

Wildcare Tasmania
Friends of Freycinet

Schouten Shenanigans
Volunteer Information



Freycinet
NATIONAL PARK
TASMANIA

Schouten Passage from Morey's Hut



What will I be doing?

Volunteers may be involved in some or all of the following tasks:

- Conduct all duties and activities consistent with the principles of the Tasmanian State Service Code of Conduct and the policies and procedures of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).
- Uphold the Workplace Health and Safety and Wellbeing values of DPIPWE.
- Adhere to physical distancing standards and Public Health regulations regarding COVID-19.
- Establish the Volunteer Campground Hosts site at Morey's Hut for the new season including cartage of gear from beach to hut, set-up of tent and other infrastructure.
- Undertake weed control, monitoring and mapping. The weeds are mostly:
 - Ulex europaeus (Gorse) on the interior of the island;
 - Vinca major (Periwinkle) on the interior of the island;
 - Thistles & Nettles on the interior of the island;
 - Euphorbia paralias (Sea Spurge) along sandy beaches.
- Undertake the cleaning of the volunteer's toilet at Morey's Hut as well as the two toilets north and south of the camping area at Crocketts Bay.
- Undertake rubbish pick-ups around Schouten Island sites including beaches, walking tracks and campgrounds.
- Undertake minor maintenance on infrastructure as required.
- Keep Morey's Hut free of food scraps and other rubbish which may attract rodents/vermin.
- Report to the supervising Ranger any work health and safety issues, park management issues, infrastructure damage or faults.

How do I get there?

Schouten Island is only accessible by boat. Volunteers leave from the Coles Bay jetty and transport is provided by Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) on board the PWS vessel or the Freycinet Aqua Taxi. The trip takes approximately 35 minutes.

There is no dock at Schouten Island and loading / unloading is by beach landing and wading through water that is sometimes waist high.

Transport to the island is only provided at the start and completion of the working bee.

Delays may occur at the start or end of the working bee due to weather conditions. Parks and Wildlife Service will not compromise the safety of its volunteers or staff by travelling by boat under rough conditions.

It is very important for volunteers to have some flexibility with their travel itineraries for the days that fall both before and after.

There is no re-supply during the time on the island so volunteers need to ensure they have sufficient food supplies and personal medications to last for the entire duration of the working bee.

Volunteers are required to pay their own costs in getting to and from the staging point at Coles Bay, and for their food and personal items. All Volunteers need to have a valid Tasmanian Parks

pass; need to have registered as volunteers with DPIPWE and have completed the COVID-19 Training Modules as set out in the Volunteering pages of the DPIPWE website <https://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/volunteering-at-dpipwe/volunteer-information-and-training-covid-19>.

Volunteers are asked to be at Freycinet Field Centre the day before their scheduled departure, so that they can undertake a compulsory induction and that an early start can be made the next morning. Free shared accommodation is available in Parks and Wildlife Service houses.

What is provided?

Parks and Wildlife Service and Wildcare Friends of Freycinet (FOF) provide:

- transport to and from the island
- emergency communications (satellite tracker)
- first aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen
- insect-shield coveralls
- tools and equipment necessary for the required work
- cooking equipment and utensils

Volunteers will need to bring with them

- all food, and clothing for the duration plus an extra 1 to 2 days food, in the event of delays to departure due to poor weather;
- all personal medications, toiletries and related items;
- camping equipment (tent, sleeping bags, camp mattresses etc);
- cup, plates, torch and camp chair;
- sturdy walking boots, weatherproof and warm clothing (including hat and gloves). These are essential even in summer as the weather is highly variable. Gaiters if you chose.
- personal mobile phone (note mobile reception is limited);
- personal reading material.

Supplies bought to the island should be inside spray-proof sealable tubs so that supplies don't get wet when transported, plus there are pygmy possums on the island that will get inside anything they can and chew. **For WHS reasons packages of gear can be no greater than 10kgs.**

Where will I be staying?

The night before each scheduled embarkation volunteers will stay in Parks and Wildlife Service accommodation at Freycinet Field Centre, Coles Bay.

On the island volunteers need to provide their own tents and camping equipment. Morey's Hut is not to be used for sleeping.

The two front rooms of the main hut are used as a Visitor Information Centre. This hut also has two rooms available for Volunteers use - the kitchen and pantry. Parks Wildlife Service promote the huts as emergency shelters only and campers are to be discouraged from "camping" inside the hut. Access for the general public to the huts is to be maintained.

What facilities are there?

Only basic facilities are provided; there is an external toilet and an external bush/camping shower.

Water is available from the Morey's Hut tanks and a refillable kitchen water container is provided. Fresh (tank) water should be treated prior to consumption with either water purifying tablets or boiling and be used sparingly. Kitchen equipment (pots, pans, plates, crockery) and washing up equipment are provided.

A generator and solar panel are provided to charge a battery which runs a mobile phone charger and fridge. Battery powered lanterns are also provided.

A gas/electric powered cooler and eski is available on the island and is shared by all participants. Note the space is **very limited**.

What happens in an emergency?

Evacuation procedures exist in the event of a bushfire, or serious injury / illness to the Volunteers requiring medivac; the cost of this is covered by Parks and Wildlife Service.

Work, Health and Safety and Wellbeing (WHS&WB)

In accordance with Section 28 of the *Work, Health and Safety Act 2012* ('the Act'), while at work a volunteer as a worker must:

- a) *take reasonable care for his or her own health and safety;*
- b) *take reasonable care that his or her acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons;*
- c) *comply, so far as the worker is reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by the Department to allow DPIPWE to comply with the Act; and*
- d) *cooperate with any reasonable policy or procedure, relating to health or safety at the workplace that has been notified to workers*

Individual volunteers are required to have completed the COVID-19 training modules on the DPIPWE web site and comply with the COVID safe plan; be registered as volunteers with DPIPWE, including providing the Department with advice on any condition that may impair their individual, or others safety. Volunteers must immediately report any hazards or incidents as they occur to the relevant Department Supervisor who will ensure compliance with the Department's Work, Health, Safety and Wellbeing policy and procedures. All volunteer work tasks are subject to appropriate WHS&WB risk assessments prior to any activity commencing. Volunteer participants must attend a safety briefing and wear any personal protective equipment as identified

within the Job or Activity Risk Assessments. During an activity, if there are any reasonable concerns that a worker may be exposed to a serious risk to their health and safety, work should cease immediately and a report made without delay to the relevant DPIPWE Supervisor.

In past years there have been cases of Flinders Island Spotted Fever (FISF) amongst volunteers on Schouten Island. Flinders Island Spotted Fever (FISF) is an illness caused by bacteria known as *Rickettsia honei*. FISF is spread to humans by a bite from a tick infected with the bacteria. The tick that carries the FISF bacteria is thought to most commonly be found on reptiles. In Tasmania, infections have been acquired on Flinders Island, Schouten Island, and the eastern coast area. Infections can occur throughout the year, but the risk increases during spring and summer months when ticks are most active and when camping and other outdoor activities are more common. Infections occur in people of all ages.

Volunteers will be supplied with insect-shield coveralls. For more information on FISF the Department of Health has produced a fact sheet.

https://www.health.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/281217/Flinders_Island_Spotted_Fever_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Personal Information

The Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and the Environment require all volunteers to complete and submit a Volunteer Registration and COVID-19 Volunteer Induction form.

Your personal information will be used for the primary purpose for which it is collected and, may be disclosed to contractors and agents of DPIPWE, law enforcement agencies, courts and organisations authorised to collect it.

Your basic personal information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies where necessary for the efficient storage and use of the information. Personal information will be managed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to the DPIPWE. You may be charged a fee for this service.

Contacts

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heading home - packing the boat



removing stores from the beach



setting up the Host Caretakers tent

collecting rubbish



weeding gorse



relaxing outside
Morey's Hut

