

## Workshop Outcomes from the **WILDCARE** Conference 2002

The following are the workshop topics, outcomes and weightings for all of the topics raised and discussed by the membership during the **WILDCARE** Conference 2002, held at PWS Seven Mile Beach office on 13 April. The outcomes have been provided to the Board of Management for consideration and action as appropriate. The Board has already considered the top four topics and outcomes (progress to date noted at end of each of those 4 workshop reports) and will work through those issues over the coming meetings.

### Conference outcomes

#### Fox Eradication Work

Weighting 20

Leader — Stan Allison

Participants — Peg Mooney, Jim Mooney, Brian McGuire, Keith Brown, Mariet de Boer

Outcomes:

1. Tasmanian involvement in control of foxes at Melbourne Port and Devonport/Burnie Ports.
2. State government should spend more money now, otherwise it will cost more in future. Increased funding required.
3. Foxes will have a terrible effect on survival of wildlife and could cause extinction of a number of species.
4. **WILDCARE** assistance to DPIWE to be considered — volunteer labour under supervision of Department staff.
5. Do we need a special group to cover this eradication work?

Board progress to date:

1. Fox eradication is now a category for volunteer work on the membership form on the web and will be included in the next reprint. The head of the Fox Task Force, Terry Reid, sometime ago requested this.
2. The Chairperson will contact the Fox Task Force to discuss volunteer training.
3. Working Together for a Fox Free Tasmania information sheet included in **WILDTIMES**.

#### Track Volunteer Work

Weighting 20

Leader — Ken Sheperd

Participants — Peter Franklin, Sue Franklin, Rodney Milner, Mariet De Boer, Stan Allison, Derry Atkinson, Brian McGuire, Pat Eastwood

Outcomes:

1. Commitment by PWS to continue track volunteer program and provide contact person to promote and communicate and to



**WILDCARE** workshop outcomes – Participants at **WILDCARE** Conference and AGM taking a lunch break. Photo J Field.

- assist volunteers interests and enquiries.
2. Track Caretakers manual content and relevance.
3. Communication as to tracks and work required.
4. Put forward an AGM motion that Adopt-a-Track Coordinator's position be continued.

Board progress to date:

The Board of Management is drafting a letter to the Minister and Secretary of DPIWE to pass on the recommendation from the Conference in relation to the continuation of the Adopt-a-Track and the position of Coordinator.

#### **WILDCARE** Web Site

Weighting 17

Leader— Richard Hammond

Participants — Bruce Tivendale, Deb Miller, Jo Field

Outcomes:

1. Need for interactive website containing
  - a) notice of events, working bees and training courses
  - b) ability to RSVP on the page
  - c) Ability for Rangers to record

participants and hours worked.

2. Build in option to auto email.
3. Password access to copy of current **WILDTIMES** for members.
4. Must be staged to allow development of database containing honour board.
5. Reduce hardcopy output.

Board progress to date:

1. Vice Chairperson is arranging for web page registration.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- "Island Keepers"
- **Orchid Guardians**
- **Mountain Orchestra –WILDCARE**
- **Weed removal on Tamar Island**
- **Adopt-a-Track news**
- **OBP Recovery program**
- **Claytons Hut working bee**

## Wildlife Care

Weighting 17

Leader— Deb Miller

Participants — Pat McGuire, Jo Field, Pam Chapman, Patti Burbury

Outcomes:

1. Communications and advertisement of training courses (nothing coming through at present).
2. Development of training courses and accreditation for caring of orphaned and injured wildlife through **WILDCARE** for wildcare members.
3. Advertisement of wildlife surveys, threatened species, raptors.
4. Provision of reward recognition for services — social events, accommodation, BBQ's, timeliness of volunteer days.
5. Listing of information on website for carers and points of contact, **WILDCARE** members and vets.
6. Phone book register for wildcare and branches and groups.
7. Step by step requirements for registered carers.
8. Wildlife articles in **WILDTIMES**.
9. Babysitter versus full time carer commitment status to establish level of service.
10. Info sheet for new members for wildcare requirements.

Board progress to date:

1. Chairperson to discuss wildlife care integration issues with Nature Conservation Branch.

**The  
POSSUM  
SHED**  
Westerway (Nr Mt Field NP)



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## Access to Equipment

Weighting 13

Leader — Peter Franklin

Participants — Same group as Track Volunteer workshop

Outcomes:

1. Basic track maintenance equipment be made readily available to Track Caretakers and volunteers.
2. A better system than is currently available including convenient collection means.

Board progress to date:

1. The Board has approved funding for the purchase of a tool trailer for the Cradle and northwest area.
2. Earlier funding provided a set of dedicated tools for volunteers.
3. **WILDCARE** has funded a range of tools in a range of field centres.

## Caring for Major River Banks

Weighting 11

Leader — Colin Balmer

Participants — Deb Miller, David, Pat McGuire, Chris Leitch, Rodney Milner

Outcomes:

1. Such a program could help integrate activities of several groups working in different parts of the river.
2. Cleaning up plastics and other flotsam.
3. Weed removal along riverbank especially willows.
4. Distinction between urban and rural areas.
5. Educational issues.
6. Partnerships between interested people (eg retired teachers) and groups (eg schools and others).
7. Need for more signs.
8. Need to target priority areas for attention and publicise these.
9. Need to publicise those groups already doing something in those areas.

## What's the Reward?

Weighting 10

Leader — Andrew Smith

Participants — Nick Tall, Jim Mooney, Peg Mooney, Rob Delaney

Outcomes:

A rewards system is seen as important, particularly for long term commitment. Currently offered is:

1. Polar fleeces.

2. Discounts at retail outlets.
3. Free training for volunteers.
4. Free sew on badges.
5. Discount on All Parks Pass — seen as very important.

Proposed:

1. VIP Pass for 50 hours proposed but rejected — needs to be resubmitted to PWS.
2. Reimbursement of wildcare membership by Rangers for special commitment.
3. Certificate of Thanks to specific volunteers.
4. Volunteer of the year awards (Certificate).
5. Recognition and thanks through the **WILDTIMES**.

## Membership Problems

Weighting 9

Leader — Bob and Phyl Wyatt

Participants — Bruce Tivendale, Sue Franklin, Peter Franklin, Jocelyn Balmer, Nick Tall, Richard Hammond, Jo Field, Ken Shepherd

Outcomes:

1. PWS/**WILDCARE** investigate having a permanent membership records officer.
2. Wildcare web site — should be more user active, electronic notification to members if desired. Link to PWS site. Current **WILDTIMES** should be on website.
3. Improve the annual park pass application form to include wildcare option more prominently.
4. Hand out/provide Wildcare info and form with the All Parks Pass.
5. Could volunteer work be spread out over the weekend.

## Whole Family Involvement in Activities and Contribution to Works

Weighting 7

Leader — Ken Sheperd

Participants — Simon Grove, Chris Grove

Outcomes:

1. Programs and events children friendly and specifically advertised as such.
2. Timetabling of activities to enable parents to prepare and participate in the day (eg no 6am starts!).
3. Easy access, short sessions (flexible involvement).
4. Educational worth to children.
5. Appropriate tools and equipment.

**Adopt-a-Hut (a new program)**

Weighting 7

Leader — Andrew Smith

Participants — Patti Burbury, Derry Atkinson, Keith Brown, Brian McGuire, Pat Eastwood, Pam Chapman, Ken Sheperd.

Outcomes:

1. Relationship and links with CAREs groups needs to be recognised
2. Socially/culturally significant huts — as identified by interested people
3. All huts — open to anyone with an interest
4. Need to recognise existing Huts Partnership people.
5. Needs to develop a non-exclusive sense of ownership — not proprietorial
6. Important to have Historical/Conservation plans
7. Need to identify and register all huts on a list of availability

8. Potential for volunteers research for huts, and development of interpretation in huts.

Note — The Community Partnerships Section was working towards appointing a short term project officer to develop this program. However, with the uncertainty of Federal funding for the World Heritage Area it has been necessary to freeze appointments until the Federal budget is delivered. The Community Partnerships Section will keep **WILDCARE** informed of the outcomes.

**Initial Joining Stimulus**

Weighting 2

Leader — Keith Brown

Participants — Phyl Wyatt, Jocelyn Balmer, Bob Wyatt, Colin Balmer, Chris Leitch

Outcomes:

1. Refer to issues suggestions in “membership problems” — prominence on PWS form; distribution of **WILDCARE** form

with PWS form; sales push; extra brochures, separate to form, regarding what involvement would be in each group.

2. **WILDCARE** as separate membership needs to be emphasised.

**Annual General Meeting Outcomes**

The following Board of Management Office Bearers were elected:

**Vice Chairperson**

Richard Hammond (re-elected)

**Treasurer**

Graham Ristow (re-elected)

Congratulations to Richard and Graham on your re-election!

**Board of Management Members**

**Office Bearers**

**Chairperson**

Andrew Smith (Manager Community Partnerships) (03) 6233 2836

**Vice Chairperson**

Richard Hammond 0500 520 644

**Treasurer**

Graham Ristow (03) 6244 8811

**Secretary**

Kathryn Gatenby (Admin Officer DPIWE) (03) 6233 6540

Other community positions on the Board of Management are:

**CAREs President** – Cradle Valley

**CAREs President** – Maria Island

**CAREs President** – Mt Field

**CAREs President** – Kate Reed

**CAREs President** – Tasman

**CAREs President** – Coal Mines/ Lime Bay

**CAREs President** – Mt Direction

**CAREs President** – Tamar Island

**CAREs President** – Mole Creek Karst

**CAREs President** – Little Swan Point

**CAREs President** – Lillico Beach

**CAREs President** – Trevallyn SR

**CAREs President** – Melaleuca (Claytons Hut)

(for names and contact details telephone the **WILDCARE** office on (03) 6233 2836).

**Departmental representatives on the Board**

Manager, Nature Conservation Branch, DPIWE

Manager, Cultural Heritage Branch, DPIWE

**WILDCARE INCORPORATED**  
**Income & Expenditure Statement**  
For the year ended 31 December, 2001

	2001 \$	2000 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Payment In	6,750	7,824
Wildedge Income	3,000	14,309
Landcare & Coastcare Income	1,135	
Project Income	9,900	
Sponsorship		8,500
Donations Received	50	
Subscriptions	41,738	18,588
Interest received	47	23
Total income	<u>62,619</u>	<u>49,245</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Agfest	500	281
Audit fees	110	100
Bank Fees And Charges	75	67
BOM Costs		88
Annual Conference	457	412
Cradle expenses	315	
Insurance	4,246	
Landcare & Coastcare Expenses	1,068	
Legal fees	552	
Newsletter	10,616	3,564
Postage	45	
Printing & stationery	3,805	1,652
Project	11,700	14,132
Promo Material	1,521	1,309
Sundry expenses		484
Training	4,054	2,000
Wildedge Outgoing		16,273
Total expenses	<u>39,064</u>	<u>40,361</u>
Operating surplus before income tax	23,556	8,883
Income tax (credit) expense		
Operating surplus after income tax	<u>23,556</u>	<u>8,883</u>
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the financial year	9,755	872
Total available for appropriation	<u>33,311</u>	<u>9,755</u>
Accumulated surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>33,311</u>	<u>9,755</u>

## Special General Meeting Outcomes

The following motions to alter the Constitution were accepted unanimously:

### Motion 1

All mentions of "Parks and Wildlife Service" be altered to "Reserve Management (PWS and other public land managers), nature conservation and cultural heritage conservation (on and off reserve)"

### Motion 2

Insert the following alterations to Section 2 of the Constitution:

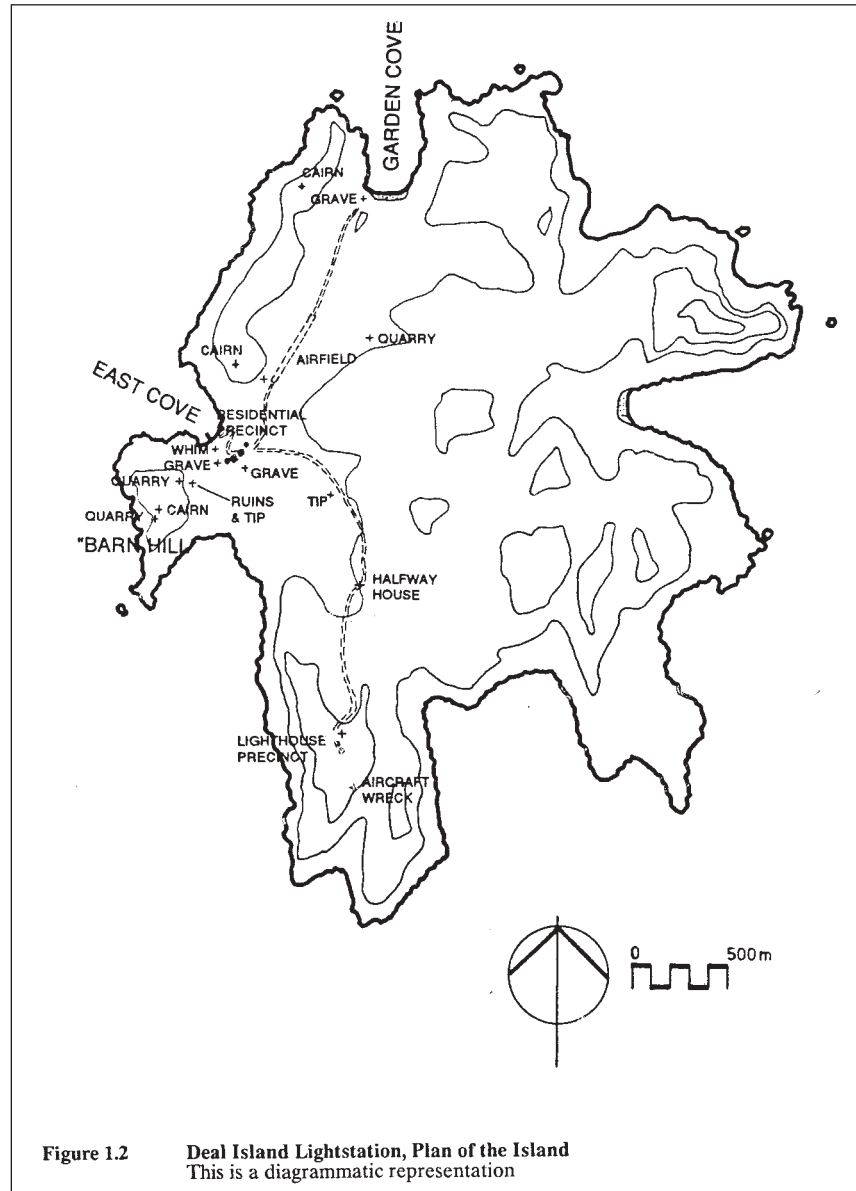
2(d) Add "The Board will not receive any gifts or money or property other than for the objects and purposes of the Association"

2(i) Add "In the exercise of this power, *WILDCARE* will not act as a mere conduit for the donation of money or property to other organisations, bodies or persons."

## "Island Keepers" News Update —

In December 2001 issue of *WILDTIMES* an article on Maatsuyker featured, outlining the activities of *WILDCARE* volunteers who take on the role as "Island Keepers". Deal Island Island Keepers have submitted the following articles...

Service and included 3 other volunteers, Christine Corbett, Ahmet Bektas and myself, plus the next Island Caretakers and two friends. Because of bad weather around Flinders Island and Bass Strait we were held up for nearly three days on Flinders Island. Filling in time, we did some track



## Return to Deal Island

With the cancellation of the planned trip in November on the Sir Hubert Wilkins and what with the holiday period during December 2001–January 2002, attempts were made to find a suitable boat to take materials to the island and remove as much rubbish as possible. Eventually a boat was chartered from Port Davies on Flinders Island and we left Flinders Island on Sunday 3 March 2002.

The 'working bee' was organised by Stuart Dudgeon from Parks & Wildlife

clearing on the Strezlecki Track removing bracken, bushes and fallen trees from the lower half of the track.

Our first attempt to leave for Deal Island was on Sat. night at 11.00pm but after 1 hour on the boat and with heavy seas and seasick passengers we retreated to Port Davies to try again on Sunday morning, we hope in better weather conditions. With confused seas, quote 'the ride was like being in a deep rinse cycle of an automatic washing machine for seven hours' we arrived at Deal Island via the northern route travelling up Murray Passage (4

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View of East Cove. Photo S Cronin.

knot tidal rip opposing us) and arrived at the jetty at East Cove at 6.00pm.

The planned 'working bee' was to construct a 20 metre wide fire break around the lighthouse (3 km from the residential precinct) collect and remove rubbish, accumulated over many years, plumbing work on the second house and weed removal from Garden Cove. General maintenance work and an audit of ongoing works.

Next day, (Monday) fine and sunny we began work on cutting and removal of she-oaks from the lighthouse perimeter down to the ruins of the assistant lighthouse keepers houses below the lighthouse in a westerly direction. Clearing the trees for the firebreak was achieved in 1½ days with a few side trips on the way back to the residential precinct at East Cove. One of these trips was on the new re-routed track to Squally Bay on the eastern side of the island, the site of the wreck the 'Karitane'. The track was built by John (Snapper) Hughes a recent caretaker on the island and now takes only 20 minutes to the Bay instead of the previous 1-hour and is well graded to the foreshore. Meanwhile, Rachael and Stewart (caretaker's friends) were bagging rubbish for removal and the bags taken to the jetty.

Thursday saw us down at Garden Cove removing sea-spurge from the dunes behind the beach. Hopefully this beach might be cleared of sea-spurge this year. Plumbing work was completed and now both houses are connected to the water pressure pump.

Friday our departure day was busy with preparations for leaving the island in the afternoon. More empty cylinders were loaded on board, plus

rubbish, empty drums and four passengers and we left at 6.30pm for Flinders Island arriving at 2.00am, a short sleep then back to the boat to unload at 9.00am, then onto Whitemark for lunch, a drive to Lady Barron where we flew out to Bridport in the afternoon.

This concluded a very successful 'working bee' to Deal Island with much achieved with many willing workers, enjoying the island life style, if only for a short time, but then again Trauti and myself will be returning in September for a 3 month stay as

caretakers on the island.

Finally a special thanks to Stuart Dudgeon and Parks for organising the trip, transport, accommodation, and the opportunity to stay on Deal Island in the Kent Group.

David Reynolds  
Deal Island Island Keeper

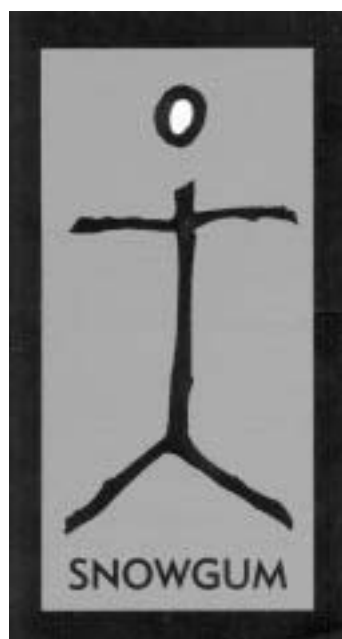
### Family Affair on Deal Island

Steve Cronin and his 2 sons (Tristin, 8 yrs and David, 18 yrs) spent from late November 2001 to early March 2002 as Island Caretakers on Deal. Steve took numerous shoots of works carried out as well as scenic ones and has generously supplied just a few to share with other **WILDCARE** members.

Some of the tasks undertaken while the Cronins were on Deal included weed and erosion control, small mammal trapping, general building maintenance including scrubbing the mould build-up on the inside walls of the lighthouse, painting, etc.

Steve is not new to "Island Keeping" — between 1996-98 for approximately 8-9 months in total, Steve resided on Maatsuyker Island (towards the southwest cape of Tasmania). This was during the period when the island was under the control of the Australian Maritime Safety

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Cleaning lighthouse walls. Photo S Cronin.



Filling sand bags for erosion control. Photo S Cronin.

Authority and in the transition period when the Parks & Wildlife Service assumed responsibility for the island. If you are interested in putting your

name down as an Island Keeper for Deal or Maatsuyker Islands, contact the **WILDCARE** office and we will update your record. Please note that

these volunteer activities are in great demand and that by putting your name on the list will not necessarily guarantee automatic call up.

## New Volunteer Program — Orchid Guardians

The Threatened Species Unit (TSU) has recently begun work on a new project focusing on the recovery of Tasmania's threatened orchids. The project is being funded by the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT). Its primary focus is to set up and promote a volunteer program that will provide support to the TSU in

all areas of orchid conservation. With the aid of volunteers and dedicated enthusiasts the TSU aims to expand its knowledge of threatened orchid populations and provide better advice and support to land managers.

The average member of the public is often surprised to hear that there are more than 190 species of orchids native to Tasmania. Of these more than sixty are threatened. The dilemma that the TSU and orchid enthusiasts' face is that the opportunities for locating and identifying most native orchid populations are limited to a few weeks each year when they are in flower. Even then, the tiny flowers of many species can be easily overlooked amongst the mosaic of heath, shrubs, *Caladenia patersonii*.



*Pterostylis grandiflora*.

and grasses that native orchids are often associated with. Consequently it is extremely difficult and requires considerable resources to coordinate a systematic monitoring and search program for all of Tasmania's threatened orchids.

In the past the TSU has relied upon the extraordinary efforts of a small number of dedicated orchid enthusiasts to provide the information required to develop management guidelines and advice that will ensure the survival of Tasmania's native orchids. However, in recent years it has become increasingly apparent that these resources are not enough. Therefore the TSU is currently developing a volunteer program in association with Wildcare with the

### Three new activities to sign up for

Three new activities have been added to the **WILDCARE** registration form:

- Orchid Guardians (refer to the article in this newsletter)
- Land for Wildlife
- Fox Eradication Assistance

Members interested in registering for these activities can do so by contacting the **WILDCARE** office on (03) 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>. Please quote your 2002 **WILDCARE** membership number when registering.



*Pterostylis wapstreorum.*

aim of identifying additional orchid enthusiasts and interested groups and individuals that wish to help with extension searches, monitoring of populations and management of habitat.

For more information about participating in orchid conservation projects contact Aaron Dalglish, Project Officer — TSU on 03 6233 2667 or email <Aaron.Dalglish@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>. Any information with regards to populations of threatened orchids would also be appreciated.

**WILDCARE** members are now able to register for this new program by selecting "Orchid Guardians" as one



*Caladenia sylvicola.*

of their activities. Contact the **WILDCARE** office on (03) 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> to update your record.

## Report on The Mountain Orchestra/**WILDCARE** Performance Project

In the September 2001 **WILDTIMES** newsletter (issue 11) was an invitation for members to participate in this project. The February 2002 **WILDTIMES** newsletter (issue 13) carried a report on the January instrument making workshops and a Call-Up notice for **WILDCARE** members to help with running other events in The Mountain Festival. The following article reports on the Mountain Orchestra performance and the Mountain Festival.

Between 4 January and Sunday 24 March **WILDCARE** members joined existing Mountain Orchestra members (many of whom are also **WILDCARE** members) for regular weekly workshops to develop and perform music for the Mountain Orchestra — **WILDCARE** Performance Project. After the initial workshops in January to make some new instruments, we met for a few hours every weekend in February and March for music skills workshops and rehearsals in preparation for "Alive on the Mountain" — the grand finale of The Mountain Festival at The Springs on Mt Wellington.

The skills development workshops were led by musicians Tom O'Kelly, Christian Wojtowicz and our conductor Don Bate. Don also led us in developing and rehearsing a new horn piece as the opening fanfare for

the "Alive on the Mountain" concert, which show cased the new mountain horns we had made.

The performance on 24 March at The Springs was enormous fun and we all had a ball. Playing to an audience of several hundred people on a brilliant sunny Sunday afternoon, we opened the concert by processing in playing the large mountain horns. Following this, we played our piece "Mist Rising on the Mountain" and the "Cornamusing the Currawongs Trio #3" which was specially written for the Orchestra by Raffaele Marcellino in 2000. After Mountain Orchestra, "Alive on the Mountain" then continued with a totally delightful



Mountain Orchestra perform at "Alive on the Mountain". Photo Noelene Robinson.

community performance of giant puppets. Many thanks to the many professional musicians, artists and performers who helped us make this project such a success and to **WILDCARE** which provided funds

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The Mountain Orchestra horns perform at "Alive on the Mountain". Photo Noelene Robinson.

for materials for the new instruments and for professional leadership of some of the workshops.

**WILDCARE** members also helped in presenting a number of other Mountain Festival events. These included leading many of nature walks arranged by the Tasmanian Environment Centre, and helping with front of house at most of the concerts and talks throughout the week-long Festival. A highspot for two **WILDCARE** members was playing with Ron Nagorcka and Sirocco at their concerts in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Bond Store Courtyard under a shining starry sky.

All in all the Mountain Festival, and especially the Mountain Orchestra-**WILDCARE** Performance

Mountain Orchestra perform at "Alive on the Mountain". Photo Derek Brown.



Project, was a huge success. We are already commencing planning for the 2004 Mountain Festival and will again be calling on the Friends of the Mountain Festival CAREs group for support. To have your name added to this group please contact Angie McGowan (ph. 6233 2424 wk or 6224 8082 hm) or the **WILDCARE** office on 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

The Mountain Orchestra is now looking for new performance opportunities. If you know of any likely upcoming events please contact Angie.

Angie McGowan  
Friends of the Mountain Festival  
CAREs group

## Habitat care around Tasmania...

### Schouten Island "Gorse Gnashing" Report

We are the 5th year of "Gorse Gnashers" on Schouten Island! After 5 glorious days of work and play, this morning we are waiting for the weather to clear. A group of us are sheltering here in the hut

while the others are outside in "the shed" discussing the future days plans.

The swell is up and the surf is pounding on the beach below us. A gentle breeze is bringing the drizzle across the bay. Our tents are scattered around the hut, under the drooping She-Oaks. Socks and towels are still hanging on the temporary bailing twine lines strung between the trees.

Schouten Island has a history of whaling, sealing, mining and farming. The island was first settled and mined for coal in the 1840's. Later in the 1800's pastoral leases were taken out on the island. Gorse has been on Schouten for more than 70 years and was most likely brought in during the early farming years.

Our team of 17 people arrived here mid-April, on board the Kahala, to spend 8 days "gnashing" the gorse. Once on the island, we carted our gear to the hut and pitched our tents. After lunch we commenced our orientation



Suzy Donkers (back) & Nicole Adams. Happy little Gorse Gnashers.

with training in the use of tools and sprays and an introduction to the gorse plants.

Each morning, after breakfast and swims (for the brave!) the group gatherttogether. Tools are collected (secateurs, pruning saws, loppers, spray bottles and protective gloves and glasses) and packs are loaded for a day in the bush. We all set off together to a gorse site where we "cut and swab" bushes up to 2.5m high.

### New All Parks Pass (Annual) fees

Effective 1 July 2002, the new All Parks Pass (Annual) fees are:

Full: \$46.00  
Concession: \$36.80

REMEMBER — Parks & Wildlife Service offers a \$20 discount on the above rates, to current **WILDCARE** membership holders, when renewing your All Parks Pass (Annual) before 31 December 2002.





Time for a break for some of our group of Gorse Gnashers.

Some patches are thick and impenetrable while in other areas the gorse is sparsely scattered amongst the native grasses and trees. In places the gorse is so thick you cannot see your work mates on the other side of the patch. You can, however, hear their ooh's, aah's and ouches, as gorse has long, sharp thorns which can penetrate even the thickest of gloves.

At the end of the day we head back to the hut for some rest and relaxation before dinner. Many of us go swimming while others fish, read books, play music or sit around and chat. After dark the "Trangia's" start to rattle and the gas stoves are fired up. The hungry workers cook up a feast and socialise over a candle-lit dinner.

In addition to gorse removal, the team are also involved with the monitoring of other weeds on the island, eg. thistles and mullien. During this trip numerous bags of rubbish were also collected along the foreshore.

Tim Rudman and Paul Black from DPIWE visited for a day to do follow-up monitoring on some Phytophthora

Alex & Jonah Gouldthorpe amongst some prickly business.



sites around Bear Hill. Tim spoke to the group about Phytophthora and some members of the group assisted with collecting field data. This was a great learning experience for all.

After a few days on the island we realized what a diverse group we were — from Dick's botanical knowledge to Jonah and Alex's abalone diving, Ranger Pete's musical skills and Stuart's furniture making. But there was one thing we all had in common

— a strong dedication and interest in looking after the environment.

Those people involved in this years "Gorse Gnashing" were: Pete Lingard (PWS Ranger Freycinet), Greg, Allan, Suzy, Laurence, Nicole, Jonah, Alex, Dick, Mark, Lynette, Scott, Pete, Mike, Barry, Maren, Stuart and Neil.

Suzy Donkers, Lynette Kay & Nicole Adams

"Gorse Gnashers" 2002

Our youngest Gnasher. Laurence Donkers (6 yrs old).



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## Weed Removal on Tamar Island

At Tamar Island Wetlands there has been some significant work undertaken to control unwanted weeds. A group of four Green Reserve Community Volunteers has been spending two days a week at the centre undertaking alternate Waterwatch and weeding activities for the last 10 weeks.

Our first area of weed removal was the visitor centre car park where large numbers of Fennel, Teasel Flowers, Thistles, Broom and Gorse were growing happily. Over three days this area tidied up well, giving the centre a more natural face with which to present to the public. Further work is expected to occur on the adjoining

Removal of weeds on Tamar Island. Photo L Adamson.



Looking north along the West Tamar Highway adjoining Tamar Island Wetlands Visitor Centre where fennel and gorse has been removed. Photo L Adamson.

road verge in the next few months with negotiations starting to get under way with DIER and West Tamar Council.

On the actual island further woody weed removal occurred at the previously broom infested site on the southwest side of the island. This area beneath the old oaks and immediately off the gravel track has been plagued with weeds. Green Reserves undertook cut and dab control of Broom, Gorse, Rose Briar, Blackberry, Elm Suckers and Oak Seedlings. Additional Backpack spot spraying was undertaken by TVWS staff controlling Teasel Seedlings, Thistles, Nightshade, Broom seedlings, Ragwort and Blackberry seedlings. Approximately 400 hours of community labour has been committed to weed removal on the island this year through TVWS activities alone.

Our thanks to PWS Rangers — Chris, David and Gary — for assistance with equipment and materials. And special thanks to Ralph and Heather **WILDCARE** volunteers at the Tamar Island Wetlands Visitor Centre, for making the Green Reserves crew feel welcomed.

Lee Adamson  
Coordinator, Tamar Valley Weed  
Strategy

*WILDCARE members interested in participating in future "Gorse Gnashing" or other weed eradication working bees around the State, can contact the WILDCARE office on (03) 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> to update their record with the activity "Habitat Care".*

**WILDLIFE PRODUCT DISCOUNT**

### Wildlife Product Discount for Carers of Orphaned/Injured Animals

**WILDCARE members can now get a 7.5% discount off every product contained in Cartledge Agency's "Wildlife" catalogue.**

All members need to do is quote their **WILDCARE** membership number when placing an order.

Stock is available and supplied from the following companies: Healthy Bird, Wombaroo/Passwell, Vetafarm, Inca (Flight), Petcare Direct and Rudducks.

Another customer service offered by Cartledge Agency is to keep their customers up-to-date on any new or deleted products lines as well as forwarding information containing monthly specials.

To request a catalogue or place orders contact:

**Mark Cartledge at Cartledge Agency,**

26/34 Innocent Street, Kings Meadows Tas 7249.

**Phone 03 6344 5466 Fax 03 6344 7721**

**Email: cartledge.agency@microtech.com.au**

## Adopt-A-Track News...

### The Benefits of Adopting A Track

If you delight in a stroll in the bush then you may find that, like us, taking on the role of track caretaker under the Adopt-a-Track Program enhances empathy with the bushland. Our choice was for tracks in the more alpine parts of Mt Field National Park.

We discovered in the early caretaker days that Keith Berry, the track Ranger for Mt Field, would be more than happy if we did no more than simply walk the track once a year and just report on its state and on any perceived problems. We decided to also take on the additional task of pruning, clearing drains and some other light maintenance.

Our days on the track are not noted for any exhausting work, but we gain enjoyment from just being in the area and pleasure from looking after our 2 adopted tracks — which were gradually suffering from neglected attention. We feel that by bringing to the notice of park managers the short and longer-term needs of the tracks that we are hopefully contributing to their viability for the future.

We took on the role of Track Caretakers thinking we might make a small contribution but we now realise that we are still gaining more out of it than we put in.

It may not seem important, but we have come to think of Keith as a friend and that is pretty good seeing as he is our boss in some respects.

So why not take up the challenge of being a Caretaker for one of your favourite tracks. If it is not one of those listed [in the *WILDTIMES*] just

## Volunteer answers call for assistance at Seven Mile Beach

As a result of a call up notice forwarded in March 2002 to *WILDCARE* members registered under the activity Administration Assistance, Simone Stewart from Sorell has been assisting at the Parks and Wildlife Service office at Seven Mile Beach to organise the South East District's maps. Simone has also been involved in collating information about the District's newest Reserves. Since 1996, 25 new Reserves have been added to the District. Most of these Reserves were initially identified as RAP's (Recommended Areas for Protection) and have some unique conservation values. The information collated has been placed into folders that can be used by Rangers in the field or by the District Planner for management planning purposes.

ask — that's what we did. You won't have any regrets!

Peter & Sue Franklin  
Track Caretakers

### Postmans Track Adopted!

A working bee was held in the northwest during February, on the Postmans track, located in Rocky Cape National Park (Sisters Beach end). We had an excellent turnout of *WILDCARE* volunteers and for some members this was their first time participating in a track maintenance working bee.

The Postmans (which is part of the original postal route from Wynyard to Smithton in the 1800's) is quite an interesting track as it moves through varying types of coastal vegetation (including fantastic examples of *Banksia Serrata*) in such a short distance, opening up to great views of Bass Strait. The *Banksia Serrata* is a species of banksia found only in south eastern Australia and its existence in the Rocky Cape area provides evidence of a land bridge existing across Bass Strait (over 10,000 years

ago) between Cape Otway (Victoria) and northwest Tasmania.

After the preliminary induction we all headed along the track to undertake general maintenance, including clearing of drains and light pruning in some sections. It's amazing how quickly a track can be maintained when you have 12 volunteers plus Parks staff working together!

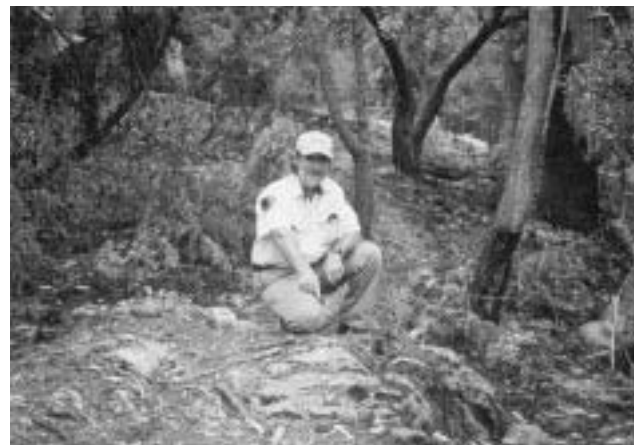
After a few hours of work, the volunteers — satisfied with a job well done — gathered for a BBQ compliments of PWS Smithton and a general chat about the Adopt-a-Track Program. As a result, a local couple (Alison and Gordon Scott) elected to adopt the track, due to their regular use of walking (or in Alison's case — running) along it, its close proximity to where they live, and their attachment.

The only negative outcome after the working bee (and not a result of), was the fire that was (deliberately) lit in the Park 3 days later. Virtually the entire track was obliterated and the Scotts and other participating

Postmans track adopted — Volunteers from North West Walking Club working on the track (before fire). Photo J Field.



Postmans track adopted — Same section of track (after fire). Photo J Field.



volunteers felt a sense of great loss. However, since the fire PWS trackworkers have rebuilt the track adding some much needed features to the western access and the Scotts are diligently checking the track for likely "windfalls" (fallen trees) as an outcome of the fire. The running gag at present is that the Scotts won't have much pruning work, for now!

Jo Field  
Adopt-a-Track Facilitator

## Volunteer rewards

In the article "Rewards for long term commitment" (*WILDTIMES* issue 13 Feb 2002) it outlined how *WILDCARE*, in cooperation with PWS Field Centres, have purchased a number of sleeveless Polar Fleece jackets as reward and recognition for members who provide a large number of volunteer hours to specified projects. The jackets are embroidered with the words "*WILDCARE Inc Caring for Wild Places*" followed by the specific location for the project (eg Maatsuyker Island, Overland Track, and Tamar Island). The accompanying photo gives an example of the style of vest available — in colour they are green with navy blue facing.



Tamar Island CAREs group members wearing their Polar Fleece Vests give an recognition for their volunteer commitment.

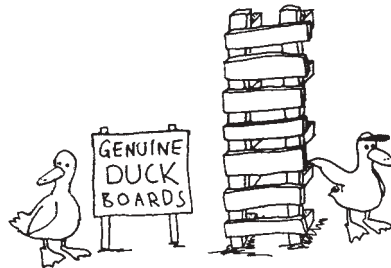
A limited number of jackets with the words "*WILDTIMES Inc — Caring for natural and cultural heritage*" are available for sale at \$40 to members. Contact the *WILDTIMES* Office (03) 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> to place your order.

## Cartoonist found!

These sketches were drawn by *WILDCARE* members Hilary Goldsmid and Mark Reynolds, who answered a call up notice in Feb02 issue of *WILDTIMES*. Other sketches by Hilary and Mark will be used to illustrate various sections in the Track Caretakers Maintenance Guidelines



'GREAT ENTHUSIASM, MRS PONSONBY .... BUT THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT DO IT...



currently under development. Thank you Hilary and Mark — the volunteers at the workshop got a real kick out of your artistic talents!

Cartoon top drawn by Hilary Goldsmid.  
Cartoon left drawn by Mark Reynolds.

## Adopt-a-Track Maintenance Workshop, Cradle Mountain, 27-28 April 2002

Oh! To be at Cradle, now that April's here. But, what excuse could I find? Then along came news of an Adopt-a-Track Maintenance Workshop to be held at Cradle! So having recently adopted a track in the Tasman NP, we packed up the wagon and proceeded forthwith.

Before and after shots of maintenance work carried out by volunteers. Volunteers had to identify issues of drainage and aesthetics. Photo J Field.



With an ear to the forecast (snow on the highlands etc.) we boosted the economy of a small town en route with the purchase of woollen gloves and beanies, staked out territories in the comfy bunk room at Cradle Mtn Camping Ground with sleeping bags,

Before and after shots of maintenance work carried out by volunteers. The end result! Photo J Field.





Participants (which included PWS & FT staff & volunteers) heading up the Horse Track. Photo J Field.

and set off to the meeting room at the Visitor Centre to join the troops. A crew full of potential we were too — mums, dads, offspring, grandmothers, Rangers and even Foresters (not the big 'roo type).

Being shy and timid was not allowed as Jo (Adopt-a-Track Facilitator) challenged us to get to know someone nearby and then tell the group all the secrets we'd winkled out! She then told us about the short history of the Program before introducing the two main themes of the workshop — pruning and track maintenance. Mark Fountain, RTBG (Botanical Gardens) Horticultural Operations Manager, showed some entertaining and beautiful slides illustrating how not to approach pruning on "our" tracks. Dick Dwyer, long-serving PWS Senior Ranger from Mole Creek Field Centre went higher tech with lots of information about track surface management and drainage techniques.

Meanwhile outside, the afternoon sun was shining, the breeze was gentle, and we were inside — but not for much longer! Hot and cold drinks and biscuits supplied energy for a late afternoon walk up the Horse Track. Car pooling introduced us to other adopters as we made the slow trip against the afternoon traffic to Cradle Valley's new (to us) Ronny Creek carpark from where we walked the grand boardwalk between wombatty slopes to the bridge. Then we were on familiar ground as we ascended the Horse Track towards the Scout hut with frequent stops to look at track issues, take photos or just catch our breath.

It was heartening to see that track work undertaken more than 20 years ago was still standing solid after so many years, so many feet, and so

much rain, snowmelt and frost, all enemies of our tracks. Even more encouraging to know that with only a little physical effort on a regular basis most of the problems we saw — erosion, undercutting and loss of track surface materials, would have been avoided.

As the sun set and the wombats came out to graze we went to our temporary homes in the camping ground to mull it all over before assembling at the cooking shelter for our BBQ. Suffice it to say that with ample supplies of cold beverages, meat, cooks, electric BBQ experts, bottomless bowls of salads, and a delicious selection of desserts — bonhomie flourished, problems political and personal were solved and created, romance blossomed, and kids climbed high into the rocky gloom above the adults and soaked up the atmosphere and a good deal more besides!

Sunday dawned with a Currawong chorus, frost on the vehicles and a warm fire and lots of people making breakfast and lunch in the kitchen. In spite of the late night we all assembled

Mark Fountain demonstrating pruning techniques. Photo J Field.



on time at the Visitor Centre and Mark issued us with cutting implements.

A short walk brought us to the start of the Dove Canyon Circuit track, where we were confronted with some examples of How Not to Prune. Reassuringly, shrubbery is generally forgiving of pruners, but has its revenge in this climate by being very tough and prickly. We all had a go at remedying some of the previous errors and learning to disinfect our tools with



PWS Ranger Krissy Ward was a participant at the workshop. Krissy is explaining how she and 2 other volunteers dealt with a drainage problem on the Dove Canyon Circuit track. Photo J Field.

a sprayer bottle of metho. To prune or not to prune, that was another question, and for some who were already handy with the secateurs it was hard not to "neaten up" some of the vegetation for reasons which didn't fit the criteria — maintaining plant health, preventing human injury, and avoiding bigger problems in the future.

The track itself passes through beautiful countryside of alternating

buttongrass, shrubbery, myrtle forest, a rocky bluff high above the river and other vegetation types, and we stopped on buttongrass patches for sustenance. The day was perfect for walking, lazing about, and working. No biting wind, not a sign of snow, and high cloud cover. After lunch, Dick introduced us to track work. In a very practical way we were confronted with parts of the track which had various problems. We had to decide what the problem was, then how to remedy it...and then get to work and do it! Three teams of different sizes in three sites with more

than three problems, so all of us had a go. There was suitable work for all ages and abilities, and a little blood, sweat (but no tears) and of course an improved track, were left as we shouldered tools for the final part of this beautiful circuit walk.

Today's practical work was the nitty gritty of what adopting a track can mean, and surprise! it wasn't at all daunting after we'd tried it, even in a very different landscape and climate than where we have adopted our

tracks. There are PWS Rangers and Forestry Tasmania personnel out there now, keen to meet people who know, love and want to care for their favourite tracks in our Forest Reserves and National Parks. And can you believe that there are actually tracks at Cradle that are still awaiting adoption, including the Dove Canyon Circuit? What better than 4 more excuses a year to go up to Cradle?

Ruth Brozek  
Track Caretaker

## Letter to the Facilitator

Dear Jo,

I really enjoyed the weekend and would eagerly participate in another [workshop]. It was great to be in the company of like-minded people, to get a chance to network and to see the big picture of tracks in our wild places and to hear about the politics of the situation.

I'm also grateful for something more difficult to put in words. It's that feeling of reverence and care for nature imparted by your presenter. Would you kindly consider printing up a one-sided A4 sheet acknowledging each person's participation. I'm sure we might all appreciate such as a momento, especially Damon and Claire [Robert's nephew and daughter]....

Well Jo, I'm getting carried away but thanks again for your care and facilitation of the weekend. You did a terrific job and must be well pleased with the success of the workshop.

Robert Taylor

*The above is an extract from a letter sent to the Adopt-a-Track Facilitator by a Track Caretaker who participated, with his family, in the AAT Maintenance Workshop held at Cradle Mountain 27-28 April 2002. Robert's suggestion of a certificate of attendance was already in the making at the time of receiving his letter, and forwarded to workshop participants along with a copy of Dick Burn's plant identikit "Significant Flora of Cradle Mountain Day Walk Areas".*

## Walking Tracks Available for Adoption (updated)

Some of the tracks adopted since the last edition of the *WILDTIMES* (Feb02) include:

- Archers Knob, Narawntapu NP
- Abbotsbury Beach access track, Eddystone Point, Mt William NP
- Postmans, Rocky Cape NP
- Devils Kitchen to Waterfall Bay, Tasman NP
- Mother Cummins (Smoko Road access), Meander SR
- Fortescue to Bivouac Bay, Tasman NP
- Trevallyn Dam to Aquatic Point, Trevallyn SR
- Mt Beecroft turnoff to Cradle Lodge (4 Ways), Cradle Mountain NP
- Cape Raoul track including turnoff to Shipstern Bluff, Tasman NP
- Cuckoo Falls, Mt Maurice Forest Reserve

The list of walking tracks below is available for "adoption" under the Adopt-a-Track Program\*. **Please note that this is only a small sample list of PWS and/or FT tracks — it is by no means conclusive!** If you are interested in one (or more) of the listed tracks or any other tracks not listed, please contact the Community Partnerships Facilitators to discuss what level of involvement is required under the Program. **Note: Adopted tracks have a line through them. Italicised tracks are joint PWS/FT tracks.**

### FT RESERVES/LOCATIONS

Bruny Island

Chudleigh  
Diddleum Plains  
Florentine Valley  
Hastings  
Kermantie (Upper)  
Lake Leak  
Meander Reserve  
Mt Dromedary

Springfield  
Stoodley Arbortium  
Tonganah  
Wilmot  
Winterbrook Reserve  
Tasman Peninsula

### PWS RESERVES/LOCATIONS

Adamson Peak  
Ben Lomond NP

Central Plateau CA  
(Western Tiers)

Cradle Mountain —  
Lake St Clair NP<sup>^</sup>

Detention Falls CA  
Devils Gullet SR  
Franklin-Gordon Wild  
Rivers NP<sup>^</sup>

Freycinet NP

### Track Name

Marvista Nature Walk  
Mt Mangana  
Lobster Falls  
Mt Scott  
*Wylds Craig*  
Duckhole Lake (Creekton Road)  
Kermantie Falls  
Meetus Falls River Walk  
~~Mother Cummins (Smoko Rd access)~~  
Mt Dromedary  
Platform Peak  
Springfield Park (2 tracks)  
Stoodley Forest Walk  
~~Cuckoo Falls~~  
Bell Mountain  
Winterbrook Falls  
Clark Cliffs  
Fazackerleys Range Circuit  
Mcgregor Peak  
Stinking Bay — Denmans Cove  
Taranna Forest Walk

### TRACK NAME

*Adamson Peak*  
Bent Bluff  
Storeys Creek to Stacks Bluff  
*Mother Cummins (West Thorpe Rd access)*  
*Higgs*  
*Parsons*  
*Syds*  
*Western Bluff*  
*Western Creek*  
~~Mt Beecroft turnoff to Cradle Lodge (4 Ways)~~  
Rodway (Cradle Mountain)  
Watersmeet (Lake St Clair)  
~~Detention Falls~~  
Devils Gullet  
Fincham  
Kelly Basin Bird River  
Mt Murchison  
Cooks Beach to Hazards  
Hazards to car park  
Isthmus  
Mt Amos

## Forestry Tasmania joins the Adopt-a-Track Program

Since the release of the Adopt-a-Track Guidelines in June 2001, a number of joint-managed PWS/FT tracks have been adopted. To enable the Track Caretakers who have adopted these joint managed track to carry out maintenance on the FT section of track, **WILDCARE** Inc. and Forestry Tasmania have formed a partnership under the Adopt-a-Track Program. As a result, all aspects of the Guidelines have been extended to FT tracks including wholly managed FT tracks. So if you have a favourite FT track (either joint or wholly managed) that you'd like to adopt, contact the Adopt-a-Track Facilitator.

### Walking Tracks Available for Adoption (updated)

Hartz Mtn NP <sup>^</sup>	Mt Graham to Cooks Beach
Maria Island NP	Wineglass Bay (carpark to beach)
Mt Field NP	Wineglass Bay (beach) to Mt Graham
	<del>Kermadie (old access track to Hartz Mountains)</del>
	<del>East House Painted Cliffs Circuit</del>
	<del>Lady Barron Falls from Campground</del>
	<del>Lady Barron Falls to Tall Trees</del>
	<del>Lake Fenton to Webster</del>
	<del>Mt Field East</del>
	<del>Tall Trees Circuit</del>
	<del>"Valley Track"</del>
Mt Roland	Various beach access tracks at Deep Creek +
Mt William NP	Eddystone Point
	<del>Abbotsbury Beach access track</del>
	<del>(Eddystone Point)</del>
Narawntapu NP	<del>Archers Knob</del>
	<del>Badger Head Coastal</del>
	<del>Springlawn</del>
	<del>West Head Coastal</del>
Notley Gorge SR	<del>Notley Gorge</del>
Penguin Cradle Trail	<del>Section between Taylors Flat &amp; Mt Beecroft</del>
	<del>Mt Beecroft to Cradle Lodge section</del>
	<del>Blackwood Camp section</del>
Rocky Cape NP	<del>Postmans</del>
Snug Tiers NRA	<del>Pelverata Falls</del>
	<del>Snug Falls</del>
Southwest NP <sup>^</sup>	<del>Needles</del>
	<del>Sentinal Range</del>
	<del>Woolies Tarn</del>
Steppes SR	<del>Steppes Walk</del>
Tasman NP	<del>Bivouac Bay to Fortescue Bay</del>
	<del>Camp Falls to Bivouac Bay</del>
	<del>Cape Hauy</del>
	<del>Mt Brown/Crescent Bay</del>
	<del>Cape Pillar (bottom section)</del>
	<del>Cape Raoul</del>
	<del>Devils Kitchen to Waterfall Bay</del>
	<del>Lichen Hill Cashes Lookout Tatnells</del>
	<del>Mt Fortescue</del>
	<del>Waterfall Bay to Waterfall Bluff</del>
Trevally SR	<del>Trevallyn Dam to Aquatic Point</del>
West Tamar	<del>Paper Beach River Walk</del>

CA = Conservation Area (in the WHA), NP = National Park, NRA = Nature Recreation Area, SR = State Reserve, PWS = Parks & Wildlife Service, FT = Forestry Tasmania.

\* The Adopt-a-Track Program is a volunteer program that provides the community with an opportunity to become actively involved in maintaining walking tracks and other activities associated with track use, on an on-going basis.

Contact details for Community Partnerships Section Facilitators involved with the Adopt-a-Track Program:

#### Jo Field

Adopt-a-Track Facilitator (Statewide)

Phone: (03) 6336 5454

Email: <Jo.Field@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>

Note: Chris facilitates all tracks adopted within the World Heritage Area (WHA). The Reserves that fall under the WHA are marked with <sup>^</sup>.

#### Chris Leitch

WHA Community Partnerships Facilitator

Phone: (03) 6233 2867

Email: <Chris.Leitch@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>

## Overland Track Warden Program's 4th season

The Track Warden Program on the Overland Track in Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair NP, got off to a fine start this season. This was my first season running the Program, which involves **WILDCARE** volunteers working 7 to 14-day shifts based at Waterfall Valley. The Program was continually staffed through out the five-month period, which was extended past Easter this year due to the [still] large numbers of visitors on the track. The volunteers' main duties included explaining MIB to the public, hut and track ethics, relating general information about the Park, and cleaning toilets.

Lyle Rubock kicked off the program by going in to Waterfall Valley on 30 November 2001 to get the hut ready for the Warden training weekend at the beginning of December 2001. The training weekend saw 7 of the 9 wardens attend. Chris Leitch (World Heritage Area Community Partnerships Facilitator) and Nick Sawyer (World Heritage Area Planner) also came along. The weekend was very successful with many experiences and information being shared all round on how to manage inexperienced walkers, accidents, communication, paper work and helicopters. Needless to say, the weather was rather wet and cold and continued through December and January bringing with it a fair share of challenges for the Wardens rostered on for that period.

I wish to thank all Track Wardens for their efforts — efforts that are invaluable. This year appears to be quieter with respects to incidences. In some ways, it was good to see some of the incidences spread their way around Wardens who had not had experienced such occurrences. How does that one sound? Nothing like getting some experience after the training workshop!

### Highlights for this season were:

- Ken got first use of the Waterfall Valley fire blanket. A walker's fuel stove became excited and out of control and had to be extinguished. The blankets were a new addition to

the huts!

- The Storeys had their first incidence. This involved a helicopter lift, a patient and some good radio work.
- Jeram had his photo in the Examiner with a good story to boot (refer *WILDTIMES* issue 13 Feb02). He was featured in full colour sitting on a rock up the track from the hut. The story was a great promotion of the

Program and it generated a potential Warden for next season.

- Bill and the Storeys also got involved with local radio. Again good coverage and promotion of the Track Warden Program.

It is planned the Program for next season will be broaden to include Pelion Hut. Already there are tentatively four recruits for next season, with four more required. Please refer to

a call up notice for Track Wardens for Cradle Mountain National Park due out soon if you are interested in participating in this Program.

Kathy Van Dullaman

PWS Ranger, Cradle Mountain

*To receive the call up notice, members will need to register "Cradle Mountain" and/or "Walking hut maintenance" as activities. Contact the Chris Leitch on (03) 6233 2867 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> to register.*

## NEW PROJECTS FUNDED

Project	Contact	Requested	Granted	Details
Box Tool Trailer	Eddie Firth	\$1650.60	\$1690.60	Eddie wants to purchase a trailer to store and transport tools and equipment for use on Wildcare Adopt-A-Track projects. The Board agreed it was a good idea and to the purchase of a new trailer & locks (\$1650.60 + \$40.00) from King Bars & Trailers Hobart subject to the following conditions: 1) The registration is the responsibility of the PWS Centre. 2) The trailer and tools available in the general area for Wildcare volunteer use. 3) That there are no legal problems of the trailer being towed around eg. Vehicle. 4) Its specific purpose is for a tool trailer only. 5) Eddie to get a quote for sign writing to put Wildcare on the side of the trailer. (Andrew to see if there is a sign writer in the membership database).
Adopt-A-Track various sites	Dave Frelek	\$574.00	\$574.00	Tools needed for AAT caretakers to be at used on various tracks. We need to make sure that the tools being purchased are good quality. Approved \$574.00 subject to the tools being used for volunteer work only.
Kate Reed Reserve Walking Track	Rodney Milner	\$542.40	\$542.40	Andrew to ask Rodney what the 410 metres of track (\$101.40) is for eg gravel. Has enough been budgeted for? Approved subject to verification of what the above is.
Essential Maintenance — Claytons Hut Melaleuca	Mark O'May/ Mark Bryce	\$5,700	\$1200.00	The project exceeds the limit of \$2500. Approve \$1200 now for the plane transport to plan implementation. Materials not approved until the management plan is done then must resubmit another funding submission to get more funding. Agree in principle to fund actual works but limit must be \$2500 — and the submission needs to provide more detail.
Adopt-A-Track	Jo Field	\$286.25	\$286.25	AAT requires another 50 high vis vests. Costs to be shared between AAT and WILDCARE. Approved \$286.25.
Track Caretakers — Postmans Track — Detention Falls	Peter Hefferon	\$460.00	\$460.00	Requires tools for track caretakers to maintain the two tracks — Postmans Track and Detention Falls. Tools not expensive — good project. It was agreed to grant Peter \$460 for the tools to be used for volunteer work only.



## Orange Bellied Parrot Recovery Program — Birches Inlet

For over 2 weeks in December 2001, Maren Gorne (from Germany) and I stayed at Birches Inlet, near Strahan, counting the endangered Orange Bellied Parrots (OBP).

Birchs Inlet is accessed by water only. Travel time depends on the harbour conditions and can take from 50 minutes to 2 hours.

The duties we performed included cleaning aviaries (two) by giving new seed, water and bushes (cutting grass, scented paperbark).

The weather station was recorded each day, before 9.00 am. The rain gauge was read together with the minimum and maximum temperatures and the wet and dry moisture percent.

The doves, our constant companions, used as bait birds, were thankfully not used on our trip but they were cleaned and fed fresh food every day.

The feed table for the OBP's was



Cleaning aviaries. Photo Y Szekfy.

cleaned with a special cleansing disposable cloth and then in the early morning they were given one cup of seed. At this time you had to be fast to mark off the tag numbers, as there were many at this time of morning coming in for a feed.

Buckets of water were collected from Monitoring the parrotts. Photo Y Szekfy.



the river each day for washing up and for washing clothes (the wheelbarrow was a good substitute for a tub). Rainwater was also collected during the day and night in buckets.

And the most important, the birds were monitored. This included sitting with the telescope to read the tag



Getting ready to go into Birchs Inlet. Photo Y Szekfy.

number and colour. This can get quite frustrating when they are sitting on their orange spot.

Flight direction was also mapped by a compass, and drawn up on a chart later in the day.

The endangered OBP with a population of less than 200 individuals lives a relatively safe existence. These small emerald green parrots nest tin eucalyptus forests which fringe moorlands plains upon which they eat several species of sedges. Up until mid 1980's a secondary breeding population existed

at Birchs Inlet (45km south of Strahan). Due to a lack of firing of important feeding area and competition from introduced European Starlings for nest hollows, the OBP no longer breeds in the area.

An important part of the OBP recovery program is to ensure that the breeding populations are spread across more than one area. This can protect against events such as wild fire or disease wiping out the entire

population. The OBP Recovery Plan has identified Birchs Inlet as the best site for a reintroduction program using captive-bred birds.

Volunteer placement through **WILDCARE** is to assist with this reintroduction program.

Yolande Szekfy  
**WILDCARE** member

*Members interested in participating in future OBP Recovery Programs are required to register "Threatened Species Assistance" as an activity. Contact Chris Leitch on (03) 6233 2867 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.*

### CALL UP NOTICE

## Friends of Mt Field NP — Planting Out...

The native plants used for landscaping the area near the visitor centre and surrounds need ongoing maintenance.

The Friends of Mt Field are keen to have an involvement and will be encouraging any interested **WILDCARE** members to participate. It is envisaged that the project will include removal of weeds, replacement of plants not surviving and planning for the upgrading and expansion of future plants. Further information and dates will be mailed out to members once details have been finalised.

*If you would like to register your interest or simply find out more then contact Jeremy Hood at Mt Field PWS Visitor Centre on (03) 6288 1149 or email <jeremy.hood@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.*

Peter Franklin

Friends of Mt Field CAREs group

*To register Mt Field National Park as [one of] your preferred Reserves and to participate in future working bees, contact the **WILDCARE** office on (03) 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.*

## Friends of Lillico Penguins now CAREs!

Actually "The Friends" have been caring since they were formed in the early 1990's under the guidance of Stan Matuszek to supply volunteers to assist with the supervision of the Lillico Beach Coastal Reserve (as it was then). Our main focus is now on educating visitors to the site. To date we have been self-funding with training supplied by the Education and Interpretation Section of PWS. We recently felt we should have a more structured set-up especially with public liability insurance in the news so much.

On the 10th April, Andrew Smith (Chairperson of WILDCARE Inc) attended a meeting of the Friends at the PWS office in Ulverstone to explain how becoming a WILDCARE CAREs group would assist us. Not only would our insurance problems be over, but we could get administrative assistance, project funding assistance, assistance with training etc. We retain our autonomy, and become part of a much larger organisation, as well as having access to WILDTIMES to let everyone know what we are up to.

Geoff Coles, PWS District Manager Ulverstone, strongly supported our becoming a CAREs group. The Friends unanimously voted to become a CAREs group with its first election, held on the same night, resulting in Barry Hebbard being elected President, and John Scott being elected Treasurer/Secretary. We can now stop worrying and get on with the job of interpreting the Little Penguins to our interstate and overseas visitors and assisting the PWS to stop the sickening Short-tailed Shearwater poaching.

One of our members, Lexie Paul, obtained \$122 funding from the Westpac Bank staff annual appeal, with the Bank matching that dollar for dollar soon. Rechargeable red-filter torches could be one use for the money.

The members who participate in the guiding roster for Lillico's have also been recognised as eligible for WILDCARE polar fleece vests, to be issued soon — Sherwood Forest Green with Lillico Beach CA embroidered in yellow. Classy!

Barry Hebbard  
President, Friends of Lillico Beach  
Penguins

*Editors note — Barry also now has a seat on the WILDCARE Board of Management alongside the other CAREs Presidents. Congratulations to Barry and John Scott and welcome to*

*the members of Friends of Lillico Beach Penguins. If you live in the area and are interested in assisting with the group's interpretation and education programs and its anti-poaching efforts, call the WILDCARE Office to have Lillico Beach entered on your records — you are then a member of this dedicated group. It's as easy as that!*

## Claytons Hut working bee

**The Claytons vacated their house, located near Melaleuca in the Southwest National Park, 30 years ago. As a result the building suffered the traumas of lack of maintenance and was steadily being devoured by the bush. A badly leaking roof had caused structural damage and encroaching scrub prevented natural drying of the building.**

An archaeologist visited the site earlier this year with PWS staff and a Claytons Hut CAREs volunteer, to design a works program that would protect the cultural values of the site. A full cultural heritage protection plan will be sometime coming so a maintenance project was designed to perform urgent maintenance before winter, without undertaking anything that would not be contained in the final archaeologists recommendations.

During late April 2002, 9 WILDCARE volunteers spent 10 days doing catch up maintenance work on the hut. Most of the volunteers involved had connections with the area going back many years as fishermen or yachties.

Works undertaken at this working bee included:

- The old roof was removed and replaced with new battens and corrugated iron.
- New fascia, bargeboards and guttering and downpipes replaced.
- Rotted out stumps and rear bearer replaced with Huon pine.
- New floor joists and boards replaced

in laundry section.

- Huge amount of tea tree encroaching on the building removed.
- Dilapidated flue and associated box replaced, which was posing a real fire threat to the building given the poor condition.
- Entire building was rewired.
- Removed broken glass from window and temporarily covered.
- Accumulated rubbish removed.
- General clean up of premises.

A second expedition is planned prior to Christmas 2002 with a view to have the restoration work substantially completed and hopefully invite/encourage Clyde Clayton to inspect the work.

The second expedition will involve replacement of water-damaged lining, window repairs, complete removal of encroaching bush, install new tank stand. A combustion stove is also planned to be installed, subject to advice from cultural heritage. There will also be possible commencement of rehabilitating the garden with advice and direction of botanists and horticulturalists.

Special thanks go to Mark O'May who provided transport to this difficult to access site as well as organising many of the materials and CAREs group volunteers.

Combined article supplied by Paul Dimmick and Phil Bradley, PWS Rangers (Southern District)

## CALL UP NOTICES

### Admin assistants

WILDCARE Inc. office in Hobart needs volunteers to help with some administrative assistance on a regular or casual "as needs" basis.

We are hoping to establish a register of interested members who can be called upon when needed.

The type of work assistance is required for includes:

# CALL UP NOTICES CONTINUED

- Mail outs of event call ups and the quarterly newsletter *WILDTIMES*
- Database entry of memberships
- The occasional stint of filing!!!

*Can you help? If so please contact: Deb Ramm on 6233 2852 (Wednesdays only) or Chris Leitch on 6233 286.*

## World Heritage Area Vegetation Mapping (one day a week)

What's involved?

Mapping process from start to finish which includes:

- Scanning and registering line work and aerial photographs
- Tagging line work with vegetation codes
- Creating orthophoto mosaics

Generally, it is a chance to become familiar with the mapping process in a professional situation.

Interested in assisting?

*Please contact Josephine Kelman, Nature Conservation Branch, Resource Management & Conservation Division, Dept of Primary Industries, Water & Environment on (03) 6233 6311 or email <Josephine.Kelman@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.*

## Library Search for Archaeological Funding Support

Don Ranson, Senior Archeological Research Officer, requires assistance from *WILDCARE* volunteer(s) to discover appropriate national and international bodies who could be applied to for funds to support a project that is devising a computer-assisted model for predicting the presence of Aboriginal heritage sites in the landscapes. Don is hoping to discover (with your assistance) and access grants in the order of \$20,000 to \$100,000+.

Volunteer(s) will need:

- Experience in research and/or library technology (including the internet)
- Access a good reference library
- Note: The job would be home-based, anywhere in the State.

*For more information and to register your interest please contact Andrew Smith, Chairperson, WILDCARE Inc. on (03) 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>*

## Friends of Trevallyn Bushland (CAREs)

The new CAREs group for Trevallyn State Reserve is holding a series of working bees and would like to invite other *WILDCARE* members to come along and join in.

Weeding and revegetating working bees will be held in and around the Trevallyn State Reserve on:

**Saturday, 10 August 2002**

1:00–3:00pm

Meet at cattlegrid on way to Hoo Hoo Hut in Trevallyn State Reserve

What to bring — Gloves, secateurs, loppers, pruning saws (if you have them) plus food and drink. Appropriate all-weather clothing as well. Please phone if weather looks “dubious” on the day!

*For more information or to RSVP please contact Jon & Jenny Purtell on (03) 6331 335.*

## EAGLEHAWK CAFE



EAGLEHAWK CAFE



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**10% discount\* to  
WILDCARE members**  
(\*On purchases over \$20.00  
alcohol not included)

## New Discount Sponsor —

### Eaglehawk Café

You may have noticed in the last issue of *WILDTIMES* a couple of new discount sponsors offering discounts to members. *WILDTIMES* will endeavour to provide members a bit of background information on any future discount sponsors.

The Eaglehawk Café, located on the Tasman Peninsula, opened in 1993 in a building that was the original post office for the area (circa 1938). The proprietor, Annick Thomas, selected this area to open a café because it reminded her of her “home town” in Normandy, France (another apple growing area!). “Provincial” cuisine is available for diners, which includes vegetarian, local game, seafood, as well as a selection of cakes with tea or espresso coffee. Poets’ Breakfasts are a regular feature at the café. For bookings refer to contact details in the advertisement.



# Thankyou!

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

## Gold Sponsors (\$10,000 plus)

### Category 2 sponsors (\$5000–\$9999)

Environment Australia

### Category 3 sponsors (\$1000–\$4999)

- Malcolm Murchison • Dept. Premier and Cabinet
- Brighton Council • Lea Photography
- Resource Management & Conservation

### And the following *WILDCARE* member-discount sponsors

Parks and Wildlife Service – \$20 discount on Annual Park Pass

Snowgum equipment – 10% discount

Par Avion Wilderness Flights – 10% discount

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers – \$2 discount per night

Moonpads – 10% discount

The Possum Shed, Westerway – 10% discount on all gifts

Eaglehawk Cafe — 10% discount (on meals over \$20.00 excludes alcohol)

(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 Community Partnerships Section** for more details (Ph 6233 2836 — GPO Box 44 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: \$22.00. Order through the *WILDCARE* Office, GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001. Please make cheques payable to The Tasmanian Trail Association.

ISBN 9 318923 009651