

INJURED & ORPHANED WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

WORDS BY KELLIE LOVELL, INJURED AND ORPHANED WILDLIFE COORDINATOR.

Spring is a busy time for wildlife rehabilitators. Warmer weather leads to an increase in food abundance, and as a result, wild animals are more active and more young are born. This also means an increase in injured and orphaned wildlife needing assistance.

The Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program, within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks Water and Environment (DPIPWE), works in partnership with Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary to place injured and orphaned wildlife with suitable volunteer carers.

Around 300 community volunteers help with the native animal rehabilitation. They first learn specialised skills that mimic life in the wild. These skills are quite different to those required for looking after domestic animals. Wildlife must be prepared for their release back into the wild otherwise their survival can be compromised and the hard work of the rehabilitator can be wasted.



TWO WOMBATS BY KELLIE LOVELL

Would you like to become a wildlife rehabilitator?

Phone: (03) 6165 4305
Email: wildlife.reception@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au

Other ways you can help:

- Donate to the Wildcare Gift Fund - Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Category
- Sew pouches - contact wildlife.reception@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au
- Become a wildlife rescuer (Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary offers regular training)
- Keep cats confined
- Slow down on the road from dusk until dawn.

What should I do if I find a sick, injured or orphaned animal?

Contact the DPIPWE Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program 6165 4305 (business hours) or Bonorong Wildlife Rescue 0447 264 625 (all hours), or your local volunteer wildlife rescue organisation. In the meantime:

- Keep the animal warm, dark and quiet;
- Do not feed it anything, as often this can do more harm than good;
- Keep handling to a minimum.

CEO Welcome

In this edition of Wildtimes we showcase the results of the generous people who donate to Wildcare, and the Wildcare volunteers who work to put that money into action.

With our planet and society facing great challenges, taking responsibility for the places we know and love locally is more important than ever. Wildcare has a paid full time equivalent staffing level of just 1.5 people. The rest of our amazing work is done by volunteers, boosted by donations to our Gift Fund. So it is a big thank you to everyone who supports Wildcare through volunteering to care for Tasmania's wild places, donating to one of our great causes or simply just being a member.

Threats to penguin colonies have been a topical issue in the media. People are rallying to the cause. Wildcare now has 5 volunteer groups focussing on different aspect of penguin conservation, education and rehabilitation. A new penguin category has been added into our Gift Fund. We thank RACT's Gordon River Cruises who have provided seed funding for the cause.

It is fitting that we include a story about the partnership between the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and the Wildcare Friends of Freycinet volunteer group, written from the perspective of the local Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger. Adrian Sullivan, friend to many wildcarers, former Deputy Chair of the Wildcare Board and President of the Friends of Freycinet group, sadly lost his long fight with illness recently. The fact that Adrian was so strongly contributing to all things Wildcare right up until his passing was inspirational to many, including myself.

A warm welcome to the new Wildcare groups which have started up this year, detailed on the last page. Enjoy the stories and please get involved if you can.

Sharon Smith
CEO
Wildcare



SHARON SMITH CEO WILDCARE

OUR NEW LOOK

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Twenty years on, we've got a new look logo which retains the iconic Wildcare Tasmanian Devil paw-print, but gives us a fresh new contemporary colour-way. The paw-print reflects Wildcare's impact being on the ground, where we make a difference.



CONVERGING ON THE SPURGE!



CONVERGING ON THE SPURGE



PHOTO OF OLIVE COURTESY AMANDA BLAKNEY



CONVERGING ON THE SPURGE

The Irapuna/Bay of Fires area is the much loved, jewel of the Break O'Day region. The area is cleaner and healthier after this year's Irapuna Community Weekend. Over 120 volunteers and Parks and Wildlife Service staff walked approximately 50km along the beaches north and south of Eddystone Point, soaking up the landscape and scouring the beach for marine litter and sea spurge.

Sea spurge is an invasive beach weed originating from the Mediterranean that has taken over many Tasmanian and southern Australian beaches and is a threat to the breeding success of birds such as oystercatchers and the threatened hooded plover.

Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast group President Polly Buchhorn said that "After six years of effort by hundreds of volunteers and the Parks and Wildlife Service, the area of beaches walked that can now be considered 'sea spurge free' increased this year to more than 27ha. Of 139 sea spurge sites recorded, 54 are 'patrol / sea spurge free', 70 are 'being controlled' and 15 have 'uncontrolled' status and are flagged for follow-up control treatments."

While the beach litter collected this year was a little less by weight than previous years, the number of plastic fragments was up on 2018. Small and minute plastic fragments are deadly for many marine birds and fish.

Now in its sixth year the Irapuna Community Weekend is a partnership between the Parks and Wildlife Service, the Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast and other partners, such as the Tasmanian Walking Company, Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, Friends of Eddystone Lighthouse, Adrift Lab and Break O'Day Council. With all the fresh air and exercise involved, the event is also supported by Healthy Tasmania.

Anybody interested in volunteering to help may like to become a member of Wildcare and then join the **Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast** group.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WILDCARE VOLUNTEER

MEET THE 'WILDCARE FRIENDS OF DEAL ISLAND' TREASURER - JO WIDDOWSON



JO WIDDOWSON AND FAMILY

"My husband, 7yr old son and I were fortunate to be able to spend 3 months on Deal Island as part of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Volunteer caretaker program last summer.

We had the most amazing time, we all fell in love with the island and felt very lucky to be able to experience it.

The Wildcare Friends of Deal Island had a 10 day working bee on Deal whilst we were there. We enjoyed spending time with them and it was eye opening to see the achievements the group had made over the past 20 years. The impact of the weeding program was clearly evident and we were blown away with the Museum as are so many visitors to the island! It was clear that this group of people had given a lot of time & energy to the island over the years - especially the core members.

I wanted to give a bit of something back to the island after our return and I felt the Friends of Deal was the way to do this. I initially joined as a general member and started thinking about what I could contribute. I offered to manage and drive the social media, as a fairly regular Facebook user I felt I could do that & have challenged myself to add Instagram for the group as something new to learn!

I put up my hand for the treasurer role at the recent AGM as I think the workload should be shared amongst members and wanted to do my bit.

I'm looking forward to learning more about Deal and Wildcare/Friends of Deal Island from those in the group with so much knowledge but I also hope to lighten the load a bit, bring some different ideas and help convince others to support the group.

My vision for the Friends of Deal Island is a diverse, motivated group working together with passion and enthusiasm with sufficient funds to achieve its goals! Oh ..and if you haven't already followed Friends of Deal on Facebook please like our page and share!!"

A LONG LASTING LEGACY

WORDS BY DAVID HARRIS, FORMER FRIENDS OF FREYCINET PRESIDENT.

I first met Adrian in May 2016 when he turned up at one of the Friends of Freycinet Wildcare working bees and threw himself into the work. I thought; this bloke is a good addition to the team. When he told us he had a holiday home in Coles Bay and we were welcome to stay there, I thought he was an even better addition!

I understand that he was battling cancer then but he was very positive and did not let his illness deter him.

Many of us have since stayed at 'Frog Lodge' courtesy of Adrian and Cathy and what times we have had there! Adrian presiding over all the nonsense that emanates from a mob like us, providing copious proper pots of tea and instructing us on the scientific way to keep house.

Adrian quickly became a mainstay of our group, becoming Secretary and then President in December last year. His enthusiasm and capacity for work was incredible and he had a great passion for our wild places, for Freycinet, and for the Coles Bay community. He was secretary of the Men's shed there and involved in the local community organization. It makes me tired to think about it. In the short time I have known him we have become good mates. Do opposites attract? He built 2 houses and Pobblebonk sheds, I don't know a joist from a bearer. He had an Iphone and Ipad, I, paper! At our meetings I would bring my loaded briefcase and he would try to find things on his handheld device - so what if it was a competition to find things first? We did some good things together and I will miss him terribly.

RIP Adrian Sullivan



ADRIAN SULLIVAN



VIEW OF THE HAZARDS, FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK



GREG KIDD, ADRIAN SULLIVAN,
WIGEL RICKETTS, DAVE HARRIS

WELCOME ONGOING UPGRADE AT FRENCHMAN'S CAP

The Frenchman's Cap Track is located within the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and is a popular overnight walking destination. The 27km track features public walker huts at Lake Vera and Lake Tahune.

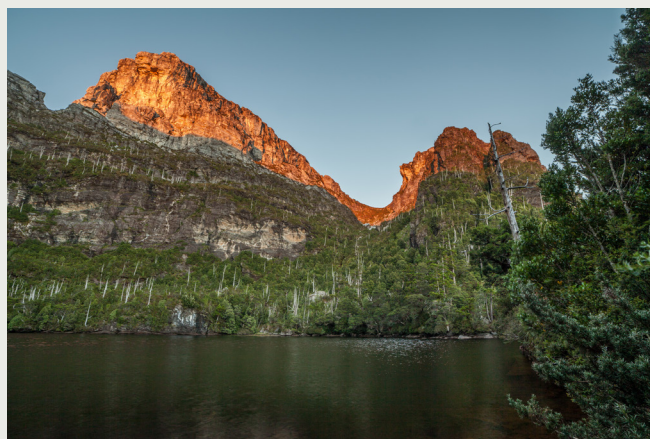
A very generous donation by Mr Dick Smith of \$100,000 per year for 10 years to the World Heritage Wilderness cause in the Wildcare Gift Fund facilitated a major upgrade to the Frenchman's Cap Track and public walker huts. Mr Smith agreed to fund an upgrade after he walked the track with his wife Pip for their 40th wedding anniversary, and became concerned at the degraded state of the track, describing it as looking 'as if 100 feral pigs had gone mad.' Mr Smith's donation was teamed with funding from the Tasmanian government and the hard work of Parks and Wildlife Service staff and Wildcare volunteers.

The Parks and Wildlife Service managed the works, which included replacement of the 45 year old hut at Lake Tahune, in the shadow of Frenchman's Cap. The hut now provides sleeping space for up to 24 walkers, with a ranger's room, secure storage, a porch for wet gear and a large deck. Tent platforms have been erected nearby the hut for those, like Mr Smith, who prefer the privacy of a tent for sleeping. The hut is also much more environmentally friendly than the old hut with triple-glazed windows, solar panels for lighting, significant insulation, modern ventilation system and a mini hydro system to assist with heating.

Recent works have improved visitor safety and satisfaction, reduced track degradation and replaced failing infrastructure. The majority of the work has taken place between the Franklin River and Frenchman's Cap. The work for the 2018-2019 season included installation of new sections of boardwalk, conversion of an old helipad to tent platforms and drainage works. A big thank you to Mr Smith for his donation, congratulations to the Parks and Wildlife Service for managing the upgrades with such excellent outcomes, and thank you also to the volunteers who have helped out with the works.



FRENCHMAN'S CAP BOARDWALK IMPROVEMENTS



FRENCHMAN'S CAP - PHOTO COURTESY OF TASMANIA PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WILD BUSHWALKING TRACKS

The WILDCARE Gift Fund **Wild Bushwalking Tracks** category was established following a significant donation from Alan and Hilary Wallace to support the management and maintenance of wilderness walks in Tasmania's parks and reserves. Sadly, Alan has since passed away. Hilary continues to support Wildcare.

Alan and Hilary shared a passion for natural areas, National Parks and bushwalking in Tasmania. The wild tracks of Tasmania take you to unbelievable places - up rugged mountains, across wide valleys and tumbling waterways, into dark rainforests and tall open woodlands, through plains of wildflowers and along coastal edges of cliffs and beaches. The Wildcare Wild Bushwalking Tracks cause supports these wild tracks to be maintained with sound conservation principles, enabling continuation of quintessential Tasmanian rugged bushwalking experiences.

Thank you to Wildcare volunteers, including Friends of Mt Field and Friends of Penguin Cradle Trail, who support the care of wild bushwalking tracks.



JEWEL BEETLE - PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER WOODS

Funding has been approved from the Wild Bushwalking Tracks Gift Fund category for a Southwest track maintenance project to be staged over 2 years by the Parks and Wildlife Service focussing on the most popular remote routes.

The tracks prioritised by visitation and condition are:

- Lake Judd track from the second Anne River crossing to Mt Sarah Jane, and into Lake Judd (4km).
- Huon Campground to base of Moraine A (Western Arthurs access) (10km)
- Port Davey track overgrown sections from Junction Creek to The Narrows.



WILDTRACKS

WHAT AN HONOUR!

PASSIONATE WILDCARE
PRESIDENT RECOGNISED

Congratulations to Kathy Duncombe, President of **Wildcare Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station**, for her tireless work in preserving the history of this place of special significance. Kathy was recently inducted into the Tasmanian Honour Role for her Service to Community. An excerpt from the Tasmanian Government site reads;

"Transmitter of history - Bruny Island's history is being preserved and presented thanks to Kathleen (Kathy) Duncombe's love of research. For over 40 years, Kathy has made a generous contribution to Bruny Island as a volunteer, researcher and author, by publishing works, cataloguing the history of Bruny Island, photographing and transcribing tombstones, researching the history of homesteads and delving into convict connections. Kathy's most well-known publication is a book, *Bruny Island's Quarantine Station in War and Peace*, about the Quarantine Station on North Bruny Island". At present, Kathy is researching the thousands of soldiers who returned from World War I and passed through the Quarantine Station due to the influenza pandemic."



KATHY DUNCOMBE

ISLANDS & DRAGONS

Have you heard about the mountain dragon that hides out on Bruny Island? This is the only species of the dragon family living in Tasmania! Thank you goes to Bruny Island Safaris for supporting the 'Islands and Dragons' cause within the Wildcare Gift Fund. This cause supports the care of Tasmania's islands and includes controlling weeds and feral animals, as well as maintaining the natural environments around island lightstations. There are a number of Wildcare volunteer groups working alongside Parks and Wildlife Service to maintain ecological balance on the islands.

If you would like to support Tasmania's Islands and Dragons please visit the Wildcare Donate link from our web homepage.



MOUNTAIN DRAGON BY CRAIG PARSEY

'THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN A POSSUM' - THE 'GET OUTSIDE' PROGRAM



'GET OUTSIDE' GROUP



'GET OUTSIDE' SNOWBALL FIGHT

Most Tasmanians are used to having a bonfire – often celebrating the longest night of winter with one. Imagine for a moment that you are new to Tasmania, new to the southern hemisphere, and new to living at 42 degrees south where the nights in winter are long. You wonder where all the people have gone!

35 people from China, Korea, India, Pakistan, Nepal, South Africa and Tasmania gathered for the inaugural 'Get Outside' Solstice Celebration at Waterworks Reserve on Friday 21st June. A mini bus ferried people from Glenorchy and Hobart City Council put on a fire and spotlight event to enjoy. Marshmallows and hot chocolates greeted the cold adventurers after a spotlighting walk.

'This is the first time I have seen a possum' said Erin of Korea. 'I have never seen so many stars – they are so beautiful' said a woman recently migrated from China.

For most people it was the first time they had experienced a social occasion at night, in the bush. 'It is so nice to be outside with people in the middle of winter' said a grandmother from Nepal. 'I love the fire' she said.

Since 2010, the 'Get Outside' Program has introduced thousands of new arrivals to Tasmania's wilderness; facilitating a sense of place, connection and comfort. Through walks, picnics and other activities, the natural areas can heal, teach and inspire individuals; fostering a new generation of multicultural conservation custodians.

40 YEAR CELEBRATION

WILDCARE FRIENDS OF THE PENGUIN CRADLE TRAIL

Perhaps lesser known than its popular rival experiences, the Penguin Cradle Trail is a 76-km bush walk from the seaside town of Penguin through to Cradle Mountain. It primarily follows the valley of the Leven River, taking in the Dial Range and is a 5-7 day adventure, with the option to hop on and off at certain places. The trail is designed for experienced bush walkers, and can be combined with the Overland Track for a fabulous wilderness experience totalling around 2 weeks.

In early April this year the Wildcare Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail hosted a celebration of 40 years since the trail was established. According to Branch President Greig Clarke, "It's wonderful to celebrate this achievement and the work done by the dedicated members of the North West Walking Club (NWWC), who had the vision and will to construct the track in the first instance."

The Wildcare Friends of Penguin Cradle Trail formed in 2014, and together with the North West Walking Club, working under a permit from the Parks and Wildlife Service, has performed over 2500 hours of work on the track alone, allowing it to remain open for all the enjoy.

Generous grants from the Patricia Dukes Foundation has allowed many upgrades.

This grant also enabled the group to produce the **'Penguin Cradle Trail Map and Notes'** pack. Greig believes it is an essential item for anyone contemplating this unique experience.

It is available in the Wildcare online shop and includes five A3 maps that detail each section including campsite information, history, flora, fauna, geology as well as times and distance. The money made from the sale of these packs helps the volunteers conduct further necessary work. The Wildcare Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail holds regular working bees which all Wildcare members are welcome to attend.



PENGUIN CRADLE TRAIL VOLUNTEERS PHOTO BY EDDIE FIRTH

RESEARCH TO SAVE OUR TASMANIAN ICON - TASMANIAN DEVIL

Thanks to a generous multi-year funding commitment from Saffire Freycinet, and donations from people in the community, the Tasmanian devil immunology research group at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research in Hobart continues its' work. The group, led by Associate Professor Bruce Lyons and Dr Andy Flies, with research completed by veterinarian Dr Ruth Pye, studies the devastating transmissible cancer Devil Facial Tumour Disease which has decimated the Tassie devil population. The group aims to develop a protective vaccine. This requires on-going research into how the devil's immune system, interacts with the disease.

Over the past year, Ruth has been involved with the Facial Tumour Disease immunisation trials on devils released into the wild as part of the 'Wild Devil Recovery Project', an initiative of the Tasmanian Government's 'Save the Tasmanian Devil Program'. The devil immunology group also maintains a facility near Hobart for a small number of captive devils. These devils are used by the group for blood samples and preliminary immunisation studies.

Donations to the Wildcare Gift Fund - Tasmanian Devil cause, ensure continuation of this research.



DR RUTH PYE



TASMANIAN DEVIL RESEARCH

ABLAZE IN AUGUST - A WORKING BEE IN FREYCINET

WORDS BY RANGER FIONA EVERTS

At Freycinet Field Centre we always look forward to catching up with our Friends on a regular basis. On many occasions we have witnessed first-hand their unrivalled awesomeness as they demonstrate the benefit of ‘people power’ in the environment. Staff at the Freycinet Field Centre, be they field staff or Visitor Services Officers hold our ‘Friends’ in the highest regard. Over the many years they’ve worked side by side with us they have grown into respected and much-loved members of our Freycinet Parks and Wildlife family. Recently this long-standing partnership gained further strength with the volunteer group’s ‘Ablaze in August’ annual working bee.

Just over twelve months ago, The **Wildcare Friends of Freycinet** volunteers, Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers, and Field Officers were sharing planning discussions about a project concept to address erosion issues around a small lookout at Friendly Beaches. At that time, the Friendlies Lookout was really just a gravel pad based around an interpretation panel that was a not-so glowing example of eroding, scouring granitic soils and sands due to uncontrolled foot traffic in a heathland. The view from the site was so enticing that most visitors felt compelled to walk beyond the panel downhill, towards the beautiful beach beyond, all the time forming a myriad of trails across the fragile heathland.

The late Wildcare Friends of Freycinet President Adrian Sullivan and past President David Harris worked diligently to secure a grant and later that year were successful in securing funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF). This funding combined with funds and in-kind contributions from Tasmanian Wildcare and Parks and Wildlife Service provided the bones for the project to go ahead. Both groups are sincerely grateful to Adrian and David and the TCF for their support for the project.

In the meantime, Field Officer Dominic Neyland kitted out with favourite yellow tape measure and futuristic laser level paced the Friendlies site accompanied by his trusty sidekick Field Officer Shannon McDougall. Dom and Shan in collaboration with the Friends Volunteers came up with a great design.

By the end of the Wildcare Friends of Freycinet’s ‘Ablaze in August’ Working Bee week we had a nearly- completed lookout. Everyone involved was delighted with the result so far and proud to be a part of such a great collaboration between the Parks and Wildlife Service and Wildcare Friends of Freycinet.’

FRIENDS OF THE FREYCINET GROUP AUGUST 2019



A PROFILE OF A WILDCARE (SPRATS) VOLUNTEER

WORDS BY GEOFF LUSCOMBE

For the past 13 summer seasons I have travelled from my home in NSW to join other adventurous volunteers who are inspired to conserve the wilderness condition of Tasmania's southwest and southern coastlines and the habitats of migratory birds that fly there from across the world.

Though now retired, much of my working life was spent in the NSW National Parks Service. Recreationally over many years I have bushwalked and immersed myself in wild places so my professional and personal interests have aligned perfectly with the SPRATS mission.

Working with Wildcare SPRATS (Sea Spurge Remote Area Teams) has given me enormous rewards. Each year I get to visit one of the wildest and most beautiful coastlines to be found anywhere. It has been enormously rewarding to play a part in protecting habitats of international conservation importance. It is a wonderful feeling to revisit sites that were once overrun by weeds to now find ecologically healthy systems.

I am forever grateful to Wildcare for the fun and friendships formed with other SPRATS volunteers who, through their personal commitment and teamwork are moving ever closer to achieving significant and challenging conservation goals.



SPRATS VOLUNTEER PHILL ISAACS TAS WEST COAST

Wildcare SPRATS mission is to eradicate sea spurge and marram grass weed species from the 850km of wilderness coastline along the southwest and south of Tasmania. It is an ambitious target on such large scale for such remote country. The Branch operates to a tight plan and is always on the lookout for volunteer bushwalkers with the wilderness skills to operate safely and productively.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is one of the few remaining parts of Australia with minimal human induced conservation threats and is globally important for migratory birds. In this area, sea spurge and marram grass threaten geodiversity values, Aboriginal cultural sites, coastal herbfields, grasslands and shrub-lands, as well as habitats for rare and threatened species. Other than the target weeds, the region has a low weed incidence and is the Tasmanian stronghold for a number of shore-nesting and feeding birds. These bird species are at risk due to the ability of sea spurge and marram grass to transform the coastline's geomorphic structure (shape), making it less suitable for breeding and feeding.

Over 13 years, the SPRATS Wildcare group has undertaken an estimated 6,300 days of work - a staggering effort! In Tasmania, the group is a past winner in the Community Achievement Awards and nationally a past finalist in the Banksia Environmental Awards and winner of the Invasive Species Council Froggatt Award for weed control and eradication. The group has an excellent partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service to help manage the 850km long wilderness coastline of the World Heritage Area and Southwest Conservation Area between Cape Sorell and Cockle Creek.



THE NEXT GENERATION WILDCARE GATHERING

Early in the Wildcare SPRATS program, expert advice warned that that sea spurge and marram eradication in the southwest was beyond management control. SPRATS volunteers did not know whether this was true but did know that the only way to find out whether eradication could be achieved was to give it a red hot go. A dozen years later, 78% of sea spurge sites and 71% of marram sites are now clear of seedlings. The number of sea spurge plants we find each year is decreasing. Last year 18,000 were removed down from millions in earlier years of the program.

It was lovely to see children actively participating at our recent Wildcare Gathering, with the topic ' Igniting a thriving future'.



GEOFFREY ON THE SOUTH COAST SPRATS MISSION



JENNIFER, JENNA, PEYTON AND ELVIE



PEYTON AND ELVIE WITH DRAWINGS



LIAM AND FRASER ON THE ECO BIKES

DOING IT FOR THE PENGUINS

We are excited to announce that Wildcare has created a new Penguin category in our Wildcare Gift Fund, which accepts public donations to support worthy causes. This Penguin category aims to protect and manage penguin populations, rehabilitate injured and sick penguins, provide managed environments for people to view penguins safely, and educate the community about threats to penguin survival and ways to mitigate the threat.

Wildcare are thrilled that Gordon River Cruises have provided seed funding for the Penguin category and will also endeavour to support the cause in as many ways as possible. If you wish to be involved in a more hands-on capacity, we have Wildcare volunteer groups operating around Tasmania caring for penguins. Simply join Wildcare through our website, visit the branch pages and click 'Join this branch' of the groups you are interested in.



RESCUED PENGUIN CHICK – KATHY GRIEVESON

WORKING TOGETHER TO #WATCHOUTFORWILDLIFE

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary operates Tasmania's largest 24/7 Wildlife Rescue Service and has a base of passionate volunteers that rescue thousands of animals every year. Bonorong advises that calls to the Wildlife Rescue Service are increasing dramatically. Wildcare and Bonorong partner together, with Wildcare's Gift Fund enabling people to make tax deductible donations to the Bonorong cause, which supports conservation of wildlife.

The purpose of the Bonorong category in the Wildcare Gift Fund is to:

- Support the operations of Tasmania's specialised wildlife hospital.
- Support education and awareness programs about Tasmania's wildlife and its conservation.
- Support wildlife care and rehabilitation, and conservation programs.

You can support the cause at www.wildcaretas.org.au/donations/wildcare-bonorong-fund



ORPHANED QUOLL -
BONORONG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Bonorong has shared some statistics about the calls taken into its Wildlife Rescue Service. Over a recent 6.5 year period:

- 22,723 calls were reported.
- The 10 most frequently recorded species were Bennett's wallaby, pademelon, brushtail possum, ringtail possum, echidna, common wombat, blue tongue lizard, kookaburra, and 'unknown' bird species.
- Threatened species accounted for 5.8% of all calls, with those listed as 'endangered' including the Tasmanian devil (210 reports), eastern quoll (85 reports), wedge tail eagle (87 reports), masked owl (37 reports), swift parrot (31 reports), forty-spotted pardalote (1 report), orange bellied parrot (1 report) and grey-headed albatross (1 report).
- Excluding reports with an 'Unknown' cause of injury, road trauma was the predominant cause, followed by orphans, unable to fly, suspected toxoplasmosis and attack by a cat.
- Trapped animals, orphans, and cat and dog attacks were most frequent in spring and summer. It is important that pet owners are particularly vigilant at these times of year.

TASMANIAN WALKING COMPANY SUPPORTS WILDCARE

WELCOME TO NEW BRANCHES

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We are delighted to welcome new branches to the Wildcare family.

Wildcare Friends of Devonport Reserves support the care and maintenance of reserves in the Devonport Municipality.

Central Highlands Wildlife Group aim to assist the survival and recovery of native wildlife following fire events and to ameliorate other threats to wildlife and the natural environment of Tasmania's Central Highlands.

Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony aim to achieve;

- Protection of the Little Penguins and conservation of the species
- Establishment of long-term population monitoring and adaptive management procedures for the Low Head Little Penguin colony
- Education of the Community
- Awareness of environmental issues

Wildcare Penguin Rehabilitation and Release is committed to rehabilitating penguins and other seabirds that come into care due to sickness, injury or misadventure and preparing them for successful release back into the wild.

Wildcare Tasmania has joined Tasmanian Walking Company's fundraising program. Book any of their award-winning walks, mention our special code (WildcareTas) and we receive \$500 commission per individual booking.

Put a group together and the reward for Wildcare is even better! One group booking of 14 on The Three Capes Lodge Walk can raise \$7,000!

More details:
www.taswalkingco.com.au/fundraiser

TASMANIAN WALKING COMPANY



**TASMANIAN
WALKING
COMPANY**

MY WILD GATHERING EXPERIENCE

WORDS BY DANIELLE ROSS WALLS

The Wild & Open Space Gathering was held on Saturday 19th October at the beautiful Sustainability Learning Centre on Mt Nelson. The event was flagged as being **‘a conference all about the Wildcare community of which you are a vital part;’** and it certainly delivered on that.

I made the conscious decision to involve my two primary school-aged boys, (despite them initially not wanting to give up their relaxing Saturday for my ‘work’). They listened with interest as Wildcare CEO Sharon opened with a special ‘Welcome’, followed by Member Services Officer Kim explaining how the day would run with her facilitating with ‘Open Space Technology’ (OST). This meant that us as guests set the agenda!

The task was to set topics that had heart and meaning for us. My eldest son raised the topic Climate Change - an important issue for many school children. I was curious to see how our group would deal with such a broad topic!

Our group veered in the direction of education and what children were doing at school. The benefit of using OST - it was an integral part of the process for other issues to arise from the initial topic - the day was all about what mattered to us!

Overall, most of the discussion was around how could we leverage the student’s interest in climate change and inspire our next generation of Wildcarers.

There was wonderful thought provoking input from everyone. I gave examples of my own children’s positive environmental experiences at school ranging from the bush kinder program through to excursions to the recycling centre. Questions were also posed about how individual branches could work more with our Wildcare Wildschools, and also regarding the encouragement of more children to STEM areas of study.

Our conclusion was not an obvious one, but it was definitely one of overall optimism. I certainly left the day feeling enthused! I had made new friendships, learnt a lot - not just about the environment and others, but in this powerful collaborative process that Kim facilitated. And my son was quietly pleased that others had enthusiastically joined us to talk about the topic of Climate Change that he had chosen.



A SMALL GROUP SESSION AT THE WILDCARE GATHERING



FIONA VAIL PHOTOGRAPHY

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND BEQUESTORS

Wildcare would like to say a big thank you to all donors who contributed to one or more of Wildcare's Gift fund causes during the year. Without your financial support, the achievements described in this Wildtimes and ongoing work of our volunteers would not be possible.

A big thank you to those who have made a bequest to Wildcare Tasmania in your will. Please contact us on 61654230 if you would like to discuss making a bequest.



ECHIDINA BY KELLIE LOVELL

JOIN US

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

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For only \$25 per year you will be:

- supporting Wildcare's not for profit work
- in the loop of what's going on and upcoming opportunities.

PS: At \$25, membership makes the ideal gift.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

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If you choose to volunteer you can:

- experience multi-day rugged events in remote, wild places or working bees closer to home that you can take the kids to
- join one or more of our 90 Wildcare 'Friends of' groups and meet motivated and caring people.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



WHY DONATE

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Wildcare joins philanthropy and volunteering to achieve amazing results. There are a range of causes to support.

- WILDCARE Nature Conservation
- WILDCARE Tasmanian Coast Conservation
- WILDCARE World Heritage Wilderness
- WILDCARE Injured and Orphaned Wildlife
- WILDCARE Save the Orange-bellied Parrots
- WILDCARE Islands and Dragons
- WILDCARE Raptor Rehabilitation and Research
- WILDCARE Inspiring the next Generation
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