

WILDCARE Conference 2004-03-24

Chairperson's report

Membership grew to 4000 by the end of the membership year in 2003. Given that around a third of these memberships include more than one person, or a whole family, there were around 5000 people who were members. That means that one in every one thousand people in Tasmania (from birth to death) is a member. The percentage is very much higher if we consider only those Tasmanians who are actually of volunteering age.

WILDCARE Inc, with its increasing volunteer membership, is one of the organisations meeting the Tasmania Together objective of increasing volunteer opportunities for Tasmanians, and will be featured accordingly in the upcoming Tas Together Progress Report.

Occupational Health and Safety has been a major focus over the past year for the Agencies we work with. It is important to realise that volunteers are entitled to the same safe working environment that a staff member is. There are many new ways of working being developed by the partner Agencies, some of which will impact directly on how our members work with staff. Just remember, although sometimes it may seem unnecessary, it is all about making sure that it is as safe as possible for you as a volunteer, when you agree to go along and assist staff with their work.

During the year Jo Field resigned from the positions of Treasurer and Editor, and it has been hard to replace her. I have expressed our thanks for Jo's fantastic efforts in a previous newsletter. Jennifer Partridge accepted the role of Editor (and this is her first edition — well done). Bob Cotgrove accepted the role of Treasurer, but as fate would have it, wasn't able to begin the work before the elections rolled around at

this AGM. (Thankfully Bob was happy to be nominated and was subsequently elected to the position later in the AGM).

Continued efforts of our members has resulted in 250,000 hours on project work during the year, plus wildlife care which amounts to many hundreds of thousands of hours as carers take on their charges 24 hours a day. We continue to have year round projects such as the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre, Low Head Maritime Museum, Island Caretaking and long term programs such as the Overland Hut Warden and the

Orange-bellied Parrot Monitoring programs. All amazing examples of extraordinary commitment by our members.

Once again **WILDCARE** provided in excess of \$40,000 to support small projects during the year.

This year we began to provide support to the Land for Wildlife Scheme — a DPIWE program that registers private

properties in recognition of the environmental and conservation management practices used by the landholder. Twenty eight **WILDCARE** members undertook the extensive Voluntary Land for

Wildlife Assessor training program and have been registering properties in the areas where they live. There are now over 400 properties registered with the Land for Wildlife Scheme throughout Tasmania and we hope sometime in the near future to

extend our on-ground volunteer support to the landowners when they undertake conservation work on their land.

Training has proceeded at a pace again this year. Training has included Team Building, Train the Trainer, First Aid and Whale Rescue as well as specific skills training relating to project activity.

A number of our groups have been successful in obtaining external community grants including Envirofund grants. These have included projects being run by Friends of Kate Reed Reserve CAREs, Mt Roland CAREs, Friends of Snake Island, NorthEast Wildlife Carer network and Friends of Lillico Beach Penguins.

This year saw the introduction of the Parks and Wildlife Service Volunteer Co-ordinators in each District. These people have been very helpful and we have a good working relationship with them, through the Community Partnerships Section of DPIWE and in particular through

Chris Lietch, DPIWE's Volunteer Engagement Facilitator. Volunteer Co-ordinators have been busy making sure that various processes



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WILDTIMES

Newsletter of **WILDCARE** Incorporated

Tasmania's largest incorporated volunteer organisation, caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage.

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E-mail: <office@wildcaretas.org.au>, <editor@wildcaretas.org.au>
(newsletter articles). Website: <www.wildcaretas.org.au>.



and agreements are up to date and properly used, have developed contacts with our members, co-ordinated specific programs and generally been very productive and helpful. Individual Rangers all across the State continue to work directly with our members and our CAREs groups and the relationship is healthy and productive.

New groups are still forming and our new Operating Guidelines for Branches have helped to clarify the processes and responsibilities associated with becoming a **WILDCARE** Inc group.



We are continuing to pursue registration for tax-deductible donations (DGR status). We have established a Gift Fund bank account, nominated members to the Management Committee and with the assistance of Skye Drake from Mark Cartledge Agency, one of our discount sponsors decided during the year to commit to an on-going donation to **WILDCARE** Inc to assist with the efforts to find out more and remedy the terrible facial tumour problems of Tasmanian Devils. Mark is donating an amount from every sale he makes, and although to date this is generating relatively small amounts of money, it indicates a commendable attitude and commitment on his part. So, thankyou very much Mark.

will hopefully attract some sizeable donations. In the meantime we still hold a \$10,000 donation from the Booth Trust

During the year the Board



of Management ratified the Branch Operating Guidelines, which are now on the web page. These guidelines are a simple addition to the process of forming a CAREs group and set out what things the group needs to do in order to meet the criterion associated with being a **WILDCARE** Inc group.

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During the year Phil Wyatt took on the voluntary job of webmaster, maintaining our web page and has been updating, posting notices and has developed a new calendar of events. His help has been efficient and creative. Those CAREs groups who still haven't got themselves up on the page should provide details based on the other CAREs group pages to me <acochair@wildcarea.org.au> and I will get it to Webmaster Phil.

And some final very important thankyou's. Firstly thankyou to Richard Hammond who has once again been a very productive Vice Chairperson. From around half way through the year he has taken on the role of Co-Chair (elected) and has nominated for the position for the coming year. Richard has been Vice Chair since **WILDCARE** Inc incorporated — an amazing commitment of time and dedication and energy. Thankyou Richard.

Secondly I wish to thank the Board members, particularly the Presidents of CAREs groups. This group of elected individuals is the backbone of the organisation and once again it has been a pleasure working with them.

Unfortunately, as a result of our gap in having a Treasurer, the books didn't get to the Auditor in time for an

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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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Email: cartledge.agency@microtech.com.au

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

auditors report to be done for this meeting. The Auditors Report and Financial Statements will be published in WILDTIMES so that all members can see them. I can report that **WILDCARE** Inc is a financially healthy organisation and gives every indication of continued growth.

Andrew Smith
Appointed Co-chair

Elected Co-chair report to AGM — 13-03-04

Co-chair amendments and delegations

At a Special general Meeting on 16/10/03, the constitution was amended to remove the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair and create the positions of Nominated Co-Chair and Elected Co-Chair. The major purpose of this move was to conclusively demonstrate to the Department that the organisation does not suffer a conflict of interest & to people outside the organisation that **WILDCARE** Inc is not run by the Department.

As a result of the SGM, the two co-chairs each assumed responsibility for a number of tasks previously undertaken by the Chair. The split-up of these responsibilities is shown in the table to the right, which was ratified by the Board of Management, also on 16/10/03.

Insurances

Following the immense jump in volunteer accident insurance premiums in December 2002, approaches were made to both DPIWE and DTPHA for assistance in meeting the escalated costs. DPIWE immediately gave us \$8,000 while DTPHA declined a request for \$6,000. Forestry Tasmania gave us \$1,000 for 2003 and promised a further \$1,500 for 2004. DPIWE also provided a further \$8,000 this year. DTPHA has now also paid \$12,500 with a proviso that it will not do so next year.

Individual Authorisations

A total of 520 email messages regarding individual authorisations were sent and received during the year. This resulted in the approval of some 200 individuals being authorised for varying periods of time from 1 day to “on-going” for such tasks as helping in bird counts, assisting the Rangers in maintaining the visitor facilities at cave sites and assisting

scientific members of staff in carrying out surveys.

The system of filling in forms on the web and submitting the requests that way is working well.

During the year, this system was instrumental in having overall departmental procedures for volunteers re-assessed so that OH&S guidelines are followed for all.

Go Wild project

Andrew and I met with the Go Wild project people, who have obtained approval to commence fundraising

and development proposals for the old Beaumaris Zoo site. We agreed that the project could hang a web page off our site and that future co-operation may include a **WILDCARE** Inc office within the new development. This would have the advantage of separating the **WILDCARE** office from the department, allowing for easier access to volunteers.

Gambusia project

The Friends of Tamar Island Wetlands group has achieved a grant for a study of Gambusia at the wetlands and beyond.

Role/task	Co-chair (elected)	Co-chair (nominated)
Financial approvals	All out of session expenditure approvals.	In absence of Co-chair (elected) with minuted agreement of Board of Management.
Ordering of goods	Saleable items	Newsletter Membership forms Membership cards Car stickers Reward vests
Meeting Chair	Board of Management meetings Special General Meetings	In absence of Co-chair (elected) In absence of Co-chair (elected)
Correspondence signature	External correspondence on behalf of the Board of Management	Internal Agency information to staff on behalf of the Board of Management
Office operations	None	Oversee operations of the WILDCARE Office volunteers, WILDCARE Admin Officer, and Editor.
Authorisation	Working bee call-ups — In absence of Co-chair (nominated) Individual authorisations	Working bee call-ups — approve for distribution/publication. During extended absence of Co-chair (elected) with formal minuted delegation of Board of Management
Community presentations, appearances and negotiations	As judged appropriate by Co-chairs	As judged appropriate by Co-chairs
Advice to CARes groups, Presidents and members	Secondary — In response to enquiries, as required	Primary — In response to enquiries, as required
Advice to Agency staff, other than authorisations	Secondary — In response to enquiries, as required	Primary — In response to enquiries, as required
Signature on Branch Operating Guidelines Instrument of Delegation	In absence of Co-chair (nominated)	On behalf of Co-chairs and WILDCARE Inc
Media	Primary	None

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our office volunteers, Lyn and Mike, for continuing to assist in keeping the membership database up to date as well as sending out call-up notices etc. They've done a sterling job for another year and we couldn't get along without them.

I'd also like to put on record our thanks to all Rangers and other staff who work with our members.

Finally, I'd like to express my appreciation for Andrew's help support and advice during the year, particularly in the last few months when we were splitting up & finalising our individual responsibilities.

Richard Hammonds
Elected Co-chair

Workshop topics and outcomes

The Conference focus was "What are

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the keys to building and maintaining our relationships with or partners?"

The following topics and outcomes were raised and addressed by the membership at the Conference. These outcomes/recommendations will be considered by the Board of Management as a guide for their actions over the next 12 months. The ratings have been determined by the Conference as an indication of urgency and priority. The higher the rating, the higher the urgency.

Defining Communication Processes (Memo of Understanding) Rating 33

Leader: David Geoghegan

Participants: Susan, Rodney, Ken, Ian, Pam, Sue, PK, Tara, Peter, David

Key discussion points/outcomes/recommendations:

- Intra **WILDCARE** Inc. Volunteer Facilitator workshops to define parameters as to what type of tasks do **WILDCARE** volunteers do? Outcomes presented to partners.
- **WILDCARE** — Government Departments — MOU. Andrew/Richard to approach Departments to develop MOU to set protocols on establishing and then maintaining volunteer programs.
- **WILDCARE** to lobby for full-time Volunteer Co-ordinator/Community Liaison Officer per District to engage volunteers and dismantle firewalls between government departments and the community.
- **WILDCARE** to encourage government departments to foster a positive change in culture within line managers/rangers and enable training courses for this outcome.

WILDSC'OOOL — is it feasible? Rating 26

Leader: Andrew Smith

Participants: All delegates

Key discussion points/outcomes/recommendations:



- Good idea, long overdue and a real need.
- Involve schools, parents.
- Link to school yard developments (environmental activity) and school commitment.

- Environmental education base to build levels of awareness and concern, and action.

- Train Volunteer Educators to be available to schools and field centres.

- Offer a range of opportunities and themes to schools reflecting the volunteer expertise and interests.

- Link Volunteer Educators to specific

field centres to respond to school request made at the centre.

- Volunteer Educators adopt their own school(s).
- Include private schools.
- Develop and provide education/teaching materials.
- Some existing educational work occurring (eg. wildlife carers, Tamar Island Wetlands Centre) but largely unsupported.
- Need to link with Essential Learnings framework.
- Possible out-of-school program?
- Seek support from the Tasmanian Community Fund.

Actions:

1. Call a planning meeting of interested people to create a working group to design and guide the project
2. Try pilot scheme with an individual school or school cluster, and field centre.
3. Seek funding, either internal, Agency or external grant funds.
4. Following trial — offer and develop WILDSC'OOOL partnerships with participating schools.



Bob Cotgrove

General Community and Non-Government Awareness of WILDCARE Inc Rating 21

Leader: Ken Sheperd

Participants: Tara Hewitt, David
Illustrations from the AGM by Des Shield.

Geoghegan, Richard Hammond, Teague Peterson, Susanne Rose

Key discussion points/outcomes/recommendations:

- CSA TV and Radio.
- Try to broaden out.
- Posters and brochures.
- Public awareness to visiting tourists and long term visitors to State (Grey Nomads) via markets (Salamanca etc), library, ferries, airports and Grey Nesters through local community radio and newspapers.
- Implement the WILDCARE program to raise recognition with young people.
- Business and private sponsorship, DGR donations, with no strings attached.
- In general create greater community awareness of WILDCARE Inc to enhance and expand membership and activities.



WILDCARE Volunteers in the Land for Wildlife Scheme (Nature Conservation on Private Land) Rating 6

Leader: Iona Mitchell

Participants: Susanne Rose, Pam Chapman

Key discussion points/outcomes/recommendations:

- Greater information about the Land for Wildlife (LFW) Scheme and how WILDCARE members can be involved.
- Interest in LFW Volunteer Assessors training.
- Sources for funding for private property owners.
- More information on aspects related to 1080 poisoning alternatives, and identification of native plant nurseries for revegetation projects.
- WILDCARE membership form has LFW tick box, but greater more active involvement by members in Scheme.
- Recommended Training opportunities for habitat restoration, native grass or other species identifications, levels of skills with which to be able to participate, how best can WILDCARE members assist property owners, identification of groups involved

with various projects (regionally and who to contact, or means by which can be involved (greater communication of this information), greater diversity of projects other than adopt-a-track.



- Establishment of LFW groups in Regions (eg Tas Peninsula) with WILDCARE members interested in nature conservation on private land.
- Promotion of local government in LFW Scheme.
- Reservation of private land for perpetual preservation, conservation of important habitats — how is this done?

Danger (Potential) of WILDCARE Volunteers being "exploited" by doing mundane work that should be done by paid employees. Rating 2

Leader: Bob Cotgrove

Participants: (Not recorded)

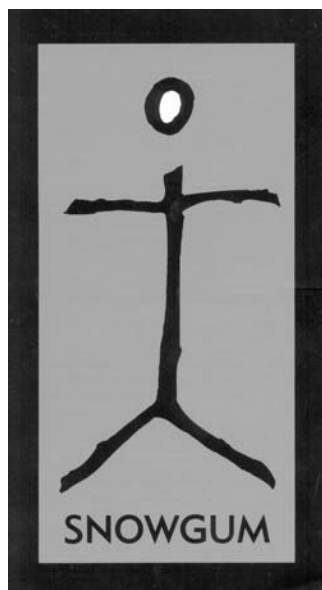
Key discussion points/outcomes/recommendations:

- Volunteer groups reported good relationships with PWS. The general feeling is that if volunteers were expected to do too much, that they have the freedom to withdraw their volunteer activity.

Annual General Meeting outcomes

- Richard Hammond was elected to the position of Co-Chair (Elected)
- Bob Cotgrove was elected to the position of Treasurer
- Phil Ripper was re-appointed to the position of Auditor
- Membership fees remain unchanged at \$25pa
- Chair and Vice Chair Reports given.
- Presidents elected by their group membership acknowledged (Eva Brockman, Peter Franklin, Julie Nermutt and Rodney Milner)
- Financial Report unavailable at meeting as, due to the gap in Treasurers there had been a delay getting the books to the Auditor. The Auditors Report and Financial Statements will be provided to members in the Newsletter.

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Board of Management for 2004

Richard Hammond

Co-Chair (Elected) — elected at AGM

Andrew Smith

Co-Chair (Appointed) — nominated by Agency

Bob Cotgrove

Treasurer — elected at AGM

Kathryn Gatenby

Secretary — nominated by Agency

CARes Presidents

Elected by their group membership

Peter Franklin Mt Field

Eva Brockman Wilmot Heritage Trails

Julie Nermutt Tamar Island

Wetlands Centre

Rodney Milner Kate Reed

David Reynolds Maria Island

Mark Omay Claytons/Melaleuca

Christian Bell Kent Group

Barry Hebbard Lillico Beach

Peter Cox Low Head Maritime Museum

Jill Thiele Maatsuyker Island

David Wools-Cobb Karstcare (Mole Creek)

Angie McGowen Mountain Festival

David Welch Outlook Mt Roland

Greg Baxter Snake Island

Steve Bunton Southern Caves

Andrew Hingston Mt Nelson

Brenton Wheare Freycinet

Kathy Butler Wild West Coast

E Henry Adventure Bay

Jamie Cooper Wild Weeders

Judy Synott Wildlife Rescue North West

Lorraine McDonald Wildlife Rescue Tamar

Peter Power Wildlife Carers North East

Susan Henry Tasmanian Trail Volunteers

Mark Williams Fishcare Volunteers North

Mike Heran Fishcare Volunteers North West

Mike Cawthorn Fishcare Volunteers North East

Partner Organisation Representatives

Alistair Scott Nature Conservation

Peter Mooney Parks and Wildlife Service

Jo Lyngcoln Cultural Heritage

Avril Brown Wild Fisheries

New email contacts for WILDCARE Inc

Richard Hammond was elected to the Co-Chair (elected) position at the recent AGM. Richard's new email address is <ecochair@wildcaretas.org.au>. This replaces the old Vice Chair address. Andrew Smith is the Co-Chair (appointed). Andrew's new email address is <acochair@wildcaretas.org.au>. This replaces the old Chair address. The new Co-chair arrangement reinforces the partnership relationship between WILDCARE Inc and the Agency.

individual WILDCARE Inc volunteers to assist staff of partner organisations now needs to go to Richard at <ecochair@wildcaretas.org.au>.

This request for Individual Authorisation must be completed by your partner organisation that is leading the project. If they use the live Authorisation Form on the web site, the submit button has been adjusted to go to this new address.

Working Bees

Requests for working bee call-up to membership should be addressed to

<Office@wildcaretas.org.au>.

A working bee call-up can be requested by a CARes President or a staff member of our partner organisations. If you are using the live working bee request form on the web site, the submit button has been adjusted to go to this address.

Funding Applications

All applications for WILDCARE Inc funding assistance must now be completed on the live Funding Application Form on the web. Submissions must be completed jointly with your partner organisation. The Submit button automatically forwards the application to the Co-Chair (Appointed) for distribution to the members of the Board of Management.

Editor WILDTIMES

Article submissions should be forwarded to Jennifer Partridge <Editor@wildcaretas.org.au>. Article text should not be formatted, other than an indication of headings. Electronic photos should be attached separately from the text.

Treasurer

Bob Cotgrove was elected to this position at the AGM. Correspondence to Bob should be addressed to <Treasurer@wildcaretas.org.au>.

CALL UP NOTICE

Maatsuyker Is. Weeding Prgm.

A working bee will be held on Maatsuyker Island for two weeks in early September 2004 or (if weather prevents) in May 2005 to remove weeds (blackberries and montbretia). These months have been chosen to minimise impact on the island's seabird rookeries and to maximise effectiveness of the weeding program.

Expressions of interest are sought from WILDCARE volunteers to live and work on the island for the duration of the weeding program. Volunteers must be physically fit, capable of working outdoors in all weather

conditions, and able to live and work as part of team in this beautiful, but remote, part of the South West National Park and World Heritage Area.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Friends of Maatsuyker Island for an information package and to register your interest by 15 JULY 2004.

Email: <MaatsuykerIsland@bigpond.com>. Phone: Karen Ziegler 03 6239 6092, Fiona Taylor 03 6227 1118, or Lynette Kay 03 6239 6884.

Envirofund Grant Awarded to Mount Roland CAREs Group

Outlook Mt Roland (Mount Roland CAREs Group) is very pleased to have recently been awarded a \$6,455 grant from the EnviroFund/Natural Heritage Trust for three interpretative projects providing visitors with ecological information relative to the Mt Roland Regional Reserve and adjacent O'Neills Creek Picnic Reserve. The Reserves are located in Gowrie Park, between Sheffield and the Cradle Mt World Heritage Area.

Specifically the funding will be used to develop:

- A botanical identification brochure describing successive plant communities encountered along the

Mt Roland track from foothills to summit. Typical representative species, plus unusual or rare species will be depicted for each community. Pertinent ecological information pertaining to each zone, such as soil types, fire recovery etc will also be included.

- A bird identification brochure describing key species typically associated with the various habitats and vegetation communities found along the Mt Roland walking track.
- A large interpretative signboard for the O'Neills Creek Picnic Reserve adjacent to the Mt Roland Regional Reserve. This will include brief descriptions and drawings or photos of key natural and historical

resources within the Picnic Reserve and Regional Reserve. For example, identification of vegetation communities and typical wildlife species; a geological description of Mt Roland and its historical significance in the founding of Cradle Mountain National Park (the Weindorfer's 1906 honeymoon).

The projects will be completed during 2004–2005 under sponsoring and contributing partnerships between **WILDCARE** Inc, Parks and Wildlife Service and the Kentish Council. For further information about these projects or Outlook Mt Roland, please contact Outlook Mt Roland, PO Box 254, Sheffield 7306. Phone 6491 2213 or 6491 1317.

Annie Heyes
Treasurer
Outlook Mt Roland

WILDCARE member awarded Earthwatch Fellowship

Jennifer Partridge of Carlton Beach has recently been the recipient of a KPMG Employee Earthwatch Fellowship. As one of two KPMG employees nationally awarded a fully funded fellowship, Jennifer was able to take part in the New Zealand Dolphins Earthwatch Expedition.

Jennifer joined an international team of Earthwatch volunteers at the Kaikoura Peninsula, New Zealand, working with Dr. Bernd Wursig of the Texas A&M University as they gathered key data on dolphins which are one of the best indicators of overall ocean health. The purpose of this research is to investigate the biology and behaviour of dolphins and other marine animals in order to determine the impact of disturbance

by humans.

Jennifer and other volunteers rotated between tracking dolphin movements from land, and taking data on dolphin ecology and behaviour at sea. Photo-ID pictures were also taken to gather data on which individuals are most frequently sighted in the area.

Earthwatch is a global organisation that supports scientific field research by placing volunteers in the field to work with scientists. It is not necessary to have a scientific background as all the required skills are learnt on the project. It is only necessary to have a natural curiosity, enthusiasm and willingness to work as part of a team.

KPMG participates in a partnership with Earthwatch in order to provide staff with the opportunity for personal and professional development through action learning and improved environmental and cultural understanding. This seeks to reinforce KPMG's commitment to environmental stewardship by



An aerobic Dusky Dolphin.

spreading greater awareness of environmental issues throughout the company.

KPMG have also agreed to donate \$1,000 to **WILDCARE** for assistance in running the whale rescue training courses and the re-print of the "Tell us what you see whale rescue identification guide" as part of Jennifer's Fellowship.

Although Jennifer's Earthwatch expedition was generously sponsored by KPMG, Earthwatch expeditions are open to the general public. Any **WILDTIMES** readers interested in finding out more information on Earthwatch expeditions can do so by visiting their website at www.earthwatch.org/australia or ring 03 9682 6828.

Kaikoura — the land of the long white cloud.



Melaleuca Working Bee

When the weather in Hobart turns south easterly, and the forecast is for a week of solid rain where do all the smart people head? Why, Melaleuca of course!

And this was exactly the story on 27 January when Senior Ranger Mike Garner, Volunteer Facilitator Craig Saunders and six keen **WILDCARE** volunteers headed for the south west. With the weather closing in behind us we flew west into the sunshine for an 11-day program of general maintenance of the Visitor Services Site (VSS) at Melaleuca.

Our plan was to perform some 'catch up' maintenance on the numerous buildings and other facilities dotted around the airstrip at Melaleuca. We had plans for the walkers' huts, the bird-hide, the airstrip storage shelter, the staff quarters and anything else that got in our way!

Thanks to the good weather and of course a great team, we managed a good deal of what we set out to do. We cleaned, we painted buildings, we painted signs, we installed signs, we

repaired tracks, we 'serviced' the landing strip, we pulled weeds, we built a new hut door and steps and we totally reorganised the store/workshop under the staff quarters. And we still had heaps of time for fun!

We managed to fit in a 'recreation day' and with the help of Parks dinghy Raja and ferry captain Mike Garner

The Melaleuca 2004 team.



we 'bagged' Mt Beattie via the recently constructed track leading up from the house at Claytons Corner.

All in all both staff and volunteers had a great time at Melaleuca and were well satisfied with the maintenance outcomes. Is this the first annual trip to this remote but important spot?

Craig Saunders

PWS Huonville



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- Souvenirs
- Clothing - fleecy jackets, vests, ponchos, raincoats, t shirts
- Posters
- And more

Maatsuyker Island Working Bee: 10-19* March 2004

Following an exhaustive (it was for PWS staff anyway) volunteer recruitment and equipment preparation phase it was a highly qualified bunch that gathered at Moss Glen helipad at Recherche Bay on Wednesday 10 March 2004. Our mission was to fly several tonnes of miscellaneous building materials, hardware and tools to Maatsuyker Island by helicopter and then follow ourselves for a 10 day project on the island.

In particular our brief was to 'weatherproof' several of the island's buildings in an attempt to halt some serious deterioration. This involved re-roofing a storage shed at the head of the island's disused haulage way,

*(*We planned to come home on the 19th but strong winds delayed the helicopter until the 20th)*



Maatsuyker volunteers replacing cladding on workshop wall.

re-roofing and re-walling the 'red shed', (used as a gas bottle storage), re-cladding and framing a wall of the workshop, re-building a fence at the head light keeper's house (Q1) and replacing rotten underfloor timbers in the same building.

Our team consisted of PWS project coordinator Craig Saunders, hired help builder Greg Gill and 8 of the best qualified **WILDCARE** volunteers that money(?) could buy. We boasted an architect, plumber, carpenter, electrician, fitter, physicist and two very skilled amateur painters — truly one of the best qualified volunteer crews I've worked with!

Accommodation on the island was palatial — two to a bedroom in the

vacated light keepers' houses Q2 and Q3 with all the cooking done in the communal kitchen in Q2. With limited space and facilities available in the kitchen we had decided to have a group cooking roster — each member cooked for the whole group for just one night. This worked well, with everyone trying to 'out-cook' the rest resulting in some wonderful banquets followed by evening story telling. Lights went out when the generator stopped at 10pm, unless you were sleeping in Q3 where we didn't discover that the power was on until day 7!

During the days we worked hard to get the jobs done but still had time for guided tours of the island's tourist spots — the light tower, the seal haulout and the weather station. In the evenings and early mornings there were many photography and shearwater (mutton birds) watching expeditions.

Our project team was ably supported by the island's volunteer caretakers Cliff and Gail (yes, that's their real names), and by Suzy the island taxi. Being invited into Q1 out of the wind for scones and tea was a real treat.

At the end of the 10 days (which turned into 11 days as 50 knot winds kept us pinned down for an extra day) we had had lots of fun, completed all the work and had only used the first aid kits for one bandaid! By any estimate this was a successful trip — thanks to the wonderful efforts of a great crew. Well done team!

Craig Saunders
PWS Huonville

Hut Wardens Program at Waterfall Valley

Hi there in Sunny Tasmania

My son Lachlan and I walked the Overland Track during the period 6–17 January and I would like to place on record the outstanding contribution to our walk made by Martin Daniel when he was on duty at the Waterfall Valley Hut.

We had a long, tiring, first day and upon arriving very late at the Waterfall Valley Hut, Martin found space for us in what were very crowded conditions. The weather deteriorated that night and Martin's advice to stay in the hut rather than erect our tent was very much appreciated.

A walkers' alert was issued the next day and we stayed in the hut for another night. During that time we received a great deal of information and advice about the Track and local conditions from Martin. I observed Martin interacting with other walkers

and was impressed by the quiet but authoritative way in which he provided information and answered the wide range of questions. Many of the walkers approached Martin individually with specific questions and he was always willing to share his knowledge and experience. There were several international visitors and Martin proved to be an excellent ambassador.

There were many highlights during our walk but the standout was the welcome we received at Waterfall Valley Hut and Martin's advice and assistance. Of all the Parks staff we had dealings with, and while taking nothing away from them, I rate Martin's contribution as by far the most friendly, practical and beneficial. My views are shared by other walkers I spoke to later.

Regards
Ray Sellers



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Lillico Beach Conservation Reserve

Eastern end mesh fence made escape proof for Penguins

When first installed some years ago the penguin fence at Lillico Beach had not been buried deep enough to keep determined penguins off the road. So it was removed and a new one erected, with 30cm buried (that should stop them!), and extending higher above ground. Senior Ranger Jans Howe organised the materials and a lot of the tools and Lexie Paul "supervised" the crew until the fence was to her liking.

Extreme holidaying

Power-break 1

Three Italian brothers — Nicola, Andrea and Paola Ossala arrived in Sydney, looked at a map of Australia to find remote spots away from the tourist traps. They picked Tasmania to

the South and North West Western Australia to the North. Only two days in Tasmania, certainly a power break. They made an excellent selection, visiting the Lillico Beach Conservation Area first where they were absolutely mesmerised by the sight of the penguins leaving the water after dark. At eleven o'clock they left Lillico to go to Cradle Mountain for day two. They then flew to Western Australia on the third day.

Power-break 2

Taka is a student from Japan who flew into Melbourne with only one aim — to visit Tasmania for one week. He had been making a detailed study in Japan of Tasmania. To visit was his obsession. After visiting the Lillico Beach Conservation Area he went to Narawntapu National Park where he was impressed with the new visitors centre, but was most impressed with

the peace and quiet of the Park after the noise and hustle of Japan. Walking the unpolluted white sand on the beach with only Hooded Plovers running on ahead was special. After finishing his present studies in Japan Taka will be coming back to Tasmania to study environmental science at the University of Tasmania.

Penguins in verse

Our old interpretive sign at Lillico was getting a bit worse for wear so Senior Ranger John Cowburn wrote to us suggesting we get the same signs as used at the Nut State Reserve. The verse text was written by Allison Hamilton who served two "terms" at Lillico as a Summer Ranger. The drawings were especially commissioned and they are really excellent. The signs were installed by the Rangers from Ulverstone. Want to know what the verse says? Drop in next time you are passing Lillico Beach and see first hand!

Friends of Mt Field adopt Lake Newdegate Hut

Mt Field National Park's own WILDCARE CAREs group 'Friends of Mt Field' (FOMF) has recently decided to take on the maintenance of one of the many historic huts in the park. On Sunday 28 March 2004 a party from FOME, local senior ranger Mark Pharaoh and PWS Heritage Officer Jo Lyngcoln visited the huts at Twilight Tarn and Lake Newdegate. After inspecting both huts it was immediately obvious that the Twilight Tarn hut would be a huge project and that the group was better placed to at



Friends group president Peter Franklin with the group at Newdegate Hut.

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least start work with the 'simpler' Lake Newdegate Hut.

This hut, as with many in the Park, was originally a private skiing hut, built in 1935–36 by the Ski Club of Tasmania to complement the existing hut at nearby Twilight Tarn. Materials for the hut were transported to the site by packhorse. The hut is clad with corrugated iron and framed from mainly local timbers (pencil pine).

Friends of Mt Field aim to complete immediate repairs and maintenance as detailed in the hut's Plan of Management and the first working bee

Continued next page...

The DAGs for the Dave Burrows Walk

DAGs? Dave Burrows? His Walk? Never heard of any of them? Perhaps naturally so — we are new and we are small but we are here.

In the early days, as we started putting ideas together for a group to share the thinking and work to look after a piece of coast, we checked out the **WILDCARE**s website and saw some of the groups which exist — Cradle Valley, the Kent Group, Maatsuyker, Mt Field, Tamar Wetlands et al. We thought to ourselves, who the dickens are we to think about joining such august company?

But it didn't take us long to realise that size doesn't matter — it is what we were doing that does.

And so with splendid help and support from Parks' Craig Saunders, Kingborough Council's Barry Hardwick and some others from Council, extensive consultation in our neighbourhood and much brainstorming we crystallised our thoughts and began the process of putting it all together. Many wanted to "get stuck into the work" straight away but we were patient and concentrated on getting the platform right first.

And so it came to pass that on 6 October last year Mark Bryce District Manager Huonville approved our Site Plan and notified DPIWE of the formation of a new CAREs group, and we were born.

DAG? The Derwent Avenue Group. Amongst friends we refer to ourselves as the DAGs — after all we don't want to take ourselves too seriously, we'll reserve that for the what we do.

Dave Burrows? The late Dave Burrows, a long time resident of this

...Continued from previous page

...too place on the weekend 1–2 May 2004. This working bee assessed future works, improved drainage around the hut, replaced some broken glass, fix the cladding and painted the exterior.

If you're interested in getting involved in this project contact Friends president Peter Franklin on 6228 4889 or email <pfranklin@trump.net.au>.

area who espoused the values and vision we have put in place for this area.

The Walk? It seemed like a good title — because the site is traversed by a simple track that Dave Burrows made by walking along it for many years.

Putting it all together — we are The Derwent Avenue Group for the Dave Burrows Walk.

Where is it? What is it? What are you doing with it? Who's who?

As Craig Saunders put it so succinctly when he told DPIWE of our birth "The group plans to manage a small section of coastal reserve at Baretta, 1–2 km south of Margate. This section of reserve suffers from many of the pressures common to much of our more 'urban' coastline: encroaching

suburbia, weeds, tree clearing etc."

We are ever so tiny — the strip of coast is around 600–700 meters long and probably on average some 25 meters wide. The strip comprises mainly State Coastal Reserve but there is a small parcel of Kingborough Council owned Public Open Space adjoining it in one part; Council have approved for us to manage that space jointly with the State reserve.

Our vision is to maintain the area as a Community asset to preserve its natural values and recreational opportunities. The Walk is characterised by its natural value which comprises coastal open woodland including some animal habitat, a mainly rocky foreshore, a saltmarsh at the western extremity and a number of items representing human use and impact.

Vegetation includes and is dominated by various eucalypts, blackwoods, native cherry, banksias, a range of understorey plants, with saags and poas at the grasses end. There is some

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evidence of past area use as an orchard in some wild fruit trees. There are a number of environmental weeds present notably boneseed, blackberry, cotoneaster, briar rose, broom and Spanish Heath as well as common or garden weeds.

The Site Plan for the Walk comprehends:

- protection and maintenance of its environmental and visual values,
- protection, maintenance and/or enhancement of existing coastal processes and landforms,

- limited recreational use, ensuring an adequate, appropriate and safe level of access, and
- ensuring that flora and fauna identified as warranting protection and conservation are afforded suitable management.

Strategies under the Plan include:

- removal and/or control of environmental weeds,
- natural regeneration of local plant species wherever possible,
- general care and maintenance of vegetation and animal habitat,
- removal of waste and rubbish, and

- maintenance and enhancement of existing recreational use.

As a new group, we have only just commenced work formally; we can see some progress but we have started on a long and pleasurable journey.

DAG Convenor is Dinah Jones (6267 1927); Secretary is Gordon Bain (6267 2143, <HausBain2@bigpond.com>) — we live in Derwent Avenue (Nos 26 and 32 respectively) and our properties adjoin the Walk. Come and visit — call first or just drop in.

Waterfall Valley Rescues

Autumn leaves are swirling to the ground as I write about the happenings in my last stint, for this year, at Waterfall Valley as a Volunteer Track Warden.

A few weeks ago I was watching the mists swirl around Barns Bluff and the Rotor-lift Search and rescue helicopter swirl up into the blue carrying walkers that had done an injury to themselves while walking the Overland Track in April.

In the night before the first evacuation a coincidence happened — or was it?

The Hut was full. Walkers slept on the floor. One young male walker left an intelligent digital camera on the floor where he slept. It was handed to me for safe keeping, after the walker had left for Windermere. I knew he would be back. Message, per radio, was passed to me that he was returning in the morning. He brought me the message that a lady walker had injured an ankle near the turn-off to Lake Will. He was given his camera and a message to pass onto the lady that I would be with her at 1000 hrs. Base was radioed to alert them to stand-by as I was setting off to look into the situation and would radio back.

They were a couple from North Queensland. Passing Waterfall the night before it was obvious, by the number of tents, that it was crowded. Their old map showed Cirque Hut. They decided to go there. It couldn't be found. The two camped in the area just off the track. Camp was broken early on a frosty morn. The target for the day was Pelion. They didn't make



it. Before coming out into the Alpine Moor area the lady slipped and heard the crack of a broken bone. Her husband supported the ankle with a bandage and had her lying on the track with the ankle resting on her backpack. She had been horizontal, on the track, for two hours by the time I reached them. Base was radioed and details given and my opinion was that the ankle was more than sprained and it was a case for evacuation. The search and Rescue Crew arrived and set down beside the track, a little over an hour later. The evacuation was complete and Cradle notified by 12 noon. She had been laying on the track for 4 hours. Can you imagine what it would have been like during foul weather? Luckily the weather was kind that day. Can you imagine the time it would have taken without the proximity of radios and Volunteer Track Wardens stationed at Waterfall Valley?

A middle-aged male walker, in wet conditions, slipped coming down into Waterfall a week later. Nothing was reported to me when they, a party of five from NSW, arrived in. They decided among themselves to rest for a day. The next day the injured man came

to me. His party had left for Windermere. He couldn't walk out with a back pack. I offered to carry his pack to return to Cradle. It was his opinion, in the conditions, that to walk was impossible for him. I radioed base and reported. He was not going to walk out. Luckily the Search and Rescue were at Pelion picking up a young walker unable to go further due to sickness. The pilot made the decision to fly to Waterfall and pick up the injured walker there as well. Once again, Cradle was radioed that the evacuation was complete. Again, completed within a short time. How long would it take without a volunteer in this area?



Somebody stationed within the area is imperative. These injured walkers were well equipped and experienced. We, at Waterfall, are seeing too many walkers ill-equipped mentally, physically and gear-wise. The future will be busy rescuing the ill-equipped walkers all over Tasmania. Education for them must be continued in every way about our walking conditions in Tasmania. Either volunteers (economical) or Summer Rangers must be out and about on all our tracks.

Bill Forsyth
WILDCARE Track Warden
Waterfall Valley

TASMANIAN TRAIL TASMANIAN TRAIL

Progress report for the Tasmanian Trail

The concept of long distance trekking is not new. This island was originally explored on foot and on horseback. The small communities transported themselves and their goods to and from Hobart and eventually Launceston using horse and cart. It is part of our cultural heritage that was eventually faded

have to carry all your gear yourself. Accessibility to many campsites also means that you can use back up vehicles for even greater comfort.

Management of the Trail has been with a committee comprised from representatives from the government departments involved in the land management issues connected with

last year. Because there have been so many changes in the expectations for business, government, land management, and volunteers over the past 2 or 3 years particularly, the Committee has been working to modernise the Trail management to reflect the community's concerns.

It is expected that the Trail will have even more community involvement as only the locals know what is happening in their area. We like to see the benefits from the Trail users going directly to the small communities through which the Trail passes. Users of the Trail gain their most memorable experiences from the people they meet along the way.

Our approach is to include all the stakeholders, Sport and Recreation, Parks Wildlife Service, Tourism Tasmania, Forestry, Hydro, and private landowners to lift the profile of

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Coordinator Rowena Neward gets down to business.

with the advent of the motor vehicle. It is interesting to note that the use of mountain bikes is increasing awareness of the community to an accessible adventure recreation alternative to bushwalking.

R.M. Williams' legacy to Australians was the Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) where as he put it you "get to know yourself and find out if your own company is good enough". The Tasmanian Trail Association provides an opportunity for this type of discovery here in Tasmania. The Trail is a multi-purpose recreation trail serving non-motorised users, principally bike riders, horse riders and walkers. The advantage of the Tasmanian Trail is you can take a pack animal, horse, donkey or llama and not

the Trail, and representatives from the landowners, the community and one paid employee, the Trail Coordinator. The Trail has been in use for 8 years and is now ready for an increase in profile. The concept for multi-purpose recreation was a new one here to be formalised and it has been found to work well. The Association is very pleased with the gradual increase in interest from overseas as well as the mainland. Renewals for the landowner agreements are being updated to reflect the current economic climate and issues relating to insurance and liability. We have a new Coordinator, Rowena Howard, who is young and enthusiastic and very knowledgeable about these issues. Rowena has had big shoes to fill from the last Coordinator, Chris Boden, who retired

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the Trail, establish a realistic budget, improve the campsite facilities at a faster rate, increase the number of campsites, and commence linking other trails to the Tasmanian Trail to enhance the trekking experience.

Trails for mountain bikes is a huge potential to promote our alternative tourist experience. We have the climate, the topography, the small communities, and with the opportunity to build on the access we have already established, it is the ideal way to go. The bush walking experience in the National Parks is only a small part of what this island has to offer. The cultural heritage and the taste of topographical difference can be experienced very closely with long distance trekking. Trails such as the Tasmanian Trail can be accessed from any point along the way and are constantly used by the local population in the normal course of their recreation. The Committee supports Rowena in her individual approach to the relevant stakeholders, where she is indicating the increasing benefits to them and the communities along the Trail.

I expect this year of 2004 to be a stimulating and exciting one for the Trail that will enhance the opportunities for alternative recreation for Tasmanians and for visitors.

Susan Henry
President Tasmanian Trail
Association.



Karlene Smith of Blackwood Creek and Peter Pangas of Hydro.

Community Spirit and Government Partnerships

Without community support and solid state government relationships the Tasmanian Trail would not exist today. The Tasmanian Trail Association are grateful to individuals such as Karlene Smith of Blackwood creek, who alert the Association to maintenance issues along the Trail in their local neighbourhood and for the open mindedness and vision of government employees such as Peter Pangas of Hydro Tasmania who offer assistance in realising the potential of the Tasmanian Trail today.

True spirit

The true spirit of the Tasmanian Trail is the people who live along the way and help people tackling it.

The 480km epic journey stretching from Devonport to Dover — continues to attract a lot of interest. It is popular with horse riders, mountain bikers and walkers, who tackle either the whole trip or parts of it.

As the Trail passes by their property, Sandra and Kevin Norris of Railton have helped and advised many a starter on the Tasmanian Trail.

Having often ridden the northern section, they have recently completed a 260 km chunk of it from Roscarborough south of Great Lake to Dover in 8 days. Kevin rode with Geraldine Taylor, Dawn McNichol and his daughter Allison Hicks. Sandra drove one of the support vehicles.

Dawn had to pull out at Lachlan after her husband was involved in an accident. She is a very determined horsewoman who has completed more than 2000 kms of the National Trail, and is returning to the mainland later this year to complete it.

The party was joined by John Woolley from Judbury, who helps people on the southern section of the Tasmanian Trail, in much the same way as Kevin does in the north.

Rubbish — have your say

Are you frustrated about litter? Would you like to have a say in drafting new litter legislation?

The Tasmanian Litter Act 1973 is currently being reviewed with the intention of providing modern offence provisions, including realistic disincentives for 'bush dumping'.

The public consultation phase for the Litter Act review officially begins on 1st June 2004 and runs

for 8 weeks.

If you would like to comment during the public consultation phase for the review of the Litter Act 1973, please contact Maree Bakker at the Environment Division at DPIWE on 6233 6599. Maree can provide you with a copy of the Litter Act Review Issues and Option Paper or that paper can be found after 1st June at <www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/environment> under the 'hot topics' section.

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"John knows the Trail backwards from Lachlan to Dover and has a heart of gold. He will support groups on the trail that he hears about, and enjoyed guiding us through," Kevin said.

Former State Operations Manager for Tasrail, Kevin said, "If we see people on the Trail, we ask if there is any way we can help. We leave our phone number with them in case they get into trouble. In the past, we have arranged for vets and farriers to catch up with groups on the Trail.

"We have backed up several interstate parties for the whole Trail, and they have said to us that the trail is the best kept secret in Tasmania."

The Tasmanian Trail slices through Tasmania's core, linking fire trails, country roads and the occasional private driveway. The Trail is teeming with recreational, cultural, historical and nature-based attractions. It leads anyone who accepts its challenge through Tasmania's forests, farmlands, highland plateaus and historic townships.

Rob Macaulay, 52, a Melbourne lawyer, recently tried running the Trail from end to end — but this is no ordinary marathon. Rob Macaulay has completed long-distance runs in Morocco, the Himalayas and several events in Australia, but he ran into some logistical problems on the Tasmanian Trail.

"It was a self-contained run so I was running with a pack on my back with tent, sleeping bag, water and some snacks. The pack weighed around 10–11 kgs and I only weigh about 60 kgs so I had to walk up some of the steep hills and run down."

"In the end I pulled out at Ouse. Next time I will tackle the Trail in slower stages. I will spend more time to appreciate its beauty. This time was too much head down and bum up for that."

"Some people might call me a nutter but at least I'm an experienced nutter", said Rob.

"We live in a largely artificial environment, and the trail gets you away from that. It re-unites us with what we should have been."

Rob said there is a great opportunity

to turn a 100km section of the Tasmanian Trail (probably in the north-west) into an Ultra-Marathon course.

"It would take a lot of work but it would attract a lot of interest", Rob said.

John Cannon

Alf Byes Shack

Some could be forgiven for believing that the soul of a man can linger in a place for years. At least that's how I felt when I stood inside the shack where Alf Bye used to live and work north of the Great Lakes.

Alf Bye was a local legend of the highlands in Tasmania. According to historical reports published by the Sunday Examiner Alf once ran 1000 sheep over this 1600 acre property from where I stood. According to Fran Voss of the Sunday Examiner, "he could pick up the trail of lost sheep from a broken twig on the ground that would confound younger eyes, and work a 20 hour day without flinching; sleep the night in a hollow log if he got fog bound while possum hunting or plough through deep snow drifts on his horse, Sloper, to find lost sheep". He was known as a tough man but fair and straight as an arrow.

Although no longer alive, today the legacy of Alf Bye remains in the presence of buildings and stables built of hand split timber and corrugated iron. The rustic setting of pioneer days gone by will hopefully in the future provide an enchanting refuge for both man and horse after a day's travel along the Tasmanian Trail.

Recently Hydro Tasmania who owns and manages Alf's old property, approached the Tasmanian Trail Association with the idea of the TTA taking some management control of the shelters which once belonged to Alf and using the site as a potential campsite for people accessing the Tasmanian Trail.

The idea is exciting and in character with what the Tasmanian Trail represents and in general the committee for the Tasmanian Trail Association believe this would be a positive move and are looking forward

to organising further discussions with Hydro Tasmania in the future to explore the matter further.

Celebration for a small construction crew

The Tasmanian Trail Association recently provided afternoon tea and issued 'certificates of appreciation' in recognition of the selfless teamwork and a job well done by a young construction crew, their teacher and his helpers. Thanks to their hard work and determination Trailblazers journeying along the Tasmanian Trail can now seek shelter beneath the newly erected shelter located at the Glenora District High School Grounds.



Ken Shepherd — leading hand at Glenora School grounds.

The Trail Shelter project was a fantastic example of a great partnership between the Glenora District High School, which encouraged students to be involved in community based learning. All of which was made possible by the department of Sport and Recreation Tasmania who provided funding for the project to the Tasmanian Trail Association through a State Development Grant.

During the celebrations Ken Shepherd the leading hand at the School commented on the change he had seen in his own son since his son's involvement in the Trail Shelter

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project, "Terrence now follows me around the tool shed picking up tools where before he showed little interest".

The benefits of being involved in the

Mark Regent, Martin Jones.

The Tasmanian Trail Association would like to thank the Glenora School for being part of the Trail.

The contribution made by volunteer groups along the Trail is what makes

around us, and on those in the future who see, feel, read, or experience something of our moment in time.

The boys who erected this shelter are now a part of the history of the Trail. They are significant to the people who will travel the Trail, and are part of those who pioneered this island and came here first to build Glenora and develop this community. The boys have become part of the story that makes this community come alive for travellers on the Trail.

I wish to thank them very sincerely.

The Department of Sport and Recreation have supported the Trail since its inception, and I would like to acknowledge their financial help in providing the Grant money that enabled us to purchase the timbers for the shelter.

I would like to acknowledge also the valuable contribution made by our past Trail Coordinator, Chris Boden, who had the foresight to communicate with the School and elicit their help in this project.

A particular vote of thanks must also go to the School and its teachers who were prepared to join the Tasmanian Trail in its vision, and to work through the not inconsiderable physical and mental exercise to achieve the construction.

It is a fine shelter with table and seating and is more importantly a physical reminder of the cooperation



From bottom left: John Shoobridge (committee member), Peter Macfarlane (teacher), Jamie Jones, Terrance Shepherd, Susan Henry (president of TTA). Top Row: Chris Boden (committee member), Mathew Collins, Ken Shepherd (leading hand) and John Robb (committee member).

building of the shelter have been two-fold. Not only did the Tasmanian Trail Association get their shelter, but the school was presented with an opportunity for students to build upon their technical skills and in the end access and utilise the very shelter their muscle and sweat built.

The Tasmanian Trail Association are already excited about possible future projects the staff and students of Glenora School can be involved in. Did some one say horse yards?

Thankyou Glenora volunteer students

The president of the Tasmanian Trail Associations presentation speech to the students and adults of GLENORA SCHOOL CAMPSITE SHELTER.

Teachers: Peter McFarlane, Clayton Hall, Ken Shepherd.

Students: Terence Shepherd, Jamie Jones, Mathew Collins, Derek Triffet,

the Trail a memorable experience to travel. Whatever we do in life has little meaning without the joy of communicating with others. What we do now has impact not only on our own lives but also on the lives of those

From left: Mathew Collins, technical teacher Peter Masfarlane, Jamie Jones and Terrance Shepherd.



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President of the Trail Susan Henry awards certificate to Terrance Shepherd.

that can occur to realise a dream. It is my dream that Tasmania could have a trail like the Bicentennial National Trail, that Horse riders and cyclist and walkers could trek through this island learn its topography, its weather vagaries, its people, its charm, its history, and above all learn about their own capacity for adventure, problem solving, and enjoyment.

I thank everyone who has been involved.

Susan Henry
President
Tasmanian Trail Association

3 Days on The Tasmanian Trail

Saturday 6th March dawned overcast and mild, but little did we know what we were in for, and how wet we would get!!

Nine members of the Clifton Riding Club in Sandford, and our back-up driver John Robb, met in Ouse at 8.40am and traveled to Victoria Valley where we saddled up in the drizzle.

The 24.2k ride back into Ouse was through lovely rainforest, bush, rolling hills and farmland and along quiet country roads in the pouring rain. A quick stop for lunch at Kenmere Creek where John met us with rugs for our very wet horses and then on our way again. By the time we rode into Ouse we had boots full of water and very leaky stockman's coats, but thoroughly enjoyed our 1st day on the

trail. About 5.30 the rain had virtually stopped and we had made yards, rugged and fed our horses, pitched tents and now in dry clothes, pulled out the camp chairs and wine and had a chance to reflect on the days' activity.

Sunday 7th March also dawned overcast but at least looked more promising — maybe the clouds would burn away and leave us with a beautiful autumn day. Our first challenge for the day was pulling on wet boots and sitting in wet saddles! Because the bridge over the Derwent River at Repulse Dam was under repair, our ride was to take us along the side of the Lyell Highway to the Ellendale Road turn off. With the help of our trusty back-up vehicle we trotted the 7km's out of Ouse to the turnoff without any mishaps given that many motorists failed to heed our pleas to slow down. Those who did slow gave us a wave and we returned their courtesy with a wave & a smile. Our horses were wonderful given the long weekend traffic, and the rest of the ride was along a bitumen road and then gravel road to Jones' River where we were to camp for the night.

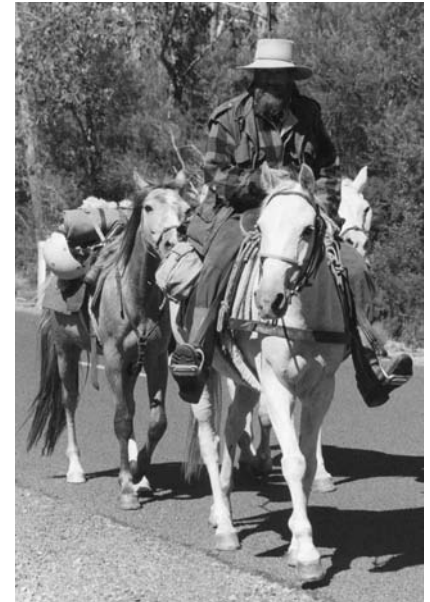
What a sight (and sound) we made as we trotted across the Dunrobin Bridge and up onto the hill where many of the campers came out onto the roadside to take photos and talk to us. The camp site was lovely — situated near a flowing creek. We had the use of a large fenced paddock for our horses, so we decided to let all 9 of them go together. You would think that having traveled 43 kilometers in 2 days that they would want to eat and sleep! Wrong! For quite a while they charged around the paddock until eventually they went off into their little groups and grazed.

With tents pitched it was time again to have a late lunch (4 o/c) and get our campfire going. We had a visit from a local farmer Mr. Bannister, who brought us some dry wood in his ute and stayed for a chat.

After dinner Mr. Allwright, the owner of land the trail crosses, also paid us a visit with stubby in hand and we all had a very enjoyable evening around the campfire. We were also greeted at

the camp site by Robyn's husband, Mark — a very keen mountain bike rider. Mark had ridden the Ouse-Jones' River part of the trail we were meant to take and he waded across the river!

Our final day did look more promising and our destination was Glenora. After moving our floats to where we were to finish we saddled up again. Very quiet horses today all probably thinking 'not again!' This time we were 2 horses/riders less as Karen and Lyn decided their young horses had done a good job so far and didn't want to over do it.



Highway "commuter".

We rode 27.1 kms of very hilly & beautiful countryside. The ride up Mt. Bethune left both us and our horses breathless — the view was superb and one can only imagine how much better it would have been without the low cloud. After making a note in the Registration Book and Liz' close encounter with a spider, we picked our way over the rocks and a steep decent took us down into a lovely valley. The sun shone on us for the first time in 2 days and with the mountain conquered we pressed on along lovely country roads and forest tracks, stopping for lunch on the way.

Mark, on his bike had been with us all the way and left us "between gates"

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and waited for us to catch up, open gates and take photos as we made our way closer to Glenora. John too met us on one of the tracks which was accessible by 4WD.

At 5pm we were on the home stretch — looking down onto Glenora in the late afternoon sun with lovely poplar trees, hop fields and our cars & floats all looking like a miniature village.

After a 7 hour ride (70 kms in 3 days) we were planning our next ride on the Tasmanian Trail. We didn't get lost and found the guide book and markers helped us along the way — a testament to the hard work and planning by many who have made this trail possible.

We would like to thank John Robb & Chris Boden for their help into the early planning stages of our trip and a big thank you to John for being our "back-up" man and all the other things he helped us with.

As you can imagine 9 women together, there was lots of talk and laughter, but the quote of the weekend must go to John. Lyn asked him on Sunday evening how fast were we trotting along the Lyell Highway. The response was — "about 1000 rpm's — too fast for 2nd & too slow for 3rd"! Needless to say we all got a laugh out of that one, however we were told later that we were doing about 18 kph.

Peter Pangas of Hydro talks to a fellow "commuting" by horseback along the Marlborough Highway.



Note: Riders/Horses: Karen Rycroft & Pippi, Leanne Goodluck & Chix, Liz Knott & Buddy, Robyn O'Keefe & Sim, Elizabeth Shears & Boronia, Kim Sutton & Chloe, Robyn Cashion & Solo, Lyn Lucas & Panache & Helen Gay & Brandy.

Our youngest horse: 3 year old paint filly.

Oldest horses: 2 rising 17 yrs — Quarter horse gelding and QH x Arab gelding (both chestnuts).

We had 3 bays, 2 grays and 1 palomino and they were mostly part arab, 1 pure arab and a 4 year old clydie x filly

Helen Gay

Mountain biking the trail

We left Devonport on December 2nd 2003 in slightly overcast and damp conditions heading south, following those little red and yellow markers which became our life line over the eight days that it took us to reach Dover. The rain held off on the first day and apart from a short shower whilst crossing the hills behind Mount Wellington we encountered no inclement weather. For Queensland father and son mountain bikers, who are bits of wusses when it comes to being wet and cold, that was great.

Some might say that we did it easy by having a back-up vehicle, but this gave us the flexibility of travelling

light and allowed us to do some side trips, including a visit to the brilliant Lake St Claire. The other invaluable technology was a GPS (we used a Garmin E-Map ~\$500-\$600). Before departing for Tasmania I had spent a number of nights inputting the trail co-ordinates from the handbook and whilst this tool does not replace the handbook (which is great) it does provide confidence when trail markers are in short supply. This is particularly the case in some of the forestry areas where logging operations have displaced trail markers or directions are confusing. The GPS came into its own on the second day between Gog and Bracknell when my son and I became separated; I failed to see a marker pointing at right angles to the more obvious track we had been following. Although it took us 6 hours to find each other again it was the GPS that eventually saved the day by indicating that I had missed a couple of the datum points. This experience provided a salutary lesson to us both and ensured that for the rest of the trip we kept each other in sight.

Trip Highlights:

- Riding along the back roads between Devonport and Bracknell — green rolling hills and white gravel roads, seeing the Tiers rising ahead knowing you have to climb 'up-there' the next day.
- The climb up the old drovers trail between Bracknell and the Central Plateau, memorable both for the physical challenge of climbing close to 1000m in 7km and from an historic perspective, sparing a thought for the drovers who blazed the trail and the challenges they faced of pushing cattle up the track including the very steep scree slopes near the top.
- An undignified and sudden stop when confronted with an electric fence stretched across the trail between Railton and Sheffield
- The quiet beauty of riding across the Central Plateau south of Miena, cold and clear and not another person in sight-wonderful.
- Scones and cream at 9am at Bronte Park.
- Early morning 15km up-hill climbs

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between Lachlan and Dover and of course the flip side of all that hard work, the exhilarating run down the other side.

- Standing on the hill above Dover and seeing a celebratory beer and wood fired pizza in sight
- The sense of achievement of knowing that your fifty year old body was up to the challenge and that you have just completed a journey across parts of Tasmania not seen by the average tourist
- Bonding with your seventeen year old son before he leaves home and makes his own way in the world

Conceptions and misconceptions:

- Lots of people would be using the trail: according to the log book at Bronte Park only about 70 parties have used it in the last four years, we saw no other users during our trip
- Camping grounds would be available in most towns on the tourist isle: not so in areas that tourists don't frequent
- Dots on a map don't necessarily mean habitation: we are still looking for a photo opportunity at 'Cramps' on the Central Plateau
- Tasmanian pies and Danish pastries are excellent but it is impossible to find powdered Gatorade, and Staminade seems to be only sold at some chemists

Trip info:

- We rode 461km of the trail in 44 hours of riding averaging around 55km per day
- Our accommodation ranged from camping and a back-packers hostel to a night in a B&B

Neal and Andrew Dalglish
Email: <TheDags5@bigpond.com>.

Insight on the Trail

"I am running Tassie to help work out why I am running Tassie".

Over the years many people have asked me, "Why do you do these things?" "These things" being the marathons, ultra-marathons and other endurance events I have participated in over the last 25 years or so. I had run a 250km ultra-marathon across the Moroccan Sahara desert, tested my



Rob Macauley.

high blood pressure in the rarefied atmosphere of the Himalayas in north eastern India, but had never worked out the answer to the question above, I used to answer, "I am looking for the end of the circle".

The truth was, I had never needed to ask myself the question. Having turned 53 years of age and pursuing the spiritual aspect of my existence more and more, it was becoming clear I did need to work on an answer.

Four hundred and eighty kilometres over 12 days down the Tasmanian Trail was the place I was going to find the answer. I had first read about the Tassie Trail in the travel section of the Melbourne Herald Sun in January 2002. I thought then this sounds great.

I had been to Tasmania several times and loved it.

I sailed down to Tasmania from Melbourne on the Spirit on the 7th February this year, stayed overnight in Devonport and started running the next day. I was running with a backpack, which contained, amongst other necessities of life, a lightweight tent, sleeping bag and a change of clothes. I had no room for food but had worked my itinerary so that I could obtain supplies along the way. Either that, or lose weight.

After Day 2 and several wrong turns, I had never been known for my skills as a navigator, I realised I was trying to do too much in too short a time. I would have loved to have stopped a day or two at Campsite 3 on the Mersey River just sitting and thinking. Continuous physical exertion and contemplative thought were not co-existing for me.

After ten days and the odd wrong turn, which had caused me to miss a few stages, I left the Trail and headed for Hobart. I estimated I had travelled about 350 km.

Before I went to Morocco to do the Sahara Desert run I read a quote by an Arabic philosopher that went "*God created the deserts as a place for man to find himself*".

Although I did not find all my answers along the Tassie Trail, it was a great experience. In the chaos of today's society we all need the likes of the Tasmanian Trail, a place to reconnect with the real world and continue our quest to find the end of the circle.

Rob Macauley

Assistance Needed

The Tasmanian Trail Association Executive meets in Hobart (Lands Building, 134 Macquarie Street) every couple of months, usually on a Thursday from 3pm-5pm. They require a minute-taker for these meetings. Are you available on a regular basis? Have you got good writing skills? Can you prepare

electronic copies of the minutes for distribution? Are you interested in assisting the Executive Committee that manages Tasmania's premiere multiuse trail? If that sounds interesting, — **contact the Trail Co-ordinator Rowena Howard on 0429 370 528.**

Thankyou!

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

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(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.

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