


WILDTIMES

ISSUE 64 : JANUARY 2022



WILDCARE TASMANIA

Caring for Tasmania's wildplaces, wildlife, and cultural heritage



Wildcare Tasmania acknowledges and pays respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of the lands on which we work and we acknowledge Elders past and present.

We are committed to listening and learning, as we build relationships with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and seek to integrate Aboriginal cultural awareness into all that we do - including training our leaders and supporting planning and action that protects Aboriginal heritage values.

FOREWARD

Wildcare Tasmania is a not for profit charity caring for Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage.

With **60 volunteering groups** and **11 causes that people can donate to**, Wildcare provides a platform for **everyone** to help in some way, big or small.

It's positive and constructive and it all happens on the smell of an oily rag, or on the breeze from a bird's wing, which is the way we prefer to think of it.

Ways to help include:

- joining Wildcare as a member,
- joining a volunteering group, or
- donating to a cause.

Visit the Wildcare website www.wildcaretas.org.au

Email us at memberservices@wildcaretas.org.au

Phone **61654230**

**What follows are stories from our
Wildcare community.**



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CEO MESSAGE

Dear Wildcare friends,

This 62nd *Wildtimes* is a celebration of the efforts of Wildcare volunteering groups and donors. I hope it will inspire you and keep you thinking after you've finished reading!

Wildcare Tasmania provides a platform for people who care about Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage to contribute whether that be through:

- being a member,
- joining one of 60 volunteer groups and/or
- making a financial contribution.

I've been involved in many different organisations and I've never known one quite like Wildcare. Its unique model is lean and thrives on empowering people. The graphic at right says it all - there are the equivalent of just 2 full-time paid staff employed by Wildcare, however, through collective passion and our governance model, the contributions of volunteers, donors and organisational partners are brought together.

Wildcare is apolitical, however, all of this positive action is a strong form of community voice. It shows what people value and care about. To me, this is the way of change for the future.

You can help by joining as a member, volunteering or making a donation (in particular to the Nature and World Heritage cause, which relates to the work of the majority of our volunteer groups).

I hope you enjoy the read! Please get in touch if you would like to find out more or talk about ways to get involved. Good things come from new spirit and ideas!

Sharon Smith
CEO
Wildcare Tasmania



Sharon (left) and Kim from the Wildcare Office team visiting Tasman Island in 2021.

WILDCARE TASMANIA AT A GLANCE



3000

MEMBERS



11

DONATION CAUSES



60

VOLUNTEER GROUPS



11

PERSON BOARD



6

PERSON GRANTS
ASSESSMENT
COMMITTEE



2

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
STAFF

Caring for
wild places, wildlife and heritage

WELCOMES and a TRIBUTE

In 2021 our Wildcare family grew that little bit bigger as we welcomed the following groups into our ranks!

- Friends of the Henty
- Crag Care
- Friends of the Hobart Rivulet Platypus
- Sisters Beach Wildcare
- Tamar Valley Wildlife Roadkill Initiative

We also welcomed countless new faces to our groups.

Interested in getting involved?

Just visit the Volunteer tab of the Wildcare website and browse the selection of volunteer groups! Click 'Join this branch' to become a part of that group's email list.

Anyone can browse the groups but you'll need to be a member to join a group.

A Tribute

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Trevor Norris, much loved PWS Ranger and supporter of Wildcare. He brought great humour and down to earth sunshine to all who knew him and will be greatly missed.



Photographer, John French



WILDCARE GROUPS IN YOUR AREA

NORTH WEST

- Friends of Three Hummock Island
- Sisters Beach Wildcare
- Friends of the Freshwater Lobster
- Friends of Doctors Rocks Penguins
- Wildlife Rescue and Rehab
- Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail
- Friends of Lillico Penguins
- Friends of St Valentines Peak
- Wildcare Cradle Mountain Volunteers
- Friends of Devonport Reserves
- Karst Care
- Friends of Narawntapu

NORTH EAST

- Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony
- Friends of Redbill Point Conservation Area
- Friends of Yorktown Historic Site
- Tamar Valley Wildlife Roadkill Initiative
- Friends of Tamar Island Wetlands Reserve
- Friends of Trevallyn Reserve
- Native Wildlife Rescue - Birralee
- Friends of Deal Island
- Friends of Bass Strait Islands
- Friends of Fisher Island
- Friends of the Irapuna Coast
- Friends of Freycinet
- Central Highlands Wildlife Group

SOUTH EAST

- Friends of Maria Island
- Friends of Woodvine
- Friends of Margaret Mitchell Garden
- Friends of Pitt Water Orielson Lagoon
- Wildcare Deslacs
- Friends of the Hobart Rivulet Platypus
- Friends of Wellington Park
- Derwent Ave Group for Dave Burrows Walk
- Wildcare Friends of Derwent and Channel Penguins
- Friends of the Raptor Refuge
- Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station
- Friends of Snake Island
- Friends of Tasman Island
- Roaring Beach Wildlife Rescue
- Wildcare Lumeah Point

SOUTH WEST

- Friends of Melaleuca
- Friends of the Orange-bellied parrot
- Friends of Maatsuyker
- Friends of Mount Field
- Friends of the Franklin
- Friends of Sarah Island
- Friends of Macquarie Harbour Waterways
- Friends of the Henty
- Wildcare SPRATS
- Coastal Custodians

STATEWIDE

- Threatened Plants Tasmania
- Whale Rescue Volunteer First Response Team
- Get Outside with Community (South)
- Wildcare Friends of GIS
- Crag Care Tasmania

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE AT PENNA

Friends of Pittwater Orielton Lagoon
By Georgina Davis

On Sunday 1st August 2021 we were treated to a wonderful educational opportunity thanks to Caleb Pedder, a consultant Aboriginal Heritage Officer.

In searching for an Aboriginal Heritage Officer to participate in an archaeological survey of the area, I happened to call Caleb. He welcomed the chance to discuss and offered to give our group an information session. This was so fortuitous as we wanted to ensure we were aware of Aboriginal heritage material and sites. We needed to know how to prevent disturbing sites in the course of our weeding work.

As a Wildcare group we are able to help preserve and protect Aboriginal Heritage by being aware of the potential presence in the area, second by being respectful of its value and thirdly by knowing what to do if we make an incidental find and by not causing disturbance to the soil.



Photographer, Georgina Davis

We were all amazed at how knowledgeable Caleb was. He has had a lifetime of experience learning about his own ancestors and working as a consultant. His work has included archaeological surveys, relic identification, as an expert witness for legal cases and education. Our group was so enthusiastic and interested and the questions kept flowing.

Caleb poured forth his knowledge long into the afternoon. It could have kept going for another hour there was so much interest.





Caleb began by showing us the many tribal nations known to have existed in Tasmania. Our area is believed to have been inhabited by the Oyster Bay tribe, which included the Moo maire mener people. He explained how it was the women and children who mostly spent time at the midden sites. People slept on the middens. They were regular camp sites over perhaps millenia.

He talked about types of Ochres and how they were used for ceremonies, for insulation from the cold and also traded. He talked about special rock, Spongelite, found only in the north west, prized for its great qualities for stone tool manufacture. These things were traded great distances within lutruwita/ Tasmania.

He explained how stone artefacts have a "bulb of percussion" which reflects the force travelling through the stone as a result of impact upon it being made. Stone tools are usually either right handed or left handed, but there are some designed to be ambidextrous.

On the shore below a large midden, Caleb explained how these are generally associated with women who gathered oysters and austrocochlear shells (a small gastropod). The men would be out the back hunting.

The area would have also been regularly burned to make for easier passage by bare feet and bodies. New growth would provide grazing macropods with food. Currently, the oldest known midden in Hobart is 8000 years old and is under a car park.

"He (Caleb) has inspired us to better appreciate the way our indigenous people treated the land, country. That they came from it, they didn't claim to possess it like we do today, but to BE of it, BE from it and to treat it as their source. They respected and respect country, our Earth, and so treated it with care and were the first custodians."

This is what we want to be - caring for our reserves and public land like custodians - respectfully with collaboration and advice from the indigenous community.

THE PENNY PROJECT

How Do We Protect Our Paperbark Woodlands From Coastal Erosion?

Words by: Sisters Beach Wildcare

Last July, at Sisters Beach estuary, our President Lynn discovered that about 40 of the plants and tree guards we had put in at the paperbark woodland had been washed out and carried uphill, by a sea surge the previous night. Some people might think of this as a major setback, but to be honest, we were sort of expecting something like it to happen.

For the past couple of years, our Wildcare group has been investigating how to protect our local estuarine woodland from increasing effects of sea storms that occasionally sweep into our beautiful local beach. We had noticed that storm surges have been undermining our sand dunes, and causing our elegant paperbarks to fall into the estuary. The erosion of the paperbark woodland is slower than the erosion of the sand dunes. The woodland is on peat soil and the roots of the trees help to hold this peaty soil together.



We started with erosion of the woodland. Waratah-Wynyard Council kicked in by putting up a fence protecting our site, and funded plants and tree guards.

The formation of our group, just over two years ago, had been started by a tragic event. In late 2019, a resident, Dr Penny Whetton, unexpectedly died. Penny was one of Australia's top climate scientists, a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and until just before her retirement, had headed up CSIRO's climate projections work.

Penny loved Sisters Beach and was deeply concerned about sea level rise and erosion and what our community might do about this. So in her memory, her wife Janet asked for people to donate to a fund to help support community action at Sisters Beach. This, and enthusiasm on the part of a lot of locals for doing something at the estuary, was what prompted the formation of Sisters Beach Wildcare. Vale Penny.





While the loss of seedlings in July 2021 was a bit of a blow, it was also a chance for us to look at how sea surges were limiting the establishment of new paperbarks at the site. We figured out that it was unlikely that waves were knocking down young plants. It's more what high waves bring with them – debris from the sea: grass and sticks and small logs and branches.

As waves surge back and forward in some places, with debris at their edge, they bulldoze tongues of destruction, into where we have been re-vegetating.



We are a resilient lot at Sisters Beach Wildcare. We keep turning up to put in new local native plant species and protect them with tree guards, pull weeds out and keep the grass down by whipper-snipping.

We are now staking down large boughs of paperbark at the front edge of the woodland, where it meets the estuary. Our hope is that, when the next sea surge happens, bringing debris with it, the branches of the paperbark boughs will trap this debris.

If this strategy works, it might be something that other groups facing similar problems around Tasmania, and elsewhere, might build on, to start trying out similar strategies.

We keep working on getting a range of new species established, and we celebrate the growth of the plants we have already put in – and what a great year it has been for growth, with the extra rain brought by a developing La Niña, with a bit of help from the Indian Ocean Dipole!

And so we wait and watch and act, using a combination of ongoing community involvement and citizen science. We now call it the Penny Project.

We think that Penny would have approved.

MEETING MAATSUYKER ISLAND

The Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FoMI)

Words by Penni Rockliff

Photos by Marina Campbell

"Before I went to Maatsuyker Island I thought of it as one of those magical fairy-tale places. After going I think of it in exactly the same way."

Located about 10kms off the southern coast of Tasmania – 'Maat' is buffeted by the Roaring Forties and home to Australia's most southern lighthouse. It is part of the Southwest National Park and World Heritage area.

My introduction was as part of the 2019 weeding team. Initially I was selected as 'twelfth person'. Fortunately for me this changed and I was on the team.

Knowing what a huge gig it is to manage something like this – I was incredibly impressed at the planning and organising. The big day arrived, concerns about the weather dissipated and I – along with 11 others – was on the island.

The vegetation shaped by wind and salt is diverse. Banksias, dogwoods, native laurel to name a few. There are the glossiest mountain peppers with the biggest pepper berries you will ever see! The tea tree is twisted into wonderful shapes – I really hope to see it in flower one day.

Weed management started in 2004. By my time the big infestations had been eradicated – I heard stories of swathes of hebes taken out with chainsaws and blackberries smothering everything.



Photographer, Marina Campbell

We stepped into our roles as weed detectives getting our 'eye in' to identify weeds against the tangle of greenery and using 'Fulcrum' software in which last year's weeds had been mapped. The data we collect updates the maps for the next weeding team and so on.

Weeding is vital for restoration and maintenance of vegetation and is critical for seabird habitat. Monitoring of short-tailed shearwater burrows began on Maat in the 2013/14 season. Today we can see breeding areas previously infested with blackberry and hebe beginning to be re-colonised.

Without doubt it is one of the most evocative places I have ever been.





FoMI Weeding Team - L to R, Min, Madeline, Sheryl, Antony, Micaela, Carolyn, Penni. Photographer, Marina Campbell

The shearwaters, known too as 'yolla' or 'moonbird', return each year to the same burrow to raise their single chick. Maatsuyker Island is the third largest breeding colony in Tasmania – and the Maatsuyker Island group supports around 1% of the world's population.

In 2020/21, short-tailed shearwater burrow occupancy during incubation, measured in December (72%), and breeding success, measured in March (79%), were the highest on Maatsuyker Island since the monitoring began.

There is also the building program to conserve the buildings which includes maintenance of the lighthouse. As you can imagine, it requires coordination and thinking outside the box to undertake building works in such a remote location.

At times it's not very different to the days of the lighthouse keepers - the tank stand at the whim shed was repaired with 'resources at hand', likewise the seat also at the whim shed. Thus the tradition of creative building maintenance on Maat continues.

Off island, FoMI continues to promote the values of Maat. Grant writing, stalls, supporting the caretaker program, submissions, selling merchandise, planning working bees and more.

All of this is made possible through the wonderful ongoing contributions of the FoMI committee and other FoMI volunteers, our partnership with PWS, the generous support of donors like the Pennicott Foundation and the awarding of grants such as those from Wildcare's Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund.

It is a real privilege to contribute to the care of Maat, and the positive outcomes I have witnessed in the time I have been involved are nothing short of impressive.



Weed survey, East Maatsuyker. Photographer, Gary Miller

THE PERFECT DEAL

The Friends of Deal Island
Words by Fiona Harding

For nearly two decades Bob and Penny Tyson volunteered with Friends of Deal Island. They hung up their gloves in 2021.



Photographer, Fiona Harding

Deal Island is the largest of Tasmania's Kent Group Island in the Flinders municipality. Bob and Penny first volunteered as caretakers back in 2004 on the rugged red granite island which rises nearly 300 meters out of the Bass Strait. Their expertise in the natural environment raised the bar for natural resource management on the island.

Bob remained a member until 2021, where he offered so much of his time supporting the group's success by arranging and participating in working bees, writing grants, fundraising, and collating the newsletter.

"The environmental weeds live there at the expense of those that ought to be there"

They studied botany at university. Bob worked for Parks and Wildlife Service and Penny volunteered for the Herbarium.



Bob and Penny on Deal Island in 2004

Penny's experience at the Herbarium was invaluable for work on Deal Island. She gained extensive knowledge on classifying plants. Penny took the existing weed management plan and developed the extensive document still used by caretakers and the Friends of Deal group today.

Friends of Deal Island is just one of the many groups Bob and Penny volunteered with. They have been involved in a number of Wildcare groups including Cockle Creek, SPRATS, Wellington Park, Maria, Melaleuca, and Tasman.



It's not all hard yakka! Penny napping during a working bee



Alum Lilies near Telstra Corner in 2002 (left), Telstra Corner with no Arum lilies 2016 (right) Photos supplied by Bob Tyson.

Considerable progress in the management of weeds on Deal Island between since 2022 includes:

- Horehound infestations reduced
- Arum lilies cleared from the banks of East Cove and their numbers greatly reduced elsewhere
- Marram grass eradicated from the island
- Weedy cumbungi (bull-rush) removed
- Ragwort kept in check
- The thistle population significantly reduced
- Effort to control sea spurge. (This is ongoing work)

"Bob and Penny's passion and persistence have been key to the success of the weeding program on Deal..."

Stepping up to the role as President of Friends of Deal Island, Jo Widdowson feels she has big shoes to fill. "Bob and Penny's passion and persistence have been key to the success of the weeding program on Deal. Their easy-going, friendly and caring nature has made them well-loved and respected members and we are grateful not only for their amazing contribution to the branch and Island but for their ongoing support and wisdom".

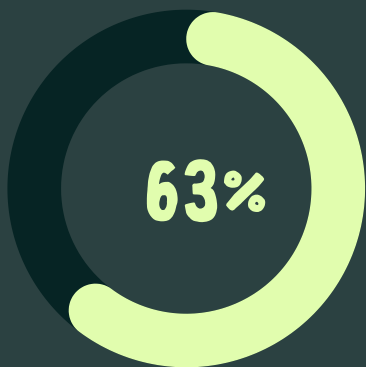
Being a member of the Friends of Deal island is more than just weed control and foreshore clean-up. It's meeting interesting people, learning new skills, and doing your bit for the environment. For anyone thinking of joining, Penny's recommendation is "Just do it! Just volunteer, talk to people. You will learn so much".

"Just do it! Just volunteer, talk to people. You will learn so much."

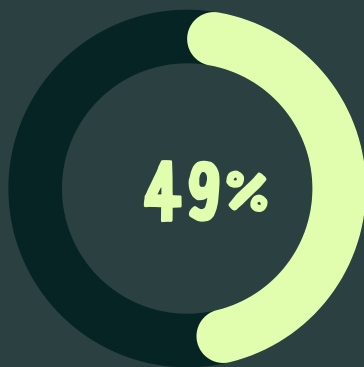


WHAT WILDCARE GROUPS DO

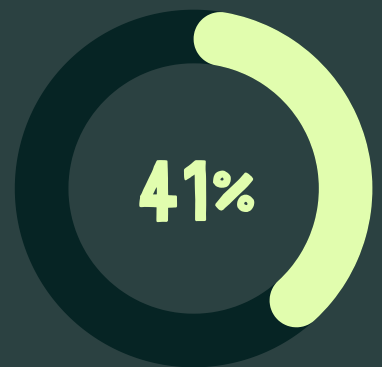
We surveyed Wildcare group leaders to evaluate the outputs of Wildcare Tasmania as a unified force



Invasive Weed Programs



Rubbish Clean Up



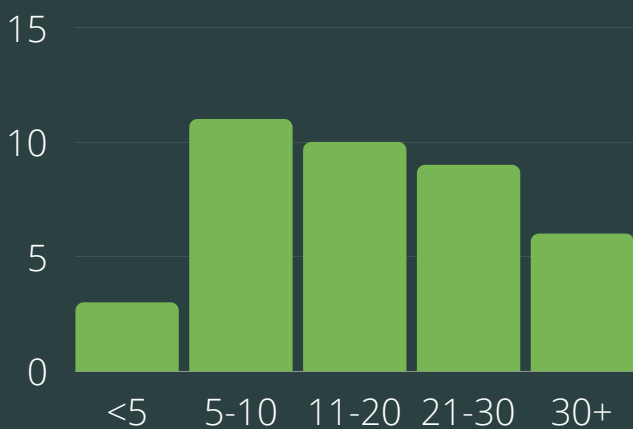
Community Education

Other areas of work include:

- ➔ Monitoring and research
- ➔ Bushwalking track and infrastructure maintenance/upgrade
- ➔ Built Historic Heritage
- ➔ Tree Planting/ Revegetation
- ➔ Threatened Species Management
- ➔ Wildlife Management and Rehabilitation



HOW MANY ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS ARE THERE?



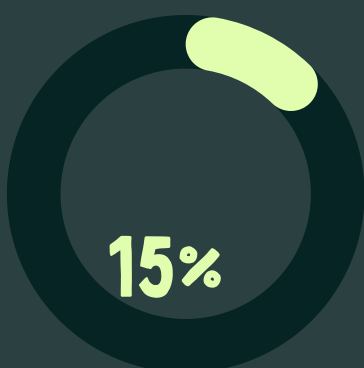
Wildcare Tasmania groups range from 5 active members to over 30!

47,365

Across Wildcare groups approximately 47,365 hours of volunteer work was recorded in 2021!

\$2 MILLION

Based on the standard volunteering valuation rate, this work is valued at over \$2 million!



15% of hours are administrative, including meetings, bookkeeping, communicating, and planning. It's not all just fun in the sun!

LUKE'S STORY (SO FAR)

Friends of the Henty
Interview by Kim Willing
Photos by Luke Cooper

Once upon a time, Luke Cooper didn't know a weed from a Westringia.

Luke is now studying a PhD in Mathematics that is part of an Australian project to improve crop resilience and yield to provide sustainable food sources in a time of changing climate, increasing population and decreasing arable land. He is also the President of Wildcare's newest group Friends of the Henty..

This is Luke's story (so far).



Thanks to my Dad dragging me off on bushwalks from the age of 5, I have always loved the Tassie bush and wilderness. I knew that there was something I loved about being out there but wasn't observant about the finer details – what was the difference between alpine vegetation and low land vegetation?

This continued until the start of last year when a friend of mine formed the UTAS Landcare Society and said 'hey, you should come along to this AGM'. I was unexpectedly elected to be Treasurer of the Society and this ended up being a fantastic experience.



"I was inspired by how people were making a visible change in their local patch of bush"

The Society's aim is to involve UTAS students in Landcare by visiting rural groups around the state and helping them with their landcare projects.

This led me to start identifying local plants and once I started knowing what I was looking at, I really began to understand the bush and see its history. I also noticed just how many weeds there are in the local bushland!

It's interesting because even 2 years ago, I was totally ignorant of whether plants were invasive or native, and now I have a whole different view of it.





left to right: Maroonhood Orchid, Chiloglottis Orchid, Pultaneae juniperina flowers

My partner and I moved to Strahan when she got a job on the Gordon River Cruises. We are both avid bushwalkers and explored the conservation/bush areas around town. Everywhere we went, we found bush that was being encroached on by a wall of weeds.

Nobody seemed to be doing anything about it and that's when the idea popped into my head that maybe we could do something about it but I wasn't really sure what.

Over the next few months, I discovered that there had been groups who applied their efforts to this problem but they had disbanded for various reasons.



"I'd been a Wildcare member for 4-5 years, joining because I thought I'd be interested in volunteering 'at some point'. Well, that point had arrived and a small group of formed Friends of the Henty."

Our goals are to control some of the weed infestations around Strahan and share with the community why we should be concerned about weeds and how we can all help.



The spread of weeds doesn't just negatively impact the bush, but also people that live nearby – through bushfire risk, loss of recreational access due to gorse and blackberry covering tracks, and ultimately, degradation of the iconic West Coast landscape which is part of the reason why people live here and what inspires others to visit.

Since our first meeting we've worked on controlling Montpellier Broom on the Ocean Beach trail. We've removed about 3,000 plants and been helped by Strahan locals, with more interested.

I went from being concerned and wanting to do something but thinking "I don't know if anyone wants to help", to discovering that most people I talk to are quite interested and now I feel excited about it all.

A DAY IN THE SOUTH-WEST

Words and photos by Sharon Smith

FAST FACTS

- A donation was made by Hilary and Alan Wallace to the Wild Bushwalking Tracks cause in the Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund.
- The donation has enabled tent platforms, parallel planking and a bridge to be installed in the Mt Anne area of Tasmania's South-West.
- Outcomes are safer walker access and reduced environmental impacts of visitation.
- Works have been completed by the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service following a grant being provided from the Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund.
- A trip to view the track works took place on 23 November 2021, aligning with PWS use of helicopter for project works.

The Wallace's emigrated from England in 1957 to work as doctors in Tasmania. Initially they were based in New Norfolk - a contrast to London! With work trips up into the valleys and bush they were soon fascinated by the country. So many mountains to explore and climb.

Hilary maintains a thirst for learning through many activities, including U3A, music and botany. I was taken by how vividly she speaks about the mountains in the South-West, referring to them on a first-name basis, just as if they were friends that she had been challenged by, and learned life-enhancing lessons from.



Hilary and Sharon

The Wallace's donation has funded the construction of parallel planking into Lake Judd, tent platforms alongside Judd's Charm and a bridge over the Anne River. The work was completed by the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) during 2020 and 2021.

It was great to see regeneration around the tent platforms, with nature restoring itself after years of bog around walker campsites.





I was impressed at how thoughtfully and discreetly the works have been managed by PWS to let the wilderness be the star of the show while ensuring the structures remain into the future.

I was also moved by the appreciation expressed to Hilary by the staff and contractors working remotely on the tracks.

All in all, a wonderful outcome and a joyful trip for which I was very grateful to be a part.

Wildcare Tasmania provides a platform for people to contribute to the conservation of Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage.

It's a way for people to lead change.

By volunteering or donating, people extend outcomes way beyond what would otherwise be possible by Government agencies or private organisations acting alone.

More donations are needed. If you would like to contribute to the care of Tasmania's wilds, please visit the Wildcare website:

www.wildcaretas.org.au/donations



COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WINS FROGGATT AWARD

Friends of Fisher Island
Invasive Species Council Article
Photos by John French

An innovative partnership project that has eradicated black rats from Big Green Island in Tasmania's far northeast has been recognised with a national Froggatt Award.

The National Froggatt Awards recognise major contributions to protecting the Australian natural environment from invasive species. They are named in honour of Australian entomologist Walter Froggatt, who, when the cane toad was released into Australia in the 1930s to control beetle infestations in the sugar cane industry, was a lone voice, lobbying the federal government to exercise caution.

"The eradication of rats from the 125 ha Big Green Island near Flinders Island in Tasmania shows just how much we can achieve in environmental restoration when we harness the power and passion of Australia's volunteers," Invasive Species Council CEO Andrew Cox said.

"Three years after the project began, on 25 March 2019, the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service declared success, having reached the key milestone of two years without detection of rats on the island," Mr Cox said.



Photographer, John French

"Little penguins and short-tailed shearwaters that breed on the island are now safe from black rats thanks to the extraordinary efforts of a volunteer force made up of 73 volunteers from Tasmania and interstate.

"This project could not have been successful without significant funding and support from the Pennicott Foundation and the involvement of Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Biosecurity Tasmania, Wildcare Tasmania, the Aboriginal community and the island's lessee."

Black rats first arrived on the island in the 19th century, swelling to around 10,000. Their presence devastated the breeding population of 45,000 seabirds, including shearwaters, penguins, Cape Barren geese, gulls and terns.

The eradication project involved 2,200 bait stations. The volunteer workforce, which included four staff from Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, camped on the island and checked rat-baiting stations daily.



Photographer, John French

"Rigorous monitoring over two years verified the island was free of rats, meeting the internationally-recognised standard for declaring a successful rodent eradication."

The success of the project has encouraged the Wildcare Friends of Fisher Island group and the Pennicott Foundation to tackle invasive species on other important seabird islands.

The first of these islands is George Rocks, a nature reserve off the northeast coast of Tasmania where black rats and the introduced weed 'mirror bush' have severely impacted many species of seabirds and their breeding habitat, including the once common, diminutive white-faced storm petrel.

"Island restoration not only protects the species that have managed to hold on, but importantly it allows for other species, unable to survive predation and habitat loss from introduced pests, to recolonise."

Mark Holdsworth, Friends of Fisher Island

Friends of Fisher Island President Mark Holdsworth, said the success of efforts so far has spurred on everyone involved.

"Following the success of the Big Green Island eradication project we joined forces with the Pennicott Foundation, Parks and Wildlife Service, Biosecurity Tasmania and our enthusiastic band of volunteers to remove black rats from George Rocks Nature Reserve last August," he said.

"The post-eradication monitoring is so far showing promising signs that we have removed all the rats from George Rocks.

With the partnership of government and non-government groups, and our team of hard-working volunteers, the next task is to restore the seabirds' breeding habitat through the removal of mirror bush."



Photographer, John French

CRAG CARE

Words by Rosie Hohnen

Photos by Nick Hanson

Conservation groups in Tasmania have long fought for the protection of wilderness.

Maybe that's also why Wildcare's most populous groups are those that look after the wildest, most remote parts of Tasmania like Melaleuca, Maatsuyker and Deal Island.

But while we clearly value wild places, there's still so much more to be done.

"We hope the connections that climbers build with Tassie's crags through our work will help foster a community willing and ready to look after these precious wild places for many years to come."



When I was 17, and mostly interested in vodka and fake ID's, I moved to Tasmania for university and, on a whim, joined the University Climbing Club. On weekends we'd pile into some beaten up hatchback, and escape to the cliffs of Freycinet, Launceston Gorge and the Tasman Peninsula.

No one cared what your parents did or where you came from - you were just there to climb and nothing else mattered. While climbing is hard physically, I began realising that a lot of the difficulty lies in the mental challenge. Climbing forces you to confront some ghosts, some uncertainties in a physical space - you get scared. Sometimes the hardest thing is just starting a route and accepting that you might fail. But when you pull onto the wall with a friend belaying you and holding your rope, you share that moment however it ends up.





In 2021, climbing isn't the high socks, hemp rope, male-dominated sport it once was. It's in the Olympics, there are climbing-specific gyms, and it's accessible to people from many different walks of life.

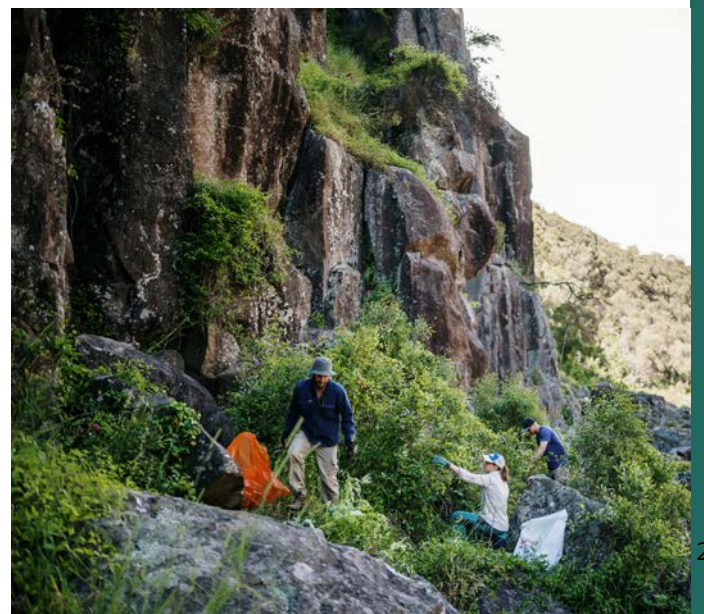
More and more people are visiting Tassie's cliffs - both near and far from home - to climb, to get scared, to figure it out. The experiences sometimes lead to a strong feeling of connection to and care for these areas, but with the volume of people visiting on the rise, so are the impacts.

This year we began Crag Care Tasmania as a way to look after the areas in which we climb. We're keen to manage the impacts that we, as climbers, are increasingly having in these places, and we can see our community is too. We're doing this through working with local land managers such as local councils and the Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service to undertake activities at crags including erosion control, revegetation, weed management and community education.

"It's been really cool to see the support for our work so far..."

This year we've had two working bees at Fruehauf (a cliff in Hobart) and one in Launceston Gorge, doing revegetation, rubbish collection and weed control. We're looking to build on this work in 2022 with work planned for Freycinet, Fingal, Launceston Gorge, Mt Wellington and hopefully Ben Lomond.

It's been cool to see the support for our work so far, with working bees well attended and funds raised through climbing community events such as the launch of Gerry Narkowicz's new Climb Tasmania guidebook. We hope the connections that climbers build with Tassie's crags will help foster a community willing to look after these precious wild places for years to come.



"There are several reasons why we were so attracted to the Wildcare volunteering event. First, we love the natural environment in Tasmania and we want to contribute ourselves to preserving the pristine environment. Second, we would like to engage ourselves more in the local community. We believe volunteering is one of the best ways to make friends and experience the local culture. Finally, it is fun to be volunteers."

Ryan and Zoie
Friends of Cradle Mountain



Photographer, Amanda Thomson

"Not for a moment could I have foreseen the opportunities and treasures that would lay themselves before me when I joined the Friends of Tasman Island, most notably the people themselves; a variety of dedicated, generous, welcoming individuals who combined to form the well-oiled machine that is FoTI."

Nikki Langman
Friends of Tasman Island

"I'd like to think that I am able to return to this wonderful part of the world and work alongside some very self sufficient skilful supportive and friendly people.

This wonderful experience has spurred me on to seek out other volunteer opportunities"

Glenn Butterworth
Friends of Melaleuca



DONATION OPTIONS

Thank you to those who donated and made gifts with a difference this year!

Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund

There are 11 donation options through the Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund. Donations are tax-deductible. Here's a peek at the causes. Find out more at wildcaretas.org.au/donate.



Our flagship donations cause - this goes to the heart of what Wildcare is about, conservation of true wild places that Tasmania is blessed with.



These three are about mitigating impacts of people and helping people to understand our environment.



These three aim to :
 - prevent wildlife harm,
 - rescue and provide emergency care to injured wildlife, and
 - rehabilitate and release wildlife



These four provide specialist support for particular species in need!

PROJECTS FUNDED BY DONATIONS

A huge thank you to those who donated to the Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund. The following projects were funded during 2021, all enabled by donations or bequests. A \$0 fee cut is taken from donations so 100% of donations are made available for onground projects.

Grant Recipient	Amount	Project
Wildcare Crag Care group	\$500 \$1,504	New group establishment Revegetation/erosion control and Chem Cert training
Wildcare Friends of Freycinet	\$695	New hand-tools for volunteer weeding
Wildcare Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony	\$465	GPS devices for volunteers to monitor Penguin nesting boxes
Wildcare Friends of Lillico Penguins	\$690	Completion of shore-bird research
Wildcare Friends of Maatsuyker Island	\$2,000 \$8,000	Weed management plan Annual island volunteer working bee
Wildcare Friends of Orange-Bellied Parrot	\$1,108	Wildlife cameras for volunteers monitoring parrots
Wildcare Friends of Orange-Bellied Parrot	\$986	Gas bottles for donated volunteer accommodation at Melaleuca
Wildcare Friends of Orange-Bellied Parrot	\$2,023	Creation of orange-bellied parrot information booklet by volunteers
Wildcare Friends of Orange-Bellied Parrot	\$612	Contribution to flights of volunteers to Melaleuca. Volunteers self-fund 50%.
Wildcare Friends of Orange-Bellied Parrot	\$900	Contribution to cabin costs - volunteer bird surveys. Volunteers self-fund 50%
Wildcare SPRATS	\$756	Equipment for invasive coastal weed management by volunteers
Wildcare Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station	\$4,100	Map/eradicate weeds at Bruny Island Quarantine Station reserve
Wildcare Friends of Penguin Cradle Trail	\$1,210	Trail markers, decking boards and signage on Penguin-Cradle Trail
Wildcare Cradle Mountain Volunteers	\$35,000	Boardwalk on Twisted Lakes track

Grant Recipient	Amount	Project
Wildcare Friends of Melaleuca	\$2,000	Transport volunteers/freight Melaleuca working bee (Volunteers self fund 50%)
	\$16,722	Track remediation at Mt Beattie
Wildcare Deslacs	\$2,000	Interpretative signage about endemic plant species at Cape Deslacs
Wildcare Friends of St Valentine's Peak	\$11,480	Track work at St Valentine's Peak
Wildcare Friends of Tasman Island	\$5,000	Tasman Island working bee transport (Volunteers self fund part costs)
Menzies Institute for Medical Research	\$25,000	Research Devil facial tumour disease
	\$25,000	Devil vaccine bait trials (Co-contribution to a Linkage Grant application)
Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary	\$120,000	Wildlife rescue service
	\$100,000	Wildlife critical care and new enclosure
Sorell Council	\$30,000	Stage 2 works at Penna Beach Orielton Lagoon. Duckboarding and signage.
Volunteer registered wildlife rehabilitator	\$919	Animal care enclosure and equipment
Volunteer registered wildlife rehabilitator	\$390	Animal care enclosure
Volunteer registered wildlife rehabilitator	\$456	Animal care enclosure
Volunteer registered wildlife rehabilitator	\$975	Animal and bird care enclosures
TOTAL	\$400,491	

THANK YOU TO DONORS AND BEQUESTEES

The \$400,000+ funds granted in 2021 follows from \$250,000+ funds granted in 2020 and 2019. Grants come from donations to the tax-deductible Wildcare Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund or bequests made through estates. Every bit of support, big or small, is valuable. Everytime a donation is made it brings a smile to our faces as it helps sustain projects caring for Tasmania's wilds.

Bequests - Have you ever thought about making a bequest to Wildcare? Please feel free to contact Sharon Smith, our CEO, to talk about the options, (03) 61654149 or ceo@wildcaretas.org.au

WILDCARE ONLINE GIFT SHOP

Wildcare membership can now be purchased as a gift! Membership gift cards are available through the 'Join' area of the website.



The great thing about the Wildcare Tasmania online gift shop is that all product sales benefit the work of Wildcare volunteer groups. Most products have been hand designed or created by the volunteers themselves.

Visit wildcaretas.org.au/shop to see the full range. Products are generally distributed direct by groups. There is no additional postage or GST to pay over the listed price, everything is inclusive.



NEW GIFT OPTIONS

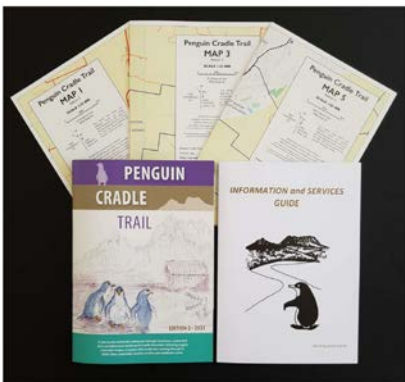
Hot off the press!



Wildcare Membership gift cards

The perfect gift for nature lovers. Single or multiple year gifts available. This membership helps to sustain Wildcare's support and services to Wildcare volunteering groups and opens up potentially life changing opportunities for the recipient.

Find it - through either the 'Join' or 'Gift Shop' areas of the Wildcare website.



2nd ed - Penguin-Cradle Trail map

The 2nd edition of the map of this iconic track has upgraded map and route notes to include:

- day walk suggestions,
- track re-alignment into Gunns Plains, and
- location of marker posts installed along the track.

Essential for anyone contemplating this unique trail.

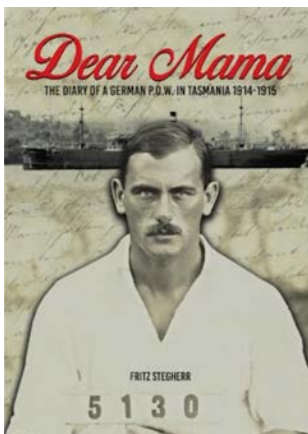
Find it - in the 'Gift Shop' area of the Wildcare website.



Tasmanian Devils Donation Gift Card

When you gift a donation, the recipient will enjoy the knowledge that they are helping to support and fund the preservation of Tasmanian devils, including the development of a protective vaccine to help battle against Devil Facial Tumour Disease.

Find it - in the 'Donate' area of the Wildcare website.



Book - Dear Mama

The diary of Fritz Stegherr, born in Germany in 1888 – a POW in Tasmania and New South Wales for the duration of World War One, describes the arrest of the S.S. Overhausen crew in August 1914, and documents their encampment in Claremont Camp, their time out on 'parole' in Hobart, later Bruny Island and Liverpool later known as Holsworthy in New South Wales.

Find it - in the 'Gift Shop' area of the Wildcare website.

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Donations: wildcaretas.org.au/donations

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