearing for forestry, agriculture and coastal development. Land managers are being actively encouraged to retain and protect white gum on their properties.

Unfazed by the noise of stakes being hammered onto the ground the tiny birds looked on as the team laboured away in the winter sun. Among the helpers were Josephine and Ross Dennes who donated much of the land for the nature reserve.



Rangers on the island will now keep a close eye on the seedlings. Although the trees will take up to 70 years to develop nest hollows, it is hoped that they will provide food for the birds in about 15 years.

Thank you Wildcarers, for your assistance.

Anna Knee
Threatened Species Unit
Parks and Wildlife Service



Foxing around in Burnie (perspective from a WildCARE volunteer)

Reynard is on the loose...

The news broke over the media on Tuesday June 2nd — A red fox had escaped from Brambles ship in the Burnie port area and had disappeared within the city area.

As the full consequences of the incident dawned upon me, the planned one day visit to Wynyard the next day suddenly became an offer of assistance to the parks and Wildlife Service — school holidays and staff transfers had left the PWS short staffed on the North West Coast. Thoughts raced through one's mind — was it a pregnant female; was it carrying exotic diseases and what threat would it pose to native fauna and farm animals (namely poultry and newly born lambs)?

After meeting briefly at the Ulverstone PWS office, members of the Fox taskforce congregated at the Burnie Quarantine Station on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the situation and tactics to be used. Nick Mooney briefed the team on recent sightings, the habitats of the red fox and relevant distinguishing features (eg. footprints). After an interruption by the local media, the taskforce was divided into an Incident Control team (based at the Quarantine Station) and several spotlight patrol teams. With the Incident Controller supervising operations, spotlight teams had the task of locating the fox (now called Reynard) and reporting the information to Glen (Squirrel) and Barney (the taskforce's crack marksmen).

Thus began the first of many long nights of spotlighting within the Burnie and Wynyard Municipalities. The spotlight patrols enthusiastically began the task of driving around the streets and back roads of the local townships. Early next morning, the weary troops came back empty handed and with the realisation that we were going to be in for some very long nights.

The next night produced some excitement. Several sightings were made within Burnie early in the evening and the revitalised night patrols started there spotlighting with

optimism. However, despite and unconfirmed sighting from a DPIF team along the coast and several impromptu coffee breaks, the search teams again came back empty handed the next morning.



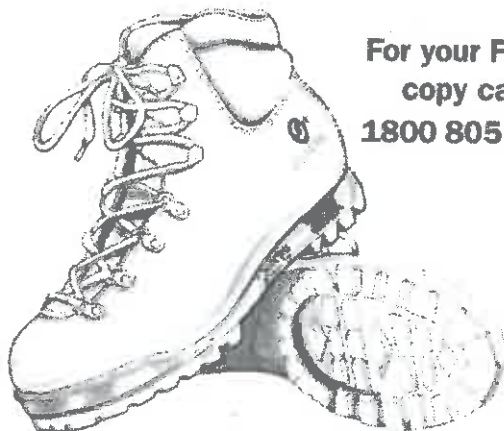
Frustrating times

The initial burst of enthusiasm came and went and the hard yakka started. While Henk and Cathy kept the media hounds at bay in the Quarantine

Station, the rest of us decided that there was no value in everyone working both day and night. We therefore divided ourselves into day and night shifts. The day shift concentrated on setting sand traps in potential areas to pick up footprints, searching the coastline and interviewing members of the public who reported sightings while the night patrols checked the sand traps at dusk and dawn and continued with the nightly spotlight patrols. This gave us the opportunity to operate "around the clock" with the day shift sleeping at night and the night shift sleeping during the day. All taskforce members met for an early morning breakfast briefing and again at dinner.

With the lack of success and tiredness setting in, it became necessary to regularly rotate the taskforce personnel. All PWS districts contributed staff to the taskforce, and I was given the role of orientating new staff to the area — this was usually done via accompanying them on spotlight patrols and explaining the location of sand traps. Eventually, I was given a break but being a so-called "local" I was more than happy to return to the taskforce after a couple

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Paddy Pallin

of days off. In this second 'tour of duty', my tasks involved spotlight patrols, setting up sandtraps (and monitoring them) and the setting up of video surveillance equipment. Nightly spotlight patrols continued but the teams were also asked to stake out Reynard's likely hideouts. Meanwhile the incident control staff continued to collate information from the public and fend off the persistent media.

The Public and the Media

The sheer scale of the task meant that the task force was going to rely heavily on public sightings of Reynard. Despite many Tasmanians never having seen a live red fox before, it is to the credit of the general public that virtually all reported

sightings of the fox were genuine reports and in a number of cases, sightings conformed to a general pattern. However Reynard consistently refused to reveal himself whenever a PWS patrol surveyed the areas where reported sightings took place.

Support was also offered by the public in many other ways. Genuine offers came from hound owners who offered the services of their animals, and some 'old timers' who had hunted foxes in the past willingly gave advice. Humour came via a local restaurant offering "fox menus", another restaurant offered a free meal if someone could transport Reynard back to Victoria and the local police inspector feared for his life (his surname was 'Fox'). Some of the more unusual suggestions included calling the fox "Jeff Kennett" (I'm not so sure how this might speed up his capture) and posting up copies of a "sexy looking" fox to entice Reynard out into the open.

In order to harness public cooperation, the media had an important role to play. It was most fortunate that all the media were in town at the start of the search (with the imminent closure of the Pulp Mill) and while we did not get front page coverage, the media kept the public up to date on events and the PWS used it effectively to encourage the public to report possible fox sightings to the Incident Control Centre.

It is perhaps unfortunate that some sections of the media were a little "aggressive" when requesting information and became somewhat petulant when it was not forthcoming. In an incident such as a fox on the loose, media pressure can be counterproductive to the investigation, and the reporting of comments such as offering a \$5000 reward for the capture of Reynard can cause more harm than good.

The arrival of John Robinson

After a fruitless two weeks of fox hunting, it was decided to bring in John Robinson, a veteran foxhunter from Ballarat, Victoria. John's enthusiasm was like a breath of fresh air and revitalised the task force. His evaluation of the situation indicated that the PWS was doing everything possible but given the lack of success along the coast, he suggested we look

more in "our own backyards" and concentrate on setting up more sand traps. John also laid a number of scent trails and even set up several non-steel jawed traps. I had the pleasure of working closely with John for several days. However, despite John's enthusiasm and efforts the taskforce could still not make a definitive sighting of Reynard.

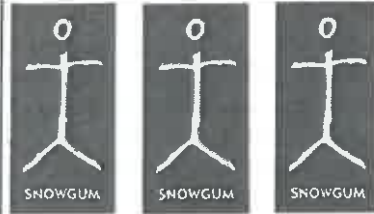


Downgrading the Search and the Future

After a month of intensive searching, the fox taskforce had yet to make a confirmed sighting of Reynard. Despite the importance of finding and disposing of the fox, there came the time when issues such as the cost of the investigation, the lack of positive sightings from both the public and the taskforce and the personal time taken in this venture (especially in the redeployment of PWS personnel from normal duties and cost associated with personnel exhaustion) had to be taken into account in determining how much longer the investigation could continue.

The decision was thus made to scale down the search for Reynard, so that instead of 24 hour patrols, teams would come in from elsewhere at regular intervals. With the structure still in place, it would be possible to quickly bring the investigation to a full scale level should reliable information be received from the public. At the same time, measures were taken both in Victoria and Tasmania to ensure that another fox did not enter the state.

I have mixed feelings about this exercise. The investigation has allowed me to view how the PWS operates when dealing with "critical incidents" and I have particularly



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HELP!

CARes — Mt Direction (Mt Direction Semaphore Station Restoration Committee Inc) would love to hear from anyone who could assist them to prepare a number of funding applications before Christmas. Computer skills required, but the group has all the information needed.

RSVP Richard Porch ph: 6394 8234 President CARes Mt Direction.

enjoyed the experience in working closely with the Service and John Robinson. Although disappointed that Reynard has not yet been apprehended and the search being scaled down, one has to be realistic in appreciating the cost involved and the inevitability of the search being downgraded or even abandoned.

With the experience gained during the search and recognising the importance of apprehending Reynard, I intend to continue with the investigation in the near future — in a few weeks I will be relocating back to the region and with an extended holiday on hand I will be devoting some time towards tracking Reynard down.

Keith Chung
WildCARER



An Island of Undescribable Beauty

On Thursday the 5th of June, my mate and I packed our gear into his excessively noisy and heatless VW beetle and headed off for Maria Island. I had been milking cows all week, had to milk cows when I got back, and quite frankly I just wasn't in the mood for camping.

Not too long after leaving Ulverstone however, the warm sun glistening on the clear blue waters of the East coast put me into a more soothing, holiday sort of mood.

At 1.00pm we boarded the ferry at the East Coaster resort and pulled into Darlington at around 1.30. After



settling in to our warm, cosy penitentiary cell, we went to explore the many ruins of what was once a booming town. I really was amazed. From cement silos to brick works, to a church and a grand hotel, I couldn't get over the long and fascinating history of the island. Friday was spent marvelling over the Painted Cliffs and exploring some of the other ruins close to Darlington. Early Saturday morning, we headed off for the South end of the island, and after taking a walk around Encampment cove and the old single cell convict ruins, we set up camp in an old shearing shed at French's farm. From here we set out bright and early on Sunday, walking to Haunted bay and Robey's farm. The scenery at haunted bay was spectacular, with huge sandstone cliffs sloping into the crashing waves. We then returned to French's farm, picked up our packs, and made tracks back to Darlington. That day we walked a total of 28 kilometres in 7.5 hours.

Stiff legged and worn out as we were, the next morning we tackled Mt Maria. In the condition that we were in it wasn't an easy slog, but it is a beautiful walk offering sensational views of the whole island and the mainland, well so it says in the book, I'll have to do it again when there's no cloud cover! Monday afternoon was spent sharing adventures with the other campers, listening to young talent play the piano in the Coffee palace, and just sitting back under the verandah watching the sun play on the water separating us from the mainland. The kangaroo's lazing idly on the warm banks opposite convinced me that Maria Island truly must be one of the most peaceful, rewarding paradises in the world. On Tuesday afternoon, we took a most interesting climb up Bishop and Clerk

before departing the island on the 4.00pm ferry. It was with a little sadness and a lot of excitement about next time that I left behind me a new found love rich in natural beauty, culture, and romance.

10 out of 10, I definitely recommend it! It's certainly a must, especially for all wishing to see droves of kangaroo and wallaby, friendly possums and Cape barren geese, emus (yes, emus), and a vast array of bird life and other native animals.

Daryl J Connelly
WildCARE Member

Ben Lomond National Park Tasmania

01/05/98

Dear Park Official

Our 5/6 class is conducting a "Echidna Watch" survey until December, 1998. We would appreciate it if your agency would participate.

Are there any Echidnas in your Park?

Would you be willing to reproduce the survey form (*inserted in this issue*) and return it to me approx twice monthly?

I would also like to have an E-mail address for your park, if you have one.

Our school address is: **Reynella East Primary Malbeck Drive RENELLA SA 5161**

Our e-mail address is: **reschools@bigpond.com**

Sincerely

Jessi Savage

My Island Home (temporarily)

WildCARE members Margaret Jenkin and Phil Cook have packed their bags and headed off to spend a few weeks baby sitting Deal Island on a voluntary basis. Deal Island is in the Kent group of islands in Bass Strait. Until recently it has had a staffed lighthouse under the management of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).



The island has now been vacated by AMSA and handed to the Parks and Wildlife Service. While options are being looked at for the long term staffing and management of the island, the Bush Heritage Fund and WildCARE have co-operated to ensure that the island and its lighthouse heritage are protected from any vandalism or other damage. It won't be all idyllic lazing on beaches — there is a tractor to fix after all. Australian Geographic send people off to live in a box in the Antarctic for twelve months, in return for an inspiring article for the magazine at the end of it all. So, Margaret and Phil — keep in mind we would all like to read how it goes, take lots of photos so we can see what we have missed!

WildCARE Request

The Track Management Team are looking for someone with a good knowledge of the walking track network to assist in updating its slide collection. They have several hundred slides they would like catalogued. If you have basic computer skills and some time to spare they would live to hear from you — **Contact Phil Wyatt, Track Management Team (03) 6233 2005.**



Caring for Scott Kilvert Hut

WildCARERS would have seen in the May edition of *WildTIMES* the small notice on Page 9 that the Launceston Walking Club had programmed a trip to Scott Kilvert memorial Hut, in conjunction with the rangers to give a little bit of love and attention to this shelter tucked away inside Cradle and beside Lake Rodway.

WildCARERS were welcome. So, I made the necessary contacts. Seven of the LWC members and myself departed on the Friday night in the Club coach. We slept overnight near Waldheim, arranged by Cradle Parks and Wildlife. Eddie, the teams supervisor arrived early Saturday, giving a list of jobs to be done, plus the gear to take in. Off we went.

We arrived at Scott Kilvert near 1100 hrs, settled in and had a bite to eat. Then to work. Those of you who know Scott Kilvert will notice on your next visit the cleanliness inside. Floors, ceilings, walls were scrubbed clean. The woodwork upstairs varnished, new catches put on the upstairs dorm, windows and the attic cleaned out. What did we do with all the rubbish? Well we cleaned out a small quantity of coal from the bin nearest the Hut and put the rubbish in the bin, ready for the next visit by the chopper.

It was a hive of activity. Some members had forethought to put in overalls, or bring overshirts. Most were decked out in rubber gloves, depending on what each one was doing. The carpenters among us were measuring, sawing and hammering. The old bench on the East wall was

demolished and the timber recycled to stabilise the benches and the big table. Where the bench was, a sink is on the agenda to be installed.

Rain set in during the afternoon. Out of the weather arrived another LWC member and his grandson, to add strength to the workers. No work outside, except for hacksawing the old chimney flue etc. meant we were as busy as bees inside the hut out of the weather.

As each item was completed it was ticked off the list. The list, by the way was reduced another way. The person who coaxed the stove into life found it necessary to use part of it to get it going.

By late afternoon the jobs were just about achieved, leaving a few to be done Sunday morning. Particularly, the varnishing upstairs.

So, it was meal preparing time. All sorts of dishes were produced. From the usual pasta concoctions to fresh vegies etc into a wok and stir-fried! These dishes were followed by cheesecake, Pavlovas, cheese board and coffee. And of course, the usual cheery conversations and laughter. A wonderful finish to a fruitful day. While we are on the subject of a fruitful day...could I suggest to bushwalkers reading this, or hearing about WildCARE activities, to give consideration to joining WildCARE. We have all, at sometime, thought that certain things could be done, in the parks when we walked. I read once, "that it is better to light one candle, than to complain about the darkness". By joining WildCARE and being active you are "lighting a candle". To date, this was my first outing as a WildCARER and I found it was great

to give something back to our world renowned Parks in Tasmania.

Overnight it rained and blew. The creek behind Scott Kilvert was raging. We breakfasted and donned the work clothes again, ready to tidy up. We finished the work and it was pleasing to see the result. Stowed the gear in the packs. Some members of the team wanted to deviate across the mountain and down to Lake Wilks, Ballroom Forest etc. and most did. Rain had set in again and the last back to the coach were in their wet weather gear. Dry clothes were changed into and wet gear stowed. Then off to Launceston. We arrived back at 1900hrs. There

NEW! CAREs — Cradle Mountain

At a recent, and final meeting of the Cradle Mountain Advisory Group (CMAG), it was agreed it was time to call together all the *WildCARE* members registered for Cradle Mt, and the members of the CMAG who are now joining *WildCARE*, to create the first CAREs (Community Action in Reserves) group for a National Park in Tasmania.

This will mean that the group will start with a membership of around 35 people. The aim of the first meeting will be to elect the office bearers (Executive), and discuss ways in which the new group will work with the Cradle Mt Rangers to support the Reserve.

If you are a member of *WildCARE*, you can elect to be a member of the CAREs Cradle Mt by registering with the *WildCARE* Office. If you are already registered with Cradle Mt you should receive an invitation to attend soon. Members must be registered with *WildCARE*. Formation of the group will allow for discussion and co-operation between the group and the PWS on all matters Cradle Mt.

Telephone Henk Schinkel at the Cradle Valley Ranger Station for details. (ph 6492 1133)

WildCARE Project Visitor Survey

Three *WildCARE* Volunteers are required for visitor monitoring in the Cradle Mountain visitor centre on Sunday 24 January and Monday 25 January.

Cabin accommodation is available for three nights from Saturday 23 January for this project. This will be provided free-of-charge to the volunteers working on this project.

Group or individual applications are invited.

Please contact Cathie Plowman on 6336 5391.

was a compulsory stop at the Bakery at Westbury on the way to indulge in some calories. From Westbury to most of Launceston the power was off, due to a break somewhere. Although we arrived back in darkness everyone thought it was an 'enlightening' weekend.

Bill Forsyth
WildCARER



We are beginning a new membership year

You can renew your membership with *WildCARE* anytime between now and December and your membership will be valid to December 1999.

Your present membership doesn't run out until December 1998 — but this gives you time to get around to renewing and means that any new members will get membership until the end of next year rather than for just

a few months. For those of you who paid your membership to *WildCARE* at the same time as you paid your Annual Pass renewal, the two will now be out of synch. Don't worry! When its time to renew your pass, just quote your *WildCARE* number and you will be able to buy your pass at the discounted rate of \$22 (full) or \$14 (pensioner).

In other words, over the year you will get *WildCARE* membership and an Annual Park for no more than you would normally pay for an annual pass!

Yes! The Parks and Wildlife has generously extended their discount on Annual Passes to *WildCARE* members to include a special pensioner's *WildCARE* discount rate of \$14. This means that in total pensioners will pay no more than the \$34 (usual rate for a pensioner pass alone) to have both a pass and *WildCARE* membership. This applies only to the 1999 membership year (which begins now — see above) and is not retrospective over the past year.

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers



Close by to:
Cape Raoul, Cape Huoy and
Cape Pillar (Highest sea cliffs in the
southern hemisphere), walking tracks.

Eaglehawk Neck
Ph: (03) 6250 3248

Think island sitting might just be for you?

Maatsuyker Island, off the south coast of Tasmania also needs to be baby-sat. Interested?

The island has stunning buildings and lighthouse which need to be maintained and a number of projects will soon be undertaken on the island which might include a new jetty, a restored haulage way and general cleanup. For the last 3 months the island has been staffed by Steve Cronin and his family. Steve has continued to provide valuable weather reports to the Weather Bureau (every 3 hours day and night) for payment of a small salary. At the moment Steve and the Service are discussing his possible continuing presence on the island. The Parks and Wildlife Service is keen to respond to the fishing industry's request that the weather service be continued, and it is essential that the buildings be maintained. The Director of the Parks and Wildlife Service has asked that *WildCARE* investigate the



feasibility of involving *WildCARERS* — which of course depends on members and if you want to be involved. At the moment we would like to hear from members who are interested in the idea of living on the island for an extended period, or if Steve is happy to stay on, then as relief to allow Steve and his family to take a leave break during the year.



Mt Field National Parks — December 5-6

In the beautiful alpine region of the Mt Field National Park, you can be involved in the laying of matting and planting, in conjunction with the Parks and Wildlife Service.

We ask that for the day projects you bring along garden gloves, a water bottle, warm clothes, waterproof jackets and your lunch. The two day projects at Evercreech, South West National Park and Mt Field National Park will involve an overnight stay, which will cost \$20 non-concession, \$10 concession and will include accommodation, food (bring your own lunch for the first day) and transport.

Please note that projects may be subject to change — For more information or to book a placement give Danny or Angela a call on (03) 6224 4911, e-mail atcv@vision.net.au or drop in to shop 011 the 'Alcove' arcade, 77 Salamanca Place, Hobart.

Mayfield Camping Ground Working Bee

Mayfield friends and *WildCARERS*

What is proposed:

- Beach access track upgrade (tracks defined and steps installed)
- Construction of about 10-15 permanent rock fireplaces
- Grass mowing/slashing, drain clearing
- Tree and shrubs planting around the camping area
- Weed control works
- Some site levelling
- Litter clean up

What resources are needed?

- Thankfully we have secured some '*WildCARE*' funding for some track materials, large rock placement, road and track gravel and trees and shrubs.
- If you donate any materials or equipment to help out in these tasks then please bring them along: (eg mowers; brushcutters; hand tools; treated pine timber for trackwork [200 x 50mm steps are best and 100 x 50mm for stakes]; cement/ mortar/ reo bars/ rocks for fireplace; etc)
- If anyone is able to donate equipment such as Bob cat or Tractor/ Grader and driver for use on the weekend, or major donations such as a new concrete water tank (or similar) then please contact me in the next few weeks to discuss.
- Any other ideas on what we can realistically achieve during this one weekend are welcome. Please contact me over the next few weeks to discuss

Housekeeping

- Since we will be working across the camping area during the weekend

Activities for members interested in Mt Field National Park

If you are interested in the annual works programmed in Mt Field over the Next 10 months, or would like to contribute to the park management on your next visit contact the local staff on 6288 1149 or 6288 1283.

Camping and possible but accommodation can be provided. The following are some activities that are being organised.

- 1 A weekend of cordouroy splitting and track laying on the Marriotts falls track in early October — Stuart Dudgeon
- 2 Weekend cleaning and painting out of Gov't Huts in late October (dependant on accommodation bookings) — Greg Peters
- 3 Upgrade of Lady Baron Falls track in November — Greg Peters
- 4 Rodway, Lake Nicholls and Newdegate Hut Maintenance in January — Stuart Dudgeon
- 5 Weed control and River bank replantings in the picnic area March/April — Stuart Dudgeon

we may need to keep the area free of vans and tents during the days. Please keep your camp small and mobile in expectation that we will need to clear the site to carry out works. The day use area may be used for camping during this weekend to lessen the clutter.

I hope as many people as possible can attend the working bee on the 3rd and 4th of October. This should feasibly become an annual event as a means of protecting the environment and improving the recreational opportunities that Mayfield provides.

Hope to see you there.

RSVP

Pete Lingard

Swansea based Ranger, N.E.District.
Ph: 03 6257 8844 fax: 03 6257 8845
P.O. BOX 95, Swansea. 7190. Tas.

NEWSFLASH

On the Saturday of the Mayfield Beach working bee (3rd OCT) Coastcare will conduct a **PUBLIC FORUM** at the camping ground.

During October Coastcare is running forums in each Municipal area to ensure community participation towards the long-term management of free camping areas in the North East. You may have been surveyed as part of the strategy last summer.

At the forum the findings of the survey will be discussed as well as some possible solutions to key issues. It would be valuable if your group could attend the forum to share your vision for Mayfield and other coastal sites. This way the work can carry on at the same time.

The forum will commence at 10:00 am sharp at Mayfield day use area and conclude around 12 noon (with plenty of time to vote and return to the working bee!). If weather is lousy, the forum will be held in the SES building in Swansea. For more information contact:

Donnalee Young

NE Coastcare Facilitator 6257 8332.



Waterloo Point Working Bee

On Thursday 20th August, Swansea area residents, Coastcares or any interested person are asked to join in on a planting and weed control day on Waterloo Point.

The working bee is one of many already undertaken to remove weeds; restore the native vegetation; improve the habitat value of the 300 to 600 Short-tailed Shearwaters that breed in

barrows on the headland between September and April each year; and to enhance the recreational enjoyment of the headland and its walking tracks.

Enquires at the Parks and Wildlife Service office next to the Swansea Post Office or phone Pete Lingard ph. 6257 8844.

If you have a product or business related to natural or cultural sites... why not advertise with WildTIMES.

For information or booking contact **Andrew Smith** 6233 2185

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Award winning **PAR AVION** can take you to this pristine and remote region, allowing you the opportunity to experience Tasmania's inspiring wilderness.

Tours range from half day World Heritage Flights to overnight camps and luxury cruises aboard M.V. *Southern Explorer*.

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Tourism Award Winners

10% discount
to WildCARE members

HELP REQUIRED

Would you like to use and perhaps increase you computer skills? Cathie Plowman is based at the Prospect office (Launceston) and is looking for help to assist with notesheet production.

Notesheets are produced in Pagemaker. Experience not necessary as you can learn on the job.

Friendly office with window view of a magnificent oak tree.

Applications to Cathie on 6336 5391.

The *WildCARE* Fund – supporting joint *WildCARE/PWS* projects.

The *WildCARE* Fund is made up from membership fees and sponsorship. A special thanks to members for your contribution to the fund and to *Paddy Pallin* (our gold sponsor \$10,000) and *Malcolm Murchison* (\$1000).

A call for project submissions from staff of the Parks and Wildlife Service brought up some interesting small projects. I hope everyone is pleased with the result. The following projects have been approved for funding:

- Mayfield Beach Coastal Reserve revegetation, campground rehabilitation and track upgrade. Contact person — Peter Lingard PWS Swansea and Friends of Mayfield Group **\$1160**
- White water wall campground and track rehabilitation Contact person — Stephanie van de Schans PWS Freycinet National Park (following up earlier *WildCARE* working bees) **\$2000**
- Support for the National ANPC Plant Conservation Techniques Course. Contact person Andrew Smith *WildCARE* **\$1000**
- Rehabilitation works Peter Murrell Reserve. Contact people Cheryl Ware Huntingfield/Peter Murrell Reserve Landcare group and Grant Hall PWS Wellington Ranges **\$2000**
- Purchase of directional signage for Tasmanian Trail, Contact person Chris Boden Tas Trail Association (Full *WildCARE* partner organisation) **\$1000**
- Construction of visitor information booth at Mt Direction Historic Site. Contact people Richard Porch Mt Direction Semaphore Restoration Committee (soon to become full partners with *WildCARE*) and Andrew Napier PWS Launceston **\$1850**
- Overland track hut wardens — MIB education program. Contact person Henk Schinkel PWS Cradle Mt and the CAREs Cradle Mt group **\$2000**
- Oral History Techniques volunteer training program.

Events Calendar 1998

OCTOBER

- 10–15 Environmental Training
Contact Mike Askey-Doran 6233 6168
- 11–18 Weedbuster Week, DPIF Weed Management Officers 131368
The Global Fresh Water Crisis — Address by Ian Kiernan AO
Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, Uni of Tasmania Launceston
Contact: Lynn Stein 6336 5272
- 18–20 Tasmanian Junior Landcare Conference, Molesworth Environment Centre and Derwent Water Watch organisers.
Contact: Robyn Freeman, MEC 6261 1323.
- 18–24 National Water Week — Various activities around the State
Contact: Lynn Stein 6336 5270
- 19 Junior Landcare Conference — Willow Court, NewNorfolk
Contact: Robbie Poynter 6233 7725

NOVEMBER

- 2 West Tamar Landcare — half day tour of Supply River and Catchment
Contact: Paul Duddridge 6330 2210
- 27 Buy Nothing Day.
- 29/11–
- 6/12 Coast Care Week.
Contact: Kim Willing 6233 6427 or Anna Wind 6437 2332
- 30/11–
- 7/12 Plant Conservation Techniques Course — Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
Contact Andrew Smith 6233 2185

DECEMBER

- 7 Ocean Care Day.
- 29 Biodiversity Day.

Contact person Cathy Plowman PWS Launceston and the CAREs Cradle Mt group

\$330

- Victoria Falls walking track construction. Contact person John Cowburn PWS Liawenee **\$1850**
 - Construction of information boards at Port Sorell Conservation Area. Contact people David Montgomery PWS Asbestos Range National Park and Julia Butler Port Sorell **\$2000**
- WildCARE* will also be running whale training courses with

Freycinet National Park, with funding assistance from PWS Community Partnership Section.

Two projects have been forwarded to the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, for them to consider under the fee time assistance they have offered to *WildCARE*.

The contact people listed above will soon be calling on *WildCARERS* who are interested in getting involved in implementing the projects. In fact there are more details about some of the projects elsewhere in this edition of *WildTIMES*.

Wild walks — Southwest Tasmania

Walking tracks in the South West National Park are considerably quieter and more remote than some other walks in Tasmania, such as the Overland Track. Even though the walks are not especially difficult it is recommended that you gain experience on other Tasmanian walking tracks before attempting them, as you will be a long way from help should you need it.

The 54km Port Davey Track is used by walkers between Scotts Peak Road and Melaleuca. There are no roads to Melaleuca, also walkers must either fly, sail or walk in and out. About 2000 people walk the South Coast Track each year with about 1500 visiting from December to March. Most people take about 6 to 8 days to complete the walk, depending upon time spent enjoying the beaches. Walkers should note that the track surface may be rough and muddy over extended sections.



At Scotts Peak the port Davey Track starts adjacent to the Huon Campground and at Melaleuca it starts from the northern end of the airstrip. About 200 People walk the track each year. Most people take about 4 to 5 days to complete the walk and can either fly out at Melaleuca or continue along the South Coast Track to Cockle Creek, a further 5 days walk. The Port Davey Track has some steep and muddy sections.



Transport and tours

Bus and plane companies provide transport services to the southwest, for further details contact Tourism Tasmania

on (03) 6230 8250. Private vehicles may be left at Scotts Peak or at Cockle Creek. Walkers are warned, however, that some vehicles parked in remote locations have been robbed or vandalised.

Fees

You are required to pay a fee to enter the National Park. The most convenient pass for these walks is the Back packer Pass, for \$12. The pass is valid for all National Parks for a period of 2 months. It is available from all parks centres, Travel and Visitor Information centres and selected retail outlets. All money raised goes directly towards the maintenance and protection of Tasmania's National Parks. Updated information on park entry fees can be obtained from the **Parks and Wildlife Service on (03) 6233 2621**. If you are a member of *WildCARE*, your *WildCARE* Park pass is valid for this area anytime of the year.

Walker registration

For your safety please record your trip intentions in the registration book (near the start of you walk). Your entry may save your life should you become lost or overdue. However, the books are not checked regularly and a search will only be mounted if someone else reports you as being overdue. So, leave details of your trip with a

reliable friend or relative. Be sure to advise this person when you have completed your trip. Accurate log book information also provides the statistical basis for proper management of the area. Please remember to sign out at the end of your walk.

Safety

On the South Coast Track the Ironbound Range rises to 900m where the weather can change rapidly. A warm sunny day can quickly turn to a day of high winds, hail sleet and snow — even in summer. Walkers should be fit and prepared for a long days walk (up to 10 hours) as there are no campsites on the Ironbounds. At times of heavy seas and high tides, some rocky sections of the South Coast Track can be unexpectedly inundated by ocean waves. Particular care needs to be taken at Granite Beach and the unnamed bluff on the eastern beach at Cox Blight.

Most of the coast is exposed to cold, wet, southerly winds. Rain falls on average every second day during summer and more often in other

Tasmania's National Parks Screen Saver

**Parks now has its own
screensaver!**

In conjunction with Purple patch software, a Tasmanian company making and selling screensavers worldwide, we've come up with a screensaver containing 30 high quality images of our parks and reserves.

Photographers include:
**Grant Dixon, Dave Watts, Bob
Blakers and Steve Johnson.**

The screensaver was officially launched by our new minister, David Llewellyn, on Friday October 2nd at 12 noon on the ground floor of the Lands Building.

You can download a demo. version via the Internet. It's at: www.ozemail.com.au/~purpatch/home/tasmanias_national_parks.htm

Or get it via the links at the PWS home page at: www.parks.tas.gov.au

seasons. Streams that should not be crossed when high are the: **South Cape Rivulet, Louisa River and Faraway Creek.**

On the Port Davey Track rivers that should not be crossed when high are the: **Crossing River and Spring River.**

Boat Crossings

There are two crossings that require walkers to use small boats. These are the New River Lagoon and the Bathurst Narrows.

Extreme caution is needed when

making these crossings, particularly in windy weather. Do not cross the Narrows when the wind or the tidal surges make the seas rough. You should carry a couple of days extra food to allow for delays.

Essential items

Warm waterproof clothing, proper equipment and adequate preparation are essential. For more details, get a free copy of *Welcome to the Wilderness — Bushwalking Trip planner for Tasmania's World Heritage Area*. A map is essential, the

'South Coast Walks map and Note's is recommended.

Walking softly

Try to minimise your impact with every step you take. Always walk in the centre of the track and be prepared to walk through the mud — attempting to skirt bogs only makes them bigger and causes more environmental damage. It is also usually quicker to walk straight through. Keep your party size to less than 6 people to minimise social and environmental disturbance.

Fires

Wildfire's have damaged parts of the SouthWest National Park. Please carry and use a fuel stove. A Fuel Stove Only Area has been declared over the whole of the Ironbound Range due to the sensitive alpine vegetation and along the section of track from Cockle Creek to south Cape Rivulet. Fines can be imposed for lighting fires in these areas.

Most campsites in the SouthWest are on peat soils. A campfire lit on peat can burn down into the soil and remain smouldering for months. The next hot weather can cause a flare up. It is illegal to light fires on peat anywhere in the state.

Huts and camping

The SouthWest National Park is primarily a wilderness area. The only huts on this circuit are at Melaleuca. All overnight walkers must carry a tent and fuel stove and troops of less than six people are recommended as campsites can become overcrowded. The recommended campsites for the South Coast Track are Cockle Creek, South Cape Rivulet, Granite Beach (east), Surprise Bay, New River lagoon Boat Crossing, Deadmans Bay, Louisa River, Point Eric and Melaleuca. Very basic accommodation for 20 people is provided in two huts at melaleuca. Water and Mattresses are available but there are no cooking facilities so bring a fuel stove. The recommended campsites for the Port Davey Track are: Huon River Campground at Scotts Peak, Junction Creek, Crossing River, Spring River, Bathurst narrows and Melaleuca. Please leave campsites cleaner than you found them. All rubbish should be carried out and if possible this includes rubbish that has been left behind by others.

Plant Conservation Techniques Course

30 November–7 December 1998

Course objectives

- Enhance confidence, skills and experience of plant conservation practitioners
- Provide an opportunity for information, skills and experience exchange
- Promote links between government and communities to further plant conservation objectives
- Provide a consistent basis of understanding and skills to plan and undertake practical plant conservation

Course Content

The course will be a mixture of lectures, workshops, demonstrations and field trips and will cover the following topics.

- **Introduction to principles and ethics of conservation**
- **Causes of rarity** — Field trip
- **Accessing existing information** — Databases, networking and taxonomy
- **Gathering new information** — Survey techniques
- **Conservation management techniques** — Integrated conservation, Habitat management, Threat abatement, Germplasm collection and storage, Translocation, Smoke germination
- **Community awareness and involvement** — Philosophies of partnership, Methods of engagement, Case studies
- **Conservation instruments/initiatives** — Legislation and treaties, Property management programs
- **Strategic planning**
- **Funding opportunities**
- **Determining funding priorities**

Course Fees

Residential \$1000	Residential (community) \$600
Non-residential \$800	Non-residential (community) \$400

For further information contact Andrew Smith (03) 6233 2185, andrews@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Water

Running water along the track is safe to drink. Beware that what appears to be freshwater on a map may turn out to be brackish if close to the sea. Take special care to keep water supplies clean, particularly around the campsites. Always wash 50m away from streams and lakes and avoid using soaps and detergents. Don't throw food scraps into streams or estuaries.

Toilets

A composting toilet has been installed at Scotts Peak and there is a pit toilet at Melaleuca. To ensure efficient operation please follow the instructions provided. All other recommended campsites on the South Coast have pit toilets. In areas away from toilets, faecal waste must be buried 100m away from and watercourses or campsites. Carry a lightweight trowel in your pack, dig a hole 15cm deep and bury your waste and toilet paper. Cover it well so that animals will not dig it up.

Phytophthora root rot

Phytophthora cinnamomi is a fungus that kills many of your native plants. It is known to exist at Scotts Peak, melaleuca and other locations on the two tracks. Mud and soil, which is carried on vehicles, boots, gaiters and toilet trowels, helps to spread the disease. To prevent infecting new areas boots and all gear that comes in contact with the soil should be cleaned on any mud or dirt prior to your walk. You should also wash your boots at each significant stream crossing. If you come across a washdown station please follow the directions.

Please remember

Your safety and the protection of Tasmania's wilderness World Heritage Area depends on you. Visitation to these areas is increasing and if the area is to maintain its wild nature all visitors need to do their best to minimise their environmental impact. With your help Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area can continue to inspire others after you.

Enjoy your walk! The park office at Dover ph: (03) 6298 1577 or fax: (03) 6298 1576, Mon-Fri 9 am to 3.30 pm, has up to date information on the South Coast Track.

WildCARE Project Oral History

Supported by the WildCARE Fund

Oral history is a way of collecting information about the past and also for collecting information about a particular subject. The possible subjects for oral history are endless.

From time-to-time people approach me re the value of collecting an oral history from various people associated with the history of a particular reserve. As much as I'm interested, and would love to follow up on these suggestions, I simply don't have the time.

I am interested in hearing from WildCARE volunteers who would like to develop skills in oral history collection and be part of an on-going project. Since my area of responsibility is the northern part of the state, I am principally concerned with this area (including Freycinet, the Central Plateau, the Bass Strait islands and Cradle Mt).

An ongoing training program would be provided to participating WildCARE volunteers in association with the Queen Victoria Museum and the Oral History Association of Australia (Tasmanian Branch).

If you are interested in this project please contact: **Cathie Plowman**
- Community Education Officer Northern Region Ph: 6336 5391.

WildCARE Project Overland Track Wardens

(Supported by the
WildCARE Fund)

The Overland Track Ranger (OTR) program has been in operation for about 12 years and historically it has been run with 2 OTR working on opposite shifts over a 10 day period. During this time they may cover the entire length of the track and only a very limited number of track walkers would have contact with an OTR.

During the day, walkers tend to be focused on the day's walk and don't have much time for general chitchat so contact time is limited. While the evenings are the most appropriate time to be spent talking to walkers. Other duties the OTR are to perform are hut and toilet maintenance with limited track work. Cleaning drains. For much of OTR time is spent walking the track this time could be better spent on their duties and walker contacts by being located in one area. With the heavy usage of the huts and toilets during peak season daily maintenance of these facilities is essential. This is not being achieved with the OTR, as time between visits

is to long, at times 8 or 10 days.

The dynamics of the overland track walker has changed over the last 12 years with now an excess of 7000 hikers walking the track. There has also been an increasing number of walkers are only staying 1 or 2 nights at either Waterfall Valley or Pelion Hut via the Arm river track. These walkers are unlikely to have any contact with the OTR.

The WildCARE Project

The project is to trial a hut based volunteer Overland Track Warden (OTW) program for the northern section of the track, based at Pelion and Waterfall Valley Hut. The OTW would also be responsible for the daily hut and toilet maintenance. Contact with track walkers will be near 100%. The OTW based at Waterfall Valley will also be able to maintain Windermere and Scott-Kilvert Hut and toilets and speak with walkers there.

Interested in being involved you will need to have a commitment to spending at least a month on the program. We will provide a small camping allowance of \$25.00 per day, to help cover some costs.

Contact **Henk Schinkel, Senior Ranger, Cradle Mt (ph 6492 1133)**

Thankyou!

Wildcare wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of the *WildCARE* Fund

Gold Sponsors (\$10,000 plus)

Paddy Pallin Adventure Equipment stores

Category 2 sponsors (\$5000-\$9999)

Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (in kind)

Category 3 sponsors (\$1000-\$4999)

Malcolm Murchison

And the following *WildCARE* member-discount sponsors

Snowgum equipment 10% discount

Par Avion Wilderness Flights 10% discount

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers (\$1 discount on a \$12 night)

(To claim your discount, simply present your *WildCARE* member card.)

We are looking for other sponsors, both for the *WildCARE* Fund and as discounters. Know someone who you think might be interested? Why not have a chat to them and suggest they contact **Andrew Smith at Parks and Wildlife Service** for more details (Ph 6233 2185 — GPO Box 44a Hobart 7001).

Tasmanian Trail Guidebook — **Tasmanian Trail**

This essential guide will give walkers, bicyclists and horse riders all the information needed to travel all or part of the unique **Tasmanian Trail**.

Detailed trail notes cover each **stage** of the journey, providing concise directions and information on access, campsites and facilities. Distances are given for trips in either direction, while each stage is supplemented with detailed maps.

Planning, safety and environmental issues are all thoroughly covered.

Fascinating snippets of information on the natural and cultural features you will discover along the trail are liberally spread throughout the book.

If you are contemplating a full traverse of the state or just a day trip, this book is a must.

Recommended Retail Price: \$15.00. Order through the *WildCARE* Office, GPO Box 44A Hobart 7001. Please make cheques payable to The Tasmanian Trail Association.

ISBN 9 318923 009651

