

What's going on in Community Partnerships?

WildCARE is just one of the programs being developed by the Community Partnerships Section of Parks and Wildlife Service, with the aim of providing opportunities for community involvement at all levels of operation and responsibilities of the Service. These additional programs add to the system of consultation and advisory committees which exist at State Policy development level.

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council (NPWAC) is a community representative group established under the Parks and Wildlife Act 1970 to provide advice to the Minister on matters relating to the responsibilities of the Parks and Wildlife Service. Among many things, the NPWAC was instrumental in the creation of the Community Partnerships Section within the Service, the rationalisation of adhoc advisory groups and the creation of the District Community Consultative Committees network.

The World Heritage area Consultative Committee is a community representative group established under and agreement between the State and Commonwealth to provide input to the management of the World Heritage Area. The WHACC has been integral to the development of the things like the Walking Track Strategy and Walking Permit system and the World Heritage Area Management Plan.

The next level, the District Community Consultative Committees (DCCCs) provide for community input to District strategic management issues. The DCCCs arose from recommendations made by NPWAC to the Minister and subsequently adopted by the Service. A strong establishment principle of the DCCCs has been local community representation, self-nomination and community-selection. The Parks and Wildlife Service resisted the temptation to select representatives, and handed that process to the community and facilitated public meetings.

Attendance's at the public meetings ranged from around 15 to 115. The DCCCs will be consulting directly with District managers to ensure that any strategic management decisions made take into account community opinion, along with policy, management plans, legislation, budgetary limitations and so on. DCCCs will also be contributing comment to Management Plans and other policy issues being considered by the Service and the NPWAC. This is a new and additional opportunity for community consultation. Seventy seven people Statewide will participate at this level.



At the local operational level we have, of course, *WildCARE* Incorporated, with over 600 members now — that's more than one in a thousand Tasmanians as financial members. We hope to increase that membership to 1000 in 1999 meaning that ever 500th person in Tasmania will be a member. *WildCARE* volunteers are involved in everything from office database work through field research to land management. The next important stage for *WildCARE* will be the development of Community Action in Reserves groups (CAREs) for specific reserves. CAREs groups will perform many of the activities which in the past were dealt with by adhoc advisory groups, but will be Stronger, with the addition of more members, the ability to assist with on-ground work, be open to every one who wishes to join through *WildCARE* and have more regular meetings with the PWS staff responsible for their reserve. Two examples of groups showing the

potential of this system are CAREs Cradle Mt — a combination of the old Cradle Mt Advisory Group and members registered with *WildCARE* for Cradle Mt (another 30 or so people) and CAREs Mt Direction Historic Site — a very active group developing site and historic plans along with external funding application and working bees. Any *WildCARE* member can register with either of these groups. Work undertaken by the groups is covered by *WildCARE* insurance. They can call for assistance from other *WildCARE* members. Individual members receive all the *WildCARE*

benefits. The groups can apply for *WildCARE* funding — in fact *WildCARE* is contributing funds and volunteers to assist with the new Hut Warden Summer Program on the overland track and towards the construction of an information panel at the Mt Direction site, this year. So if you are dead keen to get involved with your favorite reserve, both/either at a talk and/or a doing level CAREs groups and the *WildCARE* volunteer register

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WildTIMES

Newsletter of *WildCARE* Incorporated

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provide that opportunity for you. *WildCARE* is just 12 months old and has a wide range of possible development directions or branches. The next few years should be exciting. But maybe you have a specific interest in the reserve literally over you fence. The Community Partnership Section is now leading a team looking at the development of **Good Neighbour Agreements**. These agreements would be between the PWS and individual adjacent landholders, nearby community group, or Friends of groups such as CAREs groups. Agreements can relate to wildlife management issues, unstaffed reserves such as river and foreshore reserves, within larger reserves, within larger reserves or on private land.

One type of Good Neighbour Style partnership which already is available is the **Land for Wildlife program**. There is more information about this program elsewhere in the Newsletter. The Community Partnerships Section is also responsible for the Coastcare Program in the south of the state, and the Bushcare program Statewide. There are other articles about these programs elsewhere in *WildTIMES*.

The work of the Community Partnerships Section also **includes community and organisational change** — that is, in order to bring about community partnership we need to change some attitudes and practices within the Parks and Wildlife Service and within the community. There is a great deal of change happening throughout the service towards a more responsive, community inclusive organisation. A number of effective partnerships have existed for many years, such as with Birds Tasmania, the Orange-bellied Parrot volunteer program, Hobart and Launceston walking Clubs, Field Naturalists

Clubs and so on. Overwhelmingly people have welcomed the increased opportunities for participation in the important charter of the parks and Wildlife Service — primarily conserving natural and cultural heritage and managing land for conservation outcomes. Around 700 additional people are getting involved now, just 18 months after the creation of the Community Partnership program, adding to the many hundreds of people who have been involved in the Coastcare, Bushcare and land for Wildlife programs for some time now. Community members are involved at State policy development, District strategic management and local operational levels. Other off-Reserve opportunities, not discussed here (such as **Property-based Wildlife Management Plans, CAR Reserve program and Covenanting**) are also available, with still others being developed (such as the Good Neighbour Agreements and **Community Huts Partnership Program**). There should be a number of opportunities for everyone to get involved, depending on how you want to be involved.

Staff working from the Parks and Wildlife Service Community Partnerships Section in Hobart can all be contacted through the *WildCARE* address and email.

Andrew Smith: Manager Community Partnerships ph 6233 2185.

Megan Tattersall: Community Partnerships Liaison Officer ph 6233 2592.

Kim Willing: Southern Facilitator, Coastcare ph 6233 6427.

Ian Marmion: State Co-ordinator, Bushcare Tasmania ph 6233 6345.

Stephen Johnston: Community Partnerships, Admin. Support 6233 2185.

Quolls

The spotted-tailed quoll *Dasyurus maculatus* (or tiger cat) and eastern quoll *Dasyurus viverrinus* (or native cat) are marsupial carnivores. Like all marsupials they rear their young in a pouch but they are also efficient predators.

Male eastern quolls are about the size of a small domestic cat averaging 60 cm in length and 1.3 kg in weight; females are slightly smaller. They have thick soft fawn or black fur. Small white spots cover the body but not the bushy tail which may have a white tip. The spotted-tailed quoll is considerably larger than the eastern quoll with males measuring up to 130 cm long and 6 kg in weight. Fur colour is reddish brown with white spots covering the body and tail. When adult, females are significantly smaller than males.

The eyes and ears of the spotted-tailed quoll are comparatively smaller than those of the eastern quoll. Also, the spotted-tailed quoll is stocky, with a thick snout and wide gape. In comparison, the eastern quoll is slightly built with a pointed muzzle. However, both have very sharp teeth!

The footprints of the two species are distinct. The spotted-tailed quoll, being an accomplished climber, has ridges for climbing on the pads of all feet and a short opposable thumb on the inside of each hind foot.

Distribution

Two forms of spotted-tailed quoll exist — a small one in northern Queensland and a large one found from Queensland to Tasmania. The spotted-tailed quoll is now threatened throughout its mainland range. The eastern quoll was widespread in southeastern mainland Australia but is now thought to be extinct there. Loss of habitat and competition from feral predators are the main problems for these species. Both of which still occur in Tasmania.

Habitat

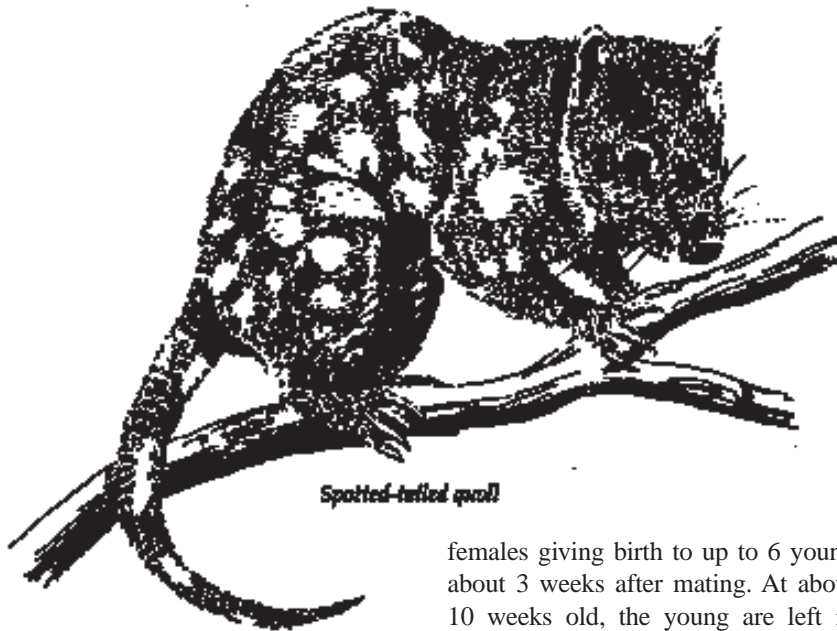
Spotted-tailed quolls favour thickly vegetated country in high rainfall areas. They are found in rainforests, wet eucalypt forests and coastal heath in the north, west and far south of the state, although they occasionally venture into drier regions. The eastern quoll is found in a variety of habitats including rainforest, heathland, alpine

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Spotted-tailed quoll

areas and scrub. However, it seems to prefer dry grassland / forest mosaics which are bounded by agricultural land. Both quolls may live near towns and farms.

Lifestyle

Quolls are nocturnal and only occasionally forage or bask during daylight; the spotted-tailed quoll more often than the eastern quoll. During the day they sleep in nests made under rocks, in burrows or in fallen logs. Eastern quolls live on the ground but spotted-tailed quolls spend a tenth of their time moving above the forest floor on logs or in trees. Both quolls are fierce hunters and the spotted tailed quoll is capable of killing prey larger than itself. They can also be quite bold when competing with the larger Tasmanian devil for food. Eastern quolls sometimes scavenge morsels of food from around feeding devils while a hungry female spotted-tailed quoll has been seen to chase a devil away from a carcass!



Eastern quoll

Breeding

The reproductive cycle of both quolls is similar. Females breed only once a year unless they lose their litter early, at which time they will try to breed again. Breeding occurs in early winter with

females giving birth to up to 6 young about 3 weeks after mating. At about 10 weeks old, the young are left in grass-lined dens located in burrows or hollow logs, leaving the female free to hunt and forage. If the female needs to move to a different den she carries the young along on her back. Towards the end of November, when the young are 10 to 20 weeks old, they are weaned.

At this time the young become independent of the female. Within the first year or two they have reached sexual maturity themselves and begin breeding. The death rate of juveniles is low while they are in the care of their mother. However, after weaning they tend to move away and their death rate greatly increases.

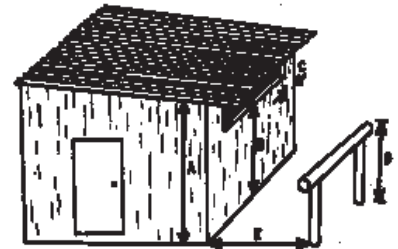
Diet

Quolls are opportunistic carnivores that both hunt and scavenge. They kill large prey by biting on or behind the head. Prey taken by the spotted-tailed quoll include rats, gliding possums, small or injured wallabies, reptiles, and insects. Birds and eggs are also taken from time to time. Carrion is frequently eaten by spotted-tailed quolls and even tip scavenging and beachcombing occur. Large spotted-tailed quolls compete directly with Tasmanian devils for food. While the smaller eastern quoll does eat small mammals such as rabbits, mice and rats, it mainly eats invertebrates especially agricultural pests such as the cockchaffer beetle and corbie grub. Carrion and some berries are also eaten.

Status and conservation

Both species are listed nationally as **vulnerable** and in Tasmania require monitoring. They have suffered from persecution and direct competition with feral cats for food. Feral cats are

one of the most efficient hunters and can be devastating to wild populations of mammals and birds. Their retractable claws allow them to climb swiftly even upside-down. Because of this they are unlike any other predator in Tasmania and can take tree dwelling animals, birds and eggs with relative ease. This, together with their size and stealth make them well suited to taking prey that quolls eat, Dogs, roadkills from collision with vehicles, and illegal poisoning or trapping by owners of poorly protected poultry are also causing quoll numbers to decline in some areas. Importantly, the loss of suitable forest habitat through land clearance, particularly in the case of the spotted-tailed quoll, threatens quoll populations. Both species are wholly protected by law.



A=2.1m B=1.75m C=0.25m D=1m E=1.5m

This shed is made from tin or well fitting, vertical palings and has a footing. The idea is that chooks can reach the entrance from the perch, whereas devils and quolls can't.

Where to see quolls

Especially good places to see spotted-tailed are Cradle Mt. National Park and the Arthur River area. Eastern quolls can often be seen at Mt Field National Park. Going for a quiet walk after dark is a good way to see quolls. Take a bright torch with you.

How you can help

- Desex pet cats, attach a bell to their collar and keep them inside at night. Do not dump unwanted cats as they hunt native birds and mammals, and in doing so may out compete or prey upon marsupial carnivores.



- Control your dogs and prevent them from roaming at night. It is illegal to set a dog on protected wildlife.
- Pen your poultry well to protect from quolls and other predators like Tasmanian devils and birds or prey. A roofed pen is necessary to stop quolls from entering. If poultry roost in trees make sure branches are 1.5 m above the ground and put a metal collar around the trunk at this height.
- Drive slowly in bush areas to prevent road kills.
- If safe to do so, move road kills off the road so marsupial carnivores don't feed in the direct path of traffic.

If you have a product or business related to natural or cultural sites...

**why not advertise with
WildTIMES.**

For information or booking contact
**Andrew Smith
6233 2185**

Thinking of going bush in you 4x4 — *Things you should know*

Before you go, you should do the following things.

These will help make the trip safer, protect the environment and ensure that you avoid the disappointment of starting only to find that the track is closed.

- Your vehicle must be registered and display plates unless you are on private land.
- Obtain a current map of the area you are about to visit.
- A few days before your trip, check with the local land manager for the latest information on the area or track you propose to use. Ask about permits, Phytophthora (root rot fungus), track conditions and fire restrictions.
- Roads, track and beaches can be closed on a temporary or permanent

basis for a number of reasons including a bridge that's down, adverse seasonal conditions, logging operations, extreme fire danger, etc. Notices will be placed in the regional daily newspapers and signs will be erected at appropriate places when tracks are to be closed.

However, it is always worth checking with the land manager prior to starting your trip so you don't have to turn back part way through.

- Steep slopes and water are responsible for much of the erosion evident on tracks. Minimise damage by avoiding steep tracks (especially greater than 30 degrees) on erodible soils in winter and during wet weather.
- Leave trip details with someone trustworthy so that they can contact Police Search and Rescue if you party is overdue. Notify this person when you return!

Minimise your impact

Minimising track degradation is not just the job of land managers. Everyone who uses tracks can help by observing the following guidelines:

- Stick to existing tracks.
- Use existing entry and exit points when crossing streams and creeks where bridges and culverts are not provided.
- Obey track closures and regulatory signs.
- Where possible, winch between vehicles, but if you have to winch from a tree, use tree protecting padding or webbing.
- Use wheel chains only as a last resort.



Dunes and Beaches

Dunes and beaches can be especially fragile. These points will help you enjoy your driving without "brusing the beach".

- Drive on and off beaches at designated vehicle recreation areas and try to avoid vegetated dunes.

Our National Parks

Do yourself a favour and visit one this summer

Tasmania is an island of natural places. There's a network of national parks — 17 of them, covering a good proportion of the State's land area. They include the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, the world's last great temperate wilderness.

State forests also abound and Tasmania is home to over 200 forest reserves used for a range of recreational, environmental and cultural values.

There are thousands of kilometres of walking tracks, uncounted thousands of lakes and tarns and many peaks higher than 1,100 metres. But beyond the facts and figures is the broad sweep of first-hand experiences that Tasmania offers you.

Our natural places promise challenge, adventure and excitement — but just as much, they're places of quiet contemplation and renewal, places to refresh and rejuvenate all your senses.

In Tasmania, you'll savour the sweet scent of leatherwood blossoms deep

in the rainforest, the fragrance of Huon pine and the salty sea-reek of kelp on a rocky shore.

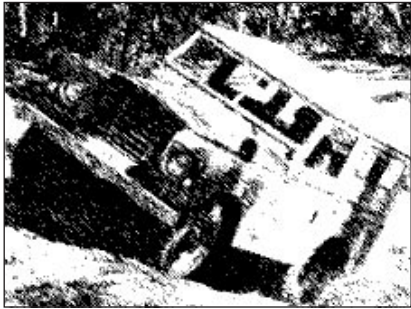
Perhaps you'll hear the tattoo of hoofbeats on hard sand, the thud of walking boots on a mountain track, the scream of gulls above a windy beach or the soft splash of a rising trout.

You'll see mirror-calm rivers, ancient mountain ranges, gentle farmlands, the world's tallest hardwood forests and a sparkling mosaic of highland lakes.

You might feel the thrum of mountain bike tyres on a forest road, or the surge of adrenalin as your raft whirls into the white roar of Thunderush of the Franklin.

You'll taste oysters fresh from the cold sea, full-flavoured cheese, subtle and intense wines — and the rare pleasure of scooping pure, clean water from a wilderness river or lake. And more — so much more, waiting for you to discover. Welcome to our island of natural places.

- Vehicles can easily remove dune vegetation which in turn can lead to severe erosion.
- Drive below the high tide mark. Above this mark, birds such as Oystercatchers and Plovers lay eggs in small scrapes on the soft sand. These are almost impossible to see while driving. Chicks tend to hide in the cast seaweed and they are also extremely difficult to see. So, especially between September and February, keep to the hard, clean wet sand.



Be wise this summer — *Planning is the key to bushfire survival*

Your risk of losing life and property during a bushfire or grass fire is affected by many factors — the location and accessibility of your property, the amount and type of surrounding vegetation, the condition and placement of buildings, the availability of water, and the physical capabilities of you and your family. Every home is different. That's why every family needs to develop an individual survival plan.

Good fuel reduction requires removal of dead branches and fallen leaves and cutting of long grass within 20 meters of the house. On a slope, greater ground clearance is desirable, especially under established trees.



Consider these points:

- Safety of children, elderly or handicapped members of the household
- Your own physical and mental capability to cope with a major fire
- Whether or not your home can be safely defended (is fuel reduction work properly maintained, and water supplies sufficient, is the structure sound or are there many crevices where sparks can catch and ignite?)
- Security of items such as important papers (consider storing such items in a Bank Safe Deposit Box)

The first and most important decision you must make is whether or not you plan to stay with your home.

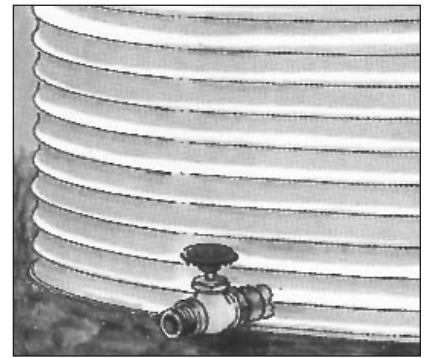
Homes occupied by able-bodied residents during a bush or grassfire are far more likely to survive because small outbreaks on the structure can be extinguished quickly by the occupants.

However, you must be properly equipped and mentally and physically

A portable pump will ensure sufficient water pressure during a bushfire emergency. In areas of high fire danger, including forested suburban areas, a portable pump is a valuable investment in the security of your home against fire.



In grasslands, the intensity of grassfires increases with the height and weight of the grass, if grass cannot be kept short by grazing animals, it should be slashed well before the fire danger period so that cut grass has time to rot prior to summer.



Gravity fed water tanks with wide opening outlets allow quick filling of buckets. Fit gate valves to all new tanks to use with your pumping equipment.

prepared to fight the fire.

If you decide to evacuate or to have some members of your family leave the home, you must plan to do so early, well before the fires reach your vicinity. Lives are most often lost during unplanned last-minute evacuations.

Whether you plan to stay or go, it is essential that your home is prepared as well as possible to withstand a bush or grassfire. If you ignore the need for ground fuel reduction prior to, and during, the Fire Danger Season, you endanger not only your own property, but the lives and property of your neighbours.

Preparation... what you can do prior to days of extreme fire danger

Fuel reduction is one of the most important preparations you can make. Clear away fallen leaves. Long grass, and dead undergrowth, and maintain this fuel reduction throughout the summer. Tan bark or heavy mulch covering in areas close to the house

should be removed, as should wood piles or other flammable materials.

Look to your water supply. You cannot rely on mains water during a bush or grassfire. Tanks, dams and swimming pools can provide necessary reserves, provided you have a portable pump. Remember that sprinkler systems may require as much as 22,000 litres or reserve water, and even then, used with a back-up of mains water flowing into your tanks.

Gather equipment and make sure it is in working order. Ladders, hoses, and buckets and mops are simple but invaluable tools. Check to be sure hoses reach all sides of the house. Make sure portable water pumps are fuelled and start easily.

Remember to prepare for your own personal safety. If you plan to stay with the house, put together a kit of protective clothing for everyone. Include sturdy leather shoes or workboots, a broad-brimmed hat, gloves, and goggles.

We would like to thank the Tasmanian Fire Service for the provision of this information. A more comprehensive information booklet titled Will You Survive is available from your local Fire Service or for further information:

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Training

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Freecall 1800 000 699

**For recorded and live
information on:**

Fire Permit Periods
Days of Total Fire Ban
The Fire situation in Specific Areas
Use of Incinerators and
Barbeques

**Call the Tasmania Fire Service
on Freecall 1800 065 654**

You can preserve and protect your environment if you make a positive effort to remove fire hazards.

WildCARE volunteers are needed to help with inventorying our historic collections.



The Parks and Wildlife Service wants to make a comprehensive inventory of the historic artefacts kept at various sites in our Parks and Reserves. The inventorying work involves photographing and describing each artefact in detail, marking the artefact with an identifying number, and later entering the descriptions in our historic collections database.

Doing this will help the Parks and Wildlife Service to plan better how to protect historic objects kept at sites in the bush, and to know what objects are available for displays etc.

Volunteers interested in participating in this will need to attend a half-day workshop in January to learn the skills needed to mark historic objects safely and to describe them accurately and consistently.

The first project will be a Twilight Tarn Hut. 3 or 4 volunteers are required to work under the expert supervision of Jane Bovill in making an inventory of all the objects at the hut and entering the data in a database. Although it is preferable for the data to be entered by the same people that recorded the objects, we are also interested in hearing from folk who can only participate in the fieldwork or office component of the project.

Twilight Tarn Hut at Mt Field was built in 1926 by the Ski Club of Tasmania, as a base for winter skiing and skating activities. The hut contains items of skiing and skating equipment, and other objects used at the hut from the 1920's to the present day.

There will be 3 to 4 days fieldwork in late January to mid February at Twilight Tarn Hut, followed up by time in Head Office in Hobart entering the data into the Tasmanian Historic Places Index Artefact Collection Catalogue database. Volunteers can camp at the hut, so you will need to bring overnight gear plus food. Please contact Angie McGowan in the Cultural Heritage Branch, ph: 6233 2424, if you are interested in helping with either the fieldwork or office-based components of the project.

If this project is successful, we will probably run further artefact inventory projects at other historic sites. If you can't participate in the Twilight Tarn Hut project, but would be interested coming to the preparatory workshop and in joining future projects at The Steppes and elsewhere please contact Angie at the above number.



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Seeds and Smoking —

When smoking is good for health!

The need to break dormancy of native plant seeds to initiate germination is well understood. Scarification that breaks the seed coat and stratification or chilling seed for a time are two methods.

A new method that has recently come on the scene is subjecting seed to smoke. This is done by soaking seed in smoked water or by spraying smoked water onto soil. An alternative is to apply smoke directly over soil and then watering in or allowing rain or dew to carry the relevant compounds to the seed.

Smoke will often enhance germination, speed germination, produce more even germination and seedlings will often grow more vigorously.

Smoked filter paper is an easy way of getting smoke products into contact with seeds by directly placing seeds on the paper and watering (use a saucer and cover with plastic). Smoked filter paper can also be used to make smoked water simply by tearing up and soaking (in half a cup or water). The smoked water can then be used to treat seeds. Instructions for commercial smoked water suggest soaking for 6 to 24 hours before sowing. Seed can be surface sown on a suitable native seed mixture, lightly covered and watered with smoked water.

Smoke is usually produced from bush litter, often a fifty/fifty mixture of dry and green plant material. A simple incinerator is used to smoulder the litter and the smoke is either pumped into a simple tent or bubbled through water. Smoke-tents have been used straight on the ground in the field or over seed trays. Smoked filter papers are produced by being placed in the smoke-tent. The duration for smoking is usually one hour in each case. Smoked water or smoked filter papers are certainly more convenient to use than direct smoke.

It has been known for some time that fire stimulates regeneration of native plants. Where plant communities have adapted to it fire has a number of roles, among them the removal of biomass allowing all plants present to get a new start, germinants receive a

nutrient increase (although repeated burning results in overall nutrient loss), heat opens the seed capsules of some plants and breaks dormancy in some seed in the soil seed bank and, it is now known, smoke without heat also breaks dormancy of the seed of the seed of some plant species.

The discovery of this attribute of smoke was only made in 1990 in South Africa, a part of the world with many similarities to Australia in climate and flora. Once difficult to germinate plant species have responded to the application of smoke and this is now recognised to be a potentially valuable tool for the broad scale regeneration of degraded habitat as well as for specific species. Of course there still must be seed left in the soil seed bank. In horticulture, species once though difficult or impossible to germinate can now be propagated.



Wilderness under the waves

An introduction to the Marine Life and Habitats of Tasmania's marine National Estate Areas using spectacular underwater photography, Wilderness Under the Waves is a CD-ROM that illustrates a range of marine life habitats and underwater scenery from four outstanding parts of the Tasmanian marine environment.

From the unique marine communities of the Bathurst Harbour/Port Davey region to the diverse assemblages of marine life at Rocky Cape and the Kent Group to the selection of more typical Tasmanian marine plants and animals of Maria Island. Tasmania's marine national Estate Areas contain a fascinating array of marine life.

The CD-ROM is designed to operate on a wide range of either IBM compatible or Macintosh machines. The text is suited to upper primary and secondary students, but the images will enthral all ages.

The package includes an information booklet.

Prices per package:

- Schools/Env. Ed.
- Organisations \$10.00
- Coastcare and related groups \$10.00

- Other \$15.00
- Postage (Local) \$1.50

Order From:

Tasmanian Environment Centre Inc.
102 Bathurst Street, Hobart, Tasmania
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Fax: (03) 6234 5543
Email: restec@southcom.com.au

Calender 1998

December 6

Surfsites Rehabilitation Festival at Cloudy Bay with special guests to see out Coastcare week. Contact Kim Willing for more details on (03) 6233 6427.

January

Surfsites Rehabilitation Festival at Shelly Point, East Coast. Stay tunes for final date and details. Contact Donnalee Young 6376 1281.

Phytophthora (root rot fungus)

This is a fungus which travels in soil, and can attach the root systems of plants and wipe out susceptible species. It is spread by the transfer of soil on vehicles, footwear, tent pegs etc.

To reduce the chance of spreading *Phytophthora* always start your trip with clean gear and a clean vehicle. Remove all dirt from the undercarriage, including mudguards. Where possible undertake trips when conditions are dry.



Whale Stranding Report

This is the official Parks and Wildlife Report taken from the Parks & Wildlife web site

Saturday 17th October

1100 hrs. Approx. 200 Long Finned Pilot Whales and Bottlenose Dolphins sighted Marion Bay approx. 500m offshore (pers. comm. P.Mooney)

Marion Bay

1130 hrs. 57 whales beached, main beach, Marion Bay approx. 400m north of spit. Staff and volunteers were contacted to attend and assist.

1500 hrs. There were 57 on the beach

Pilot whale stranding — incident control centre.



Volunteers trying to help a stranded pilot whale.

(36 alive and 21 dead)

1600 hrs. 36 whales successfully refloated from stranding site, mostly volunteer persons did this.

2100 hrs 20 dead whales (one juvenile whale went to Tasmanian Museum for curation) had been buried at site approx. 200 metres inland from stranding site.

During the afternoon approx. 35 whales entered Blackman Bay.

Pods and individual whales were herded with people and vessels into deeper water within Blackman Bay. Some towing techniques were used to try to have pods follow the individual whales being towed.

2130 hrs. Daylight ended — operation suspended.

Sunday 18th October

0600 hrs Light aircraft flight done of area immediate to Marion Bay, approx. 35 whales still in Blackman Bay.

1100 hrs. 21 whales successfully refloated through the narrows by using people slowly herding into deeper water and vessels herding through deep channels.

Blackman Bay

13 whales taken by road transport to Eaglehawk Neck, refloated, cared for by people until stable, several re-stranded during afternoon and all were refloated by 1900 hrs. Herded by vessel a short distance out to sea.

5 taken to Lagoon Bay, 1 died on trip, 4 refloated and herded at least 2km offshore by vessel.



The aftermath.

Marion Bay

1200 hrs. 30 whales stranded approx. 200 m from spit.

1200 hrs. 9 whales stranded northern end, Marion Beach.

1815 hrs. All 30 whales successfully refloated by people.

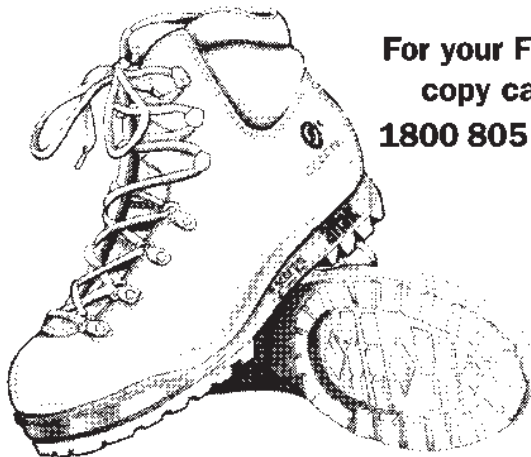
1815 hrs. 6 whales refloated successfully from the 9 at the Northern end of Marion Bay.

Rheben

1400 hrs. report of 63 Whales stranded Rheban Beach.

1500 hrs. On investigation 69 whales were counted; 56 confirmed dead by P&WS staff on site.

The NEW 1998 Paddy Pallin Catalogue is out now!



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Paddy Pallin



Rheban Beach stranding 18/10/98.

13 alive, were refloated. Between 1800 and 1900 all had restranded approximately 1.5 km further down the beach. No vessels were present.

Evening light aircraft flight from Grindstone Point to Fortescue Bay including Maria Island done. Confirmed 3, possibly 4 live whales in Blackman Bay.

No new strandings sighted anywhere, except the 13 at Rheban Beach.

Monday 19th October

Light aircraft flight done of area — Grindstone Point to Fortescue Bay. No new strandings sighted.

Eaglehawk Neck

8 whales re-stranded northern end of Pirate Bay, 6 of the 8 died overnight

Two were refloated by people and herded by vessel into deeper water approx. 6 km off shore

Rheban

7 of 13 died overnight 0730 hrs 6 live whales refloated into water. One died in the water.

1100 hrs. 5 shepherded by vessel successfully North of Maria Island, two of the five had separated before Maria Island.

Blackman Bay

Two live whales sighted by persons on shore in Blackman Bay, slowly being herded by two vessels towards the

Volunteers floating a pilot whale back out to sea.



narrows entrance. Aboriginal Heritage Officer, R. Sainty and Earth Scientist M. Pemberton inspected sites and approved. Both land owners of the Marion Bay and Rheben sites were contacted and permission given.

Collection of 17 dead animals began in lower Blackman Bay (including one from eastern entrance off Dunalley Canal) collected and buried at second burial site at Marion Bay. The 6 dead whales at Eaglehawk Neck were also collected and buried at this site.

Orford

1300 hrs. One stranded at entrance to Prosser River, Orford.



Volunteers floating a pilot whale back out to sea.

1320 hrs. Confirmed two more live whales at Millingtons Beach, Orford. People refloated all three whales from Millingtons Beach. 2 vessels herd whales into deep water approx. 6 km offshore.

One dead whale confirmed on Painted Cliffs Beach, Maria Island.

Coastline and outside of Maria Island checked by two vessels.

Light aircraft flight done at last light of whole area — no new strandings sighted.

Blackman Bay 1500 hrs. two live whales in Blackmans Bay successfully herded through narrows into open sea. Two vessels continued to herd whales to open water approx. 3km offshore.

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Tuesday 20th October

0600 hrs. light aircraft flight done, no new stranded whales sighted, from Fortescue Bay to Grindstone Point and all Maria Island.

Continued with burial of whales at Rheben and Marion Bay. Burial completed by 1200 hrs.



Blackman Bay

1330 hrs. One live whale sighted 300m east of entrance to Dunnalley canal. Persons and 4WD truck deployed to retrieve-transported to Eaglehawk Neck. Whale died whilst being transported. This whale was taken to Seven Mile Beach PWS base and buried.

Wednesday 21st October

0840 hrs. One whale sighted 40 metres offshore in shallow waters at Marion Bay main beach.

Site Recording at Adamsfield

Believe it or not, the Parks and Wildlife Service has not yet made a proper comprehensive site record of the remains of the historic township and mine site at Adamsfield.

We are seeking WildCare volunteers to assist with undertaking a thorough survey of the site and completing a well-documented site record. The project will be led by a professional archaeologist, who needs a team of willing volunteers to systematically scour the bush around Adamsfield recording sites, features, equipment and artefacts.

The project will help the Parks and Wildlife Service properly provide for the protection of the site and supply valuable information on the historic mining operation which can be used in presenting the site to the public.

The fieldwork will take several days, with the team camping at Adamsfield. Fieldwork will be scheduled to take place over the summer, and can be arranged for the time that best suits the availability of the team of volunteers and archaeologist. Follow-up office work will include entering the site record data into the Tasmanian Historic Places Index database.

If you are interested in participating, please **contact Angie McGowan in the Cultural Heritage Branch, ph 6233 2424.**

1200 hrs. Light aircraft flight of area from Grindstone Point to Fortescue Bay including Maria Island — no new strandings. Only the one whale in shallow water at Marion Bay Beach.

Marion Bay

1600 hrs. the one whale at Marion Bay Beach confirmed alive. Staff deployed to give 1st Aid.

2400 hrs. Whale transported by trailer to Eaglehawk Neck.

Thursday 22nd October

Eaglehawk Neck

Whale held in water at Eaglehawk Neck until 0600 hrs. Then released and herded by vessels to approx. 6km offshore.

Results

From the above information we can say that a total of 204 whales stranded. Obviously, some of these are whales which had stranded previously and are counted twice. However, we still had 204 recorded strandings. A total of 114 whales were confirmed dead.

Of these 204 stranded whales 110 were successfully refloated and/or transported and herded out to sea. This is a very good result when we consider that 56 whales (Rheben site) were confirmed already dead upon the arrival of the first persons at the scene. Therefore, we can state that we saved 110 of the 148 live stranded whales.

Transporting the whales did prove worthwhile. A total of 19 were transported. 11 of these were successfully released and herded to sea at least 4km offshore. Only two died during transportation. The remaining six died whilst re-stranding at Eaglehawk Neck. These would have survived if vessels were used to keep them from re-stranding. It has been proven during this whale stranding that if vessels can be continually used to keep the whales from re-stranding and can herd the whales out to sea the probability of those whales re-stranding is very low.

Another important lesson learnt is that all ariel surveys must be done of a large coastal area. Unfortunately, the first flight of this stranding (0600 hrs. Sunday 18th October) only covered the immediate area around Marion Bay. If it had gone from Grindstone Point to Fortescue Bay, we would have identified the stranded whales at Rheben. With the deployment of people and vessels earlier we may have saved more whales at the



The aftermath.

Rheben site. It has been reported that if we had more vessels at Rheben on Sunday the whales would not have re-stranded as many times.

One of the most significant learning outcomes from this stranding is the significant durability shown by the whales. For example the last whale to be rescued at Marion Bay was presumed dead. However, upon closer inspection the whale had its eyes closed very tightly and was breathing consistently and still had its mouth closed (Pilot whales have open mouths when dead). This whale had certainly been through an amazing ordeal. It had been observed for 4-5 hours being rolled continually over and over through the surf. It had very wrinkled skin and some superficial abrasions. With the correct care and attention this individual was transported by trailer and held in the water for six hours until it had all normal movement and then was herded out to sea by vessel. The last observation was that it was swimming strongly in an easterly direction 6 km offshore. Never say die when referring to Whales!

Photos courtesy Noel Carmichael



The "Land for Wildlife" scheme

An exciting new voluntary scheme to help private landholders in Tasmania conserve native wildlife habitat on their land.

Land for Wildlife aim to encourage and assist private landholders to conserve and provide habitats for wildlife on the land, even through their property may be managed for other purposes. It also assists landholders to find solutions to management problems that involve protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

The scheme is entirely voluntary and free!



It was first established in Victoria in where it has been so successful that 100,000 hectares of land has been set aside by landholders for conservation on 5,062 private properties in that state!

Land for Wildlife is also being started in Queensland and Western Australia and is introducing a similar scheme for Tasmania.

Why do we need help from private landholders?

The survival off your native wildlife (plants and animals) depends on the conservation of suitable habitat from which they can find food, shelter and abundant habitat now, as a means of protecting our land and wildlife into the future.

Over one-third (39%) of Tasmania's land is privately owned, and contains a large proportion of Tasmania's wildlife species and habitat diversity which are poorly reserved.

The *Land for Wildlife* scheme will be Cost-Effective conservation

By protecting habitat, however common or whatever size, we will be conserving many native species that live within it, all a part of Australia's unique natural heritage, that is now a drawcard for people from all over the world to come and experience.

In fact, Tasmania has an important role to play in the conservation of Australia's unique natural heritage because it is known as an important refuge for many small mammals and birds that have otherwise been decimated by foxes, dingoes and other introduced animals on the mainland.

Voluntary habitat conservation is cost-effective because it is preventative.

Once a species becomes rare or endangered, it can cost millions of tax payers dollars to protect from extinction, an obligation that Australia, like other leading nations in the world has undertaken to address.

Land for Wildlife would like your help

Your outstanding contribution to sustainable agriculture and land-use and commitment, expertise and experience with nature conservation on your land, would be of great benefit to the **Land for Wildlife**

scheme and to share with other landholders who wish to achieve a similar balance.

Who can join *Land for Wildlife*

Anyone who wishes to conserve existing native habitat on their land will be welcome to apply.

- Individual landholders
- Landcare groups running a project on private properties
- People who have bought land collectively or lanholders involved in cooperative efforts to conserve or restore habitat across adjoining properties.
- Any unreserved community land, for example: council land, housing estates, parks, unreserved crown land, state forest; school grounds, golf courses. Even cemeteries!

What are the benefits of joining *Land for Wildlife*

- Personal service. An on-site habitat assessment by a **Land for Wildlife** officer, to provide the land holder with information about the habitats and species on their land, their ecological roles and needs.
- Practical advice and information on wildlife management
- Regular newsletters and technical notes
- Field days
- Two-way information flow between landholders and the scheme.

The *Land for Wildlife* Sign

Each landholder joining the Land for Wildlife scheme will receive an attractive sign, free of charge, to display on their property in recognition of their conservation efforts.

The sign depicts the **Land for Wildlife** logo, of a platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) and Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) flower, both widespread wildlife species in a range of Tasmanian habitats, and symbolic of the need to look after both the land and water.

Banksia is a common but vitally important understorey plant found from Tasmania's coast to the mountains. It is highly adapted to fire, drought and harsh conditions, and a valuable food source for the tiniest insects, to skinks, birds and possums. This species is often taken

for granted but its protection is important for the survival of a myriad of Tasmania's habitats.

Land for Wildlife and Bushcare

By caring for habitats which are well adapted to local conditions, better Bushcare practices can be achieved.

Land for Wildlife will work closely with Bushcare in providing scientific and management information about our native habitats and species. For example, consider revegetating an eroding sand dune or stream bank with local native vegetation. **Land for Wildlife** can advise of species to plant; the benefits to local wildlife and how such enhancement adds to the interest and attractiveness of the area.

Please till your friends and neighbours about this proposed scheme, and for further enquires, contact:

North West

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We are looking for other sponsors, both for the *WildCARE* Fund and as discounters. Know someone who you think might be interested? Why not have a chat to them and suggest they contact **Andrew Smith at Parks and Wildlife Service** for more details (Ph 6233 2185 — GPO Box 44a Hobart 7001).

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Recommended Retail Price: \$15.00. Order through the *WildCARE* Office, GPO Box 44A Hobart 7001. Please make cheques payable to The Tasmanian Trail Association.

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