

Insurance renewal time is always a challenge for organisations such as WILDCARE, but the massive hours of volunteer work provided by our massive number of members amplifies the usual issues for WILDCARE Inc.

After receiving advice from our insurance broker that the premium for our Volunteer Accident and Injury insurance for 2003 would be \$63,000, WILDCARE Inc's Vice-Chairperson Richard Hammond and Chris Leitch from Community Partnerships in DPIWE worked with the broker to bring it down to \$25,000. A great improvement, but still an enormous jump from \$3,500 last year. The one saving factor is that the premium is calculated on our increased membership and volunteer hours, rather than an arbitrary increase. This increase in volunteer hours particularly reflects the time put into such things as the Deal Island and Maatsuyker Island caretakers and the caring for injured & orphaned animals. The Vice-Chairperson has asked the Department to discuss a strategy to deal with this increased financial burden.

A proposal was put to the Departments in January that WILDCARE share the increased premium with DPIWE, the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts (DTPHA) and Forestry Tasmania on a pro-rata basis that reflects the benefits that these organisations derive from the activities and commitment of WILDCARE volunteers to their programs.

The proposal stated that WILDCARE, itself, would pay \$10,000 of the premium to cover normal WILDCARE operations and the injured and orphaned animals program, reflecting the fact that not all WILDCARE activities are initiated within the Department. We received advice on 27/02/03 that DPIWE will contribute \$8,000 towards the premiums, reflecting the benefits gained by the Resource Management and Conservation Division (through NatureCARE activities) and the Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Division (through FishCARE). To date, we have not yet

received a similar commitment from either DTPHA (Parks & Wildlife Service) or Forestry Tasmania but negotiations are continuing.

Insurance — Important information for all members

In order to reduce the premium the insurance policy benefits have changed

The Death Benefit is now \$50,000 and the partial income replacement benefit has a ceiling of \$600 per week. These are reduced from previous levels of cover.

The Policy continues to provide cover for non-Medicare medical expenses and partial or total disablement.

This is for accident and injury that may be sustained by a voluntary worker of WILDCARE Inc while undertaking work authorised and under the control of WILDCARE Inc.

WILDCARE Authorisation can only be provided by three mechanisms:

- WILDCARE working bee call-up, organised through the WILDCARE Office, at the request of a DPIWE, PWS, or THU staff member, or the President of a WILDCARE Community Action in Reserves (CAREs) group.
- Individual member authorisation, given by the Vice-Chairperson at the request of a Department staff member. This authorises a specified individual WILDCARE member to provide specified volunteer tasks, during a specified period directly assisting a staff member.
- CAREs group working bee, authorised by the President of the CAREs group, whom then notifies the WILDCARE Office.

If you are attending a working bee or event that has not been authorised by one of the above procedures it is not a WILDCARE project, and you have not been recognised as undertaking the work on behalf of WILDCARE Inc and therefore are not covered by WILDCARE's insurance policy.

You will need to discuss your cover and safety nets with whatever organisation s leading the event, and any claims you might make should be directed to that organisation.

Authorisation procedures are detailed in *The WILDCARE Inc Book — Procedures*

Manual available on the web page <www.wildcaretas.org.au> under Membership.

In addition to the Volunteer Accident and Injury Policy, WILDCARE carries Public Liability Insurance that provides cover for injury caused as a result of negligence on the part of WILDCARE Inc and its members. This premium increased from approximately \$3,000 in 2001 to \$14,000 in 2002 (based on "insurance premiums increase" rather than any increase in our exposure) and there is some doubt that such cover will be forthcoming this year. Hopefully, on-going discussions with the Departments will find a mutually satisfactory resolution to this problem.

Just to be completely clear — BOTH OUR INSURANCE POLICIES ARE CURRENT. The public liability insurance is due in mid-April 2003 and we will have a resolution by then.

Andrew Smith
 Chairperson
 WILDCARE Inc

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Left: Keep your eyes out for populations of an albino form of *Calochilus paludosus*. The word from David Jones is that it could be a new species but more specimens are required for taxonomic work. This one was photographed by Peter Tonelli on Hunter Island.

Right: *Pterostylis cucullata*. Photographed by Peter Tonelli on a field trip to Hunter Island.

the impacts of deer and rabbit grazing. This year we plan to erect a deer and rabbit-proof fence around a larger area to see if the population will expand if grazing pressures are removed.

Flowering was variable across the state, however the high winds and dry winter saw a reduction in flowering in leek orchids throughout the midlands. At the Campbell Town Golf Course flowering of the gaping leek orchid (*Prasophyllum correctum*) was well down on previous years, and we failed to relocate the as yet undescribed leek orchid known to exist at one of the Campbell Town cemeteries.

An orchid symposium was held at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Victoria in early November. Participants in orchid recovery projects from WA, SA, Victoria, NSW and Tasmania met to discuss the latest developments in terrestrial orchid management and research. It was a chance to establish valuable links with mainland groups and individuals that have been actively managing threatened orchid populations for some years.

Baseline surveys of the leafy greenhood (*Pterostylis cucullata*) were conducted on King, Three Hummock and Hunter islands and in the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area. The future prospects of the leafy greenhood look good with the likelihood of cattle being removed from Hunter Island in the near future and the discovery of a significant new population at Possum Banks. Surveys of Possum Banks also located a new population of swamp diuris (*Diuris palustris*). Negotiations with the Arthur-Pieman Grazing Committee to exclude cattle from some areas of Possum Banks are progressing positively.

December and January have been devoted to writing up fieldwork and finalising a draft of the Threatened Orchid Recovery Plan. The plan will direct management of threatened orchids in Tasmania for the next five years. The draft will be released for public comment within the next six months. Orchid enthusiasts and other interested parties are encouraged to provide constructive comments to ensure that the recovery plan addresses all aspects of orchid recovery.

Unfortunately I will not be around to see the plan implemented. The orchid recovery project was only funded for a year and sadly further funding has not been secured. However, work on

threatened orchids will continue and I urge volunteers and groups that have helped with the project this year to stay vigilant in your search for new populations and your reports on the status of known populations. With the lack of funding the Threatened Species Unit requires your help now more than ever to ensure protection of threatened orchids in Tasmania.

If you have information about threatened orchid populations please email it to: <Threatened.Species.Unit@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> or send it to the Threatened Species Unit, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania 7001.

Aaron Dalglish

Penguin viewing season at Lillico Beach

The Lillico Beach Conservation Area volunteers ('Friends of Lillico Penguins CAREs group) started their duties from the 3rd week in September 2002 to ensure that the penguins could do their egg incubation and hatching in peace and quiet — which was not a problem due to cold sea gales keeping the visitor numbers down.

Visitor numbers soon increased however, with the busiest night on 29 December when 150 visitors were recorded. Most of these visitors were members of the FX Holden Car Club of Australia who held their annual meeting in Devonport. The club members cooperation was excellent — by giving the CAREs volunteers a weeks notice it enabled us to pass on

guidelines on “the penguins come first” viewing which includes wearing dark clothing, no flash cameras, staying on the platform, etc.

Most nights there have been 70–80 visitors, which is probably the optimum number if the penguin-viewing experience is to be meaningful for visitors and stress-free and non-intrusive for our wonderful penguins, who are so very vulnerable with their colony on the very edge of the 4-lane Bass Highway.

The major assistance the CAREs volunteers receive each year is from staff, employed under the Parks & Wildlife (PWS) Service Summer Interpretation Program, who assist between mid-December to mid-February. This year the Summer

PWS Summer Ranger Dawn Hay at Lillico Beach Conservatino Area platform with Barry Hebbard, President of Friends of Lillico Penguins.



Rangers were Dawn Hay and Ray Yaxley. This season, Jen Fry (PWS Walker Education & Interpretation Officer) ran a training session at the PWS Ulverstone office for Lillico Penguin CAREs volunteers and for people who plan to staff the new Penguin facility in Burnie. Our thanks to Jen Fry for running this session as it is vital for the success of this operation.

What are the Friends of Lillico Penguins CAREs?

The Friends of Lillico Penguin is a **WILDCARE** Inc Community Action in Reserves (CAREs) group, with all volunteers being members of **WILDCARE** Inc. This ensures that the volunteers are covered by insurance while on duty, and most importantly, able to receive many other **WILDCARE** benefits as well as enabling this CAREs group to apply for project funding from **WILDCARE** Inc to assist the Parks & Wildlife Service in undertaking projects at Lillico.

What tasks do the volunteers perform?

The Friends group provides volunteer support and works in partnership with the Parks & Wildlife Service in

New Projects Funded

Project: P-Hanger Rebolting Project

Contact: Jeff Butt Southern Cave CARE

Requested: \$2,500

Granted: \$1,345

Details: Funding for:

P-hangers, glue, nozzles for the glue gun, drill bit, blower brush, and spit remover.

All gear purchased becomes the property of the PWS District Office

and must be retained by the District. The Board did not approved funding for ropes and karabiners — as “pool” rope and gear is not desirable for safety reasons.

Photocopying, postage etc — as members believed that the District Office can/should supply these for the project.

Travel costs — as it is usual for volunteers to cover this cost as part of their voluntarism.

interpreting the little penguins to visitors to the Lillico Beach Conservation Area, which is a valuable wildlife corridor. This annual activity is carried out between mid-September to the beginning of May of the following year, with volunteers working closely with the Summer Rangers during the December to February period.

What is required of volunteers?

As always, our group is keen to hear from people who would like to join us as volunteers. One of the main

requirements to become a Friends group volunteer is enthusiasm! The role undertaken also suits outgoing people who like to work with and supervise/educate the public.

Other requirements:

- PWS provides training and all volunteers are expected to participate, to ensure they get the most out of their role and convey the right message regarding penguin conservation to the general public.
- It is preferable that volunteers have a mobile phone, due to the remoteness of Lillico Beach and the volunteer hours worked. However, if a **WILDCARE** member is interested in joining the group and doesn't possess a mobile other arrangements can be discussed.
- Volunteers work a roster system and commit to one night a week (minimum), between 7.30pm to 11.00pm. These hours can vary depending on the time of year. Volunteers can also work in pairs with other volunteers or with the Summer Rangers.
- Own reliable transport is a necessity.
- First aid skills are desirable.

This is a great opportunity to meet interesting people from all over the world and at the same time do some practical, hands-on work in protecting our fascinating and valuable bird life. And above all, it offers a very rewarding experience!

Barry Hebbard
President

Friends of Lillico Penguins CAREs
Group

WILDCARE members interested in joining the Friends group can contact Barry Hebbard on 03 6424 5178 or mobile 0417 197 310. Members are also requested to advise the WILDCARE Office 03 6233 2836 or <Wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> of their interest so that your membership record can be updated.



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Herbicide use in the bush

Many groups and individuals are using herbicides in bushland or in gardens with a limited amount of knowledge as to the potential hazards that may arise or the correct safety requirements and procedures that should be used.

With this in mind Bushcare and **WILDCARE** collectively have developed a 3-hour course, run through the Horticulture section of TAFE, designed to give people the information they need to avoid potential problems by using the correct techniques and safety equipment during weed control activities.

So far 4 courses have been held with twenty participants all of whom have received a 'Statement of Attendance' from TAFE. The field days were held at either Peter Murrell Reserve or Waterworks Reserve. The field days were advertised in *The Mercury* and in various newsletters, such as the *Bandicoot Times*, *Understorey Network* and *WILDTIMES*. Andrew Kirkley (Project Officer for Peter Murrell Reserve) held the courses through hail and sunshine, and gave participants an understanding of the fundamentals when undertaking weed control activities in bushland areas.

Of course when using any substance it is always important to read the label and this was the starting point for the course — the label. The label is an important document. It carries on it a wealth of information that you must read and understand. Often the type is very small and hard to read. Nonetheless, it is very important to understand the information, and you must not apply an agricultural chemical product at variance with the label instructions, unless you have a permit granted by the National Registration Authority or the Registrar of Chemical Products. That small writing on the label tells you what safety equipment you need, first aid information, which plants the herbicide is registered for and what dilution to use, plus a range of other information. The label should never be removed from the container and should always be on site to refer to if necessary.

Personal safety and safety gear were the next issue. All herbicides are designed to kill and the utmost precautions should be taken to avoid any risk of contamination to the environment and us. Most safety is just logical thinking. Check your gloves

and make sure they have no holes, particularly if you have been dealing with prickly plants like gorse. If they have holes in them dispose of them. Don't use material gardening gloves, as any herbicide that comes into contact with them will just seep straight through and on to your skin. Use PVC gauntlet style gloves that cover your hands and forearms. After a field day wash all safety clothing after use, so the next time you use it you will not come into contact with residue.

Environmental safety is also a consideration — make sure the herbicide you use will not affect the environment adversely. Using control techniques that are target specific, that is they target only the weed you are trying to kill, is environmentally friendly as they tend not to involve spraying. Check the label to see if the herbicide you are using is very mobile in the soil or prone to becoming

A taste of gorse — Schouten Island in summer

The transport by helicopter of a new toilet to Wineglass Bay opened an unexpected window to do a bit of gorse-gnashing (again!) on Schouten Island in late January 2003.

Seven volunteers — Greg, Mitch, Mark, Alan, David, Dick, Trauti and Pete Lingard, the coordinator — met in the wee hours of Wednesday at the car park of Cape Tourville to be flown in to Sarah Ann Bay, on the southern side of the island. This particular spot is difficult to reach by boat due to the rocky coastline and has never been able to be surveyed for gorse. Pete had done a bit of gorse spotting from the air, on the way in. Once we were all on location we spread out to locate the various patches at ground level. Enough big patches were found to justify another trip to the area.

For this day we cleared a substantial patch of the infestation before being air-lifted out again. Six of us opted to stay on the island for a few days and were dropped off at Moreys Bay from where we staged three further half day attacks on the prickly weeds along the northern coastline starting from where last year's work party left off.

The rest of the beautiful summer days we spent exploring and swimming. On Monday when we were picked up by the Parks boat, we discovered, at the last moment, a mini-stow-away — the resident pigmy possum that had found it's way into David's pack... Streaking back to Coles Bay through blue waves — the end of a satisfying and wonderful gnashing holiday.

Trauti Reynolds
WILDCARE member

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airborne and this way may drift onto non-target plants and kill them. Make sure you are using a herbicide that will not harm bees or fish. **Read the label**, it is all there.

There are different types of herbicides such as selective herbicides, which are selective in what they kill, and herbicides that kill by a certain means, such as translocated herbicides. Selective herbicides fall into three broad categories — those that kill grasses and sedges; those that kill broadleaf plants such as woody weeds, bulbs and herbs; those that kill everything. There are two different ways herbicides act to kill plants. By contact — those that affect only the parts of the plants that are treated. These are best on annuals, which do not have food reserves such as root systems, e.g. seedlings and plants without the capacity to regrow from

root stock or protected buds. These are usually non-selective herbicides. Translocated herbicides are transported through the plant damaging the roots and buds as well as the foliage. Translocated herbicides are more effective against woody weeds and plants with stored energy in their root systems, such as bulbs and rhizomes. Translocated herbicides are most commonly used in bush land in Tasmania. These herbicides may be selective or non-selective.

The rate at which herbicides break down is important. Residual herbicides are those that are slow to degrade, remain active against plants and are likely to cause continuing plant mortality after the first date of treatment. Residual herbicides should not be used where they may create a problem for other plants that need

protecting at the site.

The Poison Schedule provides a means of classifying poisons to identify the degree of control to exercise over their availability to the public (see *Poisons Schedules, November 2001*, available from the Registrar of Herbicides). The National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee recommends the classification of substances into poisons schedules. The recommendations of this Committee are in most cases incorporated in the Tasmanian Poisons Regulations and the Poisons List. The poison schedule is on the label and this is what it all means.

Schedule 7 — DANGEROUS POISON S7

These are substances with a high potential for causing harm at low exposure. They require special precautions during handling, storage and use. This group of poisons should be available only to authorised users who have the necessary skills to handle and use safely.

Schedule 6 — POISON S6

Substances with a moderate potential for causing harm, the extent of which can be reduced with the use of appropriate packaging and adherence to warnings and safely directions on the label.

Schedule 5 — CAUTION S5 changed from WARNING

Substances with a low potential for causing harm, the extent of which can be reduced with the use of appropriate packaging and adherence to warnings and safely directions on the label. They should nonetheless be used with the utmost caution.

Unscheduled Substances (Exempt)

This group of herbicides are not scheduled ('exempt') and considered by the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee as not requiring control, based on current information available at the time of consideration. They are nonetheless herbicides and should be used and handled with the utmost caution.

The different schedules carry with them different requirements for protective clothing. Make sure you read that label and wear the correct protective gear — they are for your safety. The practical aspects of the course involved participants demonstrating their ability to use control methods. These methods are

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Cartledge Agency would like to thank all WILDCARE members for their past support and look forward to future dealings.

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detailed below.

Cut and paint

For this method you need something to make the cut (secateurs, a handsaw or long handled pruners) and an applicator, which can be a shoe polish container with a foam applicator pad or a hand spray bottle. Cut the plant as near to the base as possible and apply the herbicide. This should be applied promptly to the cut surface within 10 seconds of cutting or it will be ineffective. Keep the applicator pads as clean as possible to maximize the efficacy of the treatment. Some herbicide labels that recommend the cut and paint method also include treatment of the bark below the cut for improved effectiveness. Be sure to label the applicator bottle. After use, empty the container, thoroughly clean it and store it safely.

Spot spraying

Spot spraying with a 1–2 litre spray bottle can be effective when controlling regrowth of weeds such as blackberries or Spanish heath. The spray jet can be altered to either a wide or narrow jet, making the application of the herbicide very target specific. Never use this technique in windy conditions and only use low to the ground. This way you will minimise any spray drift on to yourself and other non-target plants. For spot spraying you need to wear extra protective clothing. In addition to the gloves and waterproof shoes you need to use tyvek overalls, a hood and a face mask.

Drill and fill — frill and fill

Drilling and filling involves drilling holes around the trunk of a tree, usually at about 150 mm spacing and filling the holes with a given quantity of herbicide.

Frilling is similar but is done with a tomahawk or a chisel, and hammer, and the spacing is much closer. The chisel is held at a slight angle to the trunk, hit with a hammer and the herbicide applied. The aim is not to drill or chisel too deeply but to target the layer just under the bark (sapwood) that transports the chemical throughout the plant. It is important not to ringbark the tree when frilling as this will reduce the dispersal of the herbicide.

CALL UP NOTICE CALL UP NOTICE

Wellington Park Weed Eradication — Volunteers Needed

During 2002 a small group of volunteers commenced a project to help eradicate exotic plants, such as erica and gorse, that have invaded parts of Wellington Park. The main aim is to keep the bushland that is some distance from settled areas free of the invading weed species.

The Park is unusual in that it has an overall management authority, but the day-to-day management is handled by three separate organisations, including the Parks & Wildlife Service who provide tools and organise cover under **WILDCARE** Inc.

The initial work was as a result of a bushwalker noticing erica and gorse growing at quite a high altitude well inside the park near Collins Cap. After cleaning out these spots the group decided to offer to have a go at other areas

within Wellington Park.

It is planned to continue on with this work during 2003, including following up on the completed areas and help is being sought from other **WILDCARE** members with the occasional bit of spare time to lend a hand looking after our bushland.

Members interested can email Peter Franklin at <pfranklin@trump.net.au> or phone 03 6228 4889 for further details. The work is usually organised for the first Tuesday of the month.

Members are also requested to advise the **WILDCARE** Office 03 6233 2836 or <Wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> of their interest so that your membership record can be updated with Mt Wellington as a Preferred Reserve.

Stem injection

A number of stem injection guns and hand axes are available for treating trees. They are expensive and are best suited to large scale tree poisoning programs. Allow herbicides to work before felling the trees.


Basal bark — spraying or painting the lower stems of woody weeds

It is always important to record your activities. One of the handouts given to all participants is a book of forms for recording your activities. Things worth recording include which herbicide you used, the dilution, the control methods, weather, the plant community, how long after your activities it rained and so on. Another reason to record your activities is so you know how much time and how many participants have been involved. If you have a good record of your group's commitment it can be used to gain funding.

Other handouts included a pocket guide to safe herbicide use, strategic weed control in bushland areas, and guidelines on herbicide use near waterways developed by the Rivercare team.

Rae Glazik

Vegetation Management Officer
Nature Conservation Branch, DPIWE



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The Kent Group National Park...

Paradise revisited — Caretakers on Deal Island

Bass Strait was as calm as a millpond as we crossed over from Flinders to Deal Island. This was our second stint as Caretakers and we couldn't wait to get there for the 3-month stay. Since we had been on the island in summer before, this year's stay brought us new experiences, weather patterns and

permission to spray the plants, after which I proceeded to cut the flower heads off. The latter was repeated on a weekly basis as the plants kept producing flowers even when they began to wither. Thousands of heads were severed, dried and burned (on the beach on still days). Sea-spurge was also in our sights. At Garden Cove we cleared a large area above the dunes and in East Cove we went over the



Squally Cove east from ridge top, Deal Island. Photo D&T Reynolds.

challenges.

One of our main focuses was the removal — or at least depletion — of the arum lilies. David had the Parks'

'no-grow-zone' marked out during our last stay. We were pleased to notice that the plants had not further infiltrated the hill above the marked



Deal Island lighthouse from ruins of assistant keeper's house. Photo D&T Reynolds.

myself... Care was given to the museum, lighthouse and veggie gardens/boxes.

We did however, have another agenda too: it being spring, we hunted for orchids and found at least 15 different kinds. This gave us much pleasure and thrills to detect these tiny, fragile plants in the most inhospitable places. We also collected around 100 other plant specimens that were pressed and recorded on the map with the help of a GPS that PWS had lent us. What excitement, when we spotted a rare plant or one that was not even on the current list! We spent hours pouring over the books we had brought along,



Squally Cove looking north with wreck (outline) of 'Karitane' in bay. Photo D&T Reynolds.

line.

Hardly a day went by without David doing some painting (indoors-outdoors), mending fences, doors, drains, gates, mowing etc. sometimes ably, other times clumsily helped by

identifying them — not always succeeding. The collection is now at the Tasmanian Herbarium where names will be verified and some will be included in their collection. We also mapped all the Oyster Bay pine

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groves that we found during our wanderings. Some grew as 'bonsais' in the harsh condition on ridge lines, others we found more than 10 m tall growing as forests. We were also delighted to find hundreds of young seedlings around the lighthouse where fire had destroyed the old stands.

The climate was just perfect for walking and we did a lot of exploring, sometimes getting really tangled up in thick vegetation or amongst fallen trees. We always ended up on some rocky headland offering spectacular views over the deep blue of the Bass Strait waters or in previously unknown bays (to us), gulches, headlands or valleys.

It was a time of discovery, colours, smells and sounds that go with coastlines, grasslands, forests, and islands. We delighted in the bird population, and the antics and daily 'trials' of joeys as they exited the pouches of their respective mothers and had to learn about 'real life'. It took George — son of Frieda, the 'house wallaby' — exactly three months to be fully weaned. During our stay the Cape Barren geese successfully defended their territory from 'intruders', built a nest and hatched 3 goslings. Right from the first day these tiny balls of fluff were patrolling the compound, closely watched by the ever-vigilant parents.

For the last few days of our stay we had a group of volunteers on the island, doing weed work on the Ragwort and Horehound, spraying vast areas of infestation, but on the whole we hardly saw anybody as

Ian McKendrick & Stuart Lennox (pictured) undertake electrical maintenance on Deal Island. Photo C Bell.



shipping/yachting was not very active. One hundred days of stormy, rainy, dove coloured, hazy, sunny and brilliantly blue weather. A life of simplicity that was peaceful, solitary, reflective, challenging and altogether a wonderful experience to be treasured in our hearts. Thank you.

David and Trauti Reynolds
Deal Island CAREs members

Friends of the Kent Group National Park CAREs December 2002 working bee

The Kent Group National Park is Tasmania's newest National Park. Deal Island and Erith Island are two of the main islands that comprise the National Park (the other being Dover Island). Deal and Erith



Alan Sanderson replaces broken window in generator shed. Photo C Bell.

have been the focus of considerable activity both from community groups and DPIWE over the last four years. Much work has been done and a large amount of money has been spent in relation to protecting and preserving the natural and cultural values of the Kent Group. Deal Island has extremely high cultural heritage values in relation to the Light Station and the work that has been to date is beginning to pay off with the built environment in particular looking much better than it has for many a year.

However, there was a period of nearly 8 years in the 1990's where virtually no money was spent on maintenance of the cultural estate (before transfer to the State Government) and there is still considerable backlog of maintenance to be done to make up for

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WILDCARE members go ashore on Deal Island. Photo C Bell.

those years and regular maintenance that would be required every year regardless. The natural environment is in much better shape but it still has its problems particularly in relation to

weeds. On Saturday December 17 2002 a party of 9 *WILDCARE* members departed Bridport for Kent Group on the Furneaux Explorer. They were Christian Bell, Paul Clark, Steve

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Cronin, Sarah Lovibond, Alan Sanderson, Stuart Lennox, Ian Mckendrick, Nathan Males and Esther Staal. The team contained a good mix of carpenters, electricians, track workers and experienced project officers. PWS Ranger Stuart Dudgeon was already on Deal Island supervising the Caretaker changeover and assisting with a Coastcare weeding project.

The trip was briefly broken sheltering behind Prime Seal Island due to an unpleasant sloop and to time our arrival at Deal for the high tide. After a quick offloading the Furneaux Explorer the vessel departed carrying the caretakers and the remainder of the Coastcare crew.

After quickly settling in the *WILDCARE* team immediately commenced an extensive program of activity. Our field visit undertook:

- The installation of new windows



Paul Clark, Sarah Lovibond & Esther Staal undertake repairs to lighthouse track on Deal Island. Photo C Bell.

and frames (these had been destroyed in a 1995 fire), some cement sheeting and capping replaced in the generator shed next to the Light. The floor was painted and the generator shed cleaned. Repairs were also made to the switchboard and generator set.

- Much work was undertaken to control erosion on the track leading to the light. Culverts were rebuilt, drains cleared or created. Vegetation was removed from drains.
- The Erith Island hut was completely re-roofed.
- New display material was installed in Superintendents Residence Museum, the interior of the building was cleaned.
- Power and light were restored to the jetty.
- A water tank installed to serve as

header tank (replacing the previous pressure system). Installation of water tank means supply can be accessed 24 hours a day without running the generator.

- Donated supplies were delivered to the visitor's house (house number 1) on Deal Island, also removed was rubbish or unserviceable equipment (white goods) from the island. Gas bottles were returned to Flinders Island while on route to Bridport.
- The **WILDCARE** team assisted caretakers with the unloading of a barge with a cargo of gas and fuel for the island.
- PWS Ranger Stuart Dudgeon during the working bee undertook a management visit to Southwest Island.
- *Euphorbia* (Sea spurge) was removed from the East Cove and Wallibi Cove on Erith Island as well as Winter Cove on Deal Island.

Highlights for the visit included more sightings of a mouse species (still yet to be formally identified) while on Deal. One individual was collected (dead from natural causes). Steve Cronin is following up the identification of this species and it could prove to be something completely unique to Deal Island. Also the witnessing by some of the team of the killing of a wedge tailed eagle by a peregrine falcon off Southwest Island. The peregrines seem to be distressed by the presence of the immature eagle with regard to their nesting site. A peregrine struck the eagle mid flight in the back of the head. The eagle then struck a cliff and tumbled into the sea. The eagle was recovered from the sea for examination by the staff of the Nature

CALL UP NOTICE CALL UP NOTICE

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens request assistance from **WILDCARE**s

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens submission for a grant to work with the Gardens on the Foreshore Rehabilitation Project was successful and we will be receiving approximately \$20,000 from the NHT Australian Government Envirofund.

This money, together with a similar in-kind contribution in the form of volunteer labour, will enable the RTBG to rehabilitate and interpret the foreshore strip of land north of Pavilion Point towards Cornelian Bay. This strip of land is a part of the Botanical Gardens, although separated by the highway from the main site. The foreshore retains its native vegetation and the project will

repair and rehabilitate this natural site, as well as provide interpretation of the vegetation.

The Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens are hoping to involve other like-minded volunteers in the project and invite **WILDCARE** volunteers who are interested in becoming involved to contact Lyn Byrne 03 6266 4181 or Jenny Parrott 03 6227 8393 for further details.

*To receive future call-up notices in relation to this project, members are advised to contact the **WILDCARE** Office 03 6233 2836 or <Wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> to amend your membership record to include activities under "Botanical Care".*

Conservation Branch (DPIWE).

On 17 December 2002, our **WILDCARE** team departed the Kent Group to return via Flinders Island to Bridport. After the rather unpleasant voyage out to the island group the return trip took place in ideal conditions and the crew was in very good spirits by the time we arrived back in Bridport.

We would like to thank the current caretakers of Deal Island, Shirley & Dallas Baker for their assistance while we were at the Kent Group and **WILDCARE** Inc for their support in providing the funds to pay for the

transport of our **WILDCARE** team out to the Kent Group.

We look forward to organizing our next working later in 2003, as there is still much to be done with regard to track maintenance on Deal and in relation to scraping and painting the buildings on the island. Also further interpretation needs to be undertaken at the museum, particularly with regard to the natural environment.

Christian Bell
President, Friends of the Kent Group
National Park CAREs
Stuart Dudgeon
Ranger, Parks & Wildlife Service

Mt Roland track opening — CAREs group update

Local community members and officers from the Parks & Wildlife Service gathered at Gowrie Park to officially open two recently completed initiatives of the Outlook Mt Roland group.

The O'Neill's Creek Picnic Reserve and Nature Trail was declared open by Dirk Holwerda, General Manager, Kentish Council. The nature trail borders O'Neill's Creek to the starting point for the new Mt Roland walking track.



The new Mt Roland walking track was officially opened by Geoff Coles, North West District Manager, Parks & Wildlife Service. Geoff then invited Rod Baker and Charlie Deering, both having been actively involved in the track's development, to cut the symbolic ribbon.

A revised Mt Roland Walking Track Guide is now available from visitor centres and public buildings throughout the Kentish area.

Gail Foster
Mt Roland CAREs member

Celebrating Mountains — The International Year of Mountains National Conference

As part of a series of worldwide events an exciting and informative national conference was held to acknowledge 2002 as the International Year of Mountains. The conference, appropriately titled *Celebrating Mountains*, was held in Jindabyne from the 24th to 28th of November 2002.

The conference began with the Kaju Festival presented by the Aboriginal community on the foreshore of Lake Jindabyne. The one day festival culminated with a stunning community dance performance. Held under lights with the smoke from traditional fires drifting through the performers, this powerful corroboree explored themes such as the stolen children and wailing for the land. The performance left the audience appreciating the power of both Aboriginal culture and community arts.

The performance set the scene for a conference that explored the interface between ecology and culture, the importance of Aboriginal management of National parks, and

the cutting edge of international thought on managing mountain ecosystems. Ideas were explored through presentations relating to three



main themes. *Mountains of Meaning* explored the importance of landscape, cultural heritage, art, and indigenous relationship to the land. *Mountains for*

the Future explored the biological uniqueness and sensitivity of our mountain landscapes. *Mountains for Tourism* discussed the need for sustainable activities.

There were several international speakers who gave presentations that outlined the importance of mountains worldwide. Professor Larry Hamilton, the vice-chair for mountains with the

World Conservation Union, discussed why it was important to have an International Year of Mountains. He talked about mountains providing inspirational and spiritual value for human cultures, being home to 10% of the world's people, a water supply and refuges of biological diversity. Apparently 18 of 30 hotspots of biodiversity are in mountains.

Dianne Strand the Heritage Officer with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Government in the Yukon, Canada, talked about linking science with community. The first nations people have developed projects where elders, scientists and youth work together. An outreach "science camp" for indigenous teenagers includes archaeological searches for artefacts in mountain ice-patches where for thousands of years traditional people hunted caribou.

Steve McCool, from the School of Forestry at the University of Montana, talked about how the inspirational nature and mythology of mountains provided a resource for tourism but that this needed to be sustainable. He said that sustainability is an obligation for future generations and that this can be achieved through consensus building and sensitive, skilled stewardship.

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The keynote speakers included Tasmania's Jamie Kirkpatrick who discussed the biological importance of the Australian Alps and their significant differences to the Alp archetype. Other Tasmanian sessions were by Jim Russell (University of Tasmania) on Communities and Cultural Values in the Mersey Valley, and my presentation about Hobart's Mountain Festival. The Mountain Festival session was well received and it became clear that this was a unique event in Australia. Such festivals are

an important way to acknowledge the sense of place provided by our mountain landscapes.

From the spectacular Tasmanian ranges through the Australian Alps to the Flinders Ranges, Queensland's Glasshouse Mountains and much more, speakers gave insights into why Australian mountains are an important part of this nation's cultural and environmental make-up. They suggested ways that we can progress into the future balancing tourism, ecological protection and our cultural

heritage. In the conference summary the importance of including Aboriginal strategies in parks management and the need to involve Aboriginal people directly as managers was clearly outlined.

Thanks to **WILDCARE** Inc, Tasmanian Regional Arts, and the Mt. Wellington Festival Committee funding for the opportunity to attend this conference.

Chris Cooper
Convenor, Mt Wellington Festival Committee

Tasmanian Land Conservancy launches campaign to buy land at Moulting Lagoon

...You can help the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to protect 1,200 acres of critical habitat for migratory birds from all over the world.

Tasmania is known the world over for its natural beauty and it's wild places. However, despite an impressive level of reservation on public land, many of Tasmania's unique ecological communities, plants and animals are poorly represented in our public reserves and occur mainly on private land. As a result, places with important conservation values continue to be threatened by clearing, development and land degradation (you may be



I'm probably not telling you anything that you didn't already know. Perhaps, like the founders of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, you have often thought to yourself — "I wish I had the money to buy that bit of land and protect it" or "I wish there was an organisation out there that could buy that bit of land and protect it". Having spent many hours over coffee (and occasionally beer) bemoaning the fact that we needed a private organisation in Tasmania dedicated to acquiring local land for nature conservation, one day we bit the bullet and decided to form one.

The TLC

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) was formed in 2001 by a dedicated group of volunteers.

The TLC is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation with an elected board of directors (currently consisting of a group of people with

expertise in conservation, land management, law and business). During the 2001-2002 financial year the organisation gathered almost 60 members and began building a profile. The organisation is now listed on the Commonwealth Governments list of Environmental Organisations enabling it to receive tax deductible donations.

The objective of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is to protect biodiversity in Tasmania. The main way the organisation will approach this goal is by the purchase and management of land that contains important Tasmanian flora and fauna. The exciting news is that we have received a grant from the



Commonwealth government's National Reserve System Program of up to \$70,000 toward the purchase of our first reserve.

Long Point at Moulting Lagoon

Moulting Lagoon, on Tasmania's east coast is a wetland of international importance. Central and integral to the lagoon is a stunning, privately owned



surprised to know that Tasmania has the second highest per capita rate of land clearance in the country).

Sometimes the only way to save significant places on private land is to buy them.



peninsula called Long Point — 1200 acres of land extending into the lagoon and enclosing quiet bays.

Long Point is made up of low-lying salt marshes, coastal grasslands, ancient sand dunes supporting coastal woodlands and a labyrinth of pools, channels and water holes — ideal breeding and feeding grounds for flocks of water birds. Water birds flock to the wetland from near and far. Moulting Lagoon is home to a massive 80% of Tasmania's black swans and provides critical summer habitat for many migratory bird species such as the endangered eastern curlew and the rare fairy tern. The eastern curlew is the largest of the

world's wading birds. Eastern curlews breed in Siberia and fly to inter-tidal wetlands in Australia to feed during our summer. Along their 10,000 km route they rely on a chain of wetlands to rest and feed. Long Point must be a very welcome destination at the end of their journey. Every year other smaller wading birds make similarly remarkable journeys from Japan and China. Birds such as the red-necked stint, the whimbrel and the bar-tailed godwit can be found on the shores and wetlands of Long Point.

You can help the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to preserve this internationally important sanctuary for birds

Long Point is currently used for sheep grazing which damages the salt marshes and prevents natural regeneration of the woodlands. Past damage from 4WD movement through the area has caused erosion in the fragile soils and promoted the invasion of weeds. We have the



opportunity now to prevent further degradation, to secure the important conservation values of the area and to protect this unique environment forever. Your tax deductible donation will help to purchase Long Point and to invest in its long term management. Just \$83 can protect an acre of internationally significant bird habitat.

If you would like to learn more about the TLC, to become a member or to assist us in the purchase of Long Point, then please contact us:

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy, PO Box 103, Battery Point Tasmania 7004. Phone: 03 6223 1100. Email: <info@tasland.org.au>. Web: <www.tasland.org.au>.



Birches Inlet again!

Orange Bellied Parrot 2002/03 Program

We were the first in for the 2002/03 watching season. We, being my partner Betty Wright and myself.

Because we stayed overnight in Strahan we departed early in Mario's charter craft. A sizable boat originally built for crayfishing and very well fitted out for passenger comfort — and has all the necessary navigational equipment.

We arrived into the creek about noon, loaded the gear from the landing onto the boat, and unleaded our gear into the 'Pussycat' to take us further up the creek to the Frog Lodge landing. Coming out from their stint were department staff who took the Healesville and Tasmanian-bred Orange Bellied Parrots (OBP's) into the area to introduce the birds to the wild.

We did the changeover — discussing the bird procedures (no decoy birds in the aviaries to look after) and checked out the Lodge equipment (batteries,



The new bird blind. Photo B Forsyth.

radio, gas bottles, fridge, etc.). I took the staff back down the creek to the charter boat in the dingy — and here we were, in a remote area of south-west Tasmania for the next 14 days!

There were improvements to the area with additional board walks, a canvas bird blind, but still the same old 'A' frame toilet!

During our stay we had recorded in the rain gauge 150mm (6 inches) of rainwater! At one stage, I was unable to bale out the dinghy and give the motor a run because of water flooding the creek and covering the board walk.

One night we had a violent rain and wind storm. You can imagine the noise inside Frog Lodge — which is made out of corrugated iron. In the morning we couldn't find the bird blind, which usually sits on top of the bank in the scrub — it was down the bottom of the bank completely undone. Eventually we reassembled the blind back on the bank and tied it down with tent ropes and pegs.

On average at this time of the year, we would site 20–25 birds on the feeding table, recognising birds that had arrived from the mainland by their leg bands. These only numbered at this time 3 or 4. At other times during the day, when the birds were preparing to mate and nest, we occupied ourselves

Bill preparing a meal after a hard day observing the parrots. Photo B Forsyth.





Bill, Glenn & Betty awaiting Mario to arrive at the lower landing. Photo B Forsyth.

reading, listening to music, doing odd jobs, indulged in a little bit of fishing (without success) — a regular siesta and some sun basking.

During our stint at Birches Inlet, a radio message from Strahan advised us to meet the charter boat at the landing at 1600 hours. Two wildlife officers — Glenn Atkinson and Jody Adamczewski — arrived with food, guns and gear to stay with us until our departure — their purpose was to eradicate several starlings sighted in the area. If starlings were allowed to multiply they would take over the 30-odd nesting boxes placed for the parrots. Glenn and Jody completed the work by going out of an evening to the favourite trees used by the starlings for congregating in the evenings before roosting for the night.

Time came for departing. This meant

CALL UP NOTICE

All quiet on the Mt Field front

Although **WILDCARE** members are still looking after tracks in Mt Field and some painting work was done on a hut near Lake Dobson, it has been a quiet time of late. However, it is intended to get together with Park staff and anyone interested in Mt Field National Park in order to discuss and plan volunteer activities for the year ahead.

If members are interested in

being involved, contact the Mt Field CAREs President — Peter Franklin on 03 628 4889 or email <pfranklin@trump.net.au>.

Members can also advise the **WILDCARE** Office 03 6233 2836 or <Wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> of their interest so that your membership record can be updated with Mt Field as a Preferred Reserve.

checking gas bottles, bird seed stocks and anything else that the charter boat would bring when the replacement volunteers arrived. Tidying up Frog Lodge was another chore.

All the gear belonging to Glenn, Jody and us was transported down the creek to the landing to await Mario. We sunned ourselves on the land until Mario crept up to the landing, showing 4' of water only underneath his boat. Again it was our gear on and the new arrivals' gear into the dinghy. A final trip up the creek to settle the new arrivals in, showing them what was



Mario securing his craft while Jody awaits the boarding call! Photo B Forsyth.

what before heading out for Strahan and a James Boag Premium or 2!

Bill Forsyth

WILDCARE member

Fishcare Volunteers — new recruits

The Fishcare Volunteers are out and about. We have just recruited 18 new Volunteers to the program and they have just completed an extensive training course in marine and freshwater fisheries issues, people skills, and fishing rules and regulations.

They will be giving up their time during these long summer and autumn days to provide another avenue for recreational fishers and the general community to access important information on the marine and freshwater fishing environment.

All Fishcare Volunteers who work in marine and inland waters are well equipped to handle any queries you may have regarding recreational fishing issues. So, if you see that distinctive blue uniform with yellow logo, why not introduce yourself as a fellow **WILDCARE** member and have a chat with them.



Newly recruited Fishcare Volunteers. Photo D Heran.

Fishcare Volunteers are available to give talks to various meetings and can also go along to organised events. So if you are planning a community event, why not call us and we'll do our best to provide you with a Volunteer to help out. If you are interested in further information or joining the Fishcare Volunteer Program, please phone 03 6233 3053.

Damian Heran

Fisheries Education Officer
Wild Fisheries Management Branch,
DPIWE

**NEW WHALE
HOTLINE
NUMBER**

There is a new 24-hour whale hotline number to report all whale (and dolphin) sightings or strandings:

**0427-WHALES
(that is 0427-942537)**

Remember, it is vital that any whale information is called in straight away, as it could prevent a stranding or save the life of a whale through your prompt response.

Thankyou!

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

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- Resource Management & Conservation

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

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

Cartledge Agency – 8% discount (refer to advertisement)

(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**.

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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