



**TASMANIAN NATURE
CONSERVATION FUND
PROSPECTUS**



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ABOUT WILDCARE

Wildcare Tasmania is a powerhouse team of volunteers and donors caring for Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage. Wildcare Tasmania has over 6,000 members and over 60 volunteering groups. We help people come together to take responsibility for care of a special place or native species, depending on their passion. Wildcare specialises in care of 'wild' places, in particular Tasmania's National Parks and Reserves and remote islands within the Tasmanian archipelago.

Becoming a member allows sign-up to Wildcare Tasmania groups. Many members just choose to cheer from the side-lines though and enjoy reading about the adventurous exploits!

Wildcare groups work with land managers around Tasmania. The majority work with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

Purpose of the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF)

Wildcare's operates a tax-deductible donations fund called the **Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF)**. Through the TNCF we aim to bring together the contributions of volunteers and donors to care for the 'wilds' in Tasmania. Wildcare groups and our organisational partners may apply for funds for worthy on-ground projects.



GOVERNANCE

Wildcare Tasmania is a Registered Environmental Organisation and meets all requirements required to operate a public donations fund.

The Wildcare Board and CEO monitor the investment of the TNCF to maximise the return on the moneys while maintaining liquidity to fund projects.

Targeted donations

Through the TNCF, we provide a list of causes for donors to choose from, so that donors can direct their money towards things they are passionate about.

All donations are tagged to the chosen cause in the TNCF accounts. Our Grants Assessment Committee takes great care to ensure that donations go towards projects that align to the described scope of each cause.

Active management

An active approach is taken to the management of the TNCF. Wildcare actively engages with volunteer groups, land managers and community organisations to facilitate great projects. Our aim is to keep money flowing out of the TNCF to onground works, not to have it locked away.



Our fee policy

Wildcare's model of supporting volunteers to work together with land managers, means that we keep our costs low.

Our policy is to take a \$0 admin fee from donations.

We know that a \$0 fee is rare and we work hard to maintain this. This policy relies on us absorbing running costs of the TNCF within interest earnings and/or subsidising costs within our organisational operating expenses.

The \$0 admin fee means that 100% of donations made are attributed to the chosen donations cause and are available for onground projects.



GRANTS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

All applications to the Wildcare Tasmania Nature Conservation Fund are assessed by the Wildcare Grants Assessment Committee. This is a volunteer Committee and Wildcare is very lucky to have the services of a highly qualified and committed group of people. The Committee members are:

Leslie Frost (Chair)

Leslie began working for the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service in 1984, doing two seasons as a summer ranger at Cradle, then one year as the WHA Interpretation Officer and then 18 years as a professional Scientific/Planning Officer. She wrote the first statutory management plans for Freycinet National Park, Mt Field National Park and the Peter Murrell Reserve. Leslie has made many trips to Macquarie Island and the Australian Antarctic. She was also involved in establishing the Tasmanian Trail. After preparing the Macquarie Island WHA/Nature Reserve Management Plan, Leslie joined the Australian Antarctic Division in 2004 as an environmental policy officer before becoming Environmental Manager for all Australian Antarctic operations until 2014.

Leslie has a Master's in Environmental Studies from the University of Tasmania and an Honours in Environmental Biology from the University of Colorado and undertook the AICD Company Director's course in 2016. She has been a wildlife carer for about 30 years and continues a lifelong love of nature conservation through her participation on the Wildcare Grants Assessment Committee.



Jacqui Doyle

Jacqui is a keen bushwalker and nature lover, who recently moved back to Tasmania. She works for the Commonwealth Government in Parks Australia where she oversees management of the North Marine Parks Network which comprises eight marine parks, and the Coral Sea Marine Park. Jacqui has a background in marine ecology and environmental law. She spent many years as a child living in New Caledonia, where her interest in the environment began. She brings 20 years' professional experience working on national environmental policy and program design, review and implementation, particularly in the fields of protected areas, natural resource and water resource management. She is thrilled to be contributing to Wildcare as a member of the gift fund committee.



Isaac Standaloft

Isaac grew up in rural Tasmania climbing trees and chasing wildlife. From here, his passion for the environment grew and he completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in zoology at the University of Tasmania. Isaac has extensive experience volunteering in a number of roles, including as a keeper at Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, on projects with Conservation Volunteers Australia, Tasmanian Land Conservancy and at local cat and dog shelters. Professionally Isaac has experience in aquaculture with both salmon and oysters, and in the dairy industry where he currently works in quality control at a microbiology laboratory. At present, Isaac is completing a Masters of Environmental Management through the University of Tasmania with his thesis in wildlife ecology. Isaac is an avid backpacker and often travels with a focus on experiencing unique wilderness locations and spotting exotic wildlife. However, he is always glad to return to his home state of Tasmania where he enjoys bush walking. Isaac looks forward to bringing his theoretical expertise in conservation to the Wildcare Gift Fund committee and to contribute to the protection of the Tasmanian wilderness.





Ann Hamilton

Ann has been lucky enough to live on Flinders Island, on a hobby farm adjacent to remnant rainforest and to regularly spend time volunteering in the magic of the Simpson Desert. Retirement in March 2019 has meant the chance to spend more time volunteering in conservation and walking in wild places. Her volunteering has included weeding work with Conservation Volunteers and with Wildcare on sea spurge and general maintenance at Freycinet. Ann brings to the Wildcare Gift Committee over 20 years' experience practising in Tasmania as a commercial property lawyer and a commitment to conservation.



Dr Rosemary Gales

Rosemary currently manages DPIPWE's Natural Values Science Section of NCH. Rosemary studied zoology and wildlife conservation and has worked in New Zealand, Canada, Antarctica and Australia - including Macquarie and Heard Island. She has instigated and managed long term programs monitoring the conservation status of penguins, albatrosses, seals, whales and wombats. Rosemary has also been responsible for programs aimed at mitigating fisheries bycatch of seabirds and also convening a global group of specialists assessing the status of albatross species worldwide.



Ciara Turner

Ciara has a passion for the outdoors, growing up on a 5 acre property. Her love of the outdoors led her to become a Trek Leader at the Tasmanian Walking Company, as well as completing a 850km walk across the Pyrenees in Europe. She holds science credentials through a Combined Bachelor of Arts and Science majoring in Zoology and a Masters in Business Management with Entrepreneurship. Ciara's work experience has turned to business analysis in product development and renewable energy. She has been involved in the development and refinement of apps for customers to better manage their energy consumption. She is passionate about using her business and analytical skills to contribute to positive environmental outcomes and is delighted to be involved with the work of the Wildcare Gift Fund Committee.

DONATIONS IN ACTION

Wildcare volunteers work in some stunning locations and share the joy of caring for the environment with others.



DONATION OPTIONS

Wildcare's donation options are based on:

- environmental need,
- donor interest, and
- where Wildcare is best placed to make a difference.

THE OPTIONS

WILDPLACES

- Nature and World Heritage (Wildcare's 'flagship' cause)
- Coast Conservation
- Wild Bushwalking Tracks
- Get Into Nature

WILDLIFE

- Keep wildlife safe (Preventing harm)
- Bonorong (Rescue and immediate care)
- Wildlife rehab and release (Long term recovery and release)
- Raptors
- Penguins
- Tasmanian devils
- Orange-bellied parrots

The donation options are described over the next pages.

Nature and World Heritage

(Our 'flagship' cause)

Donations to the Nature and World Heritage cause help to:

- care for Tasmania's environment including the Wilderness World Heritage Area, National Parks, islands and other land managed for conservation,
- maintain habitat for native plants and animals, and
- minimise impacts of walkers and campers.

The 1.58 million hectare Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is one of the largest conservation areas in Australia. It covers almost a quarter of Tasmania and is one of only two properties in the world listed under the World Heritage Convention on the basis of three cultural heritage and four natural heritage criteria.

Tasmania's 19 National Parks and over 800 reserves protect unique habitats and ecosystems. Consisting of over 330 islands, the archipelago of Tasmania is amongst the last unspoiled natural places in the world.

The work of Wildcare volunteer groups is supported by donations to this cause. An example is the suppression of weeds on Deal Island, to maintain healthy habitat and stabilised slopes, involving the Friends of Deal Island group.

A major project was the upgrade of the Frenchman's Cap track in South West Tasmania by the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and Wildcare volunteers to reduce environmental impact and improve walker experience. Generous donations over 10 years from Dick Smith enabled this work.



Coast Conservation

Donations to the Coast Conservation cause support:

- coastal reserve and marine reserve management,
- marine mammal and seabird conservation, and
- community awareness of and participation in coastal and marine conservation.

A recent project funded included construction of a bridge at Pitt Water Orielton Lagoon to reduce the impact of foot traffic across sensitive habitat and to highlight the natural values of the area. This project is a collaboration between Wildcare Friends of Pitt Water Orielton Lagoon volunteer group and Sorell Council.

A past major success was the declaration of Tasman Island as feral cat-free, following the success of a program to eradicate the cats that wreaked havoc on the island's populations of ground-nesting seabirds. Previously the cats were killing an estimated 50,000 birds a year.

There are a number of Wildcare Friends of groups who are passionate carers for wild islands offshore of Tasmania.

Programs supported include beach clean-ups and sea spurge removal from our coastlines.



Wild Bushwalking Tracks

Donations to the Wild Bushwalking Tracks cause support:

- management and maintenance of wilderness walks,
- hut and camping facility maintenance,
- education for wilderness walkers, and
- on-track walker information.

The tracks supported are iconic 'bushwalkers' wilderness tracks. The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service has a "T" rating for tracks. The tracks that Wildcare supports are primarily T3 and T4 tracks, but in some cases T2.

There have been significant ongoing works in the South West wilderness enabled by donations. Recent projects include parallel planking through muddy areas and wooden tent platforms to prevent campsite damage, in remote sites in the South West. These projects minimise environmental damage by containing walker impact while allowing appreciation of the stunning area. We are of the opinion that people who are able to safely immerse in these beautiful places will be committed to preserving them for the future.

We give heartfelt thanks to Alan and Hilary Wallace who provided a significant donation to this cause. The work of maintaining and improving wild bushwalking tracks is ongoing and funding is constantly needed.



**DONATIONS
TO WILD
BUSHWALKING
TRACKS**

Get Into Nature

Donations to the Get Into Nature cause support:

- outdoor nature activities that encourage people to develop a strong appreciation for nature and to reap social benefits from exploring nature with others, and
- hands-on school and community education projects.

A major program is the **Get Outside** Program. Bennelong has been a primary donor towards this program for three years up to 2021. Get Outside facilitates nature-based experiences for refugees and new migrants in Tasmania. The program has been running since 2012, and has taken well over 1,000 refugees and migrants on bushwalks, outdoor events and camps. A 2018 independent assessment report found that the program made profound differences to the mental well-being, connections and sense of belonging of participants. We hope that these people will go on to become future carers and ambassadors for Tasmania's environment!



Keep Wildlife Safe



Donations to the Keep Wildlife Safe cause help Tasmania's precious wildlife to stay safe in the wild.

Projects may include:

- Habitat restoration and recovery
- Roadkill mitigation through technology such as virtual fencing
- Keeping wildlife healthy and well, including actions to protect against illness and disease, or strandings.
- Public education, data gathering and signage.

Wildcare works closely with Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary in keeping wildlife safe. Funds raised through this cause will allow us to continue our efforts.

The Wildcare Tamar Valley Roadkill Initiative is pursuing road kill mitigation, including working with local Councils to target particularly road hot spots. Funds raised through this cause will support their work, as well as other Wildcare groups that develop worthy projects.



**DONATIONS TO
KEEP
WILDLIFE SAFE**



Bonorong



Donations to the Wildcare Bonorong cause will support:

- the operations of Tasmania's specialised wildlife hospital, Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary.
- education and awareness programs about Tasmania's wildlife and its conservation.
- rescue of injured and orphaned wildlife.



Bonorong performs an essential and highly valued role in rescuing and caring for wildlife in Tasmania.

Bonorong manages a volunteer army who conduct wildlife rescues and care for animals at the Sanctuary. Bonorong runs regular training days to educate new rescuers.



Major projects supported by donations to the Wildcare Bonorong cause have been:

- extension of the phone rescue service to be a 24hour service
- funding for the wildlife hospital,
- food for animals during the 2020 shut down as a result of pandemic restrictions.

Wildcare and Bonorong have a strong respect and partnership and continue to develop new innovative ways to work together to help care for Tasmania's wildlife.



Wildlife rehab and release

Donations to the Wildlife Rehab and Release cause supports the rehabilitation and release of Tasmania's injured and orphaned native animals by dedicated volunteer carers.

Rehabilitation is a very important part of the process in caring for wildlife that may have been injured, rescued, received veterinary treatment and now needs time to recover before returning back into the wild.

Wildlife rehabilitation is a specialised skill and while it can be very rewarding, it can also be time-consuming and emotionally taxing. It is important that carers receive training and support and are registered with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment.

Projects funded may include:

- training,
- enclosures and
- support for the special volunteers who transition animals back to healthy lives in the wild.



Raptors

Donations to the Raptors cause support:

- the rescue, care, rehabilitation and release of raptors, and
- education and awareness programs about raptors and their conservation.

Projects will usually be value-added with the efforts of volunteers. There is an ongoing need for funds.

Wildcare Tasmania is pleased to work in partnership with Raptor Refuge (Kettering Tasmania).

Recent projects which have received funding have included:

- the construction of very large aviaries at Raptor Refuge to provide expansive flight arenas for raptors that are being rehabilitated, and
- extensive fire proofing systems for the Raptor Refuge to protect the birds and aviaries in the event of bushfire.



Penguins

The Wildcare Penguin Cause supports the conservation of penguins by funding projects that:

- Protect and manage penguin populations
- Provide managed environments for people to view penguins safely
- Rehabilitate injured and sick penguins
- Communicate with the community about threats to penguin survival and ways to mitigate the threat.

Recent projects have included funding for:

- rehabilitation of penguins that were injured and orphaned, and
- an educator to attend at rookery sites during peak breeding season. The educator helps manage public interactions, trains volunteers and provides informative talks about penguins.

The conservation efforts greatly reduce the risk of penguins being threatened or harmed and help to improve public understanding of these precious creatures.



**DONATIONS TO
PENGUINS**

Tasmanian Devils

The Wildcare Tasmanian Devil Cause supports the conservation of the Tasmanian devil by funding projects that:

- Protect and manage wild devil populations
- Care for and manage devils in captivity (insurance populations)
- Support captive breeding and
- Prevent and treat the Devil Facial Tumour Disease

Regular funding has been provided towards ongoing research into the Tasmanian Devil facial tumour disease by the Menzies Institute for Medical Research in Tasmania.

Saffire Freycinet has been the primary donor to the Tasmanian Devil cause since 2017. The Menzies Institute for Medical Research is working on developing a vaccine against the disease and donations have supported this work. Saffire guests and members of the public are also generous contributors.



Orange-bellied parrots

Donations to the Orange-Bellied Parrot Cause support projects and breeding-and-release programs that will enhance the survival prospects of the orange-bellied parrot as a wild species.

The orange-bellied parrot is a critically endangered bird species that migrates from mainland Australia to the wild and remote southwest Tasmania each summer.

Orange-bellied parrots only breed in the southwest of Tasmania so Tasmanian efforts are very important to the team recovery effort that exists across Australia.

Volunteers participate in the care of parrots and in the surveying of numbers.

Orange-bellied parrots fly at least 640 km over land and sea each year. There is a small wild population and returning parrots are eagerly awaited in Tasmania, each breeding season.

Habitat loss and degradation, as well as introduced predators and competitors, have likely been responsible for the decline in numbers. However, recent survey results have been encouraging!



**DONATIONS TO
ORANGE-BELLIED
PARROTS**



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To become a Wildcare member

We love members! It helps the work of Wildcare to continue. Join direct through the Wildcare website at any time, using a credit card. Once you join an email will be sent to you containing your membership number and letting you know how to get involved, if you are intending to volunteer.

To donate or make a bequest

It warms our heart to receive donations, big or small, as we know what good use they get put to in action. Donations from nearly any country in the world can be made direct through the Wildcare website at any time, using a credit card. A tax deductible receipt will be emailed to you.

Large donations or bequests can be 'game changers' for Wildcare in terms of the continuity of work they enable us to do. These are a way that you can make a significant impact or leave a lasting legacy in Tasmania's precious wild places, potentially enabling a new, specific project or ongoing donations cause to be commenced, aligned to your wishes.

Our CEO would love to speak with you about large donations and bequests to identify the possibilities together. Please contact ceo@wildcaretas.org.au





the **Wildcare** way

Volunteers driving results
Collaborative partnerships
Lean overheads
Donations making a difference

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