



*Caring for wild places,
wildlife and cultural heritage*



WILDCARE INC. 2015
ANNUAL REPORT





Contents

About Wildcare	2
Wildcare Branches	4
Co-Chairs' Report	6
Board of Management	8
CEO's Report	13
Facilitator's Report	14
Special Feature:	
Orange-bellied Parrot	15
Every Branch has a Story	16
Wildcare Gift Fund Committee	44
Wildcare Bequests	47
Wildcare Financial Report	48

About Wildcare

With around 6,000 members, Wildcare is the largest and fastest growing community volunteer organisation dedicated to caring for the State's parks and reserves, flora, fauna and cultural heritage. Its slogan is 'caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage'.

Wildcare provides management and support for volunteers working in natural and cultural heritage conservation and reserve management throughout Tasmania. It works in partnership with government agencies, notably the Parks and Wildlife Service, local government and private landholders and contributes over 500,000 hours of voluntary project work each year.

Wildcare is a community-based, not-for-profit volunteer organisation founded in 1997 and incorporated in 1998. It is also a registered environmental organisation and a registered deductible gift recipient and is entitled to receive tax deductible donations. It is managed by a Board of Management composed of elected and nominated members. The responsibility of the Board is to oversee Wildcare's strategic direction and allocate moneys under the Wildcare Gift Fund. More information on the year's activities of the Wildcare Gift Fund is provided elsewhere in this yearbook.

As an environmental organisation, Wildcare must have a Public Fund to receive donations. The Public Fund is called the Wildcare Gift Fund and was established in 2005. Its purpose is to raise funds through tax-deductible donations to support reserve management projects and nature conservation projects in Tasmania. As well as attracting funds for the general purposes of the Wildcare Gift Fund, tax deductible donations can be made to a number of ancillary funds within it, called Natural Partner Funds. They provide an opportunity for donors to give to specific purposes associated with the environmental objectives of Wildcare. These Natural Partner Funds include the Tasmanian Coast Conservation Fund, Wildcarbon Fund, Whale Rescue Fund, Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Fund and the World Heritage Wilderness Fund.

Wildcare actively seeks to provide opportunities and support for community engagement in its programs throughout the State. Activities are grouped into five main activity areas and are delivered either by local Branches or through special programs. The five activity areas are:

Community action in reserves – management of parks and reserves.

Heritage care – cultural heritage conservation such as excavation assistance, archival research and historic site management.

Nature care – nature conservation activities such as whale rescue, wildlife surveys and caring for injured or orphaned wildlife.

Wildcare office – support to members of Wildcare, including newsletter production, event management and processing of membership applications.

Special programs – large scale annual projects and programs undertaken in co-operation with partners in government. Special programs may require specialist skills and often call for extended commitments. They include the Caring for Islands Program and Campground Host Program.



Wildcare Branches

Wildcare is a membership organisation. Members can express interest in specific projects or focus their skills and interest in a particular reserve or location. Members can join in activities when and where it suits them. And there is plenty to choose from! An insight into the diversity and geographic spread of Wildcare's projects and activities can be gleaned from this impressive listing of more than 80 Branches around the State:

CARes Coal Mines / Lime Bay
CARes Narawntapu Reserves
CARes Southern Caves
Central North Wildlife Care and Rescue
Derwent Avenue Group for the Dave Burrows Walk
Dry Stone Wall Preservation Group
Friends of Bass Strait Islands
Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area
Friends of Deal Island
Friends of Freycinet
Friends of Lillico Penguins
Friends of Maatsuyker Island
Friends of Maria Island
Friends of Maria Island Marine Protected Area
Friends of Melaleuca
Friends of Mt Field
Friends of Redbill Point Conservation Area
Friends of Snake Island
Friends of Tasman Island
Friends of the Franklin River
Friends of the Freshwater Lobster
Friends of the Orange-bellied Parrot
Friends of Thompson's Park Hut

Friends of Trevallyn Reserve
Friends of Yorktown Historic Site
Get Outside with Community
Get Outside with Community in Launceston
KarstWatch milaythina muka
Mole Creek Karst Care
Native Animal Rescue
Oil Spill Response Furneaux Islands - seabird and other wildlife
Oil Spill Response King Island - seabird and other wildlife
Oil Spill Response North - seabird and other wildlife
Oil Spill Response Northwest - seabird and other wildlife
Oil Spill Response South - seabird and other wildlife
Rivers Wild Care
Wildcare Wildlife Emergency Response and Recovery Unit
Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers
Threatened Plants Tasmania
Wellington Park Bushcare
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Bruny Island
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Devonport
Whale Rescue First Response Team - East Coast
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Eastern Shore
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Flinders Island
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Freycinet
Whale Rescue First Response Team - King Island
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Launceston
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Marrawah
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Narawntapu
Whale Rescue First Response Team - South
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Stanley
Whale Rescue First Response Team - Strahan
Wildcare Coastal Custodians





- Wildcare Cradle Mt - Lake St Clair
- Wildcare Deslacs
- Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station
- Wildcare Friends of Fisher Island
- Wildcare Friends of Pittwater Orielton Lagoon
- Wildcare Friends of Tasmanian Whaleboats
- Wildcare Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail
- Wildcare Friends of Woodvine
- Wildcare Gordon's Hill NRA
- Wildcare Lumeah Point
- Wildcare Native Wildlife Rescue - Birralee
- Wildcare Roaring Beach Wildlife Rescue
- Wildcare SpLATs
- Wildcare SPRATS
- Wildcare Spring Bay
- Wildcare Tinderbox Marine Reserve
- Wildcare Veterinary Emergency Response Team Tasmania
- Wildcare Wildlife Rescue and Bush Babies
- Wildcare Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Wildscool Voluntary Educators
- Friends of GIS
- Get Outside with Community (South)
- Wildcare Inc Office
- Wildcare Friends of Bonorong
- Wildcare Friends of Billy Brown Falls
- Wildcare Friends of Cradle Valley Walking Tracks
- Wildcare Friends of Narawntapu
- Wildcare Friends of the Steppes Reserve



ANDREW SMITH

Co-Chair (Appointed)



SALLY SALIER

Co-Chair (Elected)

Co-Chairs' Report

2015 has been a year of great successes again. Of course. This is Wildcare Inc. The volunteer effort and the financial contribution of Wildcare Inc continues to astound and make a real difference to our reserves, wildlife and cultural heritage.

There have also been continuing frustrations. Of course, this is a large and complex organisation. It requires some serious management at Board of Directors' level. The Directors have continued to work hard to make sure members, Branches and the environment get the best returns possible. A lot of this effort is invisible to members and people outside the organisation, but it is extremely important. One of the things that the Directors do, that Branches will be familiar with, is the allocation of small internal project grants. The internal grants program has continued to support the work of our Branches.

Membership continues to grow. New Branches continue to form. A massive amount of volunteer time is provided to projects. Volunteering Tasmania Inc developed a calculator to assist volunteer groups to work out how much value they contribute to their cause. This recognises the nature of the practical work undertaken, the time away from other activities, the social capital value of the relationships and goodwill developed between the organisation receiving volunteer assistance and the volunteers. It turns out the dollar value of Wildcare's volunteer effort each year is \$6 million.

The Wildcare Gift Fund also has been very active this year. One of the highlights resulted from a very productive coffee break last year with the Manager of Saffire Freycinet. By the end of that meeting, we had agreed to jointly create the Wildcare Saffire Devil Fund within the Wildcare Gift Fund, to which Saffire would donate \$25,000 each year. By the end of 2015, the first donation had been made, added to by guests of Saffire, and Wildcare Inc was able to grant \$29,000 to the Menzies Centre to support its research into a vaccination for the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease.

Donations continue to be received, ranging from a few dollars, right up to the annual \$100,000 from Dick Smith.

Around \$200,000 has been allocated to projects, ranging from wildlife care support and Devil research to walking track maintenance in wilderness areas and the conservation of the Orange-bellied Parrot. I thank everyone who has made a donation to the Wildcare Gift Fund or one of its sub-funds. The great thing about donating to Wildcare Inc is that 100 per cent of your donation goes to where it is needed. There are no administration costs taken out. I would very much like to thank the Gift Fund Committee members, all of whom are volunteers, for their efforts reviewing and assessing applications to the Fund. More information is provided elsewhere in this yearbook about what was funded by the Wildcare Gift Fund in 2015.

Branches continue to apply for and receive grants for projects, from various funding organisations. Almost \$1 million has been received since 2010. These grants are managed by the Branches who apply for them. The Presidents or Treasurers of the Branches work closely with Carol Pacey, our "bookkeeper", to ensure bills are paid and project money is spent appropriately. Carol also organises Director authorisation for every payment made from the Wildcare Inc bank accounts. Many hundreds of payments are made each year. Thank goodness for online business banking. Lindie Lupo, our Finance Officer, keeps an eye on financial processes, auditing requirements, financial reporting to the Board, BAS reporting and so on. Carol and Lindie are a great team, who make sure that the finances continue to tick over and Branches are able to get on with their projects.

Our other contracted staff are our CEO, Malcolm MacDonald, and our Facilitator, Jodie Epper. These two individuals continue to provide absolutely critical support and services to the organisation, Board, Branches and members. They communicate with members, partner organisations and stakeholders. Malcolm prepares the yearbook and Jodie prepares the Wildtimes newsletter. Assistance is provided to Branches making funding applications and dealing with potential donors. Thanks Malcolm and Jodie for your efforts during the year.



As I do each year, I thank our Wildcare Office volunteers – Nanette Jaksic, Mike Bowden and Sally Salier – for continuing to provide a service that is often invisible to people outside the organisation, but is absolutely essential to the existence of the organisation. Members' records and enquiries, payment receipting and processing and responding to correspondence are completed impeccably. The year has been a difficult one in regard to the new website and membership database, and its relationship with the online Park Pass purchasing processes of the Parks and Wildlife Service. I think we are now out of the tunnel of confusion and into the light, but there is still work to be done on this electronic relationship. Phil Wyatt, in the voluntary role of webmaster, has continued his fine work, sorting out issues with our provider and the Parks and Wildlife Service. The result is we have a fairly good website and member database now. Jodie has been providing training to Presidents to help them take advantage of the Branch management capabilities of the site.

Finally, I give heartfelt thanks to Sally Salier, the Elected Co-Chair for Wildcare Inc. Sally is a very active volunteer in the field and also gives enormous amounts of time and energy to the conduct of the organisation. I have once again enjoyed working alongside such an intelligent, committed person who has a clear picture of what Wildcare Inc is and where Wildcare Inc can go. Wildcare Inc is not a simple organisation, points of view and passions are as varied as the members themselves. Sally is able to tread with surety in the right direction while recognising, acknowledging and incorporating those varied points of view and passions.

Thanks to everyone for another great year. 2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of National Parks in Tasmania. Be sure to get out there into our National Parks and Reserves and help celebrate such an important milestone. Wildcare Inc will be celebrating alongside the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Tasmanian community, so keep an eye out for ways to be involved.

Wildcare Inc is now in its 19th year, and I have had the pleasure of being in the role of Chairperson, or Co-Chair (Appointed) for all of that time. Wildcare has grown beyond expectation, it has adapted and changed in a variety of ways. It has responded to the needs of our partners and our membership. The overriding purpose of Wildcare Inc remains to support reserve management, nature conservation and cultural heritage through volunteering and fundraising. I think the organisation is very successful at that. That success is a result of the extraordinary efforts and goodwill of you, our members.

Andrew Smith

Founder and Co-Chair (Appointed)

I would like to echo Andrew's comments and, rather than sound repetitious, add a couple of thoughts of my own.

This year has had its challenges, and there are more to come. However, we have a strong foundation and Wildcare is held in very high esteem among environmental bodies. Interstate and overseas conservation groups are quite envious of our model. Ours is a unique organisation in that we have around 70 active Branches throughout the State, with the Board offering support to them all on many levels.

For this to happen, we need an active and enthusiastic Board. This year, we say farewell to some of our Directors and I thank them all for their participation, input and support. This leaves an opportunity for "fresh blood" and new ideas to grow our organisation and keep it vibrant and relevant for the future.

Thank you to all our active volunteers who give so much time and effort in preserving our natural and cultural heritage. Without you, the world would be a much poorer place.

Sally Salier

Co-Chair (Elected)

Board of Management



ANDREW SMITH

Co-Chair (Appointed)

Andrew is the founder of Wildcare Inc and is currently the Co-Chair (Appointed). He has been either Chairperson or Co-Chair since creating Wildcare in 1997.

As part of the partnership between government and Wildcare, Andrew holds the position of Co-Chair as a consequence of his position as Manager Community Programs, Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). He has provided this partnership link between the agency and Wildcare since 1997.

In his professional role, Andrew manages Community Programs for PWS, coordinating and facilitating partnership programs, including volunteers and philanthropic programs, as well as managing the Interpretation & Education, Communications & Media and Community Engagement Units.

In his spare time, Andrew goes boating and fishing, potters in his garden, walks the dog and tries to keep track of two adult sons, Fergus and Callan, and their multitude of interests.



SALLY SALIER

Co-Chair (Elected)

Sally was employed as a library technician for many years before becoming a counsellor and therapist. During that time, she was the Australian co-ordinator for an international therapists' organisation, as well as holding national and State level positions in healthcare and sporting committees.

In later life, she became a weed officer, which led to volunteering for Wildcare for the last nine years, including the role of Secretary with Friends of Freycinet. She also has been active in many other Wildcare Branches, including Mt Wellington, Coningham, Tasman Island, Deal Island, Maria Island, Sprats and Woodvine.

She joined the Board of Management of Wildcare in 2012 and was elected Co-Chair in 2013. Currently, she is a member of Board sub-committees on Governance and Communication. Sally has been instrumental in developing a new website for Wildcare. She keeps fit bushwalking and orienteering.



MARK HOLDSWORTH

Board Member (Since 29 March 2015)

Mark joined the Wildcare Board of Management after a distinguished 37-year career in the State's conservation agency (now DPIPW). He is regarded as one of Australia's leading threatened bird experts, and his lifelong commitment to the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Program is testament to his passion for cooperative approaches to conservation. In recognition of this commitment, Mark was one of four Tasmanian finalists for the 2014 Australian of the Year.

Mark has coordinated and been involved in numerous volunteer conservation projects, including Orange-bellied Parrot summer and winter surveys, Friends of Fisher Island shearwater monitoring, Friends of Melaleuca working bees, invasive species projects and raptor population monitoring. Mark is keen to ensure that volunteers are valued and have better recognition within the Tasmanian community, with a strong emphasis on mutual obligation.



JOHN DUGGIN

Board Member

After retiring from a 30 year academic career in natural resources management and environmental science at the University of New England in Armidale NSW, John moved to the Tamar Valley in Tasmania.

Among other teaching and research activities, he developed long- standing interests in terrestrial ecosystem restoration and management and wetland ecology and management. He commenced volunteering for the Tamar Island Wetlands in November 2006 and was elected President in March 2008. He joined the Wildcare Board in April 2008 as a Presidents' representative.

His particular interests in serving on the Board are to be involved in encouraging and assessing internal grant applications. He also is keen to participate in developing efficient and effective Board governance.



ROSEMARY GALES

Board Member

Rosemary Gales is the Natural and Cultural Heritage (NCH) Division representative on the Wildcare Board. Rosemary studied zoology and wildlife conservation at universities in Western Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania, followed by post-doctoral studies in Newfoundland and Tasmania. She has extensive experience with wildlife conservation biology and has worked in remote areas, including offshore and subantarctic islands.

Rosemary currently manages the Biodiversity Monitoring Section of NCH. She oversees biodiversity monitoring in Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area and beyond, and is program manager of DPIPW's Orange-bellied Parrot program.



Board of Management continued



STAN MATUSZEK

Board Member

Stan has in excess of 30 years' experience in land and reserve management, having commenced work with the Lands Department in 1980 and later Parks and Wildlife Service following amalgamation in 1987.

During this time, he has worked in the south, north and north-west of Tasmania, including the Bass Strait islands of King, Flinders, Deal and Three Hummock. He has overseen conservation, management and development works in parks and reserves throughout Tasmania. Stan has a particular interest in coastal area management and was heavily involved in the planning, development and construction of the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre.

The Parks and Wildlife Service shares a unique relationship with volunteer and Cares groups that deserves recognition and celebration. Maintaining and improving that relationship through strong strategic and communication links with our partner organisations is a key focus for Stan.



BOB TYSON

Board Member

Bob grew up in Launceston before moving to Hobart to do a life sciences degree. He worked for the Rural Fires Board, then with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. He held a number of positions during his 30 year career, including Fire Management Officer, Regional Manager Tasmanian Wilderness WHA, and a number of positions in senior management before retiring in 2003. He had a small business working as a consultant in natural area management from 2003 to 2007.

Bob and his wife Penny have been active Wildcare volunteers since 2003, involved in a number of groups, including Friends of Deal Island, Tasman Island, Maria Island, Melaleuca, Threatened Plants, SPRATS, Coningham, Wellington Park and Orange-bellied Parrots.

Bob has been a member of the Board and the Gift Fund Committee for the last seven years.



SARAH WILSON

Board Member

Sarah is a lawyer at Page Seager Lawyers, Tasmania, specialising in environment and planning law. Sarah studied a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) / Science at Griffith University in Queensland and is currently completing her Master of Laws (Environmental Law) at the Australian National University. She has experience working in private practice, government and the not-for-profit sector, including in the Pacific and United Kingdom.

Her role at Page Seager Lawyers involves providing complex environment and planning law advice to public and private sector clients.

She joined the Board of Management of Wildcare in 2014 as a legal adviser (appointed). Currently, she is a member of the Governance sub-committee.

Sarah loves spending her spare time exploring this beautiful island!



SHANE PINNER

Board Member

Shane is currently employed by TasTAFE and undertakes contracted research for UTAS. At TasTAFE, Shane teaches food processing, remote area navigation and survival skills. He has been a volunteer since 2000 and a member of Wildcare since then. He is a Past President of Friends of the Orange-bellied Parrot Branch and a member of Threatened Plants Tasmania and Friends of Melaleuca. He has also volunteered on several occasions as campground host on Schouten Island and assisted with swift parrot surveys. He has bush walked extensively throughout Tasmania.

He likes to travel, especially Nepal. He reads a lot and likes the blues in music. He has filmed, edited and produced several documentaries around nature. He has a Master of Business.



KAREN ZIEGLER

Board Member

Ecologist, farmer, gardener, forester, conservation planner, botanist and lover of literature, with an eclectic appreciation of music.

Karen has a great love of offshore islands and is the Friends of Bass Strait Islands President. She finds the huge sky enjoyed from the low islands of Bass Strait enthralling and loves kayaking, snorkelling, hunter gathering and swimming (very briefly!) in the cold waters around the islands.

With an upbringing solidly immersed with a protestant work ethic, Karen cannot think of a better way to enjoy the islands than getting down and dirty, cutting, poisoning and burning boxthorn. And then witnessing the re-establishment of native vegetation in the company of others with a similar passion.

When not islanding, Karen likes exploring the many nooks and crannies of Australia and its islands, growing food, eating food and making wine from various fruit and vegetables – all preferably in the company of friends. And learning new things.



PETER MARMION

Board Member

Peter was a School Principal for 25 years before retiring. He now works part time at TAFE, teaching the Adventure Guiding course and as a guide in Tasmanian wilderness areas. Peter joined the Wildcare Board of Management three years ago. He has been a volunteer for Parks and Wildlife (Threatened Species Unit) for 35 years. Peter is an active member of the Friends of Melaleuca and the Friends of the Orange-bellied Parrot.

He has a long track record working on a range of boards, including Chairperson of the NGO STEPS for 14 years. STEPS was an employment, training, affordable housing and community building organisation. He has developed a strong interest in ensuring the governance of Wildcare is constantly at a high standard.

Board of Management continued



SHERYL HAMILTON

*Board Member and Secretary
(Since 29 March 2015)*

Sheryl has studied zoology, wildlife management and seabird ecology. She has more than 25 years' experience working in New Zealand, Queensland and Tasmania as a wildlife ecologist and is currently employed as an Environmental Consultant.

Sheryl has a primary school-aged daughter and a secondary school-aged son. Along with her family, for four months in 2010 Sheryl was a Parks and Wildlife Service volunteer caretaker on Maatsuyker Island. Since then, she has been actively involved with Wildcare - Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI). From mid-2012 to late 2014, Sheryl was the Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) National Recovery Program Coordinator. Sheryl enjoys camping, bushwalking, swimming, volunteering on Wildcare projects and being on wild, isolated islands.

Sheryl was elected Secretary of the Wildcare Board in 2015 and has a keen interest in further improving communication within Wildcare.



ALICE YOUYIN YU

*Board Member and Treasurer
(Since 13 July 2015)*

Alice grew up in Guangzhou, China and came to Tasmania to study in February 2009. She graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of International Business and Master of Professional Accounting, including the widely regarded Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) designation.

Alice's work experience has been in small, medium and large companies in Tasmania. She has lived in Tasmania for more than six years and now proudly calls Tasmania home. She has a passionate interest in wildlife, bushwalking and photography.



CEO's Report



As Chief Executive Officer of Wildcare, one of my tasks is to prepare the Annual Report. It's a huge task, but a most pleasurable one. Although in existence for nearly 20 years, Wildcare has not had an Annual Report until just three years ago. When it was introduced, the aim was to showcase the activities and projects of as many Wildcare Branches around Tasmania as possible and present them in a yearbook style. The stories from 14 Branches are featured in this year's Report.

When you read their stories, one can only marvel at, and express gratitude for, the level of commitment, ingenuity, teamwork, determination and sheer hard work clearly demonstrated by these volunteers. In this Report, a listing has been included of the 82 Wildcare Branches covering the length and breadth of Tasmania and a diverse range of conservation pursuits.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said 'everybody can be great because everybody can serve'. We all need to freshen up our awareness of how we can serve Wildcare or the Branch of Wildcare that has captured our interest. Your Branch may need a helping hand with some fieldwork or a new member in your field of expertise or experience could use a mentor. A newly elected Branch President could benefit from your experience. Consider what Branches align with your passions and values and ask how you can become involved.

Compiling the Wildcare Annual Report for 2015 has highlighted for me the extensive number of ways that Wildcare volunteers can and do serve. And in service, you can make a difference. I take this opportunity to thank the many hundreds of volunteers, whether a Board member, in the office or in the field. You are 'great' and Tasmania is much richer for your valued service.

This Report includes for the first time a dedicated item on the work of the Wildcare Gift Fund Committee. And the plight of the Orange-bellied Parrot also has been included as a special item.

Wildcare is now served by three important planning documents, which are linked to each other. We have had in place a strategic plan and a fundraising plan and they are continually being worked on. In 2015, the latest addition is a marketing and communication plan.

This plan offers strategies to better inform the community of the work and activities carried out by Wildcare, in line with the goals in the strategic plan. It seeks to enhance and encourage two-way communication with all members of Wildcare and the broader Tasmanian community, including digital and social media channels. Driving community participation and engagement with Wildcare, and with programs, activities and events provided or supported by Wildcare, is another key objective.

I would like to thank Directors for their support and encouragement, my colleagues Lindie Lupo and Carol Pacey, for their important work in the financial area and Jodie Epper for her ongoing work with the Branches.

I look forward to your continued contribution and working with you in 2016.

Malcolm MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer





Facilitator's Report

Communicating, supporting and linking

Working with Wildcare is amazing. The number of people I get to speak to and assist and the projects that they are involved with is truly an inspiration. My role as Facilitator is to **communicate** to our membership about what is happening on ground across the State, provide **support** to the Wildcare Branch Presidents so that they can do their job well, and **link** volunteers to training, resources and volunteering opportunities.

Communication of Branch achievements and sharing what is happening across Wildcare is delivered via our newsletter and our website. I am responsible for our Wildtimes newsletter and I have a team of excellent volunteers who assist me. We produce three newsletters each year and are very proud of what we do. Our new website has an increasing number of stories and more Branches telling their stories. Congratulations to those Branches that are using the news posting option on the website to increase the exposure of their Branches.

The role of Branch President is a big one and providing strategic support to these volunteers is one of my main roles. Presidents are responsible for the operation of individual Branches across the State. They act as the crucial link between land managers and our general volunteers. Presidents are also responsible for obtaining crucial funds to deliver the on-ground work required and management of the Branch, including workplace safety and logistics.

Some Presidents have been in this job a long time (repeatedly being annually elected) and others are brand new to the role. Some have created new Branches and so are starting from scratch. I communicate mostly through email, phone and skype to these important people in Wildcare and hardly ever get to meet them face-to-face or see first-hand what they are working on. Despite this, I feel connected and privileged to work for them and thank them for another great year together. Without the Presidents working behind the scenes achieving miracles, the work of the Branches could not get done. You are all amazing and I thank you for what you do for nature conservation across the State.

Support for the valuable Wildcare general members is undertaken through the "Wildcare Office" - a Wildcare Branch in itself. I manage this dynamic team that operates from the Hobart office on a Tuesday afternoon and remotely, all over the State. It is a pleasure to work with these people who understand the importance of an efficient administration team and the concept of everybody doing their bit. This group of volunteers manages memberships, the Wildcare shop, email and phone queries and the Wildcare website. It is a huge job and they do it with smiles and passion and I thank them.

Linking Wildcare members together, developing and facilitating training and finding resources in the form of grants is another important role. This year, it was my pleasure to manage the Annual Craig Saunders Photographic Competition which showcased the diverse work of Wildcare members across the State.

Thanks for another great year and thank you to all those involved in Wildcare, whatever your contribution. You do make a difference! It's a pleasure working for you.

Jodie Epper
Volunteer Facilitator



Jodie rarely in the field.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Orange-bellied Parrot

The Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) is one of the most threatened birds in Australia. The plight of this rare and beautiful little bird can be gauged by the fact that there are less than 70 of these birds left in the wild!

Tasmania holds a very special place in the life of the OBP – Melaleuca, in the State’s remote south-west, is their last remaining breeding location. OBPs migrate twice across Bass Strait. In Autumn, they fly to coastal south-eastern mainland Australia to over-winter. In Spring, they return to breed at Melaleuca.

Wildcare Branch, Friends of the OBP, assists with observation at Melaleuca and conducts migration and Winter surveys. It also participates in OBP habitat management projects, increases awareness about the plight of the OBP and raises funds to support the activities of volunteers and others working to protect the birds’ future.

Headed by DPIPWE, the OBP Tasmanian Program is committed to the protection, monitoring and management of OBPs in Tasmania. Wildcare’s Friends of the OBP Branch, is an active participant.



Top left: Wild OBP checking the new arrivals. Top right: OBP portrait.
Above: DPIPWE climbing vet Annie.

Program initiatives include:

- Visits by volunteers from Friends of the OBP to Melaleuca to collect critical information needed to monitor the OBP population and inform the birds’ future
- Establishment of artificial nesting boxes to offer nesting opportunities and assist with monitoring the birds
- Breeding OBPs in captivity as an ‘insurance’ population
- Conservation, research, management and monitoring

So what can you do to help?

Visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/obp and you will be taken direct to a dedicated webpage. This makes it easy for you to learn more, donate, support the OBP program, volunteer with the program and receive regular updates.

The volunteer program runs from October to April and volunteers are co-ordinated by the Friends of the OBP Volunteer Co-ordinator. You can register by emailing friendsofobp@wildcaretas.org.au. Volunteers work under the supervision of the DPIPWE OBP program.

Brochures and postcards providing more information can be obtained by emailing OBP.Program@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

And you can make a tax deductible donation to support on-ground conservation activities for the OBP in Tasmania by following this link www.wildcaretas.org.au/donations/obpfund

To save the Orange-bellied Parrot, we must act NOW





*Every
Branch has
a story...*



Wildcare Deslacs

By Communications Officer,
Elizabeth Shannon

Wildcare Deslacs has the pleasure and responsibility of having three beautiful reserves, each with its own particularities.

In the Cape Deslacs Nature Reserve in south-east Tasmania we have been focusing on protection of the Short-tailed Shearwater colony. We have on-going feral cat trapping activities, as well as targeted removal of invasive weeds, such as Spanish heath, creating a buffer zone around the burrows.

In the Clifton Beach Coastal Reserve, we expand our weed removal to include a focus on pine trees and seedlings. We also undertake community education and revegetation activities near our very popular surf beach.

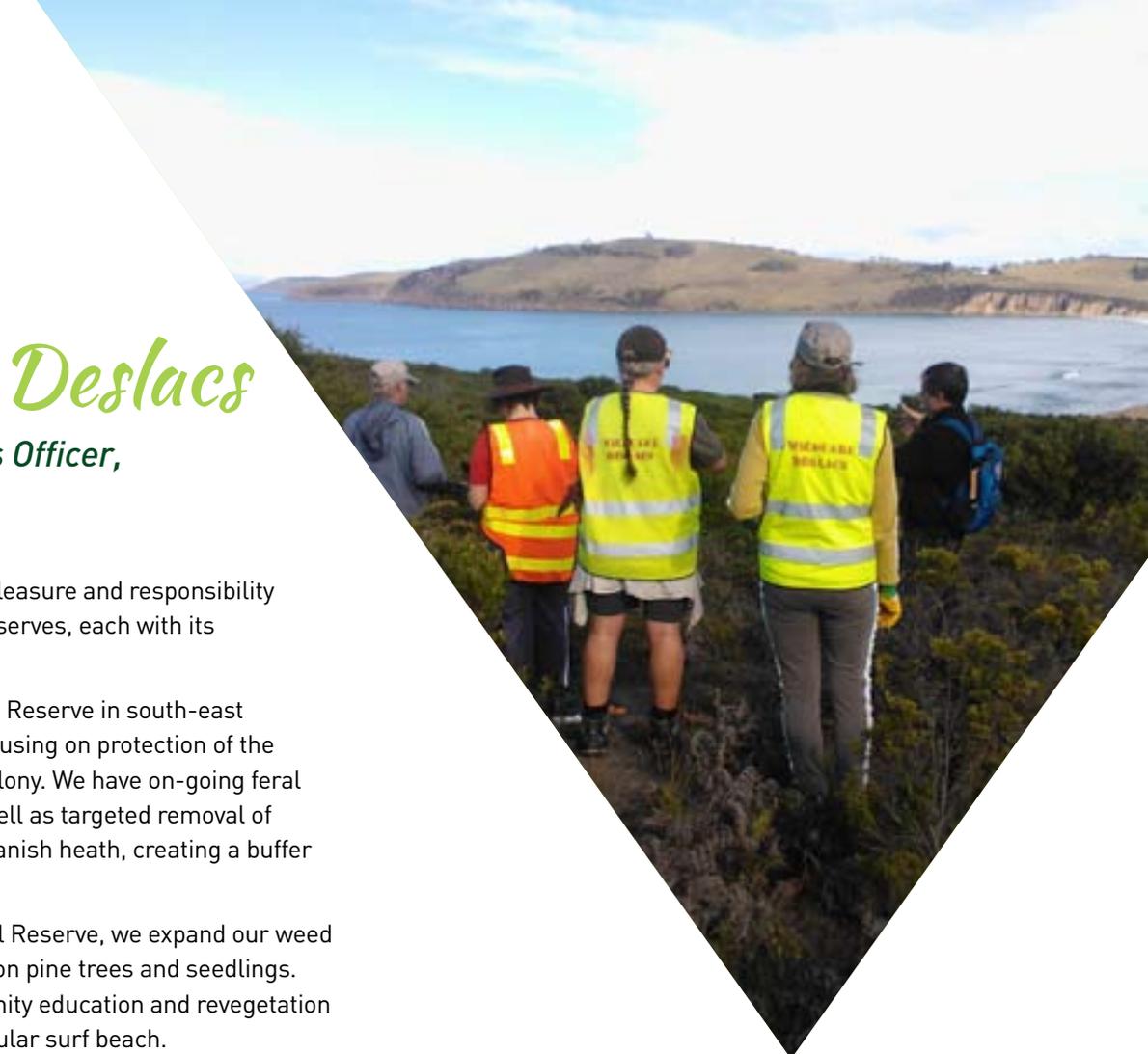
The Pipe Clay Lagoon Coastal Reserve remains a site for on-going feral oyster removal and saltmarsh conservation.

We are a reasonably small group but we are making progress!

Our strength is our people and our partnerships.

Photo top: Wildcare Deslacs working bee.

Below: Kath – designed the interpretation sign for Wildcare Deslacs.



Friends of Bass Strait Islands

By Secretary, *Katriona Hopkins*

Wildcare Branch, Friends of Bass Strait Islands (FoBSI), will be running two working bees in 2016 to continue our boxthorn control effort in the Furneaux Islands. We began this work in 2003, becoming a Wildcare-affiliated Branch in 2008. Control of African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is not the only work we have done on the Bass Strait Islands, nor the only sort of work we can or will do. However, it's our main focus for the time being as it is so ecologically important.

Since 2003, we have completely removed boxthorn from 15 off-shore islands, as well as from sections of coastal reserve in the Emitta area and around Fotheringate Bay on the west coast of Flinders Island. The effectiveness of the methods we employ has been recognised by experts in the field and was included in the National Best Practice Manual produced for this weed of national significance (WONS) in 2013.

www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/africanboxthorn/docs/African_boxthorn-national_best_practice_manual.pdf

A large part of behind-the-scenes work, crucial to carrying out any of FoBSI's Wildcare activities, is obtaining sufficient funds to cover the significant costs of getting volunteers to the remote locations we work and keeping them fed and supplied with appropriate tools and personal protective equipment while there to do the very hard physical work we do. We greatly appreciate funding received from groups and organisations, including the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW), Landcare Tasmania, NRM North, Flinders Council, the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country Program (CFOC) and the Wildcare Board of Management.

Our first working bee of 2016 will run from 23 May to 5 June. The focus will be on completion of boxthorn removal from the entire Wybalenna site on the western coast of Flinders Island and from the adjacent muttonbird rookery at Settlement Point.

Two recent FoBSI working bees at Wybalenna (in 2014 and 2015) have completed most of the primary control there. Boxthorn control at this hugely significant Aboriginal site is carried out with permission of the local land manager and the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania. If weather and sea conditions permit, it is also hoped during the fortnight long working bee to boat out to a few of the off-shore islands such as Cat and Storehouse, Isabella and Sentinel on which we have already completed boxthorn control, to remove any new boxthorn attempting to establish there.

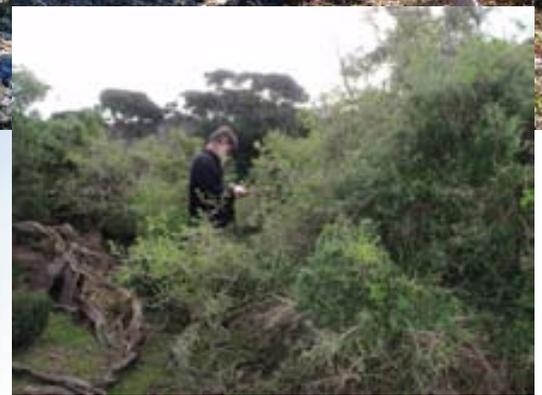
Photo credit Kat Hopkins. FoBSI member, Mark, GPSing boxthorn near the Wybalenna waterhole prior to a working bee.



Photo credit Ruth Haynes. The same beautiful old drystone wall after removal of the enormous tangle of boxthorn that was covering and destabilising it. Note boxthorn still on the other side of the wall awaiting our next visit.



Photo credit Dave James. The hardy 2015 FoBSI Goose Island boxthorning crew on Day 17(!) of our 10 day working bee. We are awaiting the arrival of the boat to return us to Flinders Island, as the extremely wild weather had finally abated. L to R the crew is Kat, Mark, Vicki, Rosemary, Mark, Kate, Ruth, Alison, John, Jurgen, plus Dave at front.



Above insert. Photo credit Ruth Haynes. Dave in the midst of a gnarly thicket that was completely covering old stone walls on Goose Island.

Photo credit Alison Pickering-Wheeler. Wybalenna waterhole after completion of boxthorn removal.

Friends of Maatsuyker Island

By President, Marina Campbell

Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) has had another successful and busy year. FOMI thanks all its members for their continued support toward the conservation, protection and promotion of the very special Maatsuyker Island. These are some of our highlights from 2015.

FOMI Committee: Our fantastic and dedicated Committee held regular meetings (every two months). Each meeting began with a shared dinner and lively conversation and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) rangers and other friends often joined us. FOMI continues to have a very strong working relationship with key PWS staff (rangers, field staff, managers, heritage consultant, asset staff and volunteer facilitator). We thank PWS for its support.

Strategic plan (2015-2019): The Committee, with input from PWS and the Wildcare CEO, developed the new FOMI strategic plan. Thanks to Janine Combes for facilitating the development and production of the plan.

Day-long boat trip to Maatsuyker: In March 2015, FOMI led a day-long boat trip to Maatsuyker Island, leaving from and returning to the Southport jetty. Eleven participants had a fantastic day, enjoying views along the south coast and touring the sights of Maatsuyker Island. FOMI endeavours to run day trips to Maatsuyker Island every autumn.

Festivals, talks and promotion: FOMI had a stall at the Wooden Boat Festival in February 2015 and at the Seafarer's Festival at Bellerive in October 2015. FOMI members gave talks at the Royal Society of Tasmania, Derwent Sailing Squadron AGM and the Landcare Conference. The Committee produced its regular newsletter, which was distributed to all FOMI members and supporters. FOMI contributed an article to an edition of the Tasmanian Heritage Council newsletter. FOMI entered into the realm of Facebook which is proving to be a good means of sharing news to a broader network. FOMI is still finding its way round the new Wildcare website. We look forward to the opportunities the new site presents.

Weed control program. Photo credit Georgie Hedley.





Maatsuyker 'Art Series' gift cards: A subcommittee has researched, designed and developed a series of gift cards using beautiful work produced by artists who have spent time on Maatsuyker, as well as cards with historic images of Abel Tasman's exploration in 1642, when he named Maatsuyker Island. These cards will be sold as a fundraiser for FOMI's work.

Weed control program: During the March 2015 (funded by a Caring for Our Country community environment grant) and December 2015 on-island working bees, follow-up control work was completed targeting Montbretia, blackberry and Hebe elliptica. An NRM South Naturally Inspired Grant (\$4,980) was secured for weed control program works over the 2015-16 season. FOMI weed control program works have been successfully undertaken on an annual basis since 2003.

Short-tailed Shearwater monitoring program: During the March 2015 working bee, Shearwater chicks in the study burrows were checked (using a specialised 'burrowscope') to obtain a shearwater breeding success estimate for 2014-15 (funded by an NRM South Naturally Inspired grant). The working bee in December 2015 marked the start of the third season of FOMI's monitoring of Shearwaters on Maatsuyker Island, with burrows being checked during the egg incubation period. A \$2,000 Wildcare Board of Management grant was secured to help with costs of Shearwater monitoring over the 2015-16 season.

Maintenance work on Maatsuyker Island lightstation buildings: Over the last couple of years, FOMI has undertaken maintenance works in the historic houses (Quarters 1, 2 and 3) and other lightstation buildings and structures, particularly focusing on replacement of rotting floors. In 2015, FOMI was honoured to receive \$2,500 from Wildcare's Craig Saunders Memorial Fund. This money will contribute to the restoration of the Quarters 2 verandah, one of Craig's favourite hang-outs.

Maatsuyker lighthouse restoration planning: FOMI received an amazing anonymous donation of \$10,000, as well as a further donation of \$1,000, for works on the lighthouse. FOMI 'lighthouse funds' also include a \$15,000 grant from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, \$5,000 from FOMI general funds, \$1,000 from winning the Craig Saunders' photographic competition and \$600 from the auction of a painting donated by Kate Worthington. In October 2015, PWS announced \$40,000 of funding toward restoration of the lighthouse. FOMI and PWS have established a Lighthouse Working Group and plans are under way for a working bee focussed on lighthouse restoration in March 2016. The aim is to commence the initial and much-needed work on immediate waterproofing and restoration of the wonderful Maatsuyker lighthouse.

Photo top: Maatsuyker Island. Photo credit Barry Baker. Above: Checking the occupants of Short-tailed Shearwater burrows on Maatsuyker Island using a specialised camera 'burrowscope'. Photo credit Georgie Hedley.

Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail

By President, Greig Clarke

I have just read last year's item for Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail, or PCT as it is commonly known, in the 2014 Wildcare Annual Report. Wow! A lot has happened since our first Wildcare working bee event.

Our Branch has been very fortunate to have been offered funding from The Patricia Dukes Foundation to allow better marking, signage and mapping of the track that runs from Penguin to Cradle Mountain in north-west Tasmania. The funds were held in the Wildcare Gift Fund and our dedicated committee of five spent a lot of time putting together a costed proposal to the Gift Fund Committee for its consideration. During this period, we had meetings with Parks and Wildlife managers of the area that the track covered, as well as land owners and Council. Our aim is to produce 1:25000 scale maps of the PCT, together with track notes and a brochure highlighting the history of PCT, fauna, flora, geology, nomenclature and other information. Track signage and marking are also required to be upgraded as the PCT is becoming a more popular alternative for experienced walkers. The PCT is not an easy walk, but covers varied and spectacular sections of the north west area, including the Leven River and Black Bluff Range.

This year's contribution to the Annual Report will focus on part of our current project and that is the replacement of marker poles along the Black Bluff Range.

The PCT traverses the range at an altitude around 1200 metres from Black Bluff in the north to Mt Beecroft in the south, a distance of 18 kilometres, before dropping down to the Vale and Fleece Rivers. On a clear day, the vista is superb with Cradle Mountain and the reserve to the south and all the mountains to the east and west visible. On a poor day, 25 metres is often the extent of your visible world, so you can appreciate the comforting effect of marker poles in the mist guiding your way.

There was considerable organisation required to start this project. We had to obtain approval from Parks, work permits were required, treated pine marker poles were locally

manufactured, helicopter drops of the poles to designated grid referenced locations had to be co-ordinated and water and tools airlifted to our remote campsite on top of the range. The best part was organising willing volunteers. At this point, I must say it has been a humbling experience to have so many great Wildcare and Walking Club members assist. I have even been asked to let them know when the next stage is due to be done. Working bees and volunteering in general is a strange business. You work fairly hard for no financial return but do gain a sense of achievement and that is also evident when you read about the activities of other Wildcare Branches.

The week leading up to our proposed three day pole replacement event saw snow fall at Cradle Mountain and it was not looking good for flying. But the weather cleared and flying conditions were close to perfect. The helicopter dropped our equipment exactly where requested and mild clear days meant we had great weather for working and enjoying our remote camp. We brush cut and cleared several scrubby sections, carried and drove in marker poles and walked a lot of kilometres. Another group of volunteers came in at the end of the weekend to assist in carrying out our water containers and tools. Since then, there have been a couple of long days to finish off the northern section at Black Bluff.

The following details of stage one may be of interest:

- 200 litres of water, poles and tools dropped by helicopter at the camp site
- 4 more helicopter pole drops
- 13.6 kilometres of track completed
- 370 poles erected
- 1.4 tonnes total weight of poles carried
- 500 man hours

Only a few more kilometres and Mt Beecroft to go... nearly there.



Above: Well earned late afternoon rest.
Below: Pole Sherpas.



Karstcare...cavers caring for caves

By President, David Wools-Cobb

Karstcare has been a CAR (Community Action in Reserves) Wildcare Branch since October 2000, so we have been operating for over 15 years. We are made up of a bunch of cavers, mainly from Northern Caverneers Inc., based at Launceston. However, we also have members from all other caving clubs throughout Tasmania and we even have interstate members! Our activities are centred mainly on the Mole Creek Karst National Park, but we have also conducted several projects in the Gunns Plains area. Our membership is somewhat fluid, depending on interest, projects being the main focus and who is available. We average about 15 members.

Most of our work is underground, involving everything from cleaning routes within a cave, installing boot washing stations to reduce mud transfer, string-lining to define a route, matting placement in areas that cannot be cleaned, surveying and mapping caves and basically any other activity that contributes to better management and minimising visitor impacts.

This past year, we have conducted a total of six working bees, involving 141.5 hours of voluntary work:

- Assisting PWS with erection of wallaby and deer-proof fencing as a trial in the Baldocks Cave area where we have previously carried out a revegetation project.
- Clearing a small pothole of rubbish that had been dumped into it in a previous time, obviously with a different attitude to holes and rubbish and what happens to the quality of the (drinking) water.
- Conducting a management trip through Kubla Khan Cave to discuss a number of site-specific issues and plan projects for the future.
- Undertaking two cleaning trips into Kubla Khan Cave, resulting in a defined cleaned route to a viewing platform and removal of an inflatable swimming pool after 10 years of water storage and upgrade of some matting (to keep boots out of mud).



Brigida & David cleaning Begum area.

- Performing a small weeding project on the Honeycomb Cave block.
- Servicing all boot washing stations through Kubla Khan Cave in preparation for the many cavers visiting over summer.



Begum & Khan. Photo opposite: Janice rock construction.



Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station

By President, Kathy Duncombe

In October 2011, a new Wildcare Branch – 'Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station' (FOBIQS) - was formed to "support the management, conservation and public appreciation of the Bruny Island Quarantine Station."

An initial meeting of about 20 interested parties, including Bruny Islanders, non-residents, members of Parks & Wildlife and Wildcare was held on site. The Station consists of 320 acres of native bushland, plus buildings and ruins from all eras of its history. An interpretative tour was conducted to inform the group of the different eras of the Quarantine Station. The meeting developed a future 2016 vision for the Bruny Quarantine Station. Looking back from early 2016, it is encouraging to reflect that most, if not all, of our visions have been fulfilled:

- The Health Officers' Quarters are now habitable for volunteers.
- The Quarantine Station is now open to the public five days a week during daylight saving, weekends and public holidays for the rest of the year.
- We have a self-guided heritage tour in place with informative interpretive signage across the Station precinct.
- We have 'volunteer caretakers' on site all year round on four week rosters.

During 2015, with visitor numbers on the rise, FOBIQS has been actively improving visitor facilities with the kind support of a National Conservation Grant from Parks & Wildlife via Wildcare - Parks for People. We have only had the Station open to the public for two years, commencing from December 2013. Since that time, there have been 4189 visitors, though in reality the number is likely to be higher, since not all sign the visitors' book.

A new interpretation centre and toilets are being developed in the Plant Quarantine Head House to help visitors learn about the rich fabric and history of the Station. Display had

been updated and reformatted to give visitors the 'wow' factor and encourage them to engage in the overall ambience of the site. Not only the history, but the flora and fauna. New displays will include birds, orchids, shrubs, ground layer plants, fungi, small trees and eucalypts found on site.



A preview of the new display.

The Quarantine Station has an intriguing past. The site was a State and Commonwealth Quarantine Station, it held German internees during World War 1, became a quarantine site during the 1918-1919 flu pandemic and later, a plant quarantine station. It was proclaimed as a State Reserve in 2003 and has since been managed by PWS.

The site is receiving return visitors, as it appears that people do not initially realise how much there is to see. Locals are bringing their visitors and friends as the Station becomes one of the key attractions on Bruny Island. Prominent signage flags seem to be a key factor in guiding visitors to the Station. Our activity on Trip Advisor and Facebook is steadily growing, however this currently appears to reflect people who have already visited the Station.

We have had a few special visits this year. In March, a group of 25 UTAS students visited the Quarantine Station as part of their field trip to Bruny Island. Their subject was *Then and Now*. In September, the Senior Biosecurity Officer took time to visit and assist FOBIQS with interpretation of the Plant Quarantine site c1955 – 1986.



Winter caretakers, Sandra and Rob.

We have had many different 'volunteer caretakers' over the past years and each has added their own observations and suggestions to the site. Volunteer caretakers provide a physical presence at the Quarantine Station. They provide information about the heritage self-guided walk and the natural history of the area, carry out minor maintenance and assist with coordination of other PWS and FOBIQS activities at the site.

Sandra discovered three small sized hobnailed leather boot heels as she was energetically chipping weeds during the working bee in September. We wonder who wore the original child sized boots and when? The boot heels will be added to the Station's collection of artefacts.

We have a dedicated committee of volunteers and PWS staff who oversee the Station management. Committee members have explicit roles and these roles effectively balance the importance of our needs for historical site interpretation, volunteer coordination-induction and site development-maintenance.

The Quarantine Station at 816 Killora Road, Barnes Bay, Bruny Island, is revealing its fascinating past to the public, thanks to the efforts of PWS staff and our dedicated volunteer group. We now look forward to the development of a revised strategic plan to guide our next phase of development.



UTAS students study the Then and Now -viewing display board - 2015.



FOBIQS President Kathy Duncombe with Snr. Biosecurity Officer Sabatino Cesile.

Walker Coaches have brought their groups on site, walking groups and even the Health Centre Nordic Walking Group plan to visit early December. Once the new facilities are operational (improved toilet access and undercover facilities), it is hoped to encourage more school groups, photographers, artists, walking groups, Probus groups etc. to visit the site during 2016.

Friends of Tasman Island

By Erika Shankley

2015 marked the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Tasman Island Wildcare Inc. Branch (FoTI). Volunteers have worked many thousands of hours, both on and off the island, since the Branch's first working bee in April 2006. That year, while commencing the program of restorative work on the island, volunteers were also able to celebrate 100 years since the light was first lit on 2 April 1906.

A lot has happened since that first working bee, with Quarters 3 now making a comfortable base for each 10-day working bee. Work on all three lightkeepers' quarters is still ongoing, while concurrently, a program of weeding, commenced in 2009, is making inroads on invasive plants on the island.

However, over the last 12 months, FoTI has found the enthusiasm of its core group flagging. This was due in part to some of the group being out of action, but also perceived issues with our partner, PWS. It is hoped that these issues can be worked through, sooner rather than later.

Fundraising is always a big issue for volunteer groups. FoTI's main source of funding has been the Lighthouses of Tasmania Calendar. Thanks to Cascade Brewery, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and a Wildcare Board of Management grant, we were able to get the calendar printed in Tasmania. Credit must go to the small group of volunteers who have worked each year to produce the calendar which has now become a collectors' item. The 2015 edition was no less popular, adding over \$10,000 to our coffers. Thanks also to all those who helped with deliveries and to Wildcare's Carol Pacey, who makes sure the money raised finds its way into our Wildcare account.

During February, the three island Branches, Deal, Maatsuyker and Tasman, collaborated in a stall at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival. Unfortunately, the siting of the stall prevented the vast majority of visitors from learning more about our activities. Even the Festival staff did not seem to know where we were located!

As a result, sales were down, with little to add to our modest fundraising account. First prize in a joint raffle, run in conjunction with the other Island groups, enabled two FoTI members, Gwen Egg and Marina Campbell, to visit Tasman Island.

Unfortunately, due to pressures within PWS, FoTI was only able to run one working bee during 2015. This got under way in late March and, as usual, the major job was mowing. Despite several prior visits by PWS to assist with this chore, the grass round each building still needed to be cut to reduce fire hazards and the tracks mowed to facilitate moving around the island. Work was also ongoing with the conservation and restoration of keepers' quarters, using guidelines from the PWS Catch-up Maintenance Program.

As usual, the working bee ended with FoTI collaborating with the Rotary Club of Tasman Peninsula in an open day on the island. Over 80 visitors arrived during the day, with two FoTI members assisting AMSA with guided tours of the lighthouse. The visitors included representatives from AMSA and Wildcare who attended a short ceremony to unveil a plaque dedicated to lightkeepers and their families.

Thanks to Rotary, FoTI was able to utilise vacant helicopter seats to exit the island to Safety Cove at the end of the working bee.

Back at home, FoTI joined with Rotary on the production of a brochure to highlight points of interest on Tasman Island. This will enable visitors on future events to better understand the remaining evidence of the lighthouse era.

Thanks to AMSA, FoTI is now custodian of the Second Order Cape Sorell lens. A small group of FoTI members, headed by works co-ordinator Chris Creese, have made 24 packing cases to house the collection. Once repacked, the lens will be stored until such time as a venue to display the lens can be found.

Each year, FoTI seeks to hold a meeting on Tasman Peninsula to involve locals in our project planning.



This year's meeting was held in the Eaglehawk Neck Hall, followed by a sumptuous supper. Several FoTI members have also spoken to service and educational groups about our ongoing volunteer work.

FoTI has been watching, with interest, the proposals submitted to the State Government for tourism ventures within national parks. For Tasman Island, it is understood that Rotalift is proposing a day trip including lunch, necessitating the addition of another helipad. Perhaps FoTI may be able to collaborate with Rotalift in some way to make the visitor experience more memorable.

Our Facebook page continues to be well patronised with photos and stories of past and present activities. See www.facebook.com/FriendsofTasmanIsland. Other items of interest can be found on the Wildcare web site <http://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/friends-of-tasman-island>

Thank you to AMSA, Wildcare, PWS, Rotary Club of Tasman Peninsula and FoTI's members and supporters for your ongoing support. May 2016 bring better things.

Top left: New tank for Q1 Ian, Karl, Will & Robin. Top right: Carol and Ann wheelbarrow. Below left: Volunteers and materials are moved to Tasman by helicopter. Photos by Erika Shankley.

As poet, journalist and novelist, Anatole France, said: "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe."



Above: Rob and Mike replace glass Q3 kitchen window.

Friends of Yorktown Historic Site

By President, Prue Wright

Yorktown is the site of the first "permanent" European settlement in Tasmania. Colonel William Paterson landed there in 1804 with a party of soldiers, convicts and free settlers. They built a small town and then moved on to form Launceston. Within five years, only a few of the timber buildings remained at Yorktown.

The West Tamar Historical Society formed in 2001 to remove gorse up to seven metres high and oversee the area becoming a site of historical significance. Over the years, a number of grants have been received, land crucial to the site has been acquired and an archaeological dig has been performed by La Trobe University. Paths have been formed, local natives planted and signs erected detailing the history and informing visitors of the flora and fauna. All native plants that re-appeared have been recorded, including an herbarium collection.

In the last few years, a Wildcare Friends of Yorktown Historical Site Branch was formed to address ongoing maintenance. And 2015 has been a busy year, after receiving a grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. This grant has enabled us to replace several of the very weathered and worn interpretation signs that are placed around the site. We also had a new sign made to invite visitors to follow the paths and enjoy the sounds of the birds and beauty of the wild flowers.

Several working bees were held during the year and we have managed to clear the final stand of gorse along the main pathway of what we know as the Wylie Block. It is in this area that we have persevered to maintain a heathland. We have found that, years after the massive gorse "trees" were removed and burnt, natural vegetation was returning – *Patersonia fragilis* and *occidentalis*, *Thelionema*, all sorts of lilies and iris, *Epacris* and many pea flowers too.

We have established plantings amongst all the *Patersonia*, so now there are enough plants to march back against the *Lomandra*! The original *Patersonia* and *Thelionema* have been flowering and in 2016, we expect a sea of wildflowers.

Amongst it all, we have about 50 *Xanthorrhoea bracteata*, a threatened species which is local to the area. They are very slow growing, but so far most are surviving.

There is nothing remaining above ground of the former settlement. The archaeological dig revealed the sites of Colonel Paterson's house and other important buildings. All artefacts were removed to the Beaconsfield Gold and Heritage Museum and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. However, the area is returning to a wildflower wonderland and many threatened species are reappearing in their own time.



Members admiring our new Welcome sign.



Above: Planting. Below left: Weeding alongside path. Below right: Planting.



Wellington Park Bushcare

By President, Peter Franklin



Installing marker.

The Wellington Park Bushcare Branch completed another successful year in the Park. It is only achieved with our enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers. It is also made easier by having such a great relationship with the three area managements of PWS, Glenorchy City and City of Hobart.

Thark Ridge Walking Track

We are quite proud of the rerouted track. This year, we only had 90 metres of new track left to create, to bypass a boggy section. The new walking track is now fully complete, looks good and is vastly better environmentally and visually. The old degraded sections are already rehabilitating at varying degrees and, in all, it has been very satisfying.

Kalang Valley

Two years ago, we started work in an area close to the boundary of Wellington Park that was infested with a huge field of Erica. It was in a valley off Kalang Avenue where part of a hillside had once been cleared, perhaps for small fruit farming. It was also somewhat unusual in that the land is owned by the City of Hobart but the land is within the boundary of Glenorchy Council.

Our task was to remove the weeds at the bush edge and within, so that they were kept from entering the park. Fortunately, the Hobart Council has now cleared and sprayed the bulk infestation; something that is very pleasing to our Branch.

This year was our fifth foray there. We finished off a patch of Erica growing under a dense copse of what may be Leptomeria, then checked over the area that we initially worked. Not a lot of new plants were found in this latter area and we were able to scout well into the bush to find where a few plants had managed to penetrate.

Collins Bonnet Walking Track

The Collins Bonnet track clearing project has now been completed, all within the year. It commenced in March 2015 on the lower 1.1 kilometre section, from the junction with the Collins Cap track, and gradually we worked up the steep slope in June and November with the final bit done in December. A terrific effort to be finished in four days. Another day was spent (April 2015) above the East West Firetrail, rerouting the track to avoid wet, muddy sections.

The final day included cutting through a large tree over the track. We realised how challenging it was to get over when a Hobart Walking Club party arrived and many of the party struggled with the task. Peter from PWS put in a mighty effort cutting through the trunk to allow access. The track is now in really good condition for walkers to enjoy.

Inglewood

We have been removing Gorse beside the Inglewood fire break easements for eight years. Gorse is a dreadful prickly weed that completely dominates the ground once it gets established. In the areas where it has been removed, the native vegetation has staged a comeback. Two working bees were held here in 2015.

Goat Hills

In the Goat Hills area, there are several sites that we have worked on over the years. One that is always an enormous pleasure to visit has a spectacular endemic Epacris (Epacris acuminata), and the day we went there to scout out any invading Erica, we had the good fortune of pleasant, sunny and warm conditions and the Epacris in full flower.



On upper part of section 2 reroute. Insert: Tree site.

Epacris acuminata, or Claspingleaf heath is the common name, is a rare endemic plant and the population in Goat Hills is fairly exceptional where it is growing. This dense population growing on dolerite sheet rock is threatened by invading *Erica* and the *Epacris* was in spectacular flower on this visit. The scene is a delight with thick swathes of almost pure *Epacris* surrounding open island of low grass and herbs.

Another site visited is in bush that was subjected to a management burn about a year after our initial foray. The flora is now in a quite healthy state, but unfortunately *Erica* has also grown up and is dispersed over the site. Partly because other nearby areas have taken up our time, we had not been back since 2008 to follow up until this year. Our work this time cleared a fair proportion of the regrowth and we were able to both push back the weed free line and also scout over a large part of the bushland to remove stray *Erica*.

Over the years, most concentration has been on a bushland site at Goat Hills and it has gone on for 12 years to remove the dastardly weed, *Erica lusitanica* (Spanish Heath). Whilst it seems a never ending task, considerable progress has been made and the site is looking fairly good now.

It is a pleasant section of bush to work in and getting there was made easier by Hannah from Glenorchy Council and

Ben, the Wellington Park Ranger, driving us to the site. That was not the only bonus, because we were treated to jostaberry cake from Allison and lemon cake from Sue. But it was the last time working with Hannah, who is about to commence maternity leave. We wish her well.

Tolosa

In an area with rare *Epacris virgata* that is threatened by invading Spanish Heath, we keep a regular check and always have plenty of seedlings to deal with. On one of these visits in 2015, our morning break was enhanced by tasty slices sent along for us by Stuart from Glenorchy Council. Hannah, also from there, provided the group with some new equipment, which is most appreciated. Another difference this day was the Green Army joining us to help. They worked in this part of the park for several months and cleared lots of weeds.

The Tolosa site is one we have been working in for many years and, as usual, the task was to scan the area for new plants. We are now able to go over the whole of the northern sector of the site, including along some nice banks above Humphrey Rivulet. On the last occasion, we were able to get to the furthest off spot for the first time in four years and it was found to still be in good shape. However, a sweep of the southern part of the site located a few thick patches of small *Erica*, but the vast bulk had never grown enough to flower. It is a plant that never lets you rest.

Friends of Melaleuca

By Secretary, Helen Statham

Last year, we described the preliminary stages in our endeavours to convert the former Deny King Bird Observation Hide into the Deny King Heritage Museum at Melaleuca. This exciting project has become extremely time-consuming for the small band of volunteers involved, in particular our President, Janet Fenton.

We have been working on various aspects of the museum. This has included photographing, measuring and cataloguing items for display - a mammoth task in itself. There has been considerable consultation with museum curators on topics such as temperature and humidity regulation, including use of a borrowed mechanical hygrometer in the building for a year to measure variations over time. Several visits have been made to small museums around Tasmania to look at their displays, display cases and discuss operational matters.

One of our most daunting and time consuming tasks has been the pursuit of funding. Last year, we received \$6,000 for the museum from corporate sponsors. In addition, winning the Craig Saunders Annual Photo Competition in August 2014 provided a further \$1000 for our coffers. This year, we have applied for other grants to assist with display panels, books for a reading corner and display hardware. We are very pleased that our application of \$2472 to the Wildcare Gift Fund Craig Saunders Memorial Grants was successful. We plan to spend \$2272 towards recladding the 1930s mining hut located on the Kings' lease that currently houses most of the items for display in the museum, and the remaining \$200 on the first few books for the reading corner. We will hear later in the year if we have been successful with the other two grants, and if so we should be able to proceed with planning display panels and ordering display cabinets.

Another pleasing aspect of the museum is the plan for a bird feeding table and telescope, managed by Orange-bellied Parrot volunteers, to be re-established at the museum site, for visitors to view Orange-bellied Parrots and other birds.



The team! Friends of Melaleuca working bee March 2015 Photo by Ian Volpi. Huon pine seat, Melaleuca campground made by Kevin in memory of Craig Saunders. Photo Mick Statham.

On site, Parks and Wildlife staff have completed construction of the porch annexe. Further interior work may be carried out in summer, to install insulation in the ceiling.

Our seventh annual working bee was held in late March. The first priority was painting corrugated iron roofs and walls of the two heritage Nissen sheds at the mine site (the red Engine shed and the green Loader shed). We were able to accomplish this, thanks to three members having trained in safe work at heights and some fine weather early in the week. It was great to see work on both sheds completed. The red Engine shed is destined to house displays for the mining trail extension of the museum, while the green Loader shed now houses the PWS tractor.



Ian painting roof of Red Shed. Photo Janet Fenton. Insert: Geoff installing the Welcome panel, Claytons Corner. Photo Janet Fenton.

The creation and installation of a seat at the camp-ground in memory of Craig Saunders was another exciting project undertaken at the working bee. This was a fine example of remote area cooperation. A magnificent two and a half metre log of huon pine was used. Found washed up on Balmoral Beach by Janet and Geoff earlier in the summer, the log was relocated to Melaleuca by boat during the working bee, with permission from Parks and Wildlife Service. Kevin Perkins, a leading Australian furniture designer-maker in wood, created the seat during the working bee. A full account of how this attractive and comfortable seat came about has been submitted to *Wildtimes*.

In recent years, FoM members have taken over the minor maintenance of the house at Claytons Corner, replacing the Friends of Claytons. Located at the mouth of Melaleuca Inlet where it meets Bathurst Harbour, this was the home of Win and Clyde Clayton for 14 years before their retirement in 1976. We have repaired, painted and scrubbed, lopped and dug at Claytons during working bees. In our latest undertaking there, with the help of a grant from Wildcare, we produced eight display panels depicting Win and Clyde's story during their time at Claytons Corner. Janet, with a lot of help from Geoff and editorial assistance from others, undertook this mammoth task using photos and information she had collected when

writing Win and Clyde's biography a few years ago. Since we hung the panels during the summer, we have had some great feedback from visiting tourist groups and yachting visitors. And we keep thinking of other ideas to add to the homeliness of the place and to the visitor experience. We have added some small mantel-piece photos in frames, some issues of Win and Clyde's favourite magazines, National Geographic and Your Garden dated during the period of their occupancy, and a folder with additional information.



Image opposite: Mt Rugby from Celery Top Island. Photo Mick Statham.

Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers

By President, John Duggin

Volunteers at the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre helped celebrate World Wetlands Day (WWD) for the community. WWD is celebrated on 2nd of February every year to recognise the signing of the international convention for the conservation and wise and sustainable use of wetlands in Ramsar, Iran on 2nd February (the Ramsar Convention). Australia was one of the first nations to sign the Convention and now has 65 wetland sites and 8.3 million hectares listed on the Convention as internationally significant, 10 of which are in Tasmania.

Tamar Island Wetlands were set aside as a reserve in 1992 as a result of community action, agency enthusiasm and bi-partisan political support. Soon after a boardwalk, tracks, bridges and facilities (toilets, picnic area, bird hide and parking lot) were constructed, culminating in the opening of the Wetlands Centre in November 2000 by the Premier of Tasmania. The reserve now forms a core part of the greater Tamar River Conservation Area.

The Centre is operated by PWS, assisted by a strong and enthusiastic group of about 20 volunteers opening every day of the year, except Christmas Day. Since the establishment of the Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers, they have helped organise and run WWD celebrations over the past 10 years or so. Visitor numbers vary from just less than 100 to over 450, depending on the day of the week that 2nd February falls and its proximity to the start of the school year.

This year, some 400 visitors attended the day to join in the craft and other activities to learn about and appreciate wetlands. Talks were presented to highlight points of interest to visitors by the Discovery Ranger, a snake ecologist and water quality experts. Other agencies and a community arts group provide displays to improve community understanding of the importance of wetland conservation and management.

The Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers, a Branch of Wildcare, staff the Centre providing "meet and greet" services to visitors, handing out information about the wetlands, discussing the importance of wetlands generally throughout the landscape and answering queries about the

wetlands and other recreational and tourism facilities along the Tamar River. Working bees are also held periodically to assist in management of the reserve. We also occasionally hold other community events such as "Breakfast with the Birds" and guided walks with discovery rangers and volunteers.

People wishing to become volunteers are encouraged to contact the Business Manager at the Centre. If you feel that you are getting a bit on in life and volunteer weeding is taxing, then maybe this is an opportunity for you to continue your contribution to nature conservation at a more leisurely pace. Over 35 per cent of our group are over 70 years – suggesting that you are never too old to participate! However, all interested people are encouraged to volunteer, regardless of age.



John, a Discovery Ranger with PWS, talking to a group on World Wetlands Day about natural history features they might see at Tamar Island and highlighting the importance of wetlands in nature conservation programs.



Wetlands Volunteer Jan with a visitor showing the artwork undertaken during World Wetlands Day. The print was made by hammering plant material between fabric to extract pigments and make various patterns.



Children looking at water-borne invertebrates in sample trays while a group of walkers set out on a guided tour to Tamar Island on World Wetlands Day.



Presenter Simon Fearn, from QVMAG Natural History Section, holding a copperhead snake while discussing the biology and ecology of Tasmanian reptiles to a gathering at the Tamar Island Wetlands on World Wetlands Day.

Friends of GIS

By President, Phil Wyatt

Friends of GIS are not your average Wildcare Branch. We don't have a special patch that we look after, we are seldom out in the sunshine and our tools are geeky things like computers and GPSs, not weed wands, rakes or paint brushes. So what is GIS?

"A geographic information system or geographical information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data."¹

This Branch was started so that members could learn about mapping and GIS. The Branch includes members from a wide background - those who have done no mapping, those that have data and would like to present it, students and scientific and mapping professionals. The idea is that we all support each other and learn how to take our data from spreadsheets and GPSs to hard copy or electronic maps. We meet every three to four weeks in Glenorchy, at the Parks and Wildlife Offices.

Just about everything Wildcare Branches do, has some spatial context. There are the boundaries of your work area, the locations of weeds that you find and treat on your patch, or the threatened species you are looking to protect. Often this information is stored in someone's head, scratched out on a hand drawn map, in an excel spreadsheet or stored on multiple people's GPSs. The intention is, that over time, we will convert people's spreadsheet and GPS data into their own mapping layers to support much better record-keeping of our activities.

1 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_information_system

2 - <http://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/opendata/>

3 - <http://www.qgis.org/en/site/about/index.html>

4 - <http://www.fulcrumapp.com/>

Mapping has often been the domain of professionals, but with the advent of smart phones it seems that everyone has suddenly taken an interest in maps and collecting data. This had led to a bit of a revolution in the availability of data required for mapping. Tasmania, I reckon, is leading the charge and has made lots of data available free-of-charge via an Open Data Portal². By using these free "layers", we can build up useful maps of our areas of interest. We have also secured, via a Wildcare grant, all the 1:25,000 maps in an electronic form that we can use as backgrounds for our maps.

We use some free, open source software called QGIS³. This is a powerful program and, to be honest, we only use a tiny percentage of its capabilities at this stage. Most people are still learning the basics of how to add and manipulate layers of information, create a map with a legend, scale bar and north arrow, or how to convert their paper records into mapping layers. It's all good fun with no pressure on anyone and lots of assistance available.

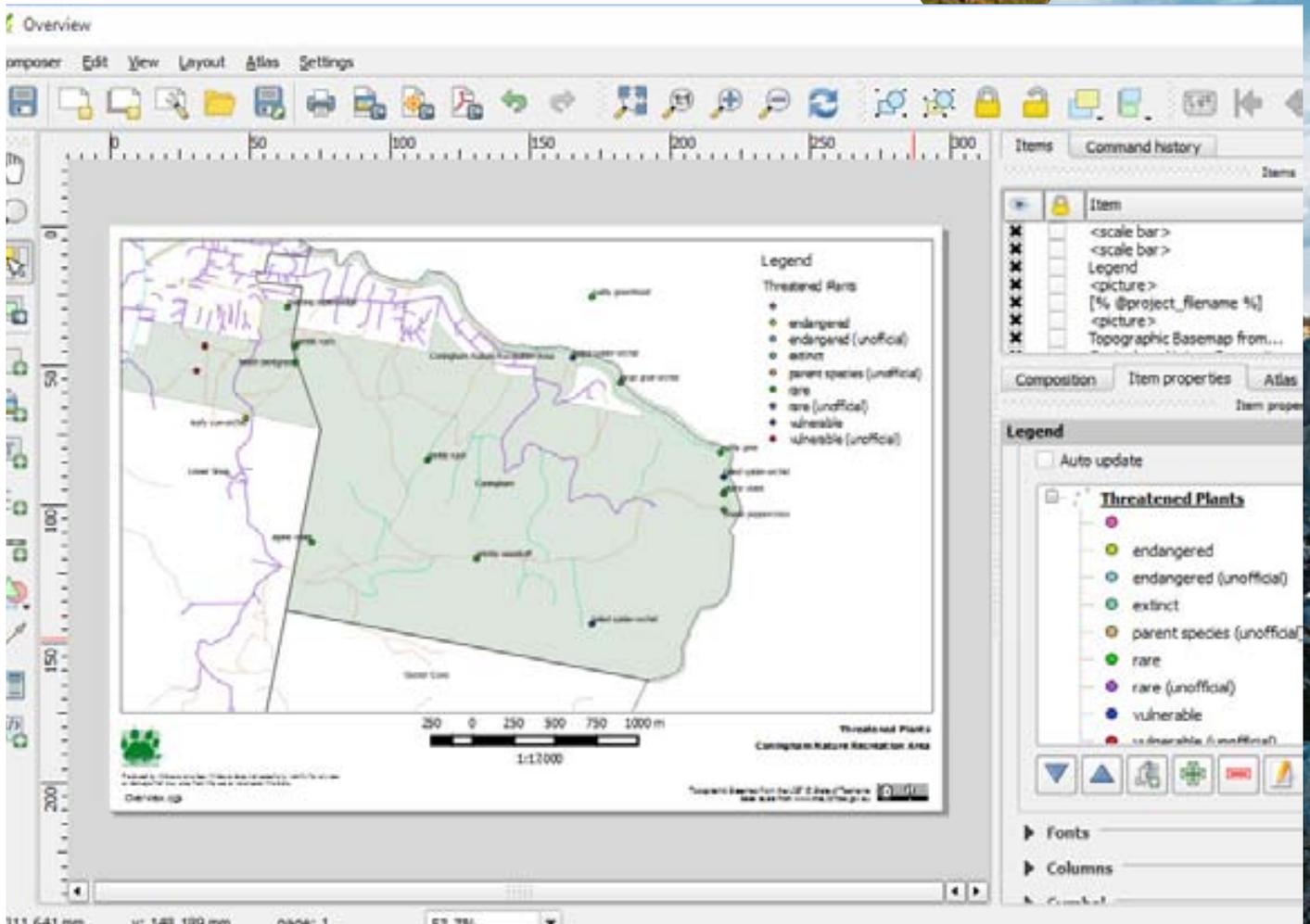
Unfortunately, we have not been able to support folk in other areas of the State as much as we would have liked. Earlier this year, we applied for another grant for some extra software. This allows users in other parts of Tasmania to collect data on smart phones and tablets and then see the results on the web. This software is called Fulcrumapp⁴. At the moment, our grant will give us access to the software for a couple of years. Early next year, we will start rolling out some forms that allow people to collect weed data. If you have a particular need for data collection, please get in touch with us as we would love to help. We are sure there are plenty of common things that we all collect.

One project that will use the software is a mouse and rat eradication on Big Green Island, off Flinders Island. We are working with Sue Robinson from DPIPW and have created the forms necessary to see which of the 2000 bait stations have been installed and also to monitor bait use over the course of the project. Testing is well under way for a start in February 2016. Wildcare volunteers from Friends of Bass Strait Islands will be supporting Sue on this project.

For this project we may even make some of the data available to the public – check out our test site here

www.wildcaretas.org.au/fulcrum-maps/

All in all, it's great fun playing with maps and learning to manage better the data we collect. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, then please don't hesitate to contact us at fogis@wildcaretas.org.au or just keep an eye on the event calendar for upcoming sessions.



Composing a map.

Friends of Deal Island

By President, Bob Tyson

Deal Island has a fascinating natural history with biogeographically significant plants, birds and marine life. It has a rich human history too from early shipwrecks, sealers and then the 150 year lighthouse era 1846 to 1992. The lighthouse, oil store, superintendent's residence, store rooms and privy (1846-48) all remain and form the oldest group of substantially intact lighthouse buildings in Australia.

The major focus of our Branch is two-fold - restoration of natural vegetation, with weed management the main activity; and protection and conservation of the historic infrastructure. In addition, we assist with interpretation and information of the island's natural and historic values, principally through the Kent Group Museum housed in the 1848 superintendent's residence.

At the Annual General Meeting in February, Dallas Baker stepped down as President after seven years. He continues as a committee member, working to have the Deal lightstation recognised on the National Heritage List, and the lighthouse restored. Bob Tyson was elected as the next President. Shirley Baker agreed to continue as Treasurer, as well as the museum co-ordinator. Penny Tyson took on the role of newsletter editor, as well as weeding co-ordinator.

The Australian Wooden Boat Festival in February saw the three Friends of Lighthouse Branches (Deal, Tasman and Maatsuyker) hold stalls at the Festival to promote and raise money to support the work we do. Although not in the best of locations, thanks to a willing band of helpers we managed to round up enough customers to raise over \$2,000. And we received a valued donation from the organisers.

Working Bee – 13-17 April 2015: Seven of us spent 15 days on the island to weed regrowth sea spurge, as well as other weeds in the program. This was the ninth complete weed through of Garden Cove. Spurge plants are getting hard to find. It was the third complete sweep through East Cove. The top boundary fence of the East Cove enclosure was relocated to extend it up to the compound fence. This will protect further revegetation and help control stormwater

run-off on the slopes. A few seedling she-oaks and saltbush were collected for planting in Spring. The full report is available on the Friends of Deal Island website.

Working Bee – 4-18 November 2015: On this working bee, we had our full complement of eight but adverse weather limited our time on the island to eight full days, with the other six days spent travelling and waiting on Flinders for the wind to abate.

Weeds were the major focus. All sea spurge sites were re-weeded, as were all ragwort sites, other than the main large patch. This was remapped and sampled by transect to get an accurate picture of abundance of this weed. Horehound, some in flower, was removed at the jetty and around the compound. Very few thistles, arums or mullein were found, despite thorough checks. The museum and displays were thoroughly cleaned, and several new additions were made. A new housing system for the set of signal flags was constructed. Friends of Deal Island (FoDI) tools and equipment were maintained and museum skylights measured up for replacement.

Lighthouse: A major focus is the need for a complete refurbishment of the light tower, with water leaks, severe rusting of window frames and a piece of render falling from the badly cracked exterior. Parks have closed the light to visitors due to its deteriorating condition. The estimated cost of repair is \$500,000. Dallas continues to seek political support to get recognition of the heritage importance of the light station complex.

Kent Group Museum: Since the Kent Group Museum was listed as a Tasmanian Small Museum, there has been a steady in-flow of information, photographic material and collection items made available for the museum catalogue. Obviously, persons who hold such material feel secure in donating back to the museum in the knowledge that such material is safeguarded by formalised documentation. Most of these communications have been made through the FODI website and Facebook page.



Photo Top: Deal panorama – lighthouse to houses. Above: Shirley, weeder par excellence. Insert: There's a hole in the lighthouse!

Grants: Two working bees were funded mainly by a grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (\$14,000), plus the usual member contributions. We have been successful in obtaining a grant (\$6,300) for ragwort control from the Australian Government 25 years of Landcare Anniversary Program and another from Landcare Tasmania (\$8,000) for erosion control and weed management. We have also applied for a \$2000 Wildcare grant, which if successful will provide sufficient funds in the three grants to cover two working bees in 2016. Branch funds allow for built heritage and museum work on the working bees, alongside the nature conservation projects.

A big thankyou is expressed to all our Wildcare members, many waiting patiently for an opportunity to get to the island to lend a hand, and to our Parks partners, Wayne Dick and Cindy Pitchford on Flinders Island, and Stan Matuszek and Chris Colley from Northern Region.

Friends of Mount Field

By President, Peter Franklin

The Friends of Mount Field completed another successful year in the park. It has all hinged on enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers.

Grants

During the year, we secured two grants. One was from Wildcare for a shade cloth to protect a revegetation site on Mount Mawson. The other was from NRM South to buy plants for revegetating the banks of the Tyenna River.

This has been topped off with success in obtaining two grants in the last months of 2015. One was from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, for a bridge over the creek at Lake Fenton and boardwalk over the wet area, a short distance further up on the Field East track. The other was from the Tasmanian Community Fund to purchase timber for the Lake Belcher Hut and Peterson Memorial Hut on K Col and then helicopter it to the sites. This gives us two major tasks for 2016.

Lake Nicholls and Beatties Tarn

A wet area stemming from the outlet from Beatties Tarn had created almost creek-like conditions on a short section of the track to Lake Nicholls. Work commenced early in the year and was largely finished, mostly by placement of a substantial number of rocks. Considerable water can flow over this section of track so, where possible, large rocks were added that hopefully would stay above the water level on all but a few extremely wet periods.

For several years, the Friends of Mount Field have harboured the ambition of reopening access to Beatties Tarn. The original track was very badly located and simply went the shortest route, including a substantial portion through a very wet sphagnum flat through which the tarn outflow spread.

The park management plan suggested a re-route of the Beatties Tarn side track and to rehabilitate the old track. A suitable route close to the old track was marked out with PWS staff. We also had more impetus with the centenary of Mount Field National Park occurring in 2016, as it seemed a great idea for it to be open by then.

The track has now been made. It passes through a flat area of bush to reach a short boulder field where the rocks have been manoeuvred to allow relatively easy passage. It then drops down to bush again, before veering west through some tall old tea tree to meet the original track just below a short boulder climb. It is then along a dry level section to reach Beatties Tarn at a very pleasant spot beside the water with a good vista. It takes about 10 minutes from the main track which in turn is about 20 minutes from the Lake Dobson Road.

Track to Humboldt River

A 400 metre section of track down to the Humboldt River remained to be done. We managed to complete the clearing of vegetation along 320 metres, including segments on the buttongrass flat prior to the river crossing. Although there are a few protruding bushes along the remaining 80 metres, they are not enough to worry about at this stage. The track is now in good condition from the edge of Wombat Moor to this point, although it is poor between there and just before the road.

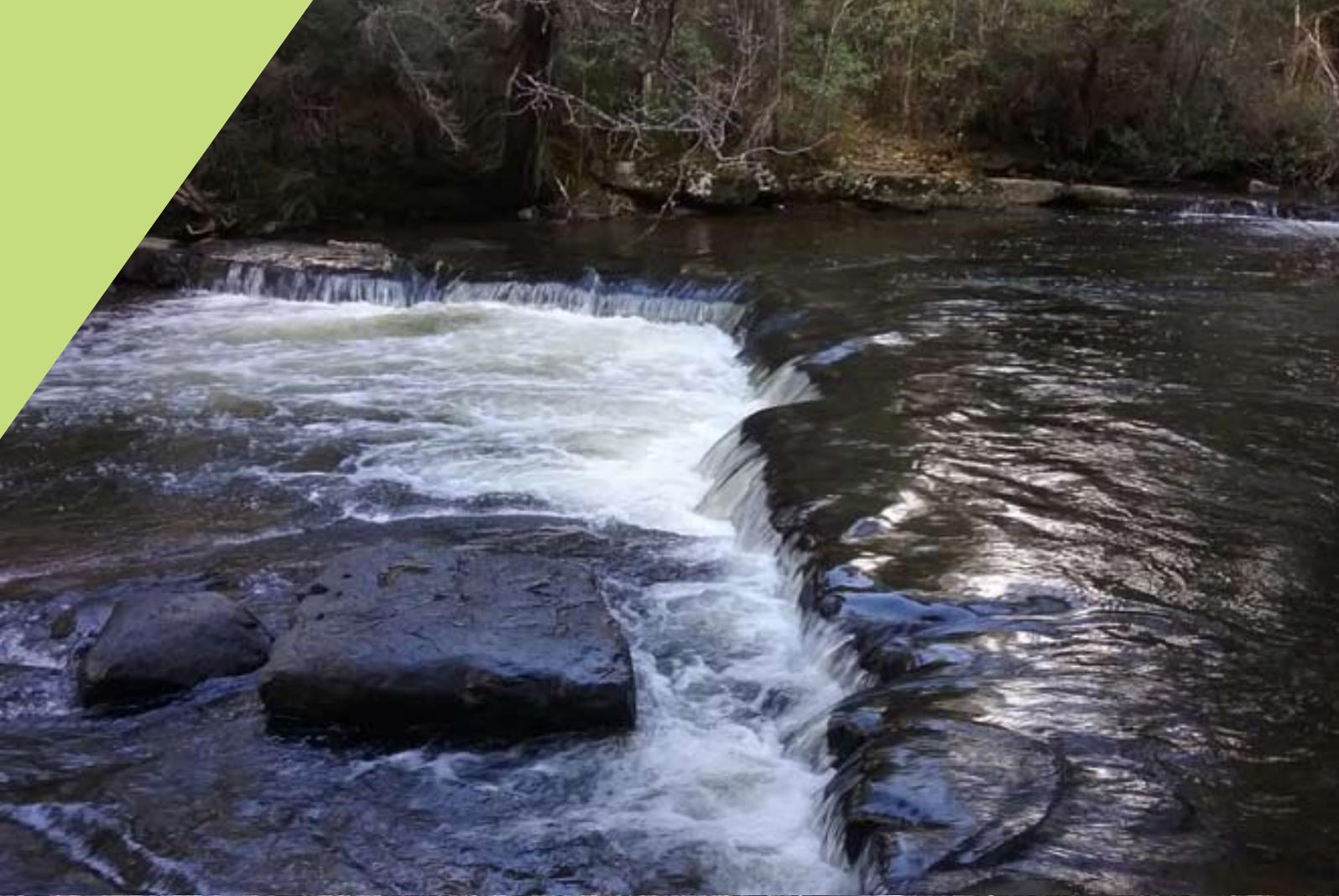
Our initial work on the track on this lower section was back in 2006 as the track above was still in reasonable condition at that time. In the intervening nine years, the vegetation had grown into the track but did not impede access. Nevertheless, it was in need of clearing and also to bring it to match the work done above. These latter sections gradually grew over the track and by 2011 signs of needing work were evident.

In all, we have worked on the 2140 metre section of track five times now. The upper sections were done in three sessions, starting in Dec 2011, then February and March 2014.

Other Works

During the year, we also worked on the track between Lakes Fenton and Webster, gardening outside the visitor centre, removing weeds on the Marriotts Falls track and finishing off the hardening at the start of that track.

Photo top: Tyenna River. Below: Beatties Sign.



Wildcare Gift Fund Committee

We are very grateful for all donors, large and small



JAMIE BAYLY-STARK

Chairperson

Jamie Bayly-Stark had a long career in the public service, including 23 years in the Parks and Wildlife Service and its successor organisations. He started out as a wildlife biologist and has dabbled in fire ecology, conservation planning, interpretation, historic heritage and many other aspects of conservation.

He moved into a general policy role in the Department of Premier and Cabinet in the year 2000 and retired as Director of Policy in 2008. In that time, highlights included leading the team that produced legislation and a program to recognise and compensate the Stolen Generation, a role in preparing Tasmania's first Climate Change Policy and involvement in aspects of forest policy.

Since retiring, Jamie has been, with Fran his wife, active with Australian Business Volunteers, delivering aid projects in Asia and the South Pacific.

He has maintained his passion for the natural environment and spends a lot of his free time exploring Tasmania's coastline.



WILL FORSYTH

Member

Will Forsyth has been a Wildcare member for 18 years and an Overland Track Warden for 15 years. He was Co-Chair (Elected) of Wildcare for eight years. He has participated in working bees on Deal, Tasman and Maatsuyker Islands, as well as Melaleuca in the south-west.

Will says with passion that he has loved every minute of these years and found the various activities and projects he has been involved in to be most rewarding. He considers Wildcare to be the best organisation of which he has the pleasure of being a member.



NICK MOONEY

Member

Nick Mooney is one of Tasmania's most respected wildlife biologists. Now retired, Nick had a long career beginning with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the 1970s and finishing with the Nature Conservation Branch of DPIPW.

He is a renowned specialist in wildlife, such as birds of prey, Tasmanian Devils and the Thylacine, but also has a long history with a wide range of other species. He was a frequent speaker at schools, inspiring students to care for wildlife and has worked closely with a network of wildlife carers around the State. Nick continues his interest and passion into retirement.



BOB TYSON

Member

Bob Tyson grew up in Launceston before moving to Hobart to do a life sciences degree. He worked for the Rural Fires Board, then with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. He held a number of positions during his 30 year career, including Fire Management Officer, Regional Manager Tasmanian Wilderness WHA, and a number of positions in senior management before retiring in 2003. He then established a small business working as a consultant in natural area management.

Bob is involved in a number of Wildcare Branches including Friends of Deal Island, Tasman Island, Maria Island, SPRATS, Coningham, Wellington Park and Orange-bellied Parrots.

He is enthusiastic about the potential of the Gift Fund to become a major source of funds for Wildcare, contributing to conservation in Tasmania and funding both departmental and volunteer Branch projects.



In 2005, Wildcare Inc became a Registered Environmental Organisation. A requirement of that status is to have a Public Fund that allows people to donate to the organisation. Wildcare Inc and its Wildcare Gift Fund were registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient, also in 2005. This means that donors to the Wildcare Gift Fund can claim donations as tax deductions. The purpose of the Gift Fund is to collect donations to support reserve management and nature conservation.

All donations made to Wildcare Inc, including to its Branches, are deposited into the Wildcare Gift Fund.

To allow donors to target their giving, the Gift Fund has a number of sub-funds. These funds have defined purposes, within the charter and purpose of the wider purpose of the Gift Fund.

At present these themed funds include:

- Wildcare Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Fund
- Wildcare Tasmanian Coast Conservation Fund
- Wildcare Saffire Devil Fund
- Wildcare Lightstations Fund
- Wildcare Save the Orange-bellied Parrot Fund
- Wildcare Whale Rescue Fund
- Wildcare Bonorong Wildlife Fund
- Wildcare Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Fund
- Wildcare Raptor Rehabilitation and Research Fund
- Wildcare WildCarbon Fund

Details of each of these sub-funds, and our Fund partners, can be found on the Wildcare website (click on 'Donate').



The Gift Fund is supported by the Gift Fund Committee. Members of the Gift Fund are appointed by the Wildcare Board of Management. For 2015, the members have been Jamie Bayly-Stark (Chair), Bob Tyson, Nick Mooney and Will Forsyth. At the end of 2015, the Board also invited Rosemary Gales and Lesley Frost to join the Committee. They will take up their positions later in 2016.

The Wildcare Board issues invitations or calls for projects from appropriate recipients. The Gift Fund Committee assesses those project applications, ensuring that they match the fund objectives and commitments made to donors through the definitions and descriptions associated with each of the Funds. The Gift Fund Committee members have a very extensive range of experience in reserve management, nature conservation and volunteering which they also contribute to the assessment process.

2015 has been a busy year for the Committee.

Each year, Dick Smith makes a \$100,000 donation to the Gift Fund to support Frenchmans Cap track maintenance, as part of his 10 year \$1 million pledge. The Parks and Wildlife Service submits a costed works program to Wildcare Inc for the coming year. The Committee assesses the works program, reviews previous work undertaken and, when satisfied with the project plan, approves the funding. There is an agreement from Parks and Wildlife Service to continue to provide \$50,000 annually to Frenchmans Cap track maintenance, so the Dick Smith-Wildcare partnership adds to the capacity to manage this iconic track.

This year, we invited the Menzies Centre to apply to the Wildcare Saffire Devil Fund for funding to support its research into a vaccination for the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease. This disease is decimating the Devil population. Field trials are now in place to test the vaccine. Wildcare was able to provide \$29,000 for this work. Saffire Freycinet, our Fund partners, donated \$25,000 (an annual commitment) and their guests contributed a further \$4000. We are looking forward to the report from the Menzies Centre at the end of the year.

Wildcare Gift Fund Committee *continued*

We are very grateful for all donors, large and small

The sum of \$40,000 was received from The Patricia Dukes Foundation to support track marking, signage and publication of a brochure for the Penguin Cradle Trail. Wildcare invited the Wildcare Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail to submit a 12 month works program for consideration. They are now well into implementing their works program, in co-operation with the Parks and Wildlife Service and other land managers.

Wildcare Inc, through its Branch, Wildcare Friends of the OBP, has supported Orange-bellied Parrot monitoring and conservation for many years. This year, Wildcare Inc was also able to contribute a total of \$14,000 to support the DPIPWWE conservation program, including the monitoring program undertaken by Wildcare Friends of the OBP volunteers.

Wildcare Inc received a significant bequest from Barry Hebbard a number of years ago, to support the care and protection of penguins and shearwaters. An invitation has been made to the Wildcare Friends of Lilloo Penguins to submit projects for consideration.

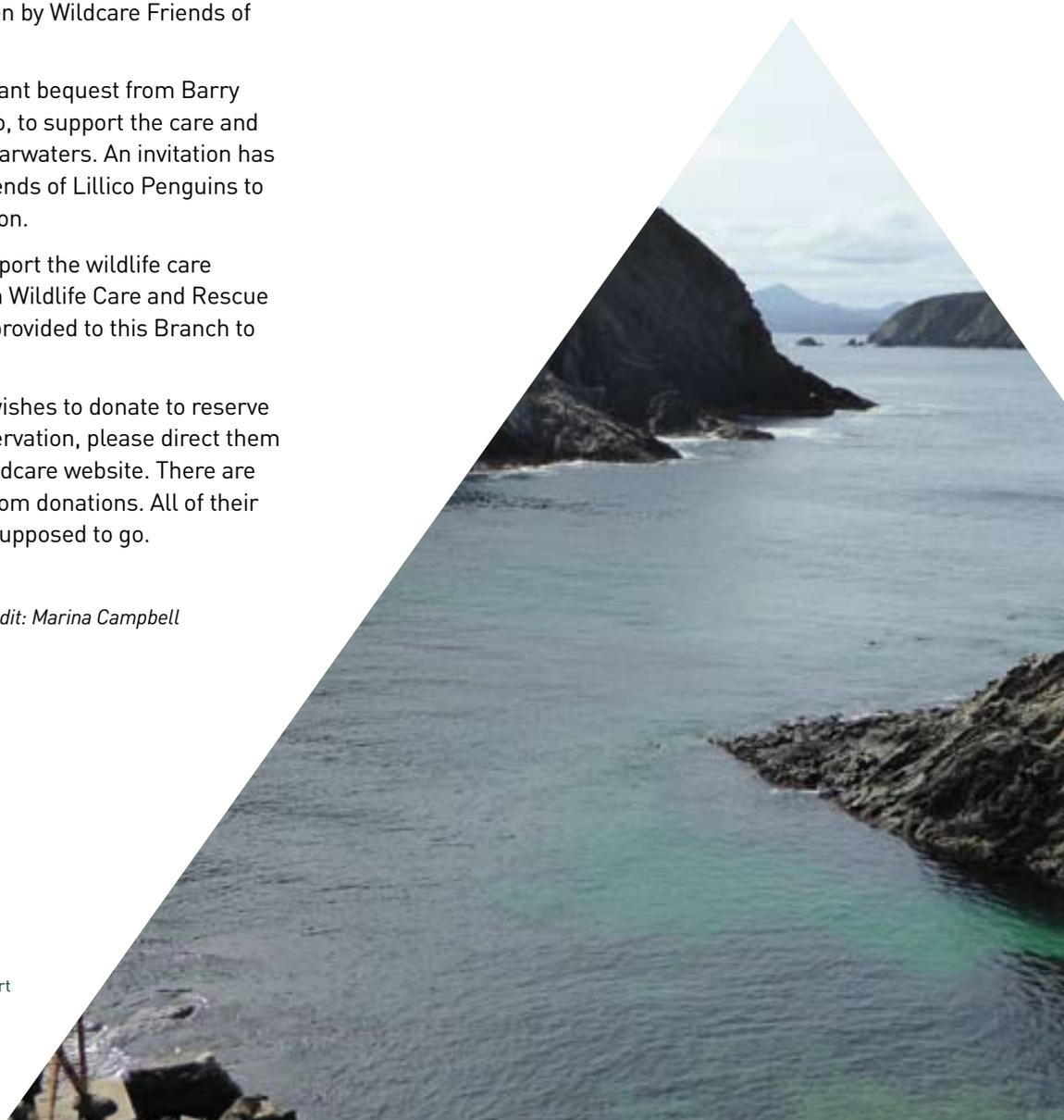
A donation was received to support the wildlife care work of Wildcare Central North Wildlife Care and Rescue Branch and funding has been provided to this Branch to support its activities.

If you, or someone you know, wishes to donate to reserve management and nature conservation, please direct them to the donation page on the Wildcare website. There are no administration fees taken from donations. All of their donation will go to where it is supposed to go.

Image right: Alomes Gulch. Photo credit: Marina Campbell

If the donor is a large one, or would like to develop an ongoing partnership with Wildcare Inc., they should contact the Wildcare CEO, Malcolm MacDonald, CEO@wildcaretas.org.au or Co-Chair, Andrew Smith, acochair@wildcaretas.org.au to discuss the opportunities. We are very grateful for all donors, large and small.

We would like to thank our Natural Partners for the Gift Fund. These people have joined with Wildcare to create the themed sub-funds and promote giving to the Gift Fund. They also are significant donors in their own right – Saffire Freycinet, Bruny Island Safaris, Pennicott Wilderness Journeys and Bonorong Wildlife Park.



Wildcare bequests...a lasting legacy

Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage give us our inspiration

Wildcare Inc is a community volunteer organisation dedicated to caring for Tasmania's parks and reserves, native plants and animals and cultural heritage. We are out there, on the ground, getting our hands dirty. Making a difference. But we cannot do it alone.

Making a bequest is one way you can ensure this care continues. A bequest to the Wildcare Gift Fund will have a lasting effect on the future management and conservation of reserves and wildlife. Your will-maker would be able to help you organise a contribution from your estate. Your bequest will be a great affirmation of life. You can be assured that, as a result of your generosity, Tasmania's wild places and wildlife will continue to be cared for with passion and commitment.

Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage give us our inspiration. You can help ensure they inspire generations to come.

