

WILDCARE Wins National Award

The Chairperson, Andrew Smith and Vice Chairperson Richard Hammond attended the presentation night for the Banksia Foundation National Environment Awards on June 3rd. We had been notified that *WILDCARE* was a finalist in the Community group category. The Community Groups Award was to be presented to a community group, who through its efforts, had made a significant contribution to protecting and or enhancing the environment. The category is sponsored by Parks Victoria.

The other finalists were Greening Australia (Vic), Healesville Sanctuary and Won Wron Prison, and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (Vic).

Around 300 people attended the evening of presentations at Cockle Bay Wharf in Darling Harbour.

When the moment came, and the finalists had been introduced by Adam Spencer (ABC Radio) and were on stage, the announcement of the winner was made "And the winner for the Banksia Foundation Community Groups Award 2000 is *WILDCARE* Incorporated". We won! In accepting the award, the Chairperson acknowledged the extensive work undertaken by the volunteer members and their willingness to roll up their sleeves and get on with the work of conserving our natural and cultural heritage. He also acknowledged the rangers and other staff of the Parks

and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservation Branch and Cultural Heritage Branches of DPIWE, as the work is a partnership, and the key to *WILDCARE*'s success is the willingness of both partners to work together.



Tasmanian Award Winners. *WILDCARE* Chairperson Andrew Smith & Vice Chairperson Richard Hammond, with Ron Sanderson and Brighton Mayor Tony Foster.

The Board of Management and all members are to be congratulated, whether you support the work through volunteer effort or simply as a financial member. This is a fantastic acknowledgement of two years of work and an incredible incentive to continue to develop the potential of the organisation. Although we are National winners already, there is so much more we can do, and will be doing in the

coming years. Its been exciting and inspiring so far and the future is full of the best type of challenges.

By the way, *WILDCARE* wasn't the only Tasmanian winner on the night. The Brighton Council won the Local

Agenda 21 Achievement award sponsored by ANZECC for their efforts in everything from waste water re-use to urban renewal programs. This is particularly satisfying as *WILDCARE*, PWS and Brighton Council have just begun working together on community training in caring for injured wildlife. Congratulations Brighton Council.

WILDTIMES

Newsletter of *WILDCARE* Incorporated

Community Partnership Section, Parks & Wildlife Service
GPO Box 44A Hobart 7001

Ph 03 6233 2185 Fax 03 6223 8308 E-mail: wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

WILDCARE

TV Advertisement

Have you spotted it yet? Over the last couple of weeks WIN TV has been showing an advertisement for *WILDCARE* as a community service announcement.

WIN TV produced the advertisement for us at a very reasonable rate and have been screening it 3 times a day for the last couple of weeks. We hope to have it showing on the other channels soon.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Wild Edge Music Festival**
- **Tas Trail**
- **Gorse Gnashing**
- **Wild & Open Space 2000 and Financials**
- **Whale Rescue Training Report**
- **TLC for Injured & Orphaned Wildlife**



The WILD Edge Music Festival STRAHAN 18-20 AUGUST 2000

**WILDCARE's
Secretary**

Allison Wing has been leading a team of PWS staff, Wildcarers and Strahan businesses to stage the WILD Edge Music Festival at Strahan on 18-20 August 2000. **MARK THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW.**

Eleven commercial operators are providing venues for a large number of bands and entertainers starting on the 18th and finishing on the 20th. Bands include: *1996/7 Australian Blues Artist of the Year, Marco Goldsmith, Dr Fink, Ranters, Shake Sugaree, Steve Gadd, Jabra Latham, Tina Appleby, Cary Lewincamp, Alchemy, Arauco Libre, and Jon & Col.* Plus jam sessions and music workshops, the opening of *Janine Morris'* weaving exhibition, *Stephanie Tabram's* painting exhibition entitled "*the Wild Edge*", and an installation performance by *Anna Crete* (artist in residence



Sandy Cape).

Tickets will be available from the beginning of July with an all-venues entry ticket for the whole weekend (or part thereof) costing just \$33 and a one venue entry ticket costing \$10. Tickets available from Centertainment in Hobart Ph 6234 5998, the CD Centre in Launceston ph 6334 5677,

Red Hot CDs in Launceston, and Strahan Visitor's Centre. Book your accommodation in Strahan soon. Advertisements will appear in the papers soon. **WILDCARE** members can order their tickets through the **WILDCARE** Office with a cheque or money order made out to

WILDCARE Inc, at GPO Box 44a Hobart 7001. And while you are in Strahan, all the usual attractions and adventures will be available.

Come and have a great weekend, with proceeds going to WILDCARE to support volunteer action for natural and cultural heritage conservation. Be there or be square.

Photographic Competition

We are running a photographic competition to promote the work of **WILDCARE** and Tasmania's natural and cultural heritage. **Winning photographs will be used in a calendar for 2001, with the photographer being acknowledged on the publication. An overall winner will receive a wildcarers kit containing next years membership, a 12 month Annual All Parks Pass, a WILDCARE T shirt and cap. Other winners will receive a Tshirt and cap.**

Photographs should feature our wild places, wildlife (plants and animals) or cultural heritage, or feature Wildcarers in action. They should be good quality 35mm slides or colour prints. Winners must be willing to have their photos used in the production and sale of a **WILDCARE** calendar at no charge to **WILDCARE**. All entrants must be current **WILDCARE** members. Competition closes September 30th. The Board of Management will select the winners.

WILDCARE's WILD Edge Music Festival is being assisted by the Community Partnerships Section RMC, PWS Strahan and Strahan residents, is supported by Resource Management and Conservation Division DPIWE, with performance venues at Regatta Point Tavern, Hamers Bar and Hamers Grill, Macquarie Hilltop, Strahan Woodwork, Risby Cove, Strahan Visitor Centre, World Heritage Cruises, Gordon River Cruises and Franklin Manor.

If you are available to work as a volunteer on the weekend, or would be available to help with the organisation leading up to the weekend please contact Allison Wing or Andrew Smith at the **WILDCARE** Office ph 6233 2185, email wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au.

Entry Form

Complete and enclose with your photo or slide. Please package any mailed entries carefully.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

I am a current **WILDCARE** member: YES NO (please circle)

Photo title:

Location or other descriptive information:

If I am selected as a winner, I agree that **WILDCARE** can use my image in the production of a Calendar free of any charges.

Signature:

Semaphore Challenge 2000

The Mt Direction CAREs group is co-ordinating the Semaphore Challenge 2000 to be held as part of the Tamar River Festival on Saturday 11th of November 2000.

This race is a combination of boating and running legs in a similar way to the Three Peaks Race. The course includes runs to 3 historic semaphore signal sites at the top of Mt George, Mt Direction and Windmill Hill. Although messages took only a few minutes to do this same journey when the semaphore system was operating, the

race will take between 2-4 hours. It starts at 11.15am at Low Head. There is a whole range of activities planned for the weekend with a fireworks display on Saturday night, as well as food stalls and entertainment.

There is a need for some volunteer assistance with time keeping and course monitoring. If you are able to help out please contact Richard Porch President of Mt Direction CAREs on 6394 8234 or Richard Hammond Vice Chairperson WILDCARE on 0500 520 644.

A *WILDCARE* team? — Some members of the Board of Management have indicated they would like to actually enter a team in the challenge. Each team requires up to 6 runners, a possible water skier, a licensed boat driver and observer. If you want to run (jog or walk), water ski or even have a boat for the race contact Richard Hammond on the number above. To complete the race within the time frame we will need a boat that can travel at around 30 knots and can carry the team.

Tasmanian Trail Wins State Community Links Award

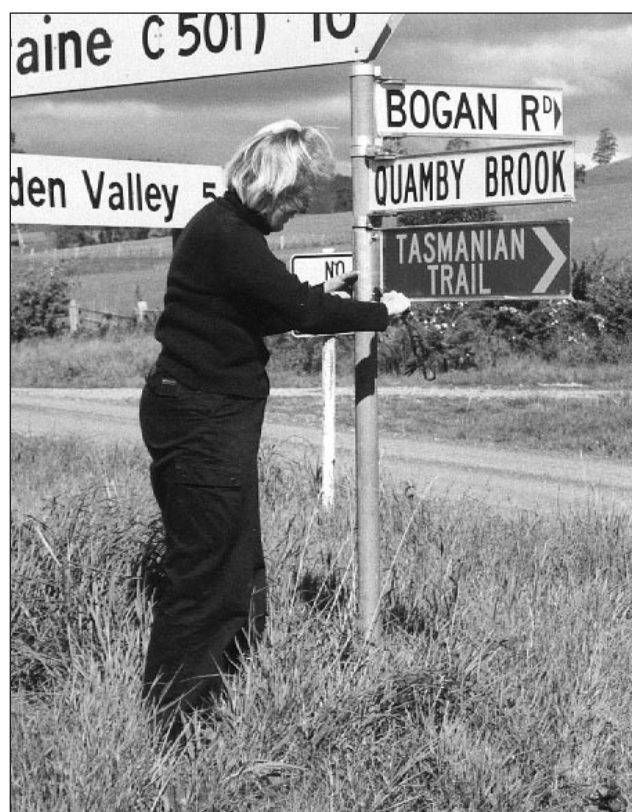
The Tasmanian Trail Association has received the State award under the National Community Link Awards Scheme. The National Australia Bank established its Community Link Awards in 1997 to encourage more Australians to work for their communities, and to recognise and reward outstanding examples of voluntary programs and projects.

The Association was successful due to its extensive links with community groups as part of the management program for the Trail. The volunteer component of the Trail management, and the achievements over the last year, were assessed against several criteria including community impact and benefit, volunteer management practices, the effective involvement of volunteers, how other organisations could benefit, originality and creativity and on how the financial component of the award would be used.

The Tasmanian Trail Association has received a trophy and \$2,000 to use as nominated in its application. The money will be spent on supplementing future volunteer programs connected with improving Trail campgrounds. It will be used to purchase goods and materials needed by volunteer groups to undertake the improvements.

The receipt of this award would not have been possible without the support of the Tasmanian Trail Community

The National Australia Bank representative, Susan Henry and Chris Boden.



Groups, *WILDCARE* volunteers and other organisations which have undertaken work along the Trail to make it the success it is. This award can only help in further improving the Trail and the relationship between the Association and volunteers.

Chris Boden
Tasmanian Trail Co-ordinator

Editors Note: *WILDCARE Inc* congratulates the Tasmanian Trail on winning the State Award, and is pleased to be associated with the Trail. The Tasmanian Trail Association is a full partner organisation to *WILDCARE*, with its members paying *WILDCARE* membership. Any *WILDCARE* member can also register with the Tasmanian Trail Association at no additional charge. Even if you don't register with them, you may like to participate in their working bees coming up (see next article)

Farewell To Max Kitchell

Max Kitchell, Director of PWS and General Manager of Resource Management and Conservation has been appointed to a position in Environment Australia, and by the time that this newsletter reaches you, will have left Tasmania.

Max has been a constant supporter of the development of *WILDCARE*, since the time that it was initiated by the PWS, launched on Mt Wellington and subsequently incorporated as a community group up to the recognition of our success from the Banksia Foundation. His vision in establishing the Community Partnerships Section in 1997 has resulted in a significant change to the way the Parks and Wildlife Service relates and works with the community, with *WILDCARE* being the leading

light in a wide range of programs. Max demonstrated a genuine belief and understanding of the need to work co-operatively with community, and his supportive and open management style will be missed.

Max will still have contact with Tasmania through his new position, which among other things oversees the Environment Australia Natural Heritage Trust programs.

Good luck in Canberra Max, your support of *WILDCARE* was greatly appreciated, and the direction you provided to natural and cultural heritage conservation as General Manager and Director will continue to provide motivation for a considerable time.

Andrew Smith
Chairperson

Times are a Changing Again

The structural arrangement of Resource Management and Conservation has undergone another change. The Parks and Wildlife Service has been split from RM&C to become a Division within DPIWE. It will focus on Reserve management and development of tourism opportunities. The final structure is yet to be determined, however, the change leaves the Cultural Heritage Branch, Nature Conservation Branch and Community Partnerships Section in the Resource Management and Conservation Division. Obviously these groups will continue to work closely together under the new arrangements.

WILDCARE's definition of Parks and Wildlife Service is now quite different

from the structure of the department, as we support natural and cultural heritage conservation and reserve management responsibilities of the Department. The role of the Community Partnerships Section as the link between Reserve managers, nature conservation and cultural heritage staff and *WILDCARE* will continue, making sure that this now nationally recognised partnership continues to develop and grow.

The General Manager for the new PWS is Peter Williams. The position of General Manager for Resource Management and Conservation is currently being advertised. The legislative responsibilities of the position of Director PWS are now

Tasmanian Trailworking Bees

WILDCARE has made money available to the Tasmanian Trail Association Inc. for the purchase of materials to construct 4 tables. These will be placed in Trail campgrounds.

Assistance is required to firstly construct the tables and then install them on site.

Three of the tables will be the traditional "picnic" table design and the fourth will be constructed with a stone base to minimise vandalism.

It is proposed to construct three tables at the home of the Tasmanian Trail Coordinator during Sunday 23 July 2000. A BBQ lunch will be provided at the site near Cambridge. The three picnic tables will be carted and installed at campsites at New Norfolk, Ouse and Jones River (near Ouse) on 6 August and the stone based table will be constructed on 20 August at Victoria Valley (north of Ouse).

If you would like to assist on any of the dates shown above please contact Chris Boden on 0419 370 528 or AH 6244 2491.

being performed by the Secretary of DPIWE Kim Evans.

WILDCARE welcomes Peter to "the cause" and looks forward to working with him in relation to Reserve management activities.

Friends of Little Swan Point

The 'Friends of Little Swan Point' *WILDCARE* Group have confirmed that they are meeting every 2nd Wednesday and Saturday of the month, between 10am and 12 noon (meeting at the beginning of the Little Swan Point Track, end of Beach Rd, Gravelly Beach.

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers



Close to:

Cape Raoul, Cape Hauy and Cape Pillar (Highest sea cliffs in the Southern Hemisphere), walking tracks.
Tasman National Park
Eaglehawk Neck
Ph: (03) 6250 3248

Gorse Gnashing at Schouten Island

Schouten Island is one of our largest offshore islands, located just south of the Freycinet Peninsula on the East Coast, and is now part of Freycinet National Park. An ongoing management problem on the island has been the control (and hopefully the eventual elimination) of the notorious gorse, a vicious, prickly, yellow flowered weed which was probably introduced accidentally during the sheep-grazing period which lasted for several decades up until about 1970.

In March this year a gallant band of 16 'gorse gnashers' sailed on the fishing



boat Crescent from Coles Bay to Schouten. A camp was set up under the Sheoaks beside the beautiful beach at Moreys Bay, just next to two old historic cottages that date back to the sheep-grazing days. The challenge was to 'cut and swab' the gorse bushes, which sounds easy but out in the field, there are problems! Firstly, the smaller gorse bushes can be hard to find in the tall grasses and heaths where they are dispersed. Secondly, there are some notorious clumps of the gorse where the plants form dense thickets of up to thirty metres across containing huge, multi-stemmed plants over two metres high with main trunks thicker than your arm! With these thickets it was a case of tunnelling in using handsaws, secateurs and sheer force then finishing off the main trunk with the chainsaw once it was reached.

Our volunteers this year came from Denmark, England, and Germany through the ATCV with Greg Loudon

as team leader, a couple of hardy **WILDCARE** volunteers, and two independent volunteers. The coordinator was Parks Ranger Pete Lingard from Swansea who made sure we had all the necessary tools of trade for the job. Pete also had the

unenviable, but vital job of wielding the chainsaw to finish off the largest gorse plants once the main trunks had been exposed by other members of the team.

At the end of the day, there were always a couple of hours to explore this delightful island, to swim, or to dive for abalone. The Crescent was used to transport us and our gear to the western end of the island to one of the bigger and more challenging gorse infestations. Unfortunately, a persistent ocean swell prevented Crescent from landing on the tricky and rocky southern coast where a couple of big thickets have been spotted by surveillance — maybe these outlying areas will be tackled during a similar expedition already planned for March 2001. So watch this space!

Bruce Palmer
WILDCARE Volunteer



WILDCARE Wardens again

For the second year in a row, money has been made available for the Track Warden Scheme in the top end of the Overland, based at Waterfall Valley. This year, a 'get together' of those WILDCARE members that were interested resulted in ten members being rostered from prior to Christmas through to Easter. This meant that the average stint amounted to seven to ten days.

This year I felt the workload wasn't as heavy as usual. No water sampling and delivery and not as many walkers were on the track as last year. Another interesting point was, more walkers were travelling from South to North. A couple of reasons given when I asked the South/North walkers why, was there is no hard first day and the Tassie Link transport services were as frequent from the St Clair end as Cradle Point. Work was always on hand painting waterfall Hut, providing the weather was suitable, as well as the usual keeping the eye on the state of the huts, toilets and camping grounds. Survey work continued by handing out walker participation

forms and keeping statistics in the diary for transferring to the Head Office survey forms. Scott Kilvert and Windermere Huts were visited to keep an eye on these areas.

To my mind, one of the appealing features of this voluntary work is the people you meet and talk to. For instance, a trio of French Canadians arrived in from south around midday. English was passable, except for one of the trio. The other guy was very taken with Barn Bluff. His first question to me was: 'can you camp on ze top?' I stated that 'yes there was a level area, enough for one man to tent'. At this juncture, I caught out of the corner of my eye, his partner slowly and very determined, shaking her head. However, later that afternoon, this guy had his pack on and was going to camp overnight on Barns. He was instructed at last light to signal by torchlight from the top to his friends. This he did at 2000 hours, and we signalled back. I wasn't able to find out what sort of night he had, because he was meeting up with his friends on the Cirque the next morning on their way to Cradle.

An English couple arrived in from Dove late one evening. All their gear was brand new, including the stove, that they didn't know how to operate. During the course of the conversation, and getting the stove functional, they revealed they were from Newcastle in the UK. They spent most of the year travelling the world watching the Grand Prix. They had just seen the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.

They were walkers, but had left their gear at home. It was in Melbourne that they heard about the Overland and thought it was a must while they were in this part of the world, hence the new gear. One thing that did worry them about the trip was how they were going to get by without a beer each evening. My advice to them was to try and bear it because there was a good pub at Derwent Bridge and it served Tasmania's best beers. They thought, under those circumstances, they would be able to make it!

One of the most interesting groups that had arrived in, was a Japanese film crew. They had guides from Tas Expeditions doing the portering of their gear and the catering. The guide's packs averaged about 40 kilos. According to Paul Coull from Tas Expeditions, it was quite a logistical effort, including helicopters bringing in Japanese food, as well as other gear. Included as the star was Kimiko Date, a Japanese tennis player who was ranked fourth in the world of female tennis a couple of years back. They camped down by the old Waterfall Valley Hut. I strolled down to get the details from Paul for the survey form and was asked if I would return at 1830 hours for an interview on camera. I was to talk about the wildlife in the area and then after to show the wildlife to Kimiko after dark. Luckily, two wombats and several wallabies got to hear about the filming and showed up on time. The local quolls were not interested in filming, they said. The next morning the group departed and with more filming of Kimiko saying sayonara to



Disposables or Moon Pads?

The average woman throws away 10,000 pads or tampons in her life. In Australia alone this adds up to 1,385,088,750 disposables per year which have to be either incinerated (bad for the ozone layer...) or put into landfills (plastic backings take up to 500 years to partially biodegrade...).

For our environment choose Moon Pads: using Moon Pads saves trees, reduces toxic chemical use and avoids 'throw-away' waste.

For information and brochures:
29 Brinsmead Rd, Mt Nelson 7007
Ph: (03) 6223 5151
Email: alex.pip@tassie.net.au
5% discount for WildCARE members

Wildcarer of the Year

Well WILDCARE has received recognition for the efforts of members through the Banksia Award, so its now time for WILDCARE to acknowledge volunteer members. WILDCARER OF THE YEAR will be awarded to a volunteer member who has contributed significant effort and support for natural and cultural heritage conservation and reserve management since 1997. Wildcarer of the Year can be nominated by other WILDCARE members or staff of the Nature Conservation Branch, Cultural Heritage Branch, Integrated Policies and Strategies or the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Nominations should be in the form of a one page description of why you feel your nomination should receive the award, detailing the activities they have been involved in. Ideally the nomination should have the support of a staff member involved in the projects outlined. The nominee must be a current WILDCARE member. Please include contact details of both the nominee and nominator.

There will be a prize (to be notified) and certificate for the winner.

Waterfall and me. So, as a result of this visit, the activities of a **WILDCARE** warden will be shown to millions of Japanese viewers!

Another incident happened on the way to do a stint. As I neared Fury creek, I came across a lady in a dress and sandals with a large pack on her back and shopping bag in each hand. I asked myself the question 'How do I approach this situation?' When I caught up to her I asked 'was she comfortable?' she said yes. She asked was it okay to pick up sticks. I said that it was, but what for? She stated that she had been told there were fireplaces in each hut and the wood was to cook her food in the billy she had dangling on the pack. I had to tell her that she had been given misinformation. She saw me looking at her footwear and she said that she preferred to walk barefoot because feet were invented before footwear! She did have boots, I found out, in the other plastic bag. During the course of the trackside conversation, she stated she had flown over the track that morning to see what it was like. I decided then that she knew what she was doing, and I hurried on to have the kettle boiled for her when she arrived at Waterfall. At least while at Waterfall

she would have hot meals. On the rest of her trip she would have to rely on walkers sharing their stove with her.

Accidents were few during my sojourns. Although I heard that other wardens had to radio into base to get helicopters to fly walkers out. The only serious mishap was a young Hollander falling on the way to Windermere causing facial injuries and a strained shoulder. Luckily a group from Windermere picked her up and dusted her off and brought her back to me. First Aid was put into practice and a sling for her arm put in place. We discussed the situation and she decided to rest up and see how she felt the next day. As a result, she went back to Cradle with the party that had brought her in, the next morning.

We did have some good painting days and some of the outsides of the Hut were freshly painted. A trip to Windermere and Scott Kilvert saw that everything in those areas was shipshape (or Hutshape!)

Lots of Interstate and overseas walkers asked me how to get jobs as track wardens. I refused to tell them. I didn't want these people muscling in on the best activity there is!! It is for Tasmanians only.

Bill Forsyth

WILDCARE Partner of the Year

Of course a partnership can't work without a willing partner. *WILDCARE* members are invited to nominate their *WILDCARE* PARTNER OF THE YEAR. The nominee can be a staff member working within the Parks and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservation Branch, Cultural Heritage Branch or Integrated Policies and Strategies Branch, Tasmanian Herbarium or Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens as all of these organisations/branches have worked with *WILDCARE* since 1997.

Nominations should be in the form of a one page description of why you feel your nomination should receive the award, detailing the activities they have been involved in and the way in which they have worked effectively as a *WILDCARE* partner. Please include contact details of both the nominee and nominator.

There will be a prize (to be notified) and certificate for the winner.

Wild & Open Space 2000

A series of workshops helped to set directions for the next year.

Session Outcomes

Wtg = How many 'priority' stickers members allocated to each topic. High number = higher priority

Creating Cares Groups

Wtg: 10

- Ranger awareness needs to be lifted and act as leaders to bring groups

together

- Information about other members & groups in the area/location
- Park centre promotion needs to be improved
- Internal promotion of benefits to staff needed
- Need to promote membership locally
- A promotional kit to explain benefits of membership & group formation, list of successes to date

Ben Harrison, Peter Harrison, Andrew Smith, Chris Leitch and Lyle Rubock.



Rock Concerts, Festivals & Tours

Wtg: 7

- Look at promotional opportunities:
 - Postcards
 - Hats
 - T-shirts
 - Key rings, etc
 - Banners at events
- Add to existing events — important not to compete with operators already established — want to work with them to get an even more positive outcome
- Seed ideas for existing events — like the idea of a "Wild Winter Weekend" in Strahan, or being involved in the Semaphore Challenge on the Tamar River. Supply volunteers & *WILDCARE* name.
- Develop magazine to broaden the base for information
- Develop a pro forma for members to supply information re events to attempt to increase member's input into the magazine
- Look at selling or value adding using the *WILDCARE* logo



30% of well known icons to promote **WILDCARE**

- Promote the free membership — immediately
- Want regional contacts — decentralise
- 30 second ad is an excellent idea
- Strategies to offer info to other community groups
- Big event issues/ promotions need support at head office & board of management level
- Brochure — foyer for general info
- Updated info on projects/hours donated to be circulated regularly in **WILDTIMES** — Bar graph to illustrate works & \$\$\$ values
- Agfest — great promotional idea — we should get a display of **WILDCARE** activities together ASAP.
- Promote and market **WILDCARE** through the government via internal news, etc.
- Youth Hostels, Motels, Ferry, etc.
- B&B's are places to advertise
- Upgrade T-shirts & hats, etc. design

Opportunities at Freycinet

Wtg: 7

- Need to document and promote what we've achieved — stories from Wildcarers & Parks Staff of what we did & photos
- **WILDCARE** Newsletter, Hands On, Landcare newsletters, Newspapers, Media
- Displays — Agfest, entry Stations,

Libraries, Schools

- State tour — 'Let go the reins' get out to other field centres to encourage staff to get behind **WILDCARE** — explore what's involved & what we can achieve
- Opportunities Identified:
- Stop Press — 200 plants in year 2000
- White Water Wall 22 April
- Honeymoon Bay 23 April
- Grown from locally collected seed by **WILDCARE** volunteer
- Summer on the Freycinet Peninsula — volunteers as track wardens & educators during the summer — broaden the range & support the 'track ranger programme'
- Locations: Wineglass, Hazards Beach, Cooks Beach (Bryans), Schoutens. Special interest bus tours, cruise ship passengers
- Visitor education 'year round at Freycinet' — develop your own walk/talk, spend time with guides at Freycinet — training opportunities if there is enough interest
- Promote & support a collection of community people (Coles Bay) **WILDCARE** members to be based on tracks — at key times, set dates consistently over each year. Promote this activity in public areas around Coles Bay. Encourage community effort.
- Have a calendar of events — oral history, Threatened plants, What's flowering, Orphaned animal needs

Promoting **WILDCARE**

Wtg: 17

- **WILDTIMES** redevelopment & use of members & sponsors to reduce costs
- In advertisement — to use a max of

BALANCE SHEET As of 31 December 1999

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Cheque Account	1091.54
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	1091.54

Other Assets

Receivables	0.00
TOTAL Other Assets	0.00

TOTAL ASSETS 1091.54

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities	
Payables	220.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	220.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES 220.00

EQUITY 871.54

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 1091.54

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT 7 October 1998 to 31 December 1999

INCOME

Interest	139.53
Payment In	18400.00
Sponsorship	1000.00
Subscriptions	5869.00
TOTAL INCOME	25408.53

EXPENSES

Account Charges	34.04
Insurance	1000.00
Legal Costs	1926.00
Newsletter	8385.00
Printing	1165.00
Project	10314.00
Promotional Material	1692.95
Subscription Refund	20.00
Uncategorised Expenses	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	24536.99

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSES 871.54

Roles & Responsibilities of volunteers

Wtg: 0

- Consensus that *WILDCARE* volunteers be vetted & trained to deal with the public and issues specific to each location.
- All volunteers are responsible for their own actions

Aboriginal Involvement in Land Issues

Wtg: 4

- To involve the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council (TALC). Ask TALC to put forward people to talk for and about specific land area
- Educate general publics on aboriginal spirit and stewardship for land
- Land is not owned, but is looked after for the next generation
- Reconciliation will be facilitated through the simple understanding of prior ownership by aboriginals
- As a stakeholder, aboriginal people require individual invitation to attend management meetings
- Organise a 'Living with the Land' Conference for aboriginal people, Wildcarers and Landcarers to share passions and ideas

ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS · REGISTERED TAX AGENTS · BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

WILDCARE INC.

I have audited the statements of Receipts and Expenditure and the Statement of Position of the WildCare Inc. for the year ended 31st December 1999.

As it is not practicable to establish control of income and expenses prior to their entry into the accounting records the scope of this audit has been limited to the amounts entered into the books of account.

I report that the Financial Statements attached to this Audit Report fairly state the cash result of the operations for the year ended 31st December 1999 according to the books of accounts and any information or explanation given to me.

The Financial Statements are drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporations Act, and are in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Phillip M Ripper MNLA
Auditor

Dated: 22nd March 2000
Hobart

WILDCARE Whale Rescuer Training Courses

WILDCARE in-conjunction with staff from the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Nature Conservation Branch (NCB) have undertaken four whale rescuer training courses involving over 180 people including volunteers and staff. The training courses were held at Dunalley, Bicheno, Stanley and Strahan, which are the locations that the whale rescue trailers will be based, because they correspond to the stranding hot spots.

The Parks and Wildlife Service was successful in obtaining Natural



Heritage Trust — Coasts and Clean Seas grant monies to purchase and fit out four whale rescue trailers, to be located in the four hotspots around Tasmania, which will become the first response effort at a stranding.

Unfortunately the NHT grant did not include monies for training volunteers to assist the PWS, so the *WILDCARE* Board of Management agreed to make \$1600.00 available for this purpose.

The Community Partnerships Section administered and coordinated the training days whilst the majority of the course material was supplied and delivered by PWS and NCB staff.

The four training days were a great success, with many local people attending and being trained in all aspects of whale rescue, including;

- Introduction to Whale biology,
- Threats to Survival,
- Why do Whales strand?
- Why rescue Whales?
- Reporting procedures,

- Whale first aid and beach care,
- Rescue techniques and procedures.

Local Police, community and service groups were made aware of the training and were invited to attend. Several community and service groups were represented at each of the training days and the local Police were present at Bicheno and Strahan.



There has been a great demand for training courses will be held closer to the population centres, nearer to Launceston and Hobart, where most of the second wave of volunteers will come from. It is anticipated that the courses will be arranged for early November.



TLC for injured and orphaned wildlife thanks to Brighton Council

Injured and orphaned wildlife will have a greater chance of survival and recovery thanks to Brighton Council's and *WILDCARE*.

The Council's contribution will subsidise the delivery of five introductory courses in caring for injured and orphaned wildlife, to be run by the Service throughout southern Tasmania. In addition the Service will run a similar course specifically for the Council's road crew.

Brighton Council Mayor Tony Foster and Parks and Wildlife Service Director Glen Appleyard announced the introduction of the training program and sponsorship arrangement at the Water Works Reserve, South Hobart, today. (31st May) The event was attended by a number of Hobart's injured and orphaned wildlife carers and their 'patients'.

Mayor Tony Foster said the Council's contribution to the *WILDCARE* Fund reflected its commitment to the protection of the environment.



People in photo left to right: Brighton Council Mayor Tony Foster, Wildlife Carer Honey McClay, Parks and Wildlife Service's Acting Director, Glen Appleyard.

"Over the past few years we have introduced a number of initiatives aimed at taking better care of our environment, which includes our precious wildlife," Cr Foster said.

"Our support of the *WILDCARE* Fund is our small way of encouraging people throughout Southern Tasmania to become trained wildlife carers, and at the same time ensuring that our road crew members, who often come

across injured and orphaned wildlife, have a good understanding of how to best care for the animal".

"Taking part in the course and becoming a registered carer provides a means for people to legitimately interact with wildlife, which in itself is a wonderful and worthwhile experience".

The courses will cost \$20 per participant and will provide potential carers with a greater understanding of the demands of this fulfilling volunteer job, including species identification, rescue (handling), and emergency first aid.

Course dates:

- Brighton Course 24 June 2000. (Already booked out)
- New Norfolk 8 July 2000. Contact PWS, Maureen/Julie Ph 6288 1149
- Geeveston 22 July 2000. Contact PWS, Beth Ph 6298 1577
- Tasman Course 19 August 2000. Contact PWS, Janice Ph 6248 4053
- Seven Mile Beach 9 September 2000. Contact PWS, Janice Ph 6248 4053

Course details will be advertised throughout local communities.

Old Track — New Park!

A marvelous response ensued from the flyer forwarded to *WILDCARE* members in the north of the State, regarding the rehabilitation of the Badger Head track in the Narawntapu (formerly Asbestos Range) National Park.

The day started out less than average with rain pouring down quite heavily at times, delaying the 9 am start by 2 hours! However, once decked out in our rain gear and a favorable easing in the weather we ventured forth with a quick drive up Bakers Beach to the start of the track to Copper Cove. Within an hour the sky cleared; the sun shone brilliantly onto the sea below — and everyone agreed that working with views like this "couldn't be beat".

A bit of background history: The Badger Head track (which traversed from Copper Cove over Asbestos Range to Badger Beach) was closed over 10 years ago. Rehabilitation of the track on the western side of the range has been a slow process with the "scar" being quite visible within the Park and coastal towns on the other side of the Rubicon River (Port Sorell to Devonport).

Ten volunteers (organised through *WILDCARE*) attended the working bee which involved laying down jute (woven coconut fibre) and "slash" (cut vegetation from the local area) onto the 1.5km track. The volunteers worked steadily up the track carting and laying slash until over half the exposed ground



was covered — not a bad effort considering the late start and early finish due to the need to travel back up the beach before the tide cut off access!

When we arrived back at the Park office, the Rangers (Garry and Dave) had waiting for us a sumptuous BBQ (complete with "home prepared" kebabs and gourmet style salads). Everyone agreed the day was a success and plan to return to complete the rest of the track in 2 months time.

Another positive outcome of the day is the volunteers' decision to form a "Friends of Narawntapu National



Park" through *WILDCARE*.

If you are interested in joining this group or forming a Friends group attached to another Park within the State, please contact the Community Partnership Section on (03) 6233 2185 or email wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au.

Jo Field
Adopt a Track Facilitator

Badger Head Track Rehabilitation Working Bee Stage 2

The next *WILDCARE* working bee for rehabilitation of the Badger Head track at Narawntapu (formerly Asbestos Range) National Park has been set down for Saturday, 9 September 2000.

Please meet at the Ranger's office at 9 am and bring a cut lunch! For further information please contact Track Coordinator Suzie Donkers on 6383 4267 before 3 September 2000.

Whale Strandings — How you can help

Of all Australian States, whale strandings occur most frequently in Tasmania. A disproportionate number of these strandings have occurred in the Circular Head and Macquarie Harbour — Ocean Beach areas.

Common dolphins and pygmy right whales, both of which typically strand singularly, are the most commonly reported species. Sperm whales and long-finned pilot whales also are frequently reported, the latter usually in herds. In 1992, for example, 198 individuals were reported stranded near Bicheno. A detailed record of Tasmanian strandings is given on our pages on whales.

Most strandings are reported in the summer months, although it is not clear whether this is a consequence of increased human activity along the coast during this time of the year or an increase in the number of whales passing the coast.

Why whales strand

The reasons whales strand are not yet fully understood. Fanciful explanations have ranged from the Roman's belief that stranded whales were being punished by Neptune, to more recent, but equally dubious theories about suicide. While some single strandings may be accounted for by a whale dying at sea and being washed ashore, many strandings are believed to occur due to other factors. It is likely that these factors act in combination.

Occasionally, stranded whales are found to be suffering from infections of the inner ear which may affect their ability to navigate using echo location. Confronted with rough seas, a single individual may stray too close to the shore. If such an animal touches the bottom, the resultant distress calls can lead to the rest of the pod encountering a similar fate as they attempt to maintain the social cohesion of the herd.

Also, certain topographical features may lead to strandings. Wide, gently

sloping beaches are not detected by the reflection of sonar pulses. This may result in the whales approaching too close to the shore. Heavy seas combined with ebb-tides may result in the pod becoming stranded. Similarly, bays with narrow mouths flanked by rocky headlands may give the impression of being trapped with no way out. This can cause panic which may result in beaching. In the case of stranded small whales and dolphins, it is possible that killer whales (orcas) have panicked the herd, forcing them shoreward.

How you can help stranded whales

As a result of experiences gained in a number of strandings around the Tasmanian coast, the Parks and Wildlife Service has developed a strategy that aims to maximise the success of rescue efforts. In the case of single strandings of small whales such as dolphins, it may be possible to successfully return the animal to the sea with little assistance. However, a mass stranding is a more formidable problem, and requires a coordinated approach.

- The first priority in any attempt to save a stranded pod of whales is to seek help. Contact the Parks and Wildlife Service (phone 03 6233 6556) or any authority which can pass the information on. Provide details on the exact location of the stranded animals, their numbers, condition, the species (if you know), their size — any details which may be useful.
- Once this is done, it is important to ensure that the animals are stabilised. Whales can survive for a considerable time providing the dangers to them are minimised. After removing nearby sharp objects, such as shells, attempt to place the whale on its belly. Sand and water can enter the blowhole causing the animal to drown if they are left lying on their side.

- Try to turn the animal so it is facing the shore. This will allow it time to feel a wave coming with its tail and then close its blowhole. Don't use the fragile tail or fins as handles.
- Overheating is a big problem for stranded whales. Dig holes for the flippers so that they are hanging free. Allow water to enter these holes to assist in cooling, as the flippers and tail are important areas for heat exchange. Cover the body from the burning and drying effects of sun and wind — towels or seaweed will suffice — but don't cover the blowhole. Wet the animal down, ensuring that water does not enter the blowhole.

Once authorities have arrived, the animals are taken to a holding area and the release is coordinated so that the entire surviving pod is released. If released individually the animal will often restrand simply because it does not know where to go or responds to the continued distress calls of the individuals that are still stranded. Whales are highly social creatures. It is important not to underestimate the need to maintain their group structure.

Despite their formidable size, whales appear reluctant to cause any harm to their rescuers. Nonetheless, accidents can happen. Don't stand on the shoreward side of a whale, as a wave can easily roll the animal on top of you. Beware of sudden movements of the tail. Most importantly, beware of hypothermia. Tasmanian waters are cold. Rescuers should be well equipped with thick wetsuits and a change of warm clothes. Remain well aware of how long you have spent in the water.

Previous Whale Strandings

A Draft Summary report of the Marion Bay Stranding on 17 October is now available.

Further Information

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (1999). Action Plan for Whale Rescues: Tasmania 12/5/99

Thankyou!

Wildcare wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of the *WILDCARE* Fund

Gold Sponsors (\$10,000 plus)

Category 2 sponsors (\$5000–\$9999)

Environment Australia

Category 3 sponsors (\$1000–\$4999)

Malcolm Murchison

Brighton Council

And the following *WILDCARE* member-discount sponsors

Snowgum equipment 10% discount

Par Avion Wilderness Flights 10% discount

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers (\$2 discount per night)

Moonpads 5% discount

(To claim your discount, simply present your *WILDCARE* member card.)

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).

Tasmanian Trail Guidebook— **Tasmanian Trail**

This essential guide will give walkers, bicyclists and horse riders all the information needed to travel all or part of the unique **Tasmanian Trail**.

Detailed trail notes cover each stage of the journey, providing concise directions and information on access, campsites and facilities. Distances are given for trips in either direction, while each stage is supplemented with detailed maps.

Planning, safety and environmental issues are all thoroughly covered.

Fascinating snippets of information on the natural and cultural features you will discover along the trail are liberally spread throughout the book.

If you are contemplating a full traverse of the state or just a day trip, this book is a must.

Recommended Retail Price: \$22.00. Order through the *WildCARE* Office, GPO Box 44A Hobart 7001. Please make cheques payable to The Tasmanian Trail Association.

ISBN 9 318923 009651