

Max Kitchell — PWS Director's Address to the *WildCARE* Conference 1999

Good Morning and welcome to the first *WildCARE* Incorporated conference and annual general meeting.

What a spectacular setting for a conference and Annual General Meeting. I would like to begin by thanking Freycinet Lodge for providing the venue free of charge, as their way of supporting *WildCARE*, and congratulate the staff of Freycinet National Park for being the inaugural hosts for this historic event.

It is always great to visit Freycinet National Park — because there is always something exciting happening. Mike Garner, the Senior Ranger here at Freycinet National Park will be enlightening us about what has been happening in recent times, and Stephanie Van der Schans, the information Ranger, will be talking about some of the great projects undertaken with community support.

It is easy to imagine that the gentle autumn breeze here at Freycinet is bearing a significant change, for us to recognise and grasp during this conference. A change for the better, and a necessary change, for the sake of our natural and cultural heritage.

WildCARE Incorporated is a major part of a new way of working and thinking for the Parks and Wildlife Service. An inclusive community focus. A partnership with community, for the good of your reserves, your natural and cultural heritage. And it is **yours** — the Parks and Wildlife Service is charged with the care and management of those things, on behalf of Tasmanians. We also have an obligation to protect the natural and cultural values of the State for Australia as a whole, and in the case of the World Heritage Area in particular, for the world. A big job, that undoubtedly we need to be doing together, if we are to do it effectively.

So, just how much support does the Parks and Wildlife Service have for the work it does, and how concerned are Tasmanians about the conservation of their land, their wildlife and their cultural heritage? *WildCARE* has demonstrated that

there is huge community interest in these things, with 800 people joining the organisation since its launch in December 1997. During that time it has been the fastest growing community group supporting conservation in the State, and is now one of the largest and most dynamic community groups dedicated to caring for our natural and cultural heritage.

Well over 10,000 hours have been provided by volunteers, and \$22,000 donated to joint projects, ...real projects, ...all around the State.

Freycinet National Park, and the east coast reserves, in fact have benefited greatly from the existence of *WildCARE*, — with cliffs repaired, compost toilet

and implementing solutions.

At the launch of *WildCARE* at the Springs on Mt Wellington in December 1997 I described it as a defining moment in the history of the Parks and Wildlife Service, and it is certainly proving to be so.

I congratulate and thank all members for the work you have undertaken, and support you have provided, for the Parks and Wildlife Service. Your actual physical work has been wonderful, and the projects would never have been completed without your help.

Knowing that there is such real and committed support for the work of the Parks and Wildlife Service is very good for our morale — which makes work, and life, so much more



installed, tracks created, birdhides removed, campsites upgraded, visitors led and educated and weeds eradicated. Some of these projects will be spoken of in more detail during the day.

There is still a lot of development work to be completed with *WildCARE*, and changes within the Parks and Wildlife Service, to make sure this partnership is effective. Networks need to be developed within the greater organisation — for such activities as Caring for Wildlife, Whale Rescue, Oil Spill Response, Community Education and Adopt a Track. Community Action in Reserves groups are now beginning to form for specific reserves. It is hoped that these groups will develop a truly collaborative relationship with the local Rangers and Senior Rangers to ensure that members get involved in identifying issues, and in developing

enjoyable. I hope that the knowledge that the Service wants to listen to and work with you is good for your morale too.

The Service now has in place community consultation and involvement networks at State/Policy, District/Strategic and local/operational levels. But community partnership programs are

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still developing, and our relationship with you, the community, will also continue to develop. If we are to be successful in implementing this shift in the way we work and think, it is essential that you, the community, are willing to get involved.

If we are to each benefit from a more co-operative approach, we all need to listen, state our case honestly, be willing to share concerns and make adjustments, recognise and respect our differences, and support each

other in pursuit of our common goals.

I hope that you find the presentations today interesting and inspiring. I encourage you to participate in discussions openly and enthusiastically. This time is here for you to participate in developing the direction of *WildCARE*, and ultimately the way in which *WildCARE* works with the Parks and Wildlife Service to conserve Tasmania's fantastic natural and cultural assets.

Andrew Smith — Chairperson's address *WildCARE* Conference and AGM 1999

It's a pretty well accepted fact that to have sustainable conservation the community needs to be actively involved in conservation activities. It's all about government not seeing the public as the problem, but rather as part of the solution. And it's about the public recognising their role and responsibilities, and seeing themselves as part of the solution.

There are a number of programs around that use this principle of community partnership very effectively, particularly Bushcare, Coastcare and other NHT programs, Land for Wildlife and of course *WildCARE*. This is not an automatically recognised principle for some scientists and public servants. Some have real problems with NHT programs, for example, because the money is being delivered to the community rather than government. That is missing the point. Conservation depends on social and cultural change if it is to be

sustained and these programs are as much about cultural change within community, and government, as they are about environmental change. It has been demonstrated, time and again, that funding science/government alone will not achieve the long term cultural changes necessary for a sustainable environment.

Tasmania's ability to meet environmental threats is inextricably linked with the priority it places on effective environmental education and community involvement. One of the real joys of my job now, after 15 years of being involved in environmental education, is working with those people who understand the issues and now want to be actively involved in getting the job done.

A community which understands environmental issues and has opportunities for direct personal action reduces the sense of helplessness which might emerge in the face of environmental challenges. It means that the necessary behavioural changes occur, within community and within government. It means that a whole lot of essential work is completed which otherwise would not have been.

Partnership is about interdependence, not dependence or independence. We have been through the stages of government organisations believing they know it all and telling the community to leave it to them "Depend on us", and where the community says "well if you won't talk to us we will do it our way, independently" — which of course is the basis for lobby groups. We are

now recognising that we all have something we can contribute to conservation, and we need each other for it to be effective. We need to do it together. Going it alone may be tempting at times but it is like playing patience with an incomplete pack of cards — it goes along OK for a while, but then goes round in circles and is never finished.

The principle of partnership is one of mutual benefit and support. Partnerships operate in the area where interests overlap. You don't have to be the same as me, just share some common objectives. It's about conversation, not conversion. Spend enough time in the area of common interest and the size of the overlap will grow.

Almost two years ago, the Community Partnership program was created at Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania with the objective of creating community partnerships at all levels of decision making and across all activities and responsibilities of the Service. We now have community engagement programs in place at the State, District and local levels. We manage the Bushcare Tasmania program, Land for Wildlife program, Coastcare in the south, consultative committees at State and District levels, are working on Good Neighbour Agreements and developed, and now support, the community action program *WildCARE* Incorporated. *WildCARE* Incorporated is not original in its bits and pieces, but I think it is very different in its scale and scope and the way it is put together. I believe we have been able to create an organisation that incorporates the best of many of the programs operating in the community, in National Parks, zoos and botanical gardens here and in other parts of the world.

WildCARE was launched in December 1997 and incorporated in August 1998. It is a membership-paying organisation (\$20 pa) with members receiving a range of benefits, including a \$20 discount on Annual National Park Passes.

Since its launch, membership has grown to 800, spread right around the State. That's around 1 in 500 people across the State are members.

- It has been incorporated,
- holds its own interest bearing bank account,
- has its own Board of Management,

- has its own volunteer insurance, workers comp insurance and public liability insurance.
- Members have contributed well in excess of 10,000 hours of volunteer work to projects on and off reserves, for nature conservation and for cultural heritage conservation.
- and the *WildCARE* Fund has donated \$22000 cash to joint PWS/Community projects.

The organisation is made up of 4 Branches — Nature Care (with a sub branch called Botanical Guardians), Community Action in Reserves (CARes), Heritage Care and *WildCARE* Office. (See Structure chart). Members register their interest in volunteering on the membership form which is databased as a contact register.

As can be seen from the volunteer register (see information box) there are a number of organisations within the branches of *WildCARE*.

For example:

Whale rescue volunteers number 143 and therefore are perhaps equivalent to Project Jonah in other States.

Caring for injured and orphaned animals has 95 members and therefore is probably the equivalent of WiRes in other states.

Adopt a Track has 165 members and is moving towards being equivalent to stand alone organisations for track maintenance.

These three registers, Oil Spill Response which has 135 volunteers registered, and Community and Visitor Education which has over 300 volunteers registered, are presently beginning the process of creating regional and local networks and developing training programs.

The Botanical Guardians branch is also effectively the community component of the Tasmanian Region for the Australian Network for Plant Conservation and has 433 registrations for field collection, monitoring, plant surveys and propagation and replanting, particularly for threatened plant species. *WildCARE*, the PWS and the ANPC together ran a successful 8 day National Plant Conservation Techniques course just before Christmas. Students included people from New Zealand, Queensland and Hong Kong. They came from government and community organisations including members of



Botanical Guardians. *WildCARE* has supported a number of NHT Bushcare applications made by community groups and also submitted applications to NHT as primary proponent, jointly with Parks and Wildlife Service. It is currently preparing an application to Coast and Clean Seas for a community trainer for whale rescue response.

Whenever real life Parks and Wildlife Service work comes up, *WildCARE* volunteers who have registered for that activity are telephoned, direct-mailed or notified through the quarterly newsletter *WildTIMES*. It is a simple process which ensures that involving volunteers creates very little additional work for the officer wanting assistance.

To date we have had volunteers assisting with:

- Sperm whale rescue on the west coast, and north west coast and pilot whale rescues at Marion Bay and Rheban beach. 400 volunteers were involved at Marion Bay over several days.
- Removing unlicensed hunters hides from Moulting Lagoon
- Rescuing and relocating endangered seastars from Midway Point causeway during roadworks

- Translocating endangered Tunbridge buttercups at Township Lagoon
- Revegetation of a wildfire site at Bagot Point (Dolphin Sands)
- A week long expedition to remove gorse bushes from Schouten Island
- Hut repairs and cleanup at Cradle Mountain
- Delivering a Minimal Impact Bushwalking education program through a Hut Warden program on the Overland Track over the summer months
- Billetting lecturers for the Plant Conservation Techniques course
- Planting white gums on Bruny Island to extend habitat for the endangered forty spotted pardalote
- Building a track to Victoria Falls in the central highlands
- Collating walker registration information
- "Babysitting" Deal Island
- Collating information for the Threatened Species Unit
- Building visitor information booths at Port Sorell Conservation Area and Mt Direction Historic Site
- Campsite improvements and cliff care at White Water Wall (Freycinet National Park)
- Carrying out cultural inventories at Twilight Tarn Hut and Adamsfield
- Leading Park visitors on walks and giving talks
- Carrying out visitor surveys throughout the State
- And spending time hunting for a fox which came into Burnie under the cover of incompetence.

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As an incorporated organisation, **WildCARE** holds its own independent, non government bank account called the **WildCARE** Fund and by the end of the first membership year we had \$22,000 available from membership fees and sponsorship. Our Gold sponsor for last year was Paddy Pallin, who provided \$10,000. Malcolm Murchison donated \$1000 last year and the same amount for this year. The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers donated 4 weeks of volunteer time (equivalent to \$8000) to projects nominated by **WildCARE**. In August last year we called for submissions for project funding. We funded a number of projects from the **WildCARE** Fund, which were submitted jointly by Parks and Wildlife Service staff and **WildCARERS**. (See information box for project list)

Although a couple of thousand dollars for a project may sound small, I should point out that the Ranger on the east coast has

an annual budget of just a few hundred dollars to maintain the coastal reserves. **WildCARE** provided \$2000 for a single project in a single coastal reserve at Mayfield Beach. Add to that the volunteer assistance provided free of charge and it's obvious that a mountain of work has been completed that would not have been possible without **WildCARE**.

We have provided training for volunteers and staff, in partnership with organisations such as Coastcare, Understorey Network, and the Australian Network for Plant Conservation including:

- 2 day environmental education techniques
- 1 day trip leaders' course
- 6x 1/2 day whale first aid and rescue courses
- 2x 6 day Facilitation Skills courses
- 8 day National Plant Conservation Techniques course.

Each of these courses had community volunteers and government staff attending, in order to build and strengthen links between the two, back in the field.

We are working on developing training for wildlife care and rehabilitation, in partnership with Help for Wildlife organisation in Victoria and Brighton council, and through submissions to the NHT programs, hoping to develop training for whale rescue, oiled wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and trainer training.

We are now entering the phase of developing the Community Action Reserves groups for specific reserves. When you register under CAREs you can nominate any reserve within the state as a preferred work location. This has created a number of sizeable reserve registers (see information box). Cradle Mountain was the first such group to form and has a registered membership of 42.

Other Rangers are now calling meetings of volunteers registered for their reserves. These groups will be Friends of style groups providing community input, opinion and action at the local level, working directly with the Rangers at those sites.

Partnership between the PWS and the community underpins the **WildCARE** program. Submissions for funding must be made jointly. CAREs groups will work directly with rangers, identifying issues and solutions, discussing works programs and

assisting with implementation. The projects which call for volunteer assistance are real projects. The Board of Management for **WildCARE** includes staff and volunteer members. Today we will be electing a Vice Chairperson and a Treasurer (see information box for election results). Each President of a CAREs group, elected by their membership, automatically has a seat on the Board of Management — at the moment that means Richard Porch from the Mt Direction Historic Site group, Ann Stocks from the Cradle Mt group (Melva Trechanas actually attends on Ann's behalf) and Susan Henry from the Tasmanian Trail Association. From the Parks and Wildlife Service we have me as Chairperson, Stephen Johnston as Secretary, Sharon Sinclair Hannocks, (who is Manager of the PWS Nature Conservation Branch and the Northern Region of the State), and Don Ranson the Manager of PWS Cultural Heritage Branch

One of the lessons for PWS from **WildCARE** is that if you have a real project, you can find the right people willing to help as volunteers. Recognise volunteers as real people and you get real results. **WildCARE** is teaching PWS not to use volunteers, but rather work with and support them and in return they will work with and support you. **WildCARE** is also showing the community that they can be involved, and need to be involved.

WildCARE brings enthusiasm, dedication, a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills and provides benefits far in excess of the effort required to ask for assistance. Whenever staff think "I can't do that because I don't have the resources or the expertise", they need look no further than **WildCARE** for a solution. Similarly, the community should no longer be saying "This needs doing, PWS should be doing that", but rather we should all be asking how do we go about solving this together.

It has been easy to show the benefits gained from **WildCARE** to all those bean counters. Ten thousand volunteer hours at \$10 per hour is \$100000. \$22000 were donated to projects. That's \$122,000 in its first year of operations. The Parks and Wildlife Service spent around \$20,000 including staff time to establish and run the program for its first year. That's a heck of a benefit. But its not the total benefit, — probably the most



valuable contribution **WildCARE** is making is the development of an inclusive, co-operative and positive relationship between the Service and the community. That is invaluable and will assist the conservation of natural and cultural heritage well into the future.

Projects funded by **WildCARE**

Mayfield Beach CR revegetation and campsite improvements — \$1160.

WhiteWater Wall trackwork, installation of a composting toilet — \$2000.

Rehabilitation/replanting in the **Peter Murrell Nature Reserve** — \$2000.

Directional signs for the **Tasmanian Trail** — \$1000.

Construction of visitor information booths at **Mt Direction Historic Site** and **Port Sorell Conservation Area** — \$1850 each.

Walker education program on the **Overland Track** — \$2000.

Oral history training course for volunteers — \$330.

Construction of the **Victoria Falls walking track** — \$1850.

Development of **Wildlife Carers training courses** — \$2000.

WildCARE Volunteer Projects

The following projects have been undertaken by **WildCARE** volunteers, since December 1997, in partnership with Parks and Wildlife Service staff and other community groups.

Projects are initiated and co-ordinated by a Parks and Wildlife Service staff member. Volunteers are notified by direct mail, according to the categories for which they have registered. They RSVP directly to the responsible officer.

Field Centres

Stephanie Van der Schans (Freycinet National Park)

Friends of Freycinet and Habitat Care volunteers

Whitewater Wall project — constructed composting toilet, walking tracks and campground planting.

Cruise liner visit — provided guiding services to cruise ship calling at Coles Bay.

Habitat Care Volunteers

Moulting Lagoon project — removed unlicensed duck hunting hides.

Community Education Volunteers and Friends of Freycinet

Summer program — provided voluntary interpretation program assistance.

Pete Lingard (Ranger Swansea)

Habitat Care and Botanical Guardian Volunteers and ATCV

Schouten Island project — now carried out twice ('98 and '99), a one week expedition to Schouten Island to remove gorse (15,000 plants removed)

Mayfield Friends and Park Management Volunteers

Mayfield Beach project — Campground planting and beach access tracks.

Botanical Guardians Volunteers, Coastcare members

Bagot Point Project — replanting wildfire site on dunes.

Waterloo Point project — replanting.

John Cowburn — Senior Ranger Liawenee

Adopt a Track and Tasmanian Trail volunteers, 4WD Club and Cycle Tasmania members

Victoria Falls Project.

Andrew Napier — Senior Ranger Tamar

CARes Mt Direction members

Various projects and funding submissions.

Strategic Planning

Walking track to summit (with Greencorps).

David Montgomery — Ranger Asbestos Range

Asbestos Range National Park volunteers and Rubicon Landcare group

Port Sorell Conservation Area project — construction of information and interpretation panels.

Henk Schinkel — Senior Ranger Cradle Valley

Cradle Mountain and Community Education volunteers, general call

Formation of CARes Cradle Mt.

Overland Track Hut Wardens project — volunteers stationed in walking hut at Waterfall Valley to provide Minimal Impact Bushwalking education program and maintain hut during summer.

Kathi Van Dulleman — Ranger Cradle Mt

ATCV free time

Snowpole placement around Lake



Dove.

Grant Hall — Senior Ranger Wellington/Derwent

Peter Murrell reserve volunteers and Coffee Creek Landcare group

Peter Murrell Reserve project — rehabilitation of construction site within reserve — Still to be completed.

Bernard Edwards — Ranger Bruny Island

Threatened Species Assistance volunteers and Botanical Guardians

Forty Spotted Pardalote white gum replanting — habitat creation (2500 seedlings planted).

Cathie Plowman — Interpretation and Education Officer North

Community Education Volunteers

Summer interpretation program at Penguin site.

Oral history training project —

volunteers train for recording oral histories.

Administrative Assistance Volunteers

Provided assistance with design and production of notesheets.

Visitor Education Volunteers

Three day visitor survey, Cradle Mt Visitor Centre.

Gary Willmott — Planning Officer Northern Region

CARes Cradle members

Visitor survey and information during road closure at Cradle Mt.

Stuart Dudgeon — Senior Ranger Mt Field National Park

Mt Field Volunteers, Habitat Care volunteers

Hut maintenance.

Weed control projects.

Greg Peters — Ranger Mt Field National Park

Adopt a Track Volunteers

Track work volunteers.

Alan Coates — Ranger Strahan

ATCV free time

Work on the Sir John Falls Hut.

Nature Conservation Branch

Nick Mooney — Wildlife Biologist

Whale Rescue volunteers

Assisted with whale rescues at Strahan, Stanley and Marion Bay.

Raptor Records Volunteers

Raptor Survey project — recording juvenile to adult ratios of wedge-tailed eagles.

Stuart Blackhall — Wildlife Biologist

Wildlife Survey Volunteers

Bird census at Moulting Lagoon.

Hunters hides removals Moulting Lagoon.

Naomi Lawrence — Threatened Species Botanist

Botanical Guardian Volunteers

Ranunculus prasinus plant out at Township Lagoon.

Sally Bryant — Threatened Species Zoologist

Threatened Species Assistance Volunteers

Seastar rescue and relocation at Midway Point during roadworks.

Data Records Volunteers

Slide collection collation.

Conservation Strategies Branch

Anne Wessing — Planning Officer Deal Island volunteers

Volunteers staff the island for periods of around a month.

Community Visitor and Field Services

Ben Rheinberger — Wilderness Recreation Research Officer

Data Records and Administrative Assistance Volunteers

Walker registration data collation.

Tourism and Recreational Visitor Surveys.

Stephen Johnston — Administrative Assistant

Community Partnerships

WildCARE Office volunteers

Mailouts, member records.

Andrew Smith — Manager Community Partnerships

Chris Hannoeks — WildCARE volunteer

Developing the caring for injured and orphaned animals network in partnership with Brighton Council, WildCARE volunteers, Help for Wildlife (Vic) and the PWS.

Cultural Heritage Branch

Angie McGowan — Cultural Heritage Officer

Heritage Care Volunteers

Twilight Tarn inventory project.

Adamsfield inventory project.

WildCARE Training courses

WildCARE Incorporated, in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service and other groups, offers training for members and other volunteers. Courses are attended by Parks and Wildlife Service staff, WildCARE volunteers and other community groups, as students. The following courses have been offered since December 1997.

Whale First Aid and Rescue Techniques Courses — 6x1/2 day courses in partnership with Parks and Wildlife Service.

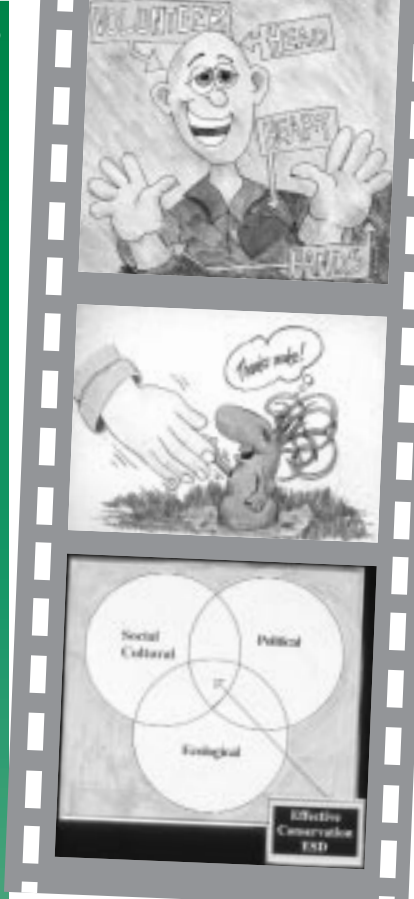
Trip Leaders Course — 1 day course in partnership with the Understorey Network.

Environmental Education Techniques Course — 2 day course in partnership with Coastcare.

Facilitation Skills Course — 2x6 day courses in partnership with Coastcare and Parks and Wildlife Service.

National Plant Conservation Techniques Course — 8 day course





in partnership with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation and Parks and Wildlife Service.

Visitor Survey Skills Course — day course pre-project training.

Sponsorship and the WildCARE Fund

The **Gold Sponsor** for 1998 was **Paddy Pallin** (Hobart, Launceston and Sydney) with a donation of \$10,000.

In-kind sponsorship came from the Australian Conservation Trust for Volunteers in the form of 4 project team weeks of free labour (value \$8000).

Malcolm Murchison donated \$1000 x2 (98 and 99).

The donations and membership fees are deposited in the **WildCARE** Fund and made available in August for joint **WildCARE/Parks** and **Wildlife Service** projects. Written applications for such projects are sought, with the **WildCARE** Board of Management deciding which ones will be supported.

WildCARE vital statistics (10th April 1999)

Membership — 800, **Formed** — December 1997, **Incorporated** — August 1998, **Annual membership fees** — \$20 (individual/family membership/group affiliation).

Board of Management

Andrew Smith — Chairperson, **Richard Hammond** — Vice Chairperson (elected 10th April 1999), **Stephen Johnston** — Secretary, **Treasurer and Public Officer** — vacant (to be filled from membership), **Sharyn Sinclair Hannocks** — Nature Care, **Don Ranson** — Heritage Care, **Ann Stocks** — President Cradle Mt CAREs (Melva Truchanas represents Ann), **Susan Henry** — President Tasmanian Trail Association, **Richard Porch** — President Mt Direction CAREs.

Member Registrations for each WildCARE volunteer category (10th April 1999)

Administration Assistance	39
Adopt a Track	165
Archival Research	40
Caring for Injured and orphaned animals	95
Community Education Botanical	45
Community Education Heritage	33
Community Education Nature	98
Data Records Nature	74
Data Records Heritage	33
Enterprise development	76
Field Collection Botanical	109
Archaeological Excavation Assistance	53
General Reserve management	130
Habitat Care	159
Historic Site Conservation	58
Members Records	25
Monitoring Botanical	70
Newsletter Production	44
Oil Spill Response	135
Plant Propagation	73
Raptor Records	97
Replanting	101
Historic Site Recording	56
Special Events Assistance	69
Plant Surveys	80
Threatened Species Assistance	174
Visitor Education	110
Whale Rescue	143
Wildlife Surveys	187

Member Registrations for each field centre/reserve (10th April 1999)

<i>Community Action in Reserves (CAREs) Branch</i>	
Asbestos Range NP	36
Cradle Mt	42
Freycinet NP	27
Hartz Mt NP	13
Lake St Clair	16
Maria Island NP	18
Mt Direction HS	12
Mt Wellington PA	28

Mt Field NP	47
Rocky Cape NP	12
Seven Mile Beach SRA	14
Southwest NP	12
Tasmanian Trail Assoc	45
Walls of Jerusalem NP	15
Adamsfield Reserve	9
Adamson Peak	2
Ben Lomond NP	8
Bruny Island	9
Cape Deslacs	2
Central Plateau	5
East Risdon NR	3
Franklin/Gordon NP	3
Hastings Caves SR	5
Kangaroo Bluff	2
Lillicos Beach CA	3
Lime Bay NR	2
Marine Reserves	2
Mayfield Beach CA	2
Mole Creek	9
Mt Roland	3
Mt William NP	6
Notely Gorge NR	2
Peter Murrell NR	5
Port Sorell CA	4
Trevallyn SRA	9
Tamar Island NR	5
Tasman Peninsula	9
Truganini NR	6
Western Lakes	4

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1995, 96, 97
Tourism Award Winners

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Full Partner Organisations (all members pay annual membership to WildCARE)
 Tasmanian Trail Association Inc.
 Mt Direction Semaphore Station Restoration Committee Inc (CARes Mt Direction).

Affiliated Organisations (group joined as individual membership — \$20pa)
 Coffee Creek Landcare group.
 Rubicon Landcare group.
 Launceston Walking Club.
 Bridgewater Anglers.
 Burnie Field Naturalists.

Derwent Valley Horseriders.
 Trail Riders Action Club.
 North Forest Products.
 Friends of Bibbulmun Track.
 Tasmanian Mountain Cattlemens Association.
 Hobart College.

WildCARERS

Qualifications

–Bush leadership –Bat Sc –MSc (all sorts) –Medicine –Computing
 –Bapp Sc (all sorts) –PhD genetics, aquaculture, fisheries
 –Dip Ed –Cert Hort –Coxswains Cert –Remote First Aid, GIS
 –Bach Economic –Grad Dip Cultural Heritage –Mountain Medicine –Bach Architecture
 –Sports Administration –Dip Emerg Management –Bach Park Management –Bach Commerce
 –Chef Diploma –Masters Social Research –BA – Professional writing –Dip Public Health –Deg Horticultural Science

Languages

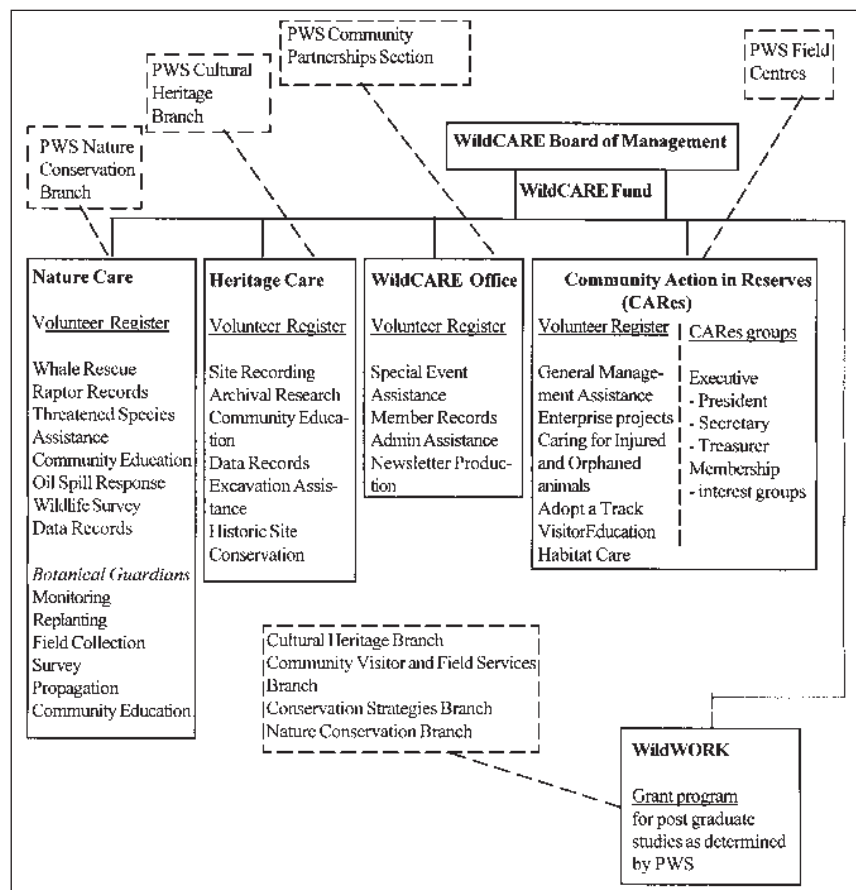
–Japanese –Indonesian –German
 –French –Dutch –Italian
 –Africaans –Mandarin –Danish
 –Polish –English

Occupations

–Psychologist –Farmers
 –Teachers –Pilots (fixed and heli)
 –Doctors –Veterinarians
 –Stonemasons –Navy –Army
 –Mechanics –Trout fisherman
 –Civil/Struct Engineers
 –Pharmacists –Enviro Economist
 –School Groundsman
 –Arboriculturist –Nurses
 –Chainsaw operators –For Wheel Drivers –Horse riders –Profess
 Divers –Lawyers
 –Artists/Graphic design –Kayak Instructors –Tourist Operators
 –Chefs –Social Researcher
 –Plumbers –Ski instructor
 –Ambulance Officers
 –Boilermaker/welder –Driving instructor –Dietitian –Electronics Technician –Chartered Accountant –Landscape Gardener
 –Librarian –Botanical consultant

Wildcare Incorporated Profit and Loss for the year ended 31 March 1999

INCOME	\$
Bal Brought Forward	18400.00
Interest Received	11.10
Memberships and Donations	5528.00
Total Income	23939.10
EXPENSES	
Bank Charges	24.49
Formation Costs	1926.00
Insurance	1000.00
Merchandising	1198.75
Newsletter Production	5820.00
WildCARE Projects	
ANPC Course	1000.00
Freycinet	2118.00
Liawenee Field	1850.00
Oral history	155.00
Overland Track	3200.00
Total Expenses	18292.24
Net Profit	5646.86



Snakes

"He that has humanity, forwarn'd tread aside, and let the reptile live"

W D Hudson

The very thought of snakes fills some people with terror, whilst others are fascinated by these enigmatic creatures. Through the ages, humanity has been obsessed by snakes in myths, legends and superstitions. For example the northern Australian aborigines believe that the creator of life was a giant snake, the Rainbow Serpent, which caused lightning and storms.

Sadly, snakes have been endlessly persecuted through of fear and superstition. Australians have often been guilty of killing snakes for no reason other than fearing them. It may come as a surprise to learn that snakes are not habitually aggressive and venom is used primarily to secure food and not as a defence. In the breeding season they become territorial. Where humans are concerned, snakes are actually shy animals preferring to move away and hide or lie still in the hope of being overlooked. Their natural camouflage generally makes them inconspicuous.

Fortunately, attitudes are beginning to change and people are learning to respect these marvellous creatures. So, before you reach for a stick, calmly assess the risks. You may even begin to admire snakes — certainly you should respect them.

Tasmanian Snakes

Apart for rarely recorded sea-snakes, only three species of land snake inhabit Tasmania, the Tasmanian tiger snake or *Notechis ater*, copperhead *Austrelaps superbus*, and the white-lipped whip snake *Drysdalia coronoides*. The most reliable distinguishing feature is the middle head scale — something hard to see safely in a wild snake (see diagram). All are widespread in Tasmania and at least tiger snakes are found on most large offshore islands.

Tiger Snake

The Tasmanian tiger snake is one of a group of closely related species. Distinctions between mainland and other island forms is currently undergoing revision. The markings are highly variable and should not be used in isolation to identify snakes. Colour forms range from yellow/orange with grey bands to sandy/grey with no bands. Typical forms, however, are of a black snake with either no bands or

faint yellow to cream bands. Generally, the belly is pale yellow, white or grey. The head is broad and blunt. It can be difficult to distinguish the tiger snake from the copperhead since size, habitat preferences, and behaviour overlap somewhat.

Adult length: 1 m to 1.8 m. Chappell Island sub-species up to 2.4 m.

Habitat: Wide ranging from dry rocky areas to wet marshes and grasslands.

Prey: Solely vertebrate feeders — small mammals, nestling birds, lizards, smaller snakes and frogs.

Behaviour: A slow, careful hunter which may stand its ground if surprised, relying on its impressive threat display for defence. This species makes a sudden 'bark' sometimes as a threat.

Fangs and poison: Large, front fangs; highly toxic and large amounts.

Copperhead

This snake has large prominent eyes and narrow, somewhat pointed head, scarcely distinct from the neck. The colour ranges from coppery red-brown or deep brick-red through to slate grey or black on the upper surface and usually, grey-white on the underneath. Some adults have a prominent orange/red to brown streak underneath. This has led some people to the mistaken belief that the species is a red bellied black snake.

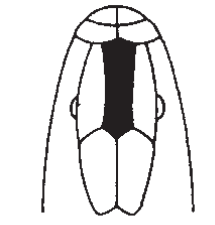
Adult length: 1 m to 1.5 m.

Habitat: Typically the forest edge on wetlands but occasionally in open, grassy areas. Although it is a fairly shy, retiring snake, it can be very defensive if disturbed.

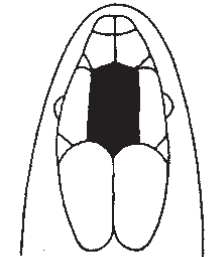
Prey: Mainly frogs, lizards, smaller snakes and tadpoles. Grasshoppers rarely.

Behaviour: An active, alert hunter that is very shy with humans. They are considered inoffensive and retiring, preferring to retreat when disturbed. However, copperheads have extremely quick reflexes and can operate at a lower temperature than tiger snakes (16 °C compared with 18 °C).

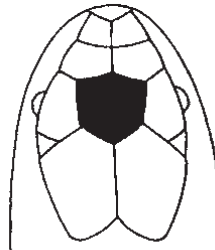
Fangs and poison: Large front fangs; moderate toxicity and amount.



White-lipped whipsnake



Australian copperhead



Tiger snake

White-lipped (whip) snake

Whip-snakes are dark olive green to a green-grey on the back with a pale grey under-surface. A thin, white line runs along the upper border of the mouth. The eyes are small and the head small and rounded at the front. Sadly, they are often the target for pet cats living near bush areas and so may be brought inside homes.

Adult length: 0.25 m to 0.5 m.

Habitat: Dry forest, where they shelter under leaf litter, logs or dead branches.

Prey: Very small lizards.

Behaviour: Very quick and shy, sometimes nocturnal. They can forage in winter on fine days since their small size allows them to heat up

quickly.

Fangs and poison: Small fangs; moderate toxicity but small amounts. No known human deaths.

Fascinating adaptations

Locomotion: Movement is by belly muscles and scales which grip the surface beneath them. Most snakes climb well but they can not jump. Their fastest pace on flat ground is about a fast human walk. Snakes swim well and can stay submerged for considerable periods.

Temperature: Snakes are cold blooded (poikilothermic) and control their temperature by behaviour. To warm up they sun-bask and to cool they use shade or water. Large snakes take longer to warm and longer to cool. A snake's ability to digest food and remain active is dependent on its body temperature. The dark colour of many Tasmanian snakes is an adaptation to a cold environment, enabling them to absorb light and heat better than light coloured snakes. By doing this, they can raise their body temperature quickly and become active, even in overcast conditions. Low environmental temperatures generally limit snake activity to the warmer months between October and March. Over winter they become inactive and can go for many months without food.



Breeding: Tasmanian snakes have novel ways of breeding to make the most of the short summer for raising young. Females store sperm in their oviducts over winter so that as soon as spring arrives, the eggs are fertilized and develop inside the mother. Young snakes are born live from late summer to mid-autumn. All Tasmanian snakes bear live young (viviparous). There is no maternal bonding between the young and adults. In fact, some species have been known to be cannibalistic.

Poison: none of the Tasmanian snake species can truly inject poison, relying instead on its flowing down a groove in the fangs. However, in old snakes the groove overgrows may form a hollow tooth. Tiger Snakes make up for this poor delivery system by having a large quantity of very powerful venom. The venom of the white-lipped whip snake has never been recorded as causing death to a human. Tasmanian snakes cannot bite through shoe leather or gum boots.

Eating: Snakes swallow their prey whole and can digest large meals because of the elasticity of their digestive tract. This is assisted by their skull and jaw being modified to allow them to open very wide and swallow large prey. The lower jaw is made up of two halves which are joined by an elastic ligament at the centre front. The lower jaw can dislocate from the upper jaw. By moving the left half and then the right half, snakes seem to 'walk' the prey in with their jaws, helped by a flow of saliva. They hold their prey with palate teeth. To allow the snake to breath when swallowing large prey, the windpipe is positioned to the front of the lower jaw. No Tasmanian snakes eat whole eggs. In nature, no snakes eat carrion.

Skin-shedding: For a snake to grow, it must shed (slough) its skin and grow a new one. A snake's skin is not elastic and continuously renewing like ours. They have evolved with scales which

are tough, to withstand moving across the ground and preventing water loss. Sloughing is a hazardous time for snakes because they become vulnerable to predators and therefore during this time they need to find a warm, sheltered spot. Snakes continue growing and sloughing their skins all their lives.

Fact and not fiction

The forked tongue is not poisonous but is actually a sensing organ used to smell prey.

Snakes do not have external ears and cannot hear sound. Instead they detect sound by vibrations passing through the ground.

Snakes' skin is not slimy and normally it is dry.

Snakes are not attracted to milk beyond the fact that it is wet and easy to find by smell. The venom toxicity of a juvenile snake is the same as that of an adult although the quantity they give is much less. Less than 10% of newborn snakes survive to adulthood. Most are eaten by natural predators, mainly birds, feral cats and humans.

In Tasmania the presence of the blue-tongued lizard is no indication that snakes are absent.

Tasmanian snakes will not attack people unless they feel trapped or threatened. It is easy to mistake a snakes' bluff or an attempt to reach shelter, for an attack.

Roles and values

Like other natural predators, snakes are important in regulating populations of their prey. Without such predators, prey species tend to overpopulate, leading to starvation and disease.

- Because Australia has few diurnal mammalian predators, birds and reptiles are very important. In Tasmania we do not have large goannas and therefore snakes are the most important reptile predators.
- Snakes are an important food source for a number of other animals such as birds of prey.
- Snakes eat introduced rodents and birds.

Snakes have other values. Many people enjoy watching them. Some populations, because of their long-term isolation, are excellent subjects for the study of evolution and competition.

Like all native species they have a right to exist. Tasmanian snakes are protected by law in all State Reserves.



Encountering snakes

Snakes may be seen in the most surprising places (including cities) especially when water is in short supply. It is best to leave them alone or watch them from uphill. If they must be disturbed do it from a distance.

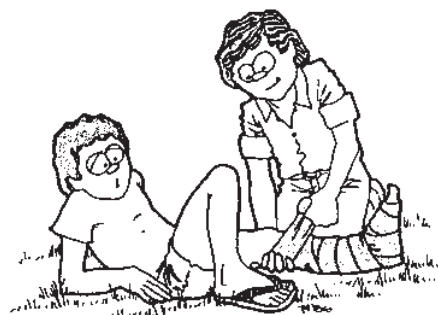
Although most will be just passing through, snakes do occasionally take up residence in suburban yards. During prolonged dry periods, they are attracted to gardens in search of water in rubbish, dog bowls, fishponds, swimming pools etc. Properties near scrubby creeks are especially prone to serpentine visits. To minimise such presence in your garden keep:

- Grass mown.
- Garden debris to a minimum.
- Wood heaps away from the house, and/or elevated 0.5 m above ground level.
- Under the house well sealed or very clear and dry.
- Standing water and wet spots to a minimum.
- Seal cracks in concrete which may shelter lizards. Rockeries are a major attraction for lizards.
- Have a well maintained paling fence.

If you like snakes and want to encourage them it is easy to create attractive habitat.

Avoiding bites

Snakes are naturally shy animals and their first form of defence is to move away from danger. Contrary to popular belief, they will not deliberately chase humans, but if provoked or cornered they may bluff or even attempt to bite.



“WildCARE Warden at Waterfall”

Several times walking the Overland Track I have said to myself that Waterfall Valley would be a great area to spend a few days and radiate out from there. It came about through Wildcare. When I read about the Track Warden idea in *WildTIMES*, that was ‘it’ for me. Telephone calls were made, interviews were had and an itinerary drawn up. My initial thought was to become a reality. I had arranged to walk the South Coast Track, with friends, in early January and the last week of that month was reserved to take friends through the Overland Track. They had never experienced bushwalking before. After that, I was free. I suggested to Cathie Plowman of PWS that, I could do fourteen days in and fourteen days out of the park, and that is what happened.



Track Warden Bill Forsyth carrying a pack belonging to a sick lady.

Track Warden (right) talking to overlander.



Campers at Waterfall Valley preparing to pack their tents away.

Bushwalking friends of mine, each time, assisted me in carrying in food required to sustain me the fourteen days or so. It has been a marvellous experience. I hope that *WildCARE* can find the funds to continue this service to the bushwalking public each year from now on. I will tell you why. A track Warden is a fellow walker. He has contact with walkers on their first night in the park. Most walkers walk from North to South. He can observe those unsuitably equipped. One walker did not have a stove. All he had was a loaf of bread and a pot of jam! His main aim, I suggest, was to reduce his waistline and not to experience the wonders of the Park. This was an

extreme case. It was suggested to people without the proper gear that to continue was unsafe and to turn back. Some would do this. This reduced the likelihood of the Track Warden being alerted to some mishap and using his radio to communicate details with Cradle Base. When walkers knew that a radio was on hand they felt secure, so they told me, when in the area. My area covered Waterfall, Scott-Kilvert and Windermere Huts. During my first stint in February, I received a hand written message, brought into me by a young UK couple from Windermere. The message reported a woman in distress further out the track. She was taking a course of blood pressure tablets and she was an asthmatic. She carried a puffer. She had woken from their walk the previous day, from





Barn Bluff and the new Waterfall Valley Hut.

Dove Lake, seriously ill. I relayed the message to Cradle Base. Low, misty cloud from the east had been the weather for several days. Using a helicopter to bring her out was not possible. I went to Windermere and stood by until she felt able to walk without her pack. She was delivered safely to Waldheim, slowly over two days, with an overnight stop at Waterfall Valley Hut. A track warden in the area, and a radio to keep Cradle Base informed, made this possible.

Another assistance to Park personnel is maintenance of huts and toilets. A report came to me that there was not tank water at Windermere. We had

rain recently, so, somebody may have left the tank tap dripping. The siphoning of water from the Tarn was easily fixed by priming the line after making sure the intake at the Tarn was in plenty of water. All taking less time than it would take a Ranger to walk in from Cradle. Some walkers are oblivious to the hut code. Therefore, a Track Warden on the job can ensure each hut doesn't become untidy with wet clothing, food and gear left behind and garbage left in the hut and around it outside. A hut clean inside and clean outside creates a good impression. Comments, personally and in the hut log book, bear witness to that. Another

Whale Saving

Volunteers on the North-West Coast are being sought to form a first-response team to rescue beached whales.

The whale rescues at Stanley, Marawah and Ocean Beach last year attracted large numbers of volunteers and identified a need for a trained team to be available immediately to start the rescue.

The team would undertake an intensive two-day training course which would involve whale identification and biology, first aid and rescue techniques. The team would be provided with kits needed for whale rescues.

WildCARE incorporated chairperson Andrew Smith said those living near the 'hotspots' were encouraged to volunteer. The most recent rescue was 150 pilot whales beached at Marion Bay. There were 400 volunteers and 110 whales were rescued as a result. Mr Smith said it was through the 'amazing commitment' of volunteers that the rescue was such a success.

(Published in the Advocate after the conference)

Events Calendar

Landcare Education Calendar

28 May-3 June

Reconciliation Week, contact Aboriginal Education 6233 7968

5 June

World Environment Day Environmental Education Expo, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, contact Tania Stadler 6226 2838

15 June

Landcare Award Nominations close, contact Lynn Stein 6336 5270

17 June

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

8 July

Teachers Seminar: Wetlands to Waterways, contact Margaret Stedman 6234 5566

17 July

Landcare Breakfast Seminar for Teachers, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery contact Roberta Poynter 6235 0753

frequently asked question of the Track Warden is about the safety of the water for drinking. Walkers were satisfied when told that samples of water were taken and tested often in the Waterfall Valley area. In any case those with sensitive stomachs received suggestions to boil water, if in doubt.

So, it can be seen that a Track Warden in position along the Overland Track can be of assistance to Park personnel in reporting, but importantly to ensure walkers have an enjoyable, safe stay in one of the worlds' best Parks.

Having experienced, being a Track Warden this walking season, talking to people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world and contributing to making the Overland Track as safe as possible, I would thoroughly recommend to any Wildcare member, who has the time available, and the experience, to be a part of the Track Warden program. What better chance for any one to be in this sacred place.

Snow Pole Project

ATCV — **WildCARE** Snow Pole and Track marker Project
Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park

Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park staff have instigated a joint project with Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. The project was made possible by securing an in-kind grant of \$4000.00 from ATCV. The project involved the upgrading of snow poles and track markers on the Cradle Summit Track, the first section of the Overland Track and the Dove Lake Circuit Track. The project ran from the 4th to the 15th of January 1999. Ted Wilkin was the supervisor of a crew of five volunteers. The following tasks were completed by the volunteers and Ranger Kathy Van Dullemen:

- Despite a daily two-hour walk into the work site, the group had to maintain a high level of motivation.
- All safety gear was available and

Miles, Chris and Rebecca on the Plateau putting in new snow poles. January 1999.



Above: The whole crew, from left, Ted, Helen, Rebecca, Duggie, Miles and Chris at Kitchen Hut having lunch. January 1999.



Left: Upgrading snow poles on the Crater Lake-Wombat Pool Circuit. January 1999.

Bottom middle: Helen and Chris upgrading old snow poles on the Crater Lake — Wombat Pool Circuit January 1999.

Below: Miles upgrading snow poles on the Crater Lake — Wombat Pool Circuit January 1999.





Miles upgrading snow poles on the Crater Lake Wombat Pool Circuit January 1999.

worn by individuals.

- An introduction was conducted at the start of each day, discussing the hazards and techniques of the job at hand.
- Putting in the snow poles on the Cradle Summit Track involved distributing the poles along the track on foot then, using a petrol driven jack hammer / drill to secure them into the rock and using a resin to secure the poles in place.
- The snow poles along the plateau section of the Overland Track had to be secured through driving a steel rod into the ground and sliding a pole over the top of the rod.
- The track markers on the Dove Lake Circuit Track consisted of steel star pickets driven into the ground with orange plastic caps placed on top for visibility and also to hide sharp edges.

The project was completed to a high standard. We received positive visitor feedback and a write up in the local paper. All individuals who participated in this project had an



Miles, Rebecca and Helen on the Dove Lake Circuit, dropping off snow poles. January 1999.

excellent time, during and after hours, including near record sightings of Tasmanian wildlife. If such a project of similar status can be organised for next financial year, I would be pleased to provide options and possibly funding.

The Ranger staff would like to thank ATCV and WildCARE for making this project possible.

Kathy Van Dullemen
Ranger

Cradle Mountain Field Centre.



Port Sorell conservation Area

WildCARE Project 1998-99



Project: To build two timber information bays for the Port Sorell conservation Area.

Funding: *WildCARE* allocation \$2000.00.

Structures were made from treated pine with colorbond steel roofing and heavy duty perspex display front. All accounts paid through PWS, Asbestos Range National Park

Community contribution:

- Construction of two pre-assembled units
- Crane and truck to move units
- Labour provided to install units
- Bag of cement, some extra timber
- Total approximately \$2000.00

Total time to construct both units was one week. The units were both pre-assembled and moved by truck with a crane on January 7th 1999.



The units were installed with a combination of Parks personnel and Landcare members and placed at two sites. Completed unit situated in the Squeaking Point Section of the Port Sorell Conservation Area.

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

Tassie's Trees

White gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*

White gum is a tree with many forms. It can grow to over 90 meters tall in the Evercreech forests near Fingal in the north east, but it is usually found growing among black peppermint in drier eucalypt forests. White gum is a major species in the open woodlands of Tasmania.

White gums generally have a wavering trunk, often breaking into branches at low levels. Its usual mature height is around 40 meters, with a diameter of about 1.5 metres at the butt. Its bark is almost wholly smooth with a white or yellowish colour. At the upper levels of the trunk, long ribbons of bark frequently remain hanging from branches. Leaves are about 16 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. They have a pronounced stalk.

The species occurs in a wide variety of forest and woodland types, but is generally absent from mountainous areas and the wetter parts of the west and south coasts. It grows between sea-level to about 600 metres altitude.

The timber is brittle and doesn't tolerate exposure, but it provides a useful hardwood for internal fittings. It polishes well and in panels resembles English ash. You can see white gum in the north at the Evercreech and Hollybank Forest Reserves.

Taken from Forestry notes

Renew your **WildCARE** registration and membership

The following activities and programs will benefit from volunteer assistance. If you are the type of person who likes to roll up your sleeves and get on with the job then tick the program and activity boxes that most interest you. Your name and contact details will be registered on the Volunteer Register and project officers will contact you when your assistance is needed. Some activities will require training which will be provided by *WildCARE* during the year.

CARes — Community Action in Reserves

Which Reserve would you like to be registered with?

It is not necessary to register with CARes if your interest is specifically in wildlife or cultural heritage conservation (see Nature care and Heritage care registers below) If there is a CARes group for your Reserve we will pass your name onto the President. Otherwise your details will be available to the Park Ranger at that Reserve.

What kind of work are you particularly interested in?

- General management assistance
 Adopt-a-Track Program
 Enterprise projects
 Visitor Education
 Caring for injured/orphaned animals
 Habitat Care

Naturecare — conserving Tasmania's plants and animals

Wildlife rescue and research activities listed below generally occur outside reserves

- Whale rescue Oil Spill response
 Raptor records Wildlife survey
 Threatened species assistance

- Data records (computer)
 Community education

Botanical Guardians — the Botanical Guardians is a joint program with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and is the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation. Most of the work is therefore related to threatened species.

- Monitoring Survey
 Replanting Propagation
 Field collection
 Community education

Heritagecare — conserving Tasmania's cultural heritage

While a lot of cultural heritage conservation is carried out within reserves, there is also a great deal of work needed outside reserves to assist the Parks and Wildlife Service to properly protect and understand Tasmania's cultural heritage. Please note that archaeological excavations are rarely undertaken by the Parks and Wildlife Service and so opportunities to be involved in that activity may not arise.

- Site recording
 Data records (computer)
 Archival research
 Excavation assistance
 Community education
 Historic site conservation*

*Any particular site?

WildCARE Incorporated Office 134 Macquarie Street.

Help support the supporters. There is a lot of work needed in the background to keep the networks going.

- Special event assistance
 Administrative assistance
 Member records
 Newsletter production

Please return completed form along with annual membership payment to:

The Manager, Community Partnership Section, Parks and Wildlife Service, GPO Box 44A Hobart 7001.

Enquiries

ph: (03) 6233 2185

fax: (03) 6223 8308.

Email wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

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Ph: (03) 6250 3248



WildCARE INCORPORATED REGISTRATION FORM

Community action for
natural and cultural heritage conservation

Surname Given names

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone (W) (H)

Fax (W) (H)

email (W) (H)

\$20 WildCARE Annual Membership (1 September–31 December in the following year)

Special discounts on Annual Park Passes are available to WildCARE members. Please complete an Annual Park Pass Application form and attach. **Please Note:** If you already hold an Annual Park Pass simply quote your WildCARE Card number to receive the WildCARE discount rates when its time to renew your Annual Park Pass.

\$22 Optional WildCARE Discount Annual Park Pass.

or

\$14 Optional WildCARE Discount Concession Annual Park Pass.

\$. . . . Total amount enclosed (please make cheques and money orders payable to WildCARE Fund)

Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Name on card Signed Expiry / /

Your membership fees will be used to publish the quarterly newsletter and to support the volunteer activities of WildCARE. Your membership entitles you to receipt of the Newsletter "WildTIMES" and discounts at various stores and events around the State. See attached list and watch for updates in the Newsletter.

In addition...

You may like to register your interest in volunteering. There are many opportunities available. First fill in the section about your skills and experience, then indicate where and how you would like to be involved.

Skills and experience

What skills do you have that you would like to use in your volunteer work?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bushwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Horticulture | <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoology | <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Botany | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Map reading/navigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Word processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineering/rockclimbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Databases | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting | <input type="checkbox"/> Drivers licence | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS |

Second language (which?)

Other skills — not specified above.

.....
.....

What qualifications do you have that may be useful to your volunteer work?

.....

Roll On Summer '99

Amidst the glorious summer of 1999 four dedicated **Summer Track Rangers** continued their progressive interaction with park visitors. The Track Rangers were located at the Walls of Jerusalem, Freycinet, South Coast and on the Overland Track. Many management issues that were considered highly controversial by DELM staff (now DPIWE — Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment) have, or are now becoming, widely accepted by park visitors. This is attested to by the broad support for the extension of the FUEL STOVEONLYAREA. After spending a few minutes speaking with Track Rangers walkers begin to understand that regulations can enhance wilderness experiences, as well as assist in protecting the environment in a sustainable way, for everyone's future.



By Ted Mead,
Track Ranger,
Esperance

Maps Info

Roger Ling is an Information Technology Trainee who has been working in the Track Management Team for the last 12 months. Specialising in the use of GIS software (MapInfo) Roger has produced maps relating to walking track and recreational issues.

Projects have included mapping the entire track network in both World Heritage and State Areas, plotting of Phytosphthora infections, campsite locations, and the 450 monitoring sites established for the Track Management Strategy. Roger's work also includes production of maps and 3-D images for the parks website — you can see these first hand on www.parks.tas.gov.au under the visitor's guide section.

In addition to his Land Management qualifications he has wide experience in computer programming/support in

a variety of past roles.

However his first love is the environment (well second after his wife Kavinah and new baby Miranda) and likes bushwalking and snow skiing. On his bushland property he enjoys studying scats, native plants, and managing a rather cheeky goat and grumpy rooster.

Education Items Available

There are currently 2 free **brochures** explaining the Track Management Strategy and the Science behind it! Educational **videos** have also been produced, many groups and schools have purchased these to use as part of their curriculum!

The **Welcome to the Wilderness** minimal impact bushwalking brochure is being reprinted — a free resource for use by all!

To order any publications contact the Tracks Team or visit Park's homepage at www.parks.tas.gov.au

Trampling Trials

In January 1999 Parks and Wildlife staff and volunteers established walker impact trials at Tim Shea, South West Tasmania. The aim of these trials is to investigate whether there is any difference between trampling all at once and trampling over time.

The treatments established are 0, 30, 100 and 500 passes. The "at once" trampling occurred in January. The "over time" lanes are being trampled weekly from January until April when the total number of passes will equal

Trampling Trials in Jan. 1999 at Tim Shea (in fog).



Facts from Parks

The weather recorded at Lake St Clair gets an honourable mention with the driest January ever recorded and a very wet February with 100ml falling in just 2 days! It all evens out in the end!

30, 100 and 500. Regular measurements will be taken from all lanes to examine impact and recovery for each treatment type. This will allow comparison between over time and all at once trampling and indicate whether PWS management should consider 'resting' walking areas.

By Nicki Chilcott

For more information please refer to the PWS Science Behind the Strategy brochure.

The WORLD WIDE WEB

Watch this space for updates — including an easier link from parks' home page! (www.parks.tas.gov.au)

Track Team Information? Go to www.parks.tas.gov.au/manage/tracs/trat/trkteam.html

Track Education

The new Track Education Officer is Jennifer (Jen) Fry. She started working in the field of community relations, in Canada, with the Grand River Conservation Authority. After moving to Queensland she then worked with the Wet



Tropics World Heritage Area as a Community Education Ranger. (She also moonlighted with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, as an undercover officer!)

Since moving to Tassie Jen has continued her bushwalking habits. She is a competitive dancer and loves touch football!

She is so taken with Tassie that she has decided to make it her home. Jen recently bought a block down in Margate and enjoys walking and riding her bike on her 40 acres of paradise.

Stats on Tracks

We've been experimenting with a datalogger on the Overland Track over the past year, and have obtained some interesting results. In July there were as many passes by animals (judging by the time of night they wandered by) as there were passes by walkers heading south (46 animal passes and 45 walkers). Tracks in the area suggest that Wombats are the culprits! This counter has also developed the skill of counting raindrops. On Easter Tuesday there were 6552 raindrops recorded!

Two volunteers have made valuable contributions to the stats gathered. Mike Austin has been helping out with Hartz walker registration, in 97/98 there were 3162 walkers (of these 15 were overnight). From Keith Brown's work on the Overland Track (Cradle Mountain) there were about 6100 registrations (1600 for overnight walks other than the Overland Track). Taking registrations at Lake St Clair into account (and the proportion of walkers who don't register), we estimate that there were about 8000 Overland walkers in all.

By Susan Rundle, Research Officer
(Statistics).

Email susanr@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Track Works 98/99

Track works have taken place in the following areas: PEC (Priority Erosion Control) at Pelion West, Southern Ranges, Barn Bluff ascent, and on the Mt Anne circuit. A reroute of the Southwest Cape track between New Harbour and Hidden Bay is in progress and includes trials on rehabilitation techniques on the old route. Hardening on the ascent to the Cirque from Rodway has completed, and Pine Forest Moor to Pelion Creek track hardening is being completed this summer season.

A new suspension bridge crossing the Mersey River near Lees Paddocks has been erected with the aid of volunteers. Many thanks must go to those devoted vols who gave up their time for the benefit of all walkers in this area. However it is disturbing to note that there are already signs of motorbikes being taken across the bridge!

These are just some of the works that the dedicated Track Work Rangers have undertaken this summer!

Great Walks a Statewide Project

The Tasmanian Walking Track Strategy is a joint initiative of Tourism Tasmania, the Department of Primary Industries, Water and the Environment, and Forestry Tasmania. The Statewide strategy is concerned with all walking tracks in Tasmania that occur on Crown Land — about 3100 kilometres of tracks!

A fair few of these kilometres are being designated as "Great Walks". In order to operate within the World Heritage Area Walking Track Strategy only certain walks will be promoted as "Great Walks", leaving the remainder to be managed for their natural and recreational opportunities.

Examples of Great Walks include Lake Dove Circuit Rainforest Walk, Wineglass Bay Freycinet Peninsula Walk, Hartz Mountain Walks, and the Overland Track. There are a total of 8

Great Bushwalks and 60 Great Short Walks.


The vision for Tasmania's Great Walk Strategy is to offer a world class walking destination by providing a diversity of walking opportunities, by enhancing quality experiences of the natural and cultural heritage and by achieving sustainable management practices in Tasmania.

Planning is well underway for this project, we are now just waiting for the final funding to start implementing the Great Walks Strategy across Tasmania!

Limited copies of the Strategy are available through the Parks and Wildlife Service Tracks Team or on the internet.

Need More Info?

Remember our Email on
tracks@dpiwe.tas.gov.au



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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**

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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.

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