

WILDCARE Conference and Annual General Meeting — 13 March 2004

Yes, its on again in the new year. *WILDCARE's* Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held at Mt Field National Park (in the Visitor Centre), hosted by the Friends of Mt Field and supported by the Mt Field National Park staff. Camping is available at Mt Field if you want to stay the weekend — please contact the Rangers at the Park for details Ph 6288 1149

The Conference is open to all members, their friends, and staff of our partner organisations.

Note: only members holding 2003 or 2004 membership at the time of this notice are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

The AGM agenda (12.45–1.15pm)

- Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Reports
- Treasurer and Auditors Reports
- Acceptance of Auditor for 2004
- Election of Co-Chair (elected) and Treasurer
- Acceptance of elected Branch Presidents (CAREs groups, Fishcare Regional Chapters and wildlife carer networks)

The Conference Program 11am–4pm

The Conference Question — “What are the keys to developing and maintaining strong relationships with our partner organisations?”

- 11.00 am Welcome
- 11.30 am Opening the Conference Space
- 12.00 noon Discussion groups
- 12.45 pm AGM
- 1.15 pm Lunch

- 2.00 pm Discussion groups
- 2.45 pm Discussion groups
- 3.30 pm Priority setting
- 4.00 pm Finish up

About the Conference

Many members will have attended a *WILDCARE* Conference before and be familiar with how they work. For those attending for the first time, expect something different and be prepared to be involved.

WILDCARE Conferences provide an opportunity for *WILDCARE* Inc members to raise and discuss issues that you feel need to be discussed in order to build and strengthen your organisation (*WILDCARE* Inc) and the outcomes of your efforts. This is your opportunity to be involved in choosing which pathway *WILDCARE* Inc will take in 2004.

This year the question to be addressed is “What are the keys to developing and maintaining strong relationships with our partner organisations?”

Our partner organisations include the Parks and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservation Branch, Wild Fisheries Management Branch, Cultural Heritage Branch, Forestry Tasmania (Adopt-a-Track only), the Community Partnerships section, our

support sponsors, local councils and private landholders.

The members, and our partners, attending the conference set the topics to be discussed in answer to the Conference Question. All topics raised go onto the Agenda. Each topic is discussed within 45 minute workshops, run concurrently — so we can have up to 12 discussion groups during the Conference (or even more if required). You only attend and discuss those topics that interest you — as many or as few as you like. There may even be the opportunity for a short field trip to look at things *WILDCARE* has done at Mt Field.

At the end of the day, everyone will be involved in determining the priorities for the coming year. Outcomes from the discussions will be delivered to the *WILDCARE* Board of Management who undertake to follow-up the recommendations over the next 12 months. Outcomes of all the discussions will be displayed during the day, published in the following *WILDTIMES* and placed on the website bulletin board — <www.wildcaretas.org.au>.

So, bring your passion and your interest, and a willingness to be involved. Everyone gets an opportunity to contribute at the level they wish to. We will all benefit from sharing our ideas in a friendly, relaxed and productive forum.

Mark the **13 March 2004** in your diary then complete the Conference/AGM Registration Form (below) and send to *WILDCARE* Inc c/- GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001.

See you there!

Registration Form

Name

Address

Phone

Email

- I will be there for the barbecue lunch
- I will make my own lunch arrangements
- I will be attending both the AGM and Conference
- I will be attending the AGM only
- I will be attending the Conference only

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Whales Ahoy!**
- **INVERTEBRATE – a celebration**
- **Cradle Mountain – What's happening**
- **Penguins at Lillicos**
- **The Tas Trail**
- **Plus More...**

WILDTIMES

Newsletter of *WILDCARE* Incorporated
Tasmania's largest incorporated volunteer organisation,
caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage.
C/o GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001, Australia. Ph 03 6233 2836. Fax 03 6224 0884.
E-mail: <office@wildcaretas.org.au>, <editor@wildcaretas.org.au>
(newsletter articles). Website: <www.wildcaretas.org.au>.



INVERTEBRATE — Celebrating Tasmania's invertebrate biodiversity

From crickets to crustaceans, butterflies to water bugs!
— A community puppetry and music event at The Springs on the 28th of March 2004

An exciting team of musicians, performers, writers and visual artists in consultation with some of Tasmania's most highly acclaimed scientists have embarked on a journey into the fascinating world of invertebrates on Mt. Wellington. In these macroscopic and microscopic worlds layers of activity unfold and flow into a rich tapestry affecting our water quality and providing inspiration for artists, scientists and children.

Field trips and meetings between the

artists and scientists have formed the basis for the project and have fascinated the artistic team with the



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wonderful diversity and unique interactions that are part of our invertebrate world. Tasmania's famous *Anaspides tasmaniae*, through to velvet worms that are unchanged through half a billion years of evolutionary history these animals and their interactions will come alive for the performance. Consider native mites which carry a water supply on their back, the 120 species of native bees, orchids which rely on one insect species for pollination and ants that

protect caterpillars from predators in return for food.

The creative team is currently in phase one, which involves research, consultation and theme based development workshops. Community workshops will continue into the new year with involvement from schools and diverse community groups, leading to a large-scale outdoor performance event which will take place at the Springs on Sunday the 28th of March.

Learn more about the life of these fascinating animals and be a part of the exciting celebration!

There are many opportunities for **WILDCARE** members and their families and friends to be involved in this fascinating project. Take the opportunity to work with artists from Terrapin and Theatre Alfresco to create giant puppets of the mountain's invertebrate animals, join the





community choir, be part of the performance, or simply assist with the production of this unique event. The previous Mountain Festival community project, *Alive on the Mountain*, which was held in partnership with **WILDCARE** attracted an audience of 1000 people and involved over 600 people directly in the artistic process.

This is an opportunity for people to learn new skills, make great friendships while learning something about Tasmania's invertebrate biodiversity.

If you or your group would like to be involved in any capacity please contact the project coordinator, Sarah Duffus, on email <invertebrate04@hotmail.com> or phone 0407 304 450.

WILDCARE is one of the partnership organisations that presents the Mountain Festival and this project is a **WILDCARE** project under the auspices of the Friends of the Mountain Festival CAREs group. Invertebrate is designed to provide opportunities for **WILDCARE** members to participate. An invitation is extended to all **WILDCARE** members to join the Friends of the Mountain Festival group and/or to find out how to participate in other Mountain Festival projects. The 2004 Mountain Festival will include an International Film Festival about mountains, an outdoor sculpture Trail along the Hobart Rivulet, and many other exhibitions, community events and musical performances. Also check the website, <www.mountainfestival.org>, for details or look for festival programs during March 2004.

Artists:

- Tania Bosak — Performance Co-director

- Chantale Delrue — Visual Artist
- Gwen Egg — Visual Artist
- Mathew Fargher — Musical Director
- Kirsty Grierson — Puppetry and Performance Co-director

- Lian Tanner — Writer
- Roz Watkins — Design and Puppetry

Scientists:

- Peter McQuillan
- Michael Driessen
- Leon Barmuta
- Alastair Richardson
- John Gooderham
- Gustaaf Hallegraef

INVERTEBRATE has been assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory board. Significant further support for the project has been provided by the Hobart City Council, Tasmanian Regional Arts, the National Australia Bank Community Link Award for Arts and Culture, and Terrapin Puppet Theatre Company.

WILDLIFE PRODUCT DISCOUNT

GREAT NEWS

for Carers of

**Orphaned/Injured
Animals**

Cartledge Agency has been appointed a Wombaroo/Passwell distributor.

This means ALL WILDCARE MEMBERS CAN NOW GET AN 8% DISCOUNT off any product (except of Seeds and Mixes for Birdlife) contained in our new revised catalogue.

WILDCARE members are also entitled to:

- **Free catalogue mail out**
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Cartledge Agency would like to thank all WILDCARE members for their past support and look forward to future dealings.

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

Mobile: 0408 335 498

Email: cartledge.agency@microtech.com.au

**WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE ANIMAL
BUT WE CAN SURE HELP YOU TO LOOK AFTER THEM!**

Whales ahoy!

The Marine Unit of the Nature Conservation Branch launched a whale hotline number this year. 0427 Whales or 0427 942 537 is the number to ring if you have seen a whale. It has been very successful with the marine unit receiving approximately twice the calls it received for the same period last year.

We have also been conducting whale rescue training. This year we have completed eight whale rescue training days. For those who have completed the course we hope that it was enjoyable and educational. For those who are interested in the course then you can contact Andrew Irvine on 6233 3346 or 0427 056 196.

Nature Conservation Branch Marine Unit staff and Marine Police were involved in an interesting course in October. Whale entanglement in marine debris is on the increase, there

have been several incidents this year in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Doug Coughran a wildlife ranger in Western Australia who has a lot of experience in this



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New Chairperson arrangements

The new Constitution has created two Co-chair positions, a Co-chair (appointed) provided by the Agency (the Manager Community Partnerships) and one Co-chair (elected) elected by the membership. Until the next elections formalises this position Richard Hammond's will

hold the role of Co-Chair (elected) and assume the duties of the position. The Co-Chair arrangement reinforces the equal partnership between the Agency and **WILDCARE** Inc. The Board of Management has now defined the responsibilities and powers of each of the Co-Chairs.

Co-Chair (elected)

All financial approvals and authorisations

Chair Board of Management Meetings and Special General Meetings

External Correspondence

Individual authorisations (for insurance purposes)

Media liaison

Co-Chair (appointed)

Ordering of goods (eg newsletter, vests etc)

Chair Annual General Meetings/Conference

Communication with Agency staff

Approval of Working bee call-up fliers

Oversee **WILDCARE** Office volunteers

Contact point for advice and assistance to CARes groups



difficult task present the course then we had a practical session in removing rope lines from a replica whale tail.

For those interested in whales it has been a busy time of the year the

following table lists some sightings of whales in Tasmania for the last 6 months. So it may give you some clues as to where to look.

Date	Location	Species	Comment
16/06/03	Friendly Beaches	Shepards Beaked Whale	Only the third of this species to be found in Tasmania
18/06/03	Mersey River, Devonport	Bottlenose dolphin latter released	Stranded and
21/10/03	Fredrick Henry Bay	Southern Right Whale	Swimming in Bay
22/10/03	Maquarie Wharf No.3	Southern Right Whale	
23/10/03	Kilcranky Bay	Killer Whales	Breaching
25/10/03	Morland Beach Devonport	Southern Right Whales	
26/10/03	Blackmans Reef Burnie	Southern Right Whales?	3 altogether
28/10/03	Freycinet near the lighthouse	Southern Right Whales	5 or 6 in total
31/10/03	Cressy Beach near Swansea	Southern Right Whale	
31/10/03	Ulverstone	Unidentified Whales	
3/11/03	Little Swanport	Southern Right Whale	
3/11/03	Sandy Cape	Curviers Beaked Whale	Washed up on the beach
2/11/03	Oyster Bay	Southern Right Whales	2 animals
4/11/03	Bicheno	Humpback?	
4/11/03	Orford Spring Bay	Humpbacks	2 animals
4/11/03	Shelly Beach	Unidentified Whales	Possibly the same animals as above
5/11/03	Eastern tip of Hunter Island	Humpback Whale	
9/11/03	South Promise Bay Freycinet	Humpback and calf	
7/11/03	Hawley Beach	Bottlenose dolphin	Successfully rescued after stranding
7/11/03	St Helens	Humpback Whale	One small and one large animal
9/11/03	Blue reef Burnie	Humpback Whale ?	
9/11/03	Goat Island Ulverstone	Southern Right Whales	3 large animals
10/11/03	Schouten Passage Freycinet	Unidentified	6 animals

Wanted: Volunteer Track Caretakers

Forestry Tasmania and Parks & Wildlife North West are seeking expressions of interests for caretakers for the Tall Trees walking track (2-3km length) and the Mount Montgomery walking track in the Dial Range Recreational area.

The Tall Trees track is a beautiful forest walk starting at the Gnomon carpark and proceeding down an old logging road for a short distance till it turns off and meanders through tall swamp gums then arriving at the Dial Creek. It continues on through stunning manferns until meeting the old Dial Creek Road. The Mount Montgomery track climbs steeply from Myrtle Creek through wet and then dry forest to the summit of the mountain offering sweeping views of the coast. The type of work to be undertaken would include:

- Cutting & pruning vegetation along tracks
- Drainage maintenance
- Cutting & clearing windfall & debris from the tracks
- Organising working bees where needed.

For further information regarding the adoption of these tracks please contact either — Toni Ogilvie, Community Liaison Officer, Forestry Tasmania, P O Box 68, Burnie. Ph 6434 6323 Email: <toni.ogilvie@forestrytas.com.au> or Tim Dyer, District Volunteer Facilitator, Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 809, Ulverstone. Ph 6429 8712 (Thursdays) Email <nwvolunteers@parks.tas.gov.au>.

Make a difference — be a Tasmanian Trail Volunteer!

The Tasmanian Trail Volunteers are a group of **WILDCARE** members interested in working on the Tasmanian Trail. **WILDCARE** Inc and the Tasmanian Trail Association Inc are working as partners to provide the multi-use trail that stretches from the north of the State to the south.

Howard, Trail Co-ordinator, is encouraging the formation of **WILDCARE** groups to adopt and care for sections of the trail that pass through their territory. This will provide them with all the benefits of being a **WILDCARE** group (Check these out on <www.wildcaretas.org.au> under Forms in the



The two organisations are currently developing processes that will strengthen their relationship and continue to build the support for volunteers and volunteer groups interested in the Trail. Rowena

Procedures Manual).

Tasmanian Trail Volunteers, through their membership of **WILDCARE** Inc also have all the benefits of being part of **WILDCARE** Inc including insurance cover when undertaking voluntary work authorised by **WILDCARE** Inc.

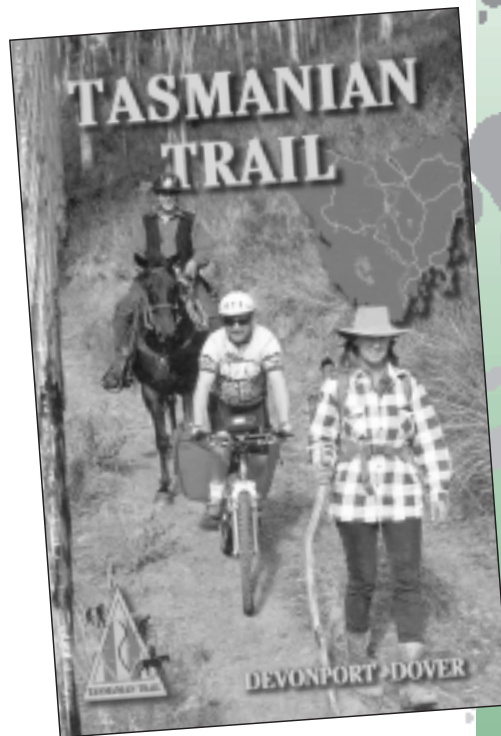
So come along, why not broaden your understanding of the States longest multi-use recreational trail by becoming a Tasmanian Trail Volunteer!

For further information or to add the Tasmanian Trail to your interests on your membership details contact **WILDCARE** on 03 6233 2836 or <Office@wildcaretas.org.au> or complete the form below and return it to the **WILDCARE** Office.

What is the Tasmanian Trail?

The Tasmanian Trail is a multi-use recreational trail, that offers horse riders, mountain bike riders and bush walkers the opportunity to experience some of Tasmania's most beautiful landscapes that are beyond the popular tourist trails.

The Tasmanian Trail winds its way



between Devonport in the north and Dover in the south. The Trail links forestry roads, fire trails, country roads. It crosses private land as well as passing through farmland and a variety of Tasmanian forest types. It is a trail rich in natural and cultural history.

The Trail can be accessed at any point. Depending on your preference you may travel as much or as little of the trail as you like. It's up to you! Whether you are an enthusiastic long distance traveller seeking a challenge or interested in a shorter, more relaxing journey.

The Tasmanian Trail Association is a non — profit incorporated organisation committed to developing a World-Class natural experience, a multi — use Trail for Mountain Bike riders, Bush Walkers and Horse Riders.

Tasmanian Trail Association Inc Office Bearers

President — Susan Henry

Vice President — John Shoobridge

Secretary — Rowena Howard

Treasurer — Dennis Wiss

Auditor — Mike Norman

Committee Members

— Dennis Wiss

— John Robb

— Chris Boden

— Scott Schreck

Staff

Trail Coordinator — Rowena Howard
<Tastrail@parks.tas.gov.au>



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Tourism Tasmania – Mike Dennis

Bicycle Tasmania – Paul Gregory

Sport and Recreation

– David Buckingham

Private Land Owner

– John Shooobridge

Community Group – Vacant

DPIWE/WILDCARE Inc

– Andrew Smith

Tasmanian Trail Association

PO Box 99, Sandy Bay 7005,
Tasmania. Ph 03 6233 2995.
<tastrail@parks.tas.gov.au>

**Tasmanian Trail
Co-ordinator passes on
the baton**

It was wild and wintry, the 27th night of June 2003. But few would have remembered, after a night of celebration and reminiscing in the warmth of the New Sydney Hotel, Hobart. Chris Boden was amongst friends, on the night of his official



Chris on his special night.

Our TTA President Susan Henry described Chris who worked tirelessly as Coordinator for the Tasmanian Trail for the past eight years as being “*the Trails very fortunate man of the moment.*” Chris’s expertise will be sorely missed amongst the Tasmanian Trail Community.

Personally as the new Coordinator for the TTA, I have much to thank Chris

majority of the Trails length over a course of a few days.

Chris is an artist, a great communicator, negotiator and believer in the Trail and what it represents to the Recreational Tasmanian Community,

From us all at the Tasmanian Trail Association we wish Chris well with his new endeavours in life.



farewell that marked a historical end to his role as a tireless coordinator for the Tasmanian Trail.

Many people had travelled far and wide to be a part of the celebration, and wish Chris well on his new adventures. Representatives from Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Tasmania, Crown Land, Sport and Recreation, and the greater Tasmanian Trail Community all paid tribute to

for. He made my transition into the position as painless as possible. Chris spent a month with me, discussing his dreams about the true potential of the Trail and made sure all the information he had developed over the past eight years was made readily available to me. His kindness extended to showing me the opportunities and constraints of the Trail in the field, as we travelled the

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Volunteers requested

Survey of *Gambusia holbrooki*

When: 2–6 February 2004

Location: Tamar Island Wetlands and the Tamar Estuary

We will be Sweep-netting for introduced fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) and water sampling. Training will be provided by Inland Fisheries

Bring along: Your own food and

drink, gumboots, gloves, hat and sunscreen

Skills Required: Average fitness

RSVP to Janice Miller, District Volunteer Facilitator (Central North)

Phone: 6336 5319 mobile 0427 365 319.

Rowena takes the reins

Of the many things I wanted to experience, as a Child was that of being a boundary fence rider. I often use to dream away my schooling days imagining I was “*astride my sure*

footed equine friend” The dust wrapping around us, endless adventures, freedom and characters of the bush all seemed so much more appealing than the carefully landscaped environment I grew up in.

Stories, poems written by bush Legends such as Banjo Patterson and DH Lawrence contributed significantly to this desire to live amongst what I thought were mostly free thinking individuals, toughened by the vary landscape they lived within.

Over the past month we have all been witness to the passing of two great Australian bush icons, Slim Dusty who coloured our world by bringing the characters of the bush to the city through his songs and that of Reginald Murray Williams, better known as R.M. Williams. A self made millionaire, who had tried his hand at many things from “*drover, stockman, black smith, well sinker, yard builder, poet, journalist and author.*” A self confessed “*Adventurer in Life*” as reported by Peter Morley of the Mercury Paper, he was the first man

home on a 250 km endurance horse ride held between Winton and Longreach at the age of 70.

It was the RM William initiative the Bicentennial National Trail (*a multi-use trail that stretches 5,330km from Cooktown in far North Queensland to Healesville in Victoria*) that provided the benchmark for furthering the concept of a multi-use recreational trail in Tasmania. Thanks to the tireless work of the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Trail Riders Association the Tasmanian Trail became more than a pipe dream with the formation of the Tasmanian Trail Association, which today is responsible for managing and maintaining the Tasmanian Trail today.

Not unlike the start of R.M.’s life the Tasmanian Trail continues to be threatened by a lack of funding, yet all the while community enthusiasm for the Trails existence remains high. With hard work, determination and continued community support over the next few years, the true potential of the Tasmanian Trail will be realised, and on offer to all will be a World Class, first grade experience — a national and state icon, something RM Williams himself would have been proud of.

Long live the legends of the bush, lets keep their vision alive and support our unstructured recreational facilities which offer us all the opportunity to be an “*Adventurer in life*” *RM Williams.*

Rowena Howard
Tasmanian Trail Coordinator

Giving Shelter on the Trail

As many will be aware the Tasmania Trail has included along it’s route an informal camping area at Glenora District High School in Bushy Park. Many a frosty Bushy Park morning has been the setting for students to discover the steam-breathed horses and neat camps of the ‘Traileers’ that have stopped overnight. So it came as no great surprise when we at the School were asked by Chris Boden and Rowena Harris if we would be interested in constructing a shelter for travellers on the Trail to use. The deal was simple — TasTrail provide the materials — we provide the labour. Sounds a bit one-ended on paper but this has turned out to be a fantastic and real learning experience for the

Special General Meeting outcomes

The participants at Special General Meeting held recently to amend the **WILDCARE** Constitution (see previous newsletter for details) passed the proposed alterations unanimously. It was noted for the record that the term Tasmanian Heritage Office now refers to the Cultural Heritage Branch of Parks and Wildlife Service.

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Tasmanian Trail Association Inc.

Member Information

Name:

Phone:(home)(work)

E-mail:

Postal Address:

.....Postcode:

Recreational Interest:

Cycling Horseriding Walking

I am interested in undertaking the following volunteer activities related to the Tasmanian Trail:

Track Maintenance Administration Events

Post to: **WILDCARE** Inc GPO Box 44 Hobart Tasmania

students, and (ahem) staff involved and everyone has been very grateful for the opportunity to be part of it. And the TasTrail crowd get the shelter built.

We began the project by assembling a group of interested students in June of this year. We were to meet for two hours every Monday. We had a few weeks before construction materials would arrive so we spent this time researching the Tasmania Trail — who uses it, how, where does it start and finish etc. We also looked at other famous trails, such as the Appalachian and the Inca Trail. Our next step was to move from the I.T. lab to the wood workshop where students constructed small models of how the completed shelter might look. I say might; our models ranged from toilet block to warehouse and everything in between. We also enjoyed a short excursion to Ouse, to look at the existing TasTrail shelter there. We measured it, drew it, photographed it and generally harassed it until we were satisfied. That only left one thing to do before the construction materials arrived — dig the footings...

Of course, one of the wettest Winters on record added immeasurably to the students enthusiasm in digging 800mm post-holes in clay, especially when Mr MacFarlane misread the layout and four of the six holes had to be 'moved'. We tried various ways of 'moving' a post-hole, but in the end found that the best and quickest way was to fill the hole in and dig it again where you want it. At this point some bright spark suggested that an extra hole be dug and a certain staff member permanently installed in it, complete

with snug fitting concrete boots and jacket, but it was knock-off time for that day so he escaped with only dented pride.

As luck would have it Rowena arranged the timber and other bits and pieces to arrive just as we completed the footings so the building proper was able to go ahead forthwith. First the posts got concreted in, then the top plates and now the roof trusses and battens have gone on. As can no doubt

be imagined, this is the exciting part of the construction and with our group of students whittled down to just six die-hard souls we have a real team atmosphere. I am proud to say it is one of the few classes I've conducted in which every student turns up fully prepared (they bring their own tool belts, drills and tapes) and EARLY FOR CLASS!

We now have only the roofing iron, fascias and a little bit of panelling to go on and we are finished, hopefully in time for Grade 10 graduation. (Knock knuckles against timber surface now.) I would like to acknowledge the students who have worked so well on this project: Terrence Shepherd (the gopher), Martin Jones, Jamie Jones, Mathew Collins, Derek Triffett (the work gang) and Mark Reggett (the Foreman, sort of). I should also say that the project would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of Mr Clayton Hall, a veritable surgeon with a Stihl 038, and Mr Ken Shepherd, whose idea it all was in the first place.

It is indeed a shame that we only need one TasTrail Shelter.

Peter MacFarlane, Teacher, Glenora



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Penguins at Lillicos — a chance to work with great little birds and interesting people

Each Summer members of *WILDCARE's* Friends of Lillicos Penguins CAREs group take on the job of providing education and information services for visitors who arrive at the viewing platform at the Devonport end of the beach. This is a great voluntary activity if you are interested in educating visitors about wildlife conservation, specifically penguins and their lifestyle, if you get a kick out of showing people something special that they might not otherwise see or if you like the idea of meeting people from all over the world.

The Friends of Lillicos always welcome new members interested in taking a few turns at the viewing platform.

Contact Barry Hebbard on 6424 5178 or 0417 197 310 and contact the *WILDCARE* office 6233 2836 or <office@wildcarea.org.au> to adjust your membership record to include Lillico Beach Conservation Area.

Sheer disappointment leads to Shear delight!

Two visitors from South Australia, Pedro Jose Lee and Patricia So travelled to Strahan on the west coast to view the Short-tailed Shearwaters returning to their colony at dusk.



Unfortunately no-one directed them to the colony at Ocean Beach so, disappointed, they travelled to our

very valuable Lillico Beach Conservation Area near Devonport the next night.

On meeting them I started to tell them about the Little Penguins but was soon surprised to find they were part of the growing band of visitors who are anxious to see the shearwaters wheel and turn before shearing down to within a couple of centimetres of the sea surface only to be high in the sky seconds later. They were delighted with the experience. However, they were shocked when I told them poachers right across the state each

year yank the chicks from their warm burrows, snap their necks and take them home for the pot. This unfortunately happens even in protected areas. Despite the horror of what poachers do, they left that night happy with their experience, having seen something they thought they would never see.

Getting the message across to children

Now that we have moved into longer evenings it is often difficult to stop children getting bored and then running around while their parents wait patiently for the penguins to come in from the sea at Lillico Conservation Area. We have taken delivery from the Queen Victoria Museum three freeze dried Little Penguins that our volunteers can show the children when telling them a bit about the birds. Parents can also photograph their children with the birds (out in the carpark where the flash doesn't bother the live penguins). The aids are useful when visitors are strapped for time, needing to line up at Devonport at 7.30pm for the Ferry, a couple of hours before the penguins return home.

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*Does not apply to Kayaks, Chaco sandals and scouting.



Shearwater rescue

Each year the shearwaters return on 24th September and it must be quite a difficult task for them after being over an endless sea to return to a very narrow strip of dunes between the highway and the sea at the Lillico Beach Conservation Area, and then try to land at an even smaller target — their burrow. Almost every night some land on the black surface of the bitumen road mistaking it for the dark and smooth surface of the sea. Unless they are rescued quickly they are certain to be killed by passing vehicles. It is a sad end to a 15,000 km trip back to their colony to rear their young if they end up as yet more roadkill on Tasmania's road.

WILDCARE volunteers at Lillico do regular patrols of the side of the highway and rescue quite a few birds but of course some birds are killed by the traffic. The birds attempt to return to their colony by foot as it is almost impossible for them to take-off if they



land on the flat road surface, but ironically are stopped by the penguin containment fence that runs along the road verge to keep penguins from wandering onto the road. We gently

catch them, lift them over the fence so that they can then walk the short distance back to their burrow. It is very satisfying to know we have saved the life of one of the world's great ocean wanderers.

We are currently discussing with biologists from CSIRO and the Nature Conservation Branch of DPIWE possible solutions to the problem caused by the penguin fence, but until a solution is found we will continue to do the roadside rescue patrols.

Birdwatch

Keep an eye out for poachers operating in penguin and shearwater areas around the state. If you see suspicious characters where they shouldn't be, doing what they shouldn't, phone the Police or Parks

WILDCARE:

Community Action in Reserves Groups Regional Chapters — Networks

Place	President	Members
Claytons/Melaleuca	Mark O'May	5
Coal Mines/Lime Bay	Peter England	12
Cradle Valley	Jim Spinks	60
Kate Reed	Rodney Milner	10
Kent Group	Christian Bell	17
Lillicos Beach	Barry Hebbard	14
Low Head Maritime Museum	Peter Cox	10
Maatsuyker Island	Jill Theile	36
Maria Island	David Reynolds	41
Mole Creek (Karstcare)	David Wools-Cobb	26
Mountain Festival	Angie McGowen	43
Mt Direction Semaphore	Paul Hodges	9
Mt Field	Peter Franklin	10
Outlook Mt Roland	David Welch	31
Snake Island	Greg Baxter	26
Southern Caves	Steve Bunton	10
Tamar Island Centre	Julie Nermutt	13
Tasman	Vacant	41
Mt Nelson	Andrew Hingston	10
Dave Burrows Walk	Dinah Jones	5
Wilmot Heritage Trails	Eva Brockman	5
Freycinet	Brenton Wheare	32
Wild West Coast	Kathy Butler	6
Adventure Bay	Pending	—
Fishcare Volunteers North	Mark Williams	26
Fishcare Volunteers Northwest	Mark Heran	28
Fishcare Volunteers Northeast	Mike Cawthorn	40
Wildlife Rescue Northwest	Judy Synott	25
Wildlife Rescue Tamar	Lorraine McDonald	20
Wildlife Carers Northeast	Peter Power	10
Tasmanian Trail Volunteers	Susan Henry	12
Trevallyn	Anna Povey	14

Clean Up Australia Day, March 2004

Clean Up Australia, Sunday 7th March 2004, is Australia's largest community based environmental activity and is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to clean up your local area and Make Australia Shine!

Last year over half a million community minded people across the continent participated in Clean Up and collected over 6,000 tonnes of rubbish, ranging from car bodies to artificial limbs to a collection of unopened Christmas presents. As the Clean Up message grows so too does our community's commitment to a rubbish free Australia.

It is now the time to register a site in your local area that you want to clean up.

Absolutely anyone can be involved in Clean Up Australia, just find a dirty site near you and register on line, over the phone or by mail, or join in on the day at an established site in your area. Once your site is registered you will be sent a free Clean Up Kit and Clean Up Australia can support your site with bags, gloves, posters, advice and guidance.

For further information or to register your site, contact Anahita Jungalwalla (Statewide Coordinator) on 6234 3552 or log on to <www.cleanup.com.au>. Remember to register your site early this year as registrations received before February 1st 2004 will go into the draw to win a Kyocera Digital Camera valued at over \$1000 (for terms and conditions visit the Clean Up Australia website).

Get your hands dirty — make Australia shine!

Clean Up Australia Day
7th March

Business Clean Up Day
2nd March

Schools Clean Up Day
5th March

and Wildlife Service, (don't ever approach them yourself). We must stamp out this ruthless killing of chicks.

Returning to the wild

The Friends of Lillico Penguins CAREs group and Parks and Wildlife Service recently completed an important project that had been on our "to do" list for some years. From the early 1990s until 1996 we had been using a small carpark about half way along the Lillico Beach Conservation area and a penguin viewing platform there that could hold 35 visitors. The Transport Department was concerned that vehicles were at risk when exiting the gravelled surface of the carpark in low gear and trying to merge with the speeding traffic of the Bass Highway on what is known as the Lillico Straight (as in Conrod Straight at Bathurst). Stan Matuszek decided it would be safer if we moved to a larger and safer carpark and platform at the eastern end of the beach. The old carpark was closed at the end of the 95/96 viewing season and the old carpark site was revegetated with Marram grass for quick cover. The penguins were soon using the area for burrows.

Our Management Strategy stated that once we revegetated the area with native trees and shrubs grown locally from local seeds the Marram grass would largely be displaced as the trees grew.

The new carpark and platform were in use for the October 1996 season, but we dragged our feet a bit on finishing off the old carpark rehab work. Lexi Paul recently organised a team to revegetate the area with species such as *Correa alba*, *Acacia longifolia* (sophorae), *Carabrotus rossi*, *Tetagonia implexicoma* and so on — over 300 plants in all. As they grow they will discourage people using the closed track to the beach, and the erosion problem should be dealt with. This

will also mean that unsupervised access to the rookery in the area will also be stopped — leaving the penguins to live stress free in that area. Thank you Lexie, Darren Walker, David Calder, Peter Stronach and friend and Barry Hebbard. Once the planting was completed PWS were able to move that section of the penguin containment fence closer to the highway and in line with the rest of the fence. This has removed a serious traffic hazard and given the penguins more room. The fencing movers were led by Ranger Jans Howe — a neat and professional job.

Crikey! Snakes everywhere!

As the weather is warming up its time to keep an eye out for snakes sunbaking on rocks and roads. But don't be alarmed. Snakes want to know you even less than you want to know them and given an opportunity will get out of your way without fuss. People who attempt to kill snakes are putting themselves at great risk as, funnily enough, the snake will attempt to defend itself. If the snake is presenting a safety problem then call Snake Rescue on 0407 565 181. This is not a *WILDCARE* Inc service, but Snake Rescue members are interested in safely relocating problem snakes rather than see them killed.

Snakes are protected in Tasmania. It is illegal to kill them. We have just 3 species, the Copperhead, the Tiger and the White-lipped Whip snake — all potentially deadly, and in fact up there with the most venomous in the world (another good reason to stay away from them). They are an essential part of the ecosystem and an amazing survivor over millennia. So if you see one, out in the bush and not bothering anyone, just leave it be.

Barry Hebbard
President

Friends of Lillico Penguins CAREs
group

CALL UP NOTICE

Mt Field Working Bee

Dates: Tuesday 16 or Thursday 18 December

Location: Mt Field alpine track from Lake Fenton

Duties: Track maintenance, Clear Bauera and other bushes from track

Supplies: Gloves and other equipment supplied

Skills Required: Must be fit enough to walk 1 hour to site

RSVP: Peter Franklin, President Friends of Mt Field

Phone: 03 6228 4889

Treasurer/Editor retires... hail the new Treasurer and Editor

Unfortunately our Treasurer and Editor of a couple of years, Jo Field, has decided to move on from these roles to concentrate on other things, including study. Jo has done a fantastic job during her reign and will be sadly missed. She took over as Treasurer at fairly short notice and held everything together through the rugged GST experience when all those around her were going pale at the mere mention of those three letters.

She has improved our financial records as the amount of money handled by *WILDCARE* Inc has grown enormously, and kept the Board members up to date and in line. Jo was an important contact for groups who had managed to secure either external or *WILDCARE* grant money and provided them with a helpful contact when it came to fund

allocation and management. As *WILDTIMES* Editor Jo has ensured that *WILDTIMES* has continued to be a great magazine for members. Jo also on a number of occasions represented the Board of Management at group meetings and has helped many members understand the benefits, processes and expectations of the organisation they belong to. Thank you immensely Jo for your efforts, commitment and great work.

Thankfully, after a few fretful moments (weeks) two people have stepped forward to take over from Jo. Bob Cotgrove will be assuming the role of Treasurer. Under the *WILDCARE* Constitution the Co-Chairs can appoint a temporary replacement to this position should it become vacant during the year. Thank you immensely Bob for agreeing to take on the position. Bob of course

now has a seat on the Board of Management, until the next Annual General Meeting when an election will be held. Jennifer Partridge has agreed to take on the *WILDTIMES* Editor role as from the next edition. Thank you very much Jennifer, this is a great effort for a very new member. So all's right with the world again... Phew!

Andrew Smith
Co-Chair (appointed)

Did you know?

In Tasmania there are 19 National Parks (1,434,501ha), 60 State Reserves (44,300ha), 64 Nature Reserves (110,896ha), 12 Game Reserves (19,518ha), 176 Conservation Areas (549,924ha), 23 Nature Recreation Areas (64,680ha), 21 Regional Reserves (228,654ha), 406 Land for Wildlife Properties (38,000ha), 2 Private Nature Reserves (160ha), 22 Private Sanctuaries (5453ha), 3 properties protected by Conservation Agreement (494ha), 142 properties covenanted in perpetuity (20,230ha) and 13 properties acquired for conservation values (4769ha).

There are 588 private properties in Tasmania participating in conservation management, amounting to 69,106ha of private land, where significant vegetation and wildlife species and values are formally protected in co-operation between the government and the landholder.

In addition to this there is a whole lot of great environmental repair happening on private land, and a move

to sustainable practices where the environment is part of management considerations. Some of the environmental repair work is supported by grants programs such as the Australian Government Envirofund and the Natural Heritage Trust, and undertaken by enthusiastic and committed volunteer groups and individuals. There are also many property owners who do this work at their own expense simply because they see it as good land management practice.

The Resource Management and Conservation Division of DPIWE is to be commended for the work its staff do to encourage and assist private landholders who are prepared to make formal commitments about the management of their properties, who undertake environmental repair and who are striving to manage their properties sustainably. Congratulations to the property owners involved, and to the community volunteers who assist.

Cartledge Agency — Doing it for the Tasmanian Devil

Mark Cartledge of Cartledge Agency, one of *WILDCARE* Inc's discount sponsors, is offering a donation from all sales of animal and bird food towards the conservation efforts of the Tasmanian Devil. Cartledge Agency will donate 5 cents to *WILDCARE* Inc from each purchase. *WILDCARE* Inc will determine how to best allocate the money through discussion with the Nature Conservation Branch of Resource Management & Conservation Division (DPIWE) — the Agency responsible for leading the program to identify and hopefully solve the shocking virus infections affecting a large proportion of the Devil population.

The disease caused by the virus results in horrendous facial tumours that eat away at flesh and bone and which seems to be transferred from Devil to Devil during fights.

Check out the advertisement for further details about Cartledge Agency.

Thank you Mark for your contribution to the work being done to save the Devils.

What is happening at Cradle Mountain?

As you may be aware there is a five year Development Plan for Cradle Mountain. The Development Plan includes a whole range of new services, infrastructure and interpretation for the Park.

New Cradle Information Centre

On December 15th a temporary Cradle Information Centre will open on the site of the current Wilderness Village Café. The Information Centre will be located at one end of the Café. New decking and a canopy will be installed to provide greater outdoor options and weather protection for visitors using the Centre.

The Centre will be staffed by Parks and Wildlife staff. The new Information Centre will also promote the range of tours available to visitors. In the longer term a new

Information Centre will be developed on this site as part of a broader village concept.

Park shuttle bus service

Tenders were called recently for a shuttle bus service to operate from the village into the National Park. The new service will begin on Monday 15th December. The shuttle bus service will be managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service staff based at the new information centre. The schedule shuttle bus services will be *free of charge* but all users will be required to have a valid National Parks pass. The scheduled service will operate at 20 minute intervals during peak periods. The shuttle bus service will not offer tour services. Other tourism operators will continue to offer tour services on a pre-booked basis. An extensive promotional

campaign will be conducted to encourage visitors to Cradle to use the new park shuttle bus service. This promotion will be conducted through tourism operators and visitor centres across the State.

More car parking spaces created outside of the Park

There will be car parking capacity for approximately 200 cars and for buses at the new Information Centre. Visitors will be able to park at the Information Centre and catch the shuttle bus to Dove Lake, Waldheim, Ronny Creek and the Visitor Centre within the Park.

Better management of parking within the park

The technology will soon exist to provide visitors arriving at the park entrance with better information about the availability of car parking at Dove Lake before they make the journey to the lake. Over recent years there has been considerable congestion at Dove Lake. Over the coming months visitors will be alerted to the fact that car parks within the park are full before they drive in. Electronic signs and electronic monitors based at Dove Lake will provide this information. Until the long-term planning for the Dove Lake area is finalised (e.g. what type of visitor facilities will be provided and where they will be located) there is an urgent need to manage and control the existing parking situation at the lake. In order to do this the car parking spaces within the National Park will be delineated to better manage the impact of parking on the surrounding areas.

Signage will encourage the drivers of large camper vans and visitors with trailers to park outside of the National Park. There will be some capacity for overnight parking for visitors staying at accommodation within the park (e.g. Waldheim and Blandfordia Lodge). Discussions are also being held about car parking provisions for overnight bushwalkers.

Opening of the Cradle Valley Boardwalk

The new walking track, to be known as the Cradle Valley Boardwalk, from the Visitor Centre to Ronny Creek was

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officially opened by the Premier, Jim Bacon on November 29th. The walking track provides a fabulous new walking experience for visitors to the Park and showcases scenery that will be much admired.

New Manager for Cradle Mountain National Park

Alex Simpson has been appointed by the Parks and Wildlife Service to manage the Cradle Mountain National Park. Alex will be a focal point for information about what is happening on the redevelopment project.

New Cradle map, walking notes and newspaper

A new walking map and guide to Cradle Mountain is currently under production. It will be available over the coming summer to provide visitors with an increased level of information about the opportunities in the park. A visitor newspaper will also be available.

Road works almost completed

The final seal on the Dove Lake Road is programmed to take place during the first week of December (weather permitting). The work will take three to four days with complete closure for a couple of hours during the day and short delays otherwise. However, because of damp pavement conditions the final seal may need to be delayed until mid-February 2004.

Planning for park precincts

Planning work for the Waldheim/Ronny Creek, Visitor Centre and Dove Lake Precincts will also take place over the coming months to provide direction for any work to take place in these areas. Consultation with key interest groups will take place once this project has commenced.

For further information: Parks and Wildlife Service Alex Simpson, Manager at Cradle Mountain National Park: Phone 6492 1115 or email <alex.simpson@parks.tas.gov.au>.

If you would like to be included on our email list for updates please contact Janine Combes: phone 6224 9579 or <jcombes@trump.net.au>.

New Group Operation Guidelines

The Board of Management also approved a new set of Operating Guidelines for all WILDCARE Inc groups, Fishcare chapters and Wildlife carer networks.

Presidents of WILDCARE Inc groups should familiarise themselves with these guidelines. They aren't particularly onerous but there are a few things that groups should be doing, and may not be doing at the moment. The Guidelines can be found on the web site <www.wildcarea.org.au> under Forms, or if you are not connected to the web, call Andrew on 6233 2836 for a copy to be sent to you.

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on all gifts.**

CALL UP NOTICE

Friends of the Mountain Festival CAREs Group

This summer the Mountain Festival will be on again. A long week of exciting cultural-environmental events and activities from 19th to 28th March on and around Mount Wellington. If you would like to be involved in making the Festival happen, then you're invited to sign up as a member of the Friends of the Mountain Festival CAREs Group. FOTMF recently had their annual meeting and elected a Committee: Angie McGowan (President), Marshall Hughes (Secretary) and Chris Cooper (Treasurer), who are now planning how best to make opportunities available for WILDCARE members to get involved with the Festival. The Friends of the Mountain Festival are sending out a Call Up for WILDCARE members to volunteer to help with the whole range of events.

We're looking for people to help with front of house at the various events, to help with production assistance, publicity, organising — you name it, we want people to volunteer to do it.

We are also seeking a few new members for the Mountain Orchestra. Members will be expected to be available for a rehearsal on 18th January, and then for most Sunday afternoons in February and March culminating in the Mountain Orchestra's participation in the Invertebrates project on 28th March. You can bring your own instrument along if you wish, however this is not a prerequisite as we already have some drums, horns and other instruments that were made as part of the WILDCARE - Mountain Orchestra Performance Project in 2002.

WILDCARE members are also invited to participate in the Mountain Festival's Invertebrates project (see separate article by Chris Cooper).

If you would like to volunteer for any of the Mountain Festival events or if you would like to register for the Friends of the Mountain Festival CAREs group, please contact Angie McGowan on 6224 8082, or contact the WILDCARE office.

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)

Resource Management & Conservation

Category 3 sponsors (\$1000–\$4999)

Malcolm Murchison

Forestry Tasmania

Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council

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 Gemstones at Lune River – 10% discount

Tyenna Valley Lodge – 10% discount

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**.

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