**The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**



January 2022
 **Volunteer Expressions of Interest are currently being called for the
Bi-annual Bird Count Program at Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, Tasmania**

Do you enjoy bird watching and being in the great outdoors?

The PWS are currently seeking expressions of interest from volunteers who would like to join the ever popular, Moulting Lagoon bird count, planned for Tuesday 15 February 2022.
Come and join the bird count team, for an enjoyable day out and to learn more about the Reserve and bird species from NRE Tas employees.

The Parks and Wildlife Service are seeking 7 volunteers to join the field trip.

**Volunteer activities**

* Volunteer as part of a small team at Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve
* Identify and record bird sightings
* Attend a safety briefing at the start of the count and attend to routine ‘check-ins’ throughout the day.
* Assist the PWS to provide information to the general public (if required).

**About Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve**

Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve is situated in the Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipality on the east coast of Tasmania, adjacent to the Freycinet Peninsula and approximately 10km north of the township of Swansea and approximately 8 kilometres north of the township of Coles Bay.

Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve is managed in accordance with the Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, Ramsar Site Management Plan of 2003. The Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance has been established under the Convention on Wetlands and is an inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Moulting Lagoon’s inclusion on this list recognises its special geoconservation significance as being one of only two Tasmanian drainage division examples of a large estuary that has been formed behind a bayhead sandspit. It is also recognised as one of high conservation significance for Tasmania as the site is an important resting and breeding ground for a wide range of both migratory and resident birds such as the Australian Shelduck (Tadorna tadornoides) the Black Swan (Cygnus atratus).

The largest Tasmanian flock of common greenshank (Tringa nebularia) also occurs at the lagoon.

The lagoon is a large estuary formed at the mouths of the Apsley and Swan Rivers. It contains areas of both shallow and deep water and is surrounded by periodically exposed mud flats and saltmarsh. The surrounding vegetation communities include marshland, heathland, grassland and coastal woodlands.

It is home to a wide range of flora, including some rare and vulnerable Tasmanian endemic species such as Golden Spray or Native Broom (Viminaria juncea). One of the most striking features of the landscape are the large swathes of Beaded Glasswort (Sarcocornia quinqueflora) that stretch along the shoreline of the lagoon. During stressful growing conditions such as drought, the plant turns into a vast carpet of vivid orangey red. The fragile nature of this plant makes it vulnerable to tyre track damage from vehicles driving on the foreshore can take many, many years to recover.

Weeds such as Gorse (Ulex europaeus) and African Box Thorn (Lycium ferocissimum) are also present at Moulting Lagoon and have been the subject of many co-operative management actions from local landowners, the Parks and Wildlife Service and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council / Natural Resource Management South. Ongoing monitoring and control methods are expected to go on for some years into the future.

Recreational activities popular at Moulting Lagoon include shooting, fishing and boating and this site is the local “go to” spot for bird watchers.

Landowners adjacent to Moulting Lagoon host a wide range of small industries such as Viticulture, Cropping, Sheep and Cattle Farming, Aquaculture Oyster Leases and Tourism. The Lagoon adjoins land that is also home to two Not for Profit Conservation Group reserves and a few private reserves.

Vehicle access to the reserve is restricted to Day Visit Areas and small campgrounds via the Coles Bay Road. Other access points are courtesy of access across private lands in four-wheel drive vehicles and or by canoe. Boating access on Moulting Lagoon has special restrictions in place for safety and to deter the disturbance of water birds. Some areas are off limits to specific types of craft such as jet skis; other areas have set speed limits; other areas, again are so shallow that boating is not possible.

Please be advised there is limited mobile coverage at Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve.

Review climate statistics for nearby Coles Bay on the [Bureau of Meteorology website.](http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/forecasts/coles-bay.shtml)

For more information about Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, visit [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

**General information**

Volunteers work in small teams of up to 3 people to undertake bird counts within pre-determined sectors of Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve. Volunteer activities commence at 7:30 am starting with a safety briefing and conclude following bird count activities at around 3 PM.

**NRE Tas provide:**

* Safety briefing, induction and information to support volunteer activities
* Free of Charge Accommodation the night prior to volunteer activities (Mon 14 Feb 2022), to ensure volunteers are available for the 7:30 AM safety briefing the following morning. Please note, in certain circumstances, accommodation may also be provided following the bird count, where a safety requirement.
* Volunteer transport to the Reserve and back to the Freycinet Field Centre Base at the conclusion of activities.
* Record sheets, writing instruments and reference texts
* First Aid Kit and PPE relevant to the activities (volunteers are also welcome to bring any personal PPE if preferred, however items must meet NRE Tas safety standards).
* Communication equipment (handheld VHF radio, satellite communication equipment)
* COVID-19 cleaning materials

*Accommodation options are subject to availability. These may include shared staff quarters; freestanding camp facilities or local commercial accommodation. Volunteers are welcome to bring their own free-standing camping facilities (tent/campervan) for use if preferring separate accommodation. Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, kitchen, bathroom and lounge spaces within PWS staff quarters may be shared by no more than a maximum of 4 volunteers at any one time.*

**Volunteers are asked to provide:**

* Bedding and towels (incl pillow)
* Food and drink prior, during and after the count.
* Any personal medication and toiletries
* Mobile phone
* Sturdy and waterproof footwear suitable wet, muddy, undulating landscapes and marshlands.
* Warm waterproof clothing for variable weather conditions
* Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses
* Spotting Scope and / or Binoculars
* Camera, own reference texts (optional)
* Volunteers working on vessel-based sectors will need to bring a wetsuit and wetsuit booties, dry mobile phone bag

Volunteers may choose to supply the following personal equipment items. These can also be supplied by the PWS for the duration of the bird count upon request to the PWS:

* Small first aid kit
* Reference texts / Bird identification sheets
* PFD (for scanoe vessel-based sectors only)

**Training**

Additional information to support all volunteer activities, training, induction and safety briefings will be provided by the Ranger-In-Charge at Freycinet prior to departure.

Before applying, all applicants are asked to read and become familiar with the *NRE Volunteer Induction and Participation Manual,* available on the [NRE Tas website](https://nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/volunteering).

**Advice for applicants regarding COVID-19**

NRE Tas volunteer programs are conducted in accordance with the Tasmanian Government’s COVID-19 Safe Workplaces Framework. This includes the Department’s COVID-19 Safe Plan, Volunteer Activity Risk Assessments, and any relevant site plans.

In accordance with current COVID-19 Public Health Advice, individuals most at-risk are *encouraged* to consider their personal circumstances and complete a COVID-19 Action Plan in consultation with their medical practitioner.

Changes to COVID-19 Public Health Advice may result in suspension of the volunteer program at short notice.

Volunteers should also ensure they are familiar with the current quarantine and border control restrictions, prior to submitting an expression of interest.

Volunteers are also encouraged to review the COVID-19 volunteer information, available on the [NRE Tas website](https://nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/volunteering) prior to submitting an EOI.

Following successful appointment to the program, volunteers will be required to complete a NRE Tas volunteer registration process, mandatory COVID-19 training and information and be fully vaccinated as required by the NRE Tas COVID – 19 Vaccination Policy.

**Medical disclosures**

The majority of NRE Tas volunteer roles, require a reasonable level of physical fitness. Volunteers are encouraged to consider the location of activities, noting in some locations immediate access to health services may not be readily available.

Volunteers should ensure all personal medications are available wherever needed, with relevant health information disclosed to the Department to ensure we can support your safe participation.

Information will only be requested from successful applicants and handled in accordance with relevant privacy legislation.

**How to get involved**

We appoint new and existing volunteers based on merit, interest and availability.

NRE Tas volunteer roles are not paid positions, and therefore an EOI submission should not be written in the same way as a job application.

The department is interested in finding out more about you, what motivates you to volunteer, why you are interested in participating in the program and any skills or experience you might have that you think would add value to the volunteering role on offer.

Please provide a short form submission, being an email or letter addressing the volunteer criteria below (1-2 paragraphs for each of the criteria below)

**Selection criteria**

Volunteers are asked to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and experience in relation to the following criteria:

* V 1 Previous experience in a bird count activity, especially wader counts, and a keen interest in bird watching and identifying species (or the ability to acquire skills).
* V 2 Experience in using a spotting scope and/or binoculars (or the ability to acquire skills).
* V 3 The ability to make legible handwritten records of information gathered.
* V 4 A reasonable level of fitness to navigate and carry equipment over approximately 2 kilometres of uneven terrain (may include boggy, muddy and wet conditions), the ability to travel in 4WDs on uneven terrain and/or travel on water within a PWS vessel.
* V 5 The ability to work within a small team, follow instructions and adhere to all Work Health and Safety requirements.
* V 6 Friendly and welcoming disposition to provide general information to the public about the PWS “Leave No Trace” principles and answer any questions in relation to the bird count activities.

Applicants are asked to identify any other skills, qualifications or experience that may be relevant to the volunteering role on offer and provide copies of any current or relevant qualifications.

**Please submit your application to:**  volunteerfreycinet@nre.tas.gov.au

**Closing date: Friday 4 February 2022**