

WILDCARE Wild & Open Space 2001

Outcomes

Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre Saturday 24th March 2001

A series of discussion groups were formed using the open space techniques, to assist in setting the direction and priorities for *WILDCARE* for the next 12 months. Members were asked to write down topics for discussion and place them on the wall. These topics were discussed in small groups. At the end of the day they voted for the ones they thought were most important, by placing sticky dots on them. The more sticky dots the higher the priority = the greater the weighting (Wgt).

Discussion Topics & Outcomes

Communication with membership

Wgt: 9

- Call outs to members are to be date specific and early enough to give volunteers at least 6 to 8 weeks notice, when possible.
- Member groups have get together with the possibility of Rangers and/or staff attending from other Divisions — namely either the Nature Conservation or Cultural Heritage Branches (NCB, CHB).
- Ensure that systems are in place to provide feedback to volunteers, from the manager/supervisor/program leader, regarding the various events or working bees that they attend, either by direct mail or through an update in *WILDTIMES*.
- Participants of existing programs, who have undertaken specific training, want to be kept informed of program results and proposed/future events/work.
- CAREs groups and volunteers from other activities/events/work are to provide more information regarding the programs articles for *WILDTIMES*.

- Acknowledgments (letter) from manager/supervisor/program leader to volunteers thanking volunteers for their participation at events.



Jo Field, Adopt-a-Track Facilitator "Strutting her stuff" at the Wild & Open Space 2001 Cradle Mtn.

Raising Profile

Wgt: 8

- Acknowledge current successes.
- Divorce *WILDCARE* from the "Greenie" image.
- Volunteers to be provided with appropriate name badges, to be worn when working.
- Make more use of existing opportunities, for example; take out an ad in the Tasmanian daily papers on World Environment Day.
- Provide *WILDCARE* information in all huts and other appropriate places in National Parks and on other reserved lands.

Additional Rewards for WILDCARE members

Wgt: 7

- *WILDCARE* members to receive rewards for effort/volunteering, for example; a free Annual Parks Pass for the 4th and subsequent year of membership, combined with a record of regular activity, or; for "x" number of hours of contribution. A policy and associated guidelines need to be

developed by the Board of Management (BOM), to provide members with information regarding this issue and to ensure consistency

- A scale or range of rewards could be instituted, with lesser rewards being available and these could include *WILDCARE* merchandise.
- Recognition of *WILDCARE* members to be worthwhile.
- *WILDCARE* members to be able to access a greater number of discounts from retailers, wholesalers, or manufacturers etc., for example; Cradle Mountain Enterprise (Visitor) Centre,

Outdoor wear/equipment shops, footwear manufacturers. To be negotiated by the BOM.

Road Kill Reduction

Wgt: 7

- *WILDCARE* members to prepare a submission for *WILDCARE* funding to purchase a bulk supply of super-sonic vehicle mounted animal scaring whistles for a limited (initial) distribution.

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Left to right at rear: Marilyn Spinks, Ann Stocks and Lexie Paul, left to right at front: Jim Spinks and Lyle Robock. A group in discussion at the Wild & Open Space Cradle Mtn.

Distribution to Councils, trucking companies, hire car firms was seen as a priority, along with information that explains their use and benefits, and encourage them to purchase their own supplies for the future.

- **WILDCARE** members to prepare an article for the **WILDTIMES** highlighting actions to assist in minimising road kills and encourage direct action by members and Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Nature Conservation Branch (NCB) and Cultural Heritage Branch (CHB) to remove road kills to prevent secondary kills.
- **WILDCARE** members to seek information regarding the desirability/effectiveness of roadside de-vegetation as an aid to reduce road kills (to discourage them from feeding close to roadways).

Developing Partnerships with businesses

Wtg: 4

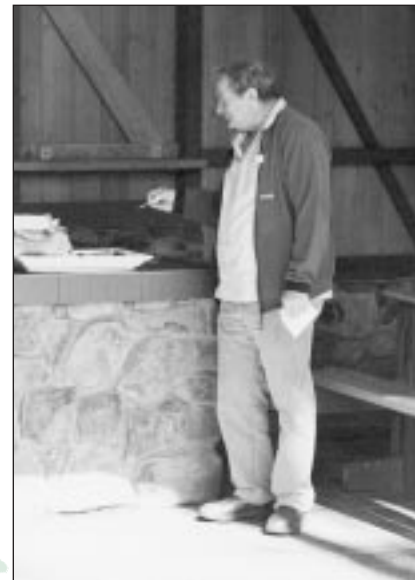
- Board of Management (BOM) to develop guidelines for "suitable" sponsorship.
- BOM to identify specific potential sponsors and what **WILDCARE** has to offer.
- Identify "partnerships" and relationship development.
- Investigate ways of acknowledging small donations from individuals and local government (particularly project based).
- Develop a **WILDCARE** prospectus.
- Pursue tax deductibility for donations.

- BOM to form a sub-committee to progress these matters further.
- Train volunteers as marketers and utilise their contacts.

Improving links between WILDCARE and nature conservation projects

Wtg: 3

- Need to improve/appropriately resource the administration of the volunteer program(s) supporting the nature conservation projects and programs, by;
 - ensuring all call-ups are properly managed, with acknowledgment



Lyle Rubock 'fencing' at the **WILDCARE** Wild & Open Spaces

of expressions of interest and appropriate exchange of information,

- appropriate training for volunteers,
- regular provision of information to volunteers, eg. Trained whale rescuers,
- regular maintenance and upgrading of volunteer database.

Hut Wardens Program, Waterfall Valley

Wtg: 1

- A briefing/workshop to be held at Cradle at the start of each new season (November), to draw up the roster and pass on any other relevant information.
- A program coordinator (Cradle staff member) should be appointed to liaise with the volunteers on the roster to ensure that the program runs smoothly, instead of the volunteers having to ring the office to check.

WILDCARE

Board of Management Membership

Chairperson	Andrew Smith
Vice Chairperson	Richard Hammond
Treasurer	Graham Ristow
Secretary	Kathryn Gatenby
Nature Conservation Branch	Alistair Scott
Cultural Heritage Branch	Angela McGowen
CARes President	Richard Porch (Mt Direction Semaphore Station Historic Site)
CARes President	Jim Spinks (Cradle Valley)
CARes President	Peter Franklin (Mt Field)
CARes President	David Reynolds (Maria Island)
CARes President	Susie Donkers (Narawntapu)
CARes President	Rodney Milner (Kate Reed Reserve)
CARes President	Rosemary Verbeeten (Little Swan Point Reserve)
CARes President	Peter Sieman (Cheltenham Green)
CARes President	David Wools-Cobb (Karst National Park)
CARes President	Susan Henry (Tasmanian Trail Assn)

WILDCARE Annual General Meeting

Results of election

Vice Chairperson: Richard Hammond

Treasurer: Graham Ristow

Congratulations to Richard and Graham and thank you for your continuing commitment.

Last AGM minutes presented

Accounts presented.

Note: The *WILDCARE* account is in fact far healthier than the records show. Since auditing we have received membership payments from the Department for this financial year. The bank balance now stands at around \$40000. Transfer of membership fees is now being made monthly by DPIWE.

	2000 \$	1999 \$
Income		
Payment In	7,824	18,400
Wildedge Income	14,309	1,000
Sponsorship	8,500	5,869
Subscriptions	18,588	140
Interest received	23	25,409
Total Income	<u>49,245</u>	<u>49,245</u>
Expenses		
Agfest	281	34
Audit fees	100	
Bank Fees And Charges	67	
BOM Costs	88	
Conference 2000	412	1,000
Insurance		3,926
Legal fees	3,564	8,385
Newsletter	1,652	1,165
Printing & stationery	14,132	10,314
Project	1,309	1,693
Promo Material	20	20
Subscription - Refund	484	
Sundry expenses	2,000	
Training	16,273	24,537
Wildedge Outgoing	40,361	
Total expenses	<u>8,883</u>	<u>872</u>
Operating surplus before income tax		
	<u>8,883</u>	<u>872</u>
Income tax (credit) expense		
Operating surplus after income tax		
	<u>872</u>	<u>872</u>
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the financial year	672	872
Total available for appropriation	<u>9,755</u>	<u>9,755</u>
Accumulated surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>9,755</u>	<u>872</u>

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.



	Note	2000 \$	1999 \$
Current Assets			
Cash		9,755	1,092
Total current assets		<u>9,755</u>	<u>1,092</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable			220
Total current liabilities			<u>220</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Total liabilities			<u>220</u>
Net Assets		<u>9,755</u>	<u>872</u>
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus		9,755	872
Total Members' Funds		<u>9,755</u>	<u>872</u>

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

DPIWE Secretary opens *WILDCARE* Conference 2001

The following is an extract from an article run in the DPIWE news reporting on the opening of the *WILDCARE* Annual Conference by The Secretary of DPIWE Kim Evans. The Board of Management thanks Kim for his attendance and contribution to the *WILDCARE* Conference. We hope that Kim, his

wife and family enjoyed their time at Cradle Valley.

Kim Evans opened the annual *WILDCARE* Conference held at Cradle Mountain on Saturday, 23 March. In his opening address, he highlighted the need for the Department to work with the community as a way of doing

business, and acknowledged *WILDCARE* as an ideal example of partnership.

"*WILDCARE*," he said, "is a primary partner in natural heritage conservation, cultural heritage conservation and reserve management."

"*WILDCARE* objectives and actions are tied to those of DPIWE. It is also specifically identified in the targets set out in the DPIWE Corporate Plan, and is therefore an important and

productive contributor to our objectives,” said Kim.

“In this the International year of the Volunteer it is important to highlight, recognise and support the type of effective partnership and volunteer support that **WILDCARE** provides. In the longer term, **WILDCARE** provides both the Department and the community with the opportunity and the means to make a difference in how the environment is managed and cared for.”

“With one in 300 Tasmanians currently members of **WILDCARE**, it demonstrates that these are issues dear to the hearts and minds of our community. Members are to be congratulated for their commitment and effort — an effort for which the Department is thankful.”

“As a Department, we will be making every effort to return the favour, with a strong commitment and support for the organisation and you as individuals.”

Some of **WILDCARE**'s key achievements and activities during the last year include:

- **WILDCARE Wild Edge Music Festival** in Strahan — a highly successful weekend event with the support of Strahan businesses and the Tasmanian music industry.
- **Camp Wardens Freycinet** (1st year) — volunteers camped at

Wineglass Bay and Cooks Beach for 10 days at a time and were involved in walker education and assistance, shorebird monitoring, marine debris monitoring and clean-up, campsite management and toilet maintenance.

- **Hut Wardens Cradle Mt** (3rd year) — volunteers lived at Waterfall Valley Hut and provided walker education and assistance and maintained the hut and nearby campsites and toilets.
- **New CAREs groups** (now groups at Mt Direction Historic site, Cradle Valley, Kate Reid Nature Reserve, Cheltenham Green, Karst (Mole Creek), Mt Field, Narawntapu NP, Tasman Peninsula).
- **New Adopt-a-Track groups and Caretakers** (now 10 caretakers signed up) — formed as a result of working bees conducted throughout the State.
- **Orange Bellied Parrot Surveys** — contributed funding and volunteers for 10-day shifts at Birches Inlet to monitor OBP release and breeding.
- **Whale rescue volunteer training statewide** — 4 courses with 180 people attending statewide.
- **Support volunteers for the Tamar Island Visitor Centre.**
- **Schouten Island gorse removal program** (3rd year) — volunteers live on Schouten Island for two

weeks and remove 20,000 gorse bushes each year.

- **Lyell Highway Fauna survey.**
- **Seed propagation for Bruny Island** — including a training course in seed collection propagation and pricking out (provided by RTBG).
- **Babysitting Deal and Maatsuyker Islands** (volunteers staff the islands and carry out basic management for a number of months each time, providing a year-round presence on the islands).
- **Semaphore Challenge 2000** — sponsored a boat and running race on the Tamar promoting the Semaphore Station network.
- **Administrative assistance** — Hobart office in nature conservation, Park entry group, Community Partnerships and Interpretation Section, in the Prospect Office in Community Partnerships as well as at Freycinet National Park and Tasman Peninsula.
- **WILDCARE was awarded the National Banksia Environmental Foundation Award 2000** (Community group category) for its efforts in nature conservation and reserve management in particular. This was against finalists such as Greening Australia and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Coles Bay residents rescue Minke whale

Local Community members, WILDCARE volunteers, Parks & Wildlife and Nature Conservation Branch staff teamed up to assist a young male Minke whale stranded on Richardsons Beach on Sunday 3rd June 2001.

The rescue took all day, the volunteers doing a vital job of moving the distressed mammal off the rocks into life supporting water, using a whale pontoon.

Thanks to Coles Bay residents, Swansea, Bicheno and Lake Leake volunteers and holiday campers who played an important role in keeping the 3.5 metre Minke cool, moist and calm whilst a Hobart Vet came to assess the whale's condition. The whale was weak and had numerous Cookie Cutter Shark bites over its body. The Vet injected a cocktail of drugs into the whale to assist in giving



Wildcare volunteer assisting at the Minke whale stranding at Coles Bay.

it more energy.

Just after 5pm. The whale was released off the pontoon adjacent to the “Fisheries”. It was last seen swimming normally into more open waters. A land and sea search the next day reported no sight of the whale.

Adult Minke whales grow to approx 8 to 9 metres long. The young male

hopefully reunited with it's mother or other pods of Minke Whales to migrate north for the winter.

The Parks & Wildlife staff (at Freycinet) extend a sincere thanks to all who helped with the rescue.

Stephanie van der Schans
Field and Information Officer
Freycinet National Park

WILDCARE update — is this value for money or what?

In putting the Agfest display together we collated some up-to-date statistics for WILDCARE. It makes astounding reading.

Since incorporation in 1998...

- Membership has grown to 2073 (1 in 220 Tasmanians)
- 100,000 hours of voluntary work has been carried out.
- \$50,000 has been granted to joint Department/WILDCARE projects
- That all equals \$1.5 million of additional effort and funding to support natural and cultural heritage conservation and reserve management. Top effort!
- 300 volunteers have attended formal training courses with a whole lot

more receiving project-specific skills training on the job.

- 10 Community Action in Reserves groups have now been formed (Cradle Mt, Narawntapu, Mt Field, Maria Island, Karst Mole Creek, Tasman Peninsula, Mt Direction Historic Site, Cheltenham Green, Kate Reed, Little Swan Point)

For statistics specifically about the Adopt-a-Track program (featured in the Agfest display), being developed in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service and supported by the Community Partnerships Section of Resource Management and Conservation Division of DPIWE, check out the Agfest article elsewhere in this WILDTIMES.

Many "Hands On" make light work

Hands-On is a magazine put out on a quarterly basis by Community Partnerships.

Lee Harper is the coordinator of the magazine and DESPARATELY NEEDS HELP in labelling envelopes and inserting the magazine for mailout to members each quarter. If you live in the Launceston or Hobart area and can assist Lee with this task please contact her on 03 6336 5434.

Community Action in Reserves (CAREs) groups growing

The Community Action in Reserves (CAREs) branch of WILDCARE Inc has been steadily creating specific reserve support groups.

There are now 10 groups operating:

- Cradle Valley
- Narawntapu National Park
- Mt Field National Park
- Maria Island National Park
- Karst Mole Creek National Park
- Tasman Peninsula National Park
- Mt Direction Historic Site
- Cheltenham Green
- Kate Reed Reserve

- Little Swan Point Reserve

The CAREs groups work closely with the local Rangers on issues and projects related to their reserve, providing both opinion and action. Most groups meet regularly, although you don't need to be a meeting-type person to participate in the group.

If you would like to add your support to any of the above groups, contact the WILDCARE Office (6233 2836 or wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au) and we will adjust your membership details. It doesn't cost anything extra to be registered with a group.

If you are registered with a reserve (on the membership form) that doesn't have a Reserve group yet there are a few things you can do.

- 1)The registrants for a particular reserve is the minimum call-up when there is WILDCARE action in that reserve, so you should hear about working bees as they come up.
- 2)As numbers rise for a particular reserve we will look at bringing a group together for that reserve.
- 3)If you are motivated to lead the formation of a CAREs group for a reserve you are passionate about, that doesn't have a group yet, contact the WILDCARE Office to discuss ways to speed the process

Time to form a CAREs group at Lake St Clair?

Rangers at Lake St Clair are interested in calling a meeting in July to discuss the formation of a CAREs group at Lake St Clair. Members registered for Lake St Clair will be notified of meeting dates and place by direct mail.

If you aren't registered yet, but would like to be, contact the WILDCARE Office to have your membership details updated, or email Chris.Leitch@dpiwe.tas.gov.au with your details.

up. If you are thinking about a site in the World Heritage Area, contact the World Heritage Area Community Partnerships Facilitator Chris Leitch 6233 2867 or Chris.Leitch@dpiwe.tas.gov.au to talk over the options and process.

Environmentally friendly reusable products

Moon Pads

Are you looking for washable, reusable, Earth-friendly, economical, sustainable products?

- ✓ Moon Pads® cloth menstrual pads hand made in Tasmania using 100% cotton fabrics
- ✓ The Keeper® a small natural gum rubber cup used in place of tampons
- ✓ Zappy Nappies® fitted cloth nappies for babies & infants
- ✓ Woollies damp-proof over-pants for nappy-wearing children

<http://www.moonpads.alltasmanian.com>
or contact: Moon Pads, PO Box 118, Sandy Bay 7006, Tas. Ph: (03) 6223 5151
moonpads@tassie.net.au

10% discount to WildCARE members when purchasing menstrual pads

WILDCARE at Agfest

WILDCARE mounted a display at this year's AGFEST, featuring the Adopt-a-Track program.

Jo Field (Adopt-a-Track Facilitator with DPIWE), with the able assistance of Dick Dwyer (Senior Ranger at Mole Creek), did a fantastic job of setting up some examples of track work, track signs, plants and wall display. Chris Leitch (World Heritage Area Facilitator with DPIWE) and Andrew Smith (Manager Community Partnerships DPIWE and Chairperson of **WILDCARE**) assisted with the rest of the display. Chris, Jo, Andrew, Richard Hammond (Vice chairperson), Bill Forsyth (Wildcarer), Rodney Milne (President Kate Reed), Keith Chung (Wildcarer), Wendy Roberts, (Wildcarer) and Lyle Rubock (Wildcarer) all helped out over the 3 days. Thankyou to all of you. You all looked rather nice in the **WILDCARE** Volunteer high visibility vests provided by the Adopt-a-Track program.

Andrew Smith
Chairperson

achieved in volunteer participation and project funding, since incorporation in 1998.

Some of the statistics regarding the Adopt-a-Track Program listed on the Wall included:

- 11 Track Caretakers have adopted tracks in National Parks and Reserves
- Over 115 volunteers have participated in these working bees
- Total hours worked by volunteers is around 1,654
- This equates to over \$24,800 of



- 18 trial working bees have been held around the State between September 2000 and April 2001

value added to existing trackwork undertaken since September throughout the State.

Congratulations to all who have participated (and continue to) in the working bees!

Thank you also to the **WILDCARE** volunteers who assisted on the Agfest stand this year — especially to Richard Hammond (Vice-Chairman, **WILDCARE** Board of Management) for filling in on the early-morning-start on behalf of a grateful Adopt-a-Track Facilitator (and yes! I had a great sleep-in!)

Jo Field
Adopt-a-Track Facilitator



Agfest 2001 saw **WILDCARE**'s stand feature the Adopt-a-Track Program. The display consisted of a 9m display track showing various techniques used in track hardening as well as endemic plants located beside the track and in the "rock scree". (A note here that a certain DPIWE Minister commented on the scattering of limestone rock amongst the basalt scree! Very observant!)

In the "Wall of Achievement" display, there were photos of volunteers participating in various Adopt-a-Track trial working bees as well as information on what **WILDCARE** had

Attention **WILDCARE** members

Do you wish to continue receiving wildtimes newsletter?

Now we have your attention, over the last couples of years, Bob & Phyllis Wyatt (diligent **WILDCARE** members) have been responsible for ensuring members received their **WILDTIMES** newsletter 4 times a year. This involves placing mailing labels and inserting the newsletter — and

any additional inserts — into envelopes.

They started with only 800 newsletters a quarter — they are now "stuffing" over 2000 envelopes a quarter, from their home in Howrah. Can anyone assist Bob & Phyllis with this enormous and important task?

If so, please contact Andrew Smith, Manager Community Partnerships Section on 03 6233 2836.

Adopt a Track Program — what's been happening?

April and May have been very busy months for the Adopt-a-Track Program with a total of 10 working bees held around the State (both first-time and follow-up). *WILDCARE* members were invited to participate in the following working bees:

- Mt Graham track in Freycinet National Park, organised with members from Launceston Walking Club
- Steppes walking track, Steppes State Reserve (near Miena, Central Highlands)
- Deep Creek, Mt William National Park — working with Friends of Deep Creek (Landcare) group
- Kermantie track — the original access track into Hartz Mountain National Park

- Painted Cliffs access track, Maria Island
- Square Tarn & Woolleys Tarn walking tracks (Snowy Ranges) involving members of the Melaleuca Walkers walking group (an affiliated *WILDCARE* member)
- Waterfall Bay to Fortescue Bay track in Tasman National Park held a Trackwork Weekend Workshop enabling *WILDCARE* members and Hobart Walking Club members to work along side professional trackworkers, learning new skills
- Snug Falls walking track held its inaugural working bee
- Gnomon to Mt Dial section of the Penguin Cradle Trail organised with members of Northwest Walking Club.

Fred Lakin (also a Hobart Walking Club member) has adopted the Needles track (Southwest National Park). Fred has a very long history of conservation activities (!), including being a member of the Scenery Preservation Board — precursor to Parks & Wildlife Service.

Snug Falls track working day

WILDCARE members plus an ex-trackworker attended a working bee on the Snug Falls track during May 2001.

At the working bee, volunteers discussed actions required on the track as well as pruning a section of the track. During the course of the day, *WILDCARE* members counted over 40 people walking this very popular track!

WILDCARE members and their family interested in attending future working bees are requested to RSVP Paul Dimmick, Ranger, Dover Field Centre on 03 6298 1577 or email Paul.Dimmick@dpiwe.tas.gov.au by 13 June 2001. The Track Caretaker for this track is still open and yet to be filled!

Adopt-a-Track and repay a lifetime of pleasure

My name is Derry Atkinson. I am the caretaker of Tall Trees Track at Mount Field National Park and I would like to share with you some of my reasons for adopting a track.

Ever since I was in Scouts, I have enjoyed bushwalking and camping. Later on I had the opportunity to go bushwalking with friends in East Gippsland whenever we all had time off from work. Now that I have retired and moved to Tasmania, I have continued this activity. In both Victoria and Tasmania, National Parks and Reserves have made it possible to enjoy some wonderful wild places. As I have grown older, I have come to appreciate also the infrastructure that goes into a national park: safe tracks, environmental information, shelters and public buildings, and more recently interpretive centres. These not only enable me to pursue my hobby, they also add to my understanding of the bush around me.

I only became aware of the Adopt a Track scheme after my wife and I had renewed our annual Parks Pass and had decided to join *WILDCARE* also. We received information in the mail about the program and an invitation to attend a meeting at Mount Field. After attending the meeting, I decided I wanted to participate in some way or other, however it took a working bee on the Lady Barron Falls track before

I finally made the commitment to become an individual track caretaker. Being a track caretaker not only enables me to do physical work outdoors, something with which I am familiar having also had a farm some years ago, there is also the opportunity to acquire new skills through working with the staff, especially the rangers. There is a sense of achievement in helping to maintain a public facility, which brings enjoyment and enrichment to the lives of the many visitors to the area. Most of all, there is a chance to repay some of the infinite pleasures derived over the years from these wonderful places.

Derry Atkinson
Track Caretaker

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

Volunteer for a day

The State government is supporting an innovative program to provide support for community groups around Tasmania — the Volunteer for a Day Program. This program will allow State Service employees across the State to volunteer their services to your organisation for a day, during working hours.

The State government is keen for as many of its employees as possible to be involved. This will not only provide assistance to volunteer organisations but will also help State Servants gain a greater understanding of the aspirations and activities of volunteers. Members of parliament are participating as well!

How do you go about inviting State servants to assist with your projects? You can set up your requirements on the web page supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet <http://www.volunteerday.tas.gov.au> or copy and complete the form below and return it to Tess Tilbury, (Women Tasmania) GPO Box 1854 Hobart 7001. If the project you are putting up is a **WILDCARE** project it will be covered by public liability and volunteer accident insurances. To activate this we must call up relevant **WILDCARE** volunteers to invite them to participate too, so let the **WILDCARE** Office know the details too phone 6233 2836 or email wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Organisation		
Address		
.....		
Contact person		
Role in organisation		
Ph	Fax	
email		
Description of activity in which you would like State Service employees to participate fo a day		
.....		
.....		
No. of volunteers required		
Specific dates or times required		
.....		
Address of activity		
.....		
.....		
Region (please circle)	North	North West South
What specific skills are required?		
.....		
Any special requirements (eg police check)		
.....		
Do you have public liability insurance to cover volunteers		
(please circle)	Yes	No
Do you have personal injury insurance to cover volunteers		
(please circle)	Yes	No
Are you able to reimburse volunteers if they incur out-of-pocket expenses		
(please circle)	Yes	No

Train the Trainer training course

On the nineteenth March 2001, I participated in a Train the Trainer course put on by the Community Partnerships Section of the Resource Management & Conservation Division of the DPIWE. There were six of us at the workshop: two Parks Rangers a botanist from the Botanical Gardens and three Wildcare volunteers.

The course was held at the training room Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens over three days. The first two days were spent in the classroom looking at the techniques of how adults learn. This was followed on a week later by having each participant conduct a 45 to 60 minutes training

session on a subject of their choice.

The training workshop presented by Ian Dow-Sainter on behalf of Bay Training is a nationally recognised qualification. All participants had very high input into the discussions and I am sure that we all benefited from the diverse skills of participants. Core subjects, such as the Seven Principles of Learning, the use of various communication skills and how to motivate people were some of the useful skills learnt.

Monday one week later was the day when all of us who had attended the workshop would put our new skills into practice. I had chosen to present a session on Safety for Track Volunteers. I was a little bit nervous at

first, but the kindness and understanding of fellow students and the guidance of Ian our instructor got me through. Personally I found the diverse subjects most informative, from making pasta to mounting plant specimens to coastal care. It was a lighthearted, fun and information packed day.

Summing up I would recommend this course to volunteers. The insight into the mechanics of adult learning with emphasis on how to present information in retentive parcels is an important communication skill in day to day interaction in the workplace.

Derry Atkinson
Wildcarer (Volunteer Track Caretaker
Mt Field)

Camp Wardens on the Freycinet Peninsula Report

On the first day of January 2001, **WILDCARE** Camp Wardens 'hit' the Freycinet Peninsula

for 80 days worth of valuable presence at the main campsites and adjoining tracks.

On shifts of around 10 days, **WILDCARERS** were based at

South Wineglass Bay (covering Hazards Beach) and Cooks Beach (covering Bryans Beach).

After an intensive induction, the walk out to 'their new home' began.

Packs bulging at the seams full of provisions and the odd luxury for the shift.

In some cases, this included eskies, bags and extra bags... Some people almost got carried away!

Our **WILDCARERS** were effective 'sponges' soaking up information from one group and passing it on to other walkers to boost their experience. Keeping an accurate 'walker grapevine' alive and well.

Day visitors and overnight walker comments alike, were extremely enthusiastic about our **WILDCARERS** energy, depth of knowledge, approachability and for the opportunity to make 'real contact time'!

Each **WILDCARER** brought to the role their own unique attributes, whether it be a passion for flora/fauna/history, skills in mapping, exceptional people/listening skills,

Harry Andrews — there she flows!



strong arms and legs!

Or an ability to give TLC to weary walkers.

The Camp Wardens acted as the eyes and ears of Freycinet National Park, completing several surveys on our behalf.

- Marine Debris surveys involving the 'resident' campers in identifying and recording that which accumulates from our society onto our beaches.

128 beer cans on Bryans Beach in one go!

- Reporting unique Marine Occurrences from several beaches to forward to the Dept.'s Nature Conservation Branch.
- Completing TASPAAW's records to help build a picture of the cross section of fauna across this part of the state.
- Keeping an 'eye out' for Cultural Heritage artifacts and places of interest to report to the Dept.'s Cultural Heritage Section.
- **WILDCARERS** benefited by learning to identify and increase their knowledge of beach ecology and threatened shorebirds, their habitats and behaviours whilst collecting data.

Summer Interpretation Ranger, Emma Bear shuffled a day of her programme to give an extra insight into the special qualities of Hooded Plovers.

We are pleased to recount that two



Harry and friends lay a new waterline to Hazards Beach Campsite.

juvenile "Hoodies" and one Pied Oyster Catcher were raised successfully on Hazards Beach this Summer, despite all the foot traffic.

The education role in identifying, creating awareness and altering walker behaviour was a crucial aspect of this project.

Wardens met walkers on the track and greeted campers and 'yachties' as they came into camp.

- Explanations were provided why camp zones were where they were and the vulnerable coastal vegetation was offered some protection.
- The incidences of open fires were reduced.
- Rubbish was significantly reduced, and a sense of 'we can all care for the Park' established.
- Dune surfing was discouraged.
- Walking opportunities, distances, track conditions and terrain, water necessity and availability provided. For some walkers the message that 'you need to carry water' was not getting through. Wardens were finding themselves filling walker water bottles from their own supply.

First Aid

- From minor and preventative measures to significant situations were all handled professionally. Volunteers with certificates were informed of their choice to assist in these situations if they felt comfortable.

Thanks are extended from the individuals/families and PWS for the great care and treatment provided.

Well done.



Melinda Warren and Kate Pauley giving some advice to campers regarding foreshore protection.

Park Maintenance

- Armed with bucket and broom, our fearless WILDCARERS walked the tracks and the beaches to give the pit toilets a clean, lime and 'spruce up'. The vision as they approached along the track causing numerous 'wild' comments from park visitors.
- Track slashing and trimming with hand tools 'cleaned up' sections of the Mt. Graham Track, Cooks Beach to Bryans Beach Track and Hazards Beach to Cooks Beach Track.
A sensitive removal of overhanging, 'scratchy' and obstructing vegetation.
- With powers of persuasion our wardens enlisted park visitors to assist in the digging and installation of a water pipeline at Hazards Beach Campsite — Lagunta Creek. Works are close to completion and with some extra fittings and a little rain to increase the water level at our intake site, water will run from the tap installed at the campground. This will mean that the riparian vegetation will be less susceptible to trampling and the incidence of 'washing up in the creek' reduced.
- The opportunity arose at Wineglass Bay with the lack of water flow, to delve into the murk of the Creek to retrieve Wine Bottles, Cans and plastic from generations of campers.
- Camp areas were clearly delineated at Wineglass Bay with severely eroded sites and accesses blocked off and signed with 'Campsite Resting' signs.
- Mapping of Hazards Beach and Cooks Beach campsites was

undertaken to provide reference data to monitor the rate of spread of these sites and to determine appropriate areas to rest.

Each **WILDCARER** was issued a PWS radio for daily contact and in

Island views...

David and Trauti Reynolds have sent a number of articles about their island adventures, so we have grouped all the island activities together this issue.

Maria Memories — Robey's Farm

Restoring Houses on Maria Island: volunteers at work part 2: Robey's farm.

John Robey and his wife Hilda came Robey's Farmhouse, Maria Island.



case of emergency.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Brett Noble — Cultural Heritage Branch for the loan of one of the radios and its spare battery.

Freycinet Base was able to receive regular reports of the water supply situation on the Peninsula and arrangements could be made for incoming supplies and fire weather forecasts provided.

The 2001 Freycinet Camp Wardens were a great success.

Many thanks to Kate, Melinda, Mark, Allison, Harry, Bernadette, Emily and Chris.

You were terrific.

We hope to see you all again next year along with other interested **WILDCARERS**.

For further information and if you would like to register your interest for 2002, please contact Stephanie, Freycinet National Park, c/- Private Bag Bicheno 7215, Ph. 6257 0107, Fax. 6257 0152.

from South Africa and settled on Maria Island in 1923. They farmed sheep and cattle on 5,570 acres. From 1949–1955 the farm also served as a temporary quarantine station for the Commonwealth Department of Health. After the death of his wife in 1964, John Robey's health deteriorated and a year later he was evacuated from the island and the farm was abandoned. He recovered, returned to South Africa and died there in 1980 aged 92.*

As the truck loaded with happy workers and equipment approached the site, we found a brand new roof glistening in the morning sun, having a stabilising effect on the structure. The cottage needed careful handling: our task was to find and save as many artefacts as possible. We slowly worked our way from room to room, cleaning up years' worth of cob webs, dust and animal droppings. In the wood stove we found a rat's nest and disturbed a huge tiger snake residing under the floorboards. That taught us to tread carefully!

Whilst some of us were thus occupied, others slashed the thick bracken growing around the house and a large, dense clump of Arum lillies hugging the wall. We came to Robey's cottage 4 times altogether and grew to love the place. The outer walls were given a new coat of paint, steps built to allow easier access to the verandah where rotten floorboards were replaced. A small tank was attached to the downpipe and finally the doors were secured to keep animals out.

During each of these visits we made camp on the nearby foreshore, under a soft canopy of casuarinas. These days of shared work and play, trouble with land Rovers and further confrontations with "big tiger" bonded our little group together.

Now Robey's farm is set up as a small museum, open to visitors who make it to the far south of the island.

To our delight the rangers had another project ready for us! So wait for the continuation...

David and Trauti Reynolds
CARes Maria Island (David is
President/Co-ordinator for CARes
Maria Island)

(* The reference to the history of John Robey is from the Tasmanian Historical Research Association Vol.42 No 2 June 1995, "The Robey's of South Maria Island.")

Painted Cliffs Track rehabilitation — Maria Island

The weekend of 12–13 May 2001 saw 11 volunteers answer a call up for a trackwork working bee on Maria Island, as well as the (official) formation of the Maria Island CARes group. David Reynolds, President of the CARes group has also nominated to undertake the "adoption" of the Oast House Ruin to Painted Cliffs walking track,



Gorse removal — Schouten Island.

which was installed last November 2000.

The volunteers spent the weekend removing macrocarpa pines near the toilet/shower block and BBQ area; laying jute and resurfacing the access track to the Painted Cliffs.

WILDCARE members interested in participating in future working bees should contact Allan Coates, Ranger, Maria Island National Park on 03 6257 1420 by 20 June 2001.

Schouten Island Revisited

On Monday 19th March, 12 adults and 2 children left Coles bay on board the 'Kahala' and the parks boat 'Geographe'. The weeks activities on the island would include cutting and removing gorse, mapping any new gorse sites and other weeds, and also mapping the Aboriginal middens on the western side of the island.

After a bumpy crossing, passenger's food and other materials were transferred to the 'Geographe' and unloaded at Morey's beach. With camp set up at the houses, instructions on the safe handling of the sprays and cutting tools was undertaken by Pete. Over several days under cloudy and at times rainy weather gorse was 'gnashed' from several sites between Morey's Bay and Sandspit Point on the northern side of Schouten Island. Several parties checked the foreshore towards Passage Point removing gorse behind the foreshore. During the week, between breaks in the weather, the "Geographe" transported us down to Sandstone Bluff with our loppers. We also checked out previous sites cut the year before (with a 99% success rate with cut and dab of a large area of gorse) and the

Hinterland behind the foreshore looking at creeks and open grasslands for gorse or any other weeds. Several garbage bags were collected of marine rubbish and plastic drums from the foreshore between Morey's Bay and Sandstone Bluff on the western shore of Schouten Island.

Several new sites containing gorse were located and mapped for future reference and some work commenced on these sites at the end of the week and the weather improving, fishing rods were produced from packs and fish caught below the campsite at Morey's bay. On Saturday we went exploring Bear Hill and the waterfalls and while Mike left for a circuit of Bear Hill, Mt Deadlus and Mt Story, Tom and mark explored the hills above Sarah Ann Bay. On Sunday we packed up our gear and prepared to leave the island after a very successful week of 'gnashing' the gorse and looking to return to the island for ongoing monitoring and cutting/dabbing of the gorse and eventually getting down to Sarah Ann Bay. Many thanks to the dedicated group of volunteers and Pete Lingard, — Pete, Greg, Tom, Mark, Alan, Sam, David, Christine, Suzie, Lily, Tom and overseas visitors Ari, Olli.

Schouten Island Gorse Gnashing Blues

(Sam's Tune)

It's that time of the year again

We are heading for Schouten Island
Gonna gnash some gorse

A relic of times past, from sheep, coal,
horse

I feel the twitching in my wrists

The loppers and the squirting bottles
tightly in my fists.

Chorus x 2

Come on Mr Ranger

We cannot be lax

We must go and cut it down, and stop
it in its tracks

Whether it rained or snowed or the
wind blew with force

The team went out with the tools in
hand and snipped that prickly gorse

Chorus

Alan worked away in the buff, really
looked the stuff,

With a cry of despair he declared,
“There’s a gorse in my hair”,

They worked up the creek,

They worked up the hills,

If you can hear the clicking through
the night,

They are out there working still.

Chorus

The gloves with fingers fluro, snip and
squeeze and spray

This crew will do their darn’est to
keep the gorse at bay

Chorus

Each march they come, to check if the
gorse is gone

And that day is getting closer

But until then we will sing this song.

David and Trauti Reynolds

An invitation to spend 2 days on Maria Island

It was suggested by the Treasurer (Graham Ristow) and discussed at the Annual Conference, that we needed more opportunities to get together and socialise (as well as do a bit of work of course).

So here is your chance to spend some time on Maria Island, mix with fellow Wildcarers, enjoy the hospitality of the Rangers, experience some live evening musical entertainment and put in a few hours of work on a variety of projects to help the Rangers and members of the new Maria Island CAREs group.

Saturday 13th October

- Arrive on the Saturday morning ferry (be sure to book with the operator Phone 6257 1589)

- A morning of tours “behind the scenes”, slide shows etc with the Ranger staff

- *BYO lunch*

- General meeting — update on programs and projects
- Evening barbeque provided in the day shelter
- Live band in the mess hall till late (*BYO refreshments and dancing shoes*).

Sunday 14th October

- *BYO breakfast*

- Volunteer projects (revegetation, artefact conservation, weed removal and a few other things yet to be determined)

- *BYO lunch*

- Free time before the afternoon ferry off the island

We have booked the penitentiary “units” (6 to a Unit) and the camp ground is available. **First in first served! Book the accommodation with the WILDCARE Office when you RSVP.**

NOTE — this is a **whole weekend** event, for members of **WILDCARE**. Non-members will need to be booked in with a member. Please take your wildcare membership card and present it at the Commissariat Store on arrival. Both members and non-members must participate in the working bees on Sunday. This is our way of paying for what should be a good weekend.

RSVP Andrew Smith by 21st September Phone 6233 2836 or email wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Deal Island — Bass Strait

Deal Island, where is that ? This was our first query as we looked at the article from a “WILDCARE” flyer, asking for volunteers to be caretakers over the December–January period. After making enquires we found out that the December period was taken but we could go on the 21st December for five weeks. After scuttling our summer walking trips, both of us required to have first aid certificates and two interviews later we made preparations to leave, taking with us five weeks worth of food. Flying from Bridport to Lady Barron; from there a four hour boat trip to the top of Flinders Island then heading left for the Kent Group, about 80kms due west.

Deal Island is the largest in the Kent Group of 1,575 hectares, consisting of rugged granite cliffs rising up to 300 metres above sea level, with the

interior consisting mostly of limestone. The islands fall under a Conservation Area and are under proposal for a Marine Reserve. The light station was commissioned in 1843 and de-commissioned in 1992. It has several buildings classified, including the lighthouse.

Then we were left on our own.

Our role on the island was to do maintenance on the various buildings, ventilate the lighthouse every 2–3 days (about 3 kms. From the caretakers house) and a public relations role with visitors, mostly yachts/fisherman, visiting the museum which was the original head lighthouse keepers house. The caretaker’s house and other buildings are situated 77 meters above East Cove up a concrete road from the jetty. An ideal route for the Little Penguins on their way into the many nesting sites in the tussock grass and sea spurge *Euphorbia paralius* which is a major weed at both East and Garden Coves.

There are three white sandy beaches on the island: East Cove, Garden Cove and Winter Cove with a rocky beach at Squally Cove where the remains of ‘*Karitane*’, wrecked in the 1920’s, are scattered on the foreshore. *Eucalyptus nitida* covers about 47% of the island with *Allocasuarina verticillata* 24% and the remainder tussock grasslands of *Poa poiformis* and minor species.

During our stay we had rain the first week over the Christmas period then nothing for the next four weeks with Trauti giving a daily rainfall report to the weather Bureau. We had 30 yachts visiting at east Cove on the eastern side of the island, about 1 hour’s walk to our house. One group of four stayed on the island for six days because of inclement weather forecasts, waiting to cross to Killecrankie on Flinders Island. From the lighthouse, on clear days, we could see across to Wilson’s Promontory and in the other direction down to Flinders Island along with many small islands in our area of Bass Strait. With our days on the beaches swimming, exploring the island’s tracks, by ways and climbing hills, five weeks went by very quickly and soon it was time to pack up and return to Hobart, a privilege to spend time on another of Tassie’s hidden jewels.

David and Trauti Reynolds

Rehabilitation work at Lake St Clair

In 1937 Lake St Clair was dammed by the Hydro Electric Commission (HEC) and the lake level was raised by about 3m. Higher water levels caused considerable erosion and degradation to the lake shore.

Under the 1999 *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan*, a Water Management Strategy has been implemented to minimise these ongoing impacts on the lake shore. The HEC has agreed to modify their operating rules to maintain the lake at lower levels. This will allow natural revegetation to occur and reduce erosion.

Rehabilitation works on the Lake St Clair shoreline have recently been carried out by PWS staff and **WILDCARE** volunteers. Works have targeted Narcissus Bay which is one of the most severely eroded areas. Works undertaken have included:

- Laying of jute matting — this matting traps seeds and organic matter, and reduces the effects of frost heave (frost heave is the movement of soil and rock caused by the formation of ice crystals)
- Spreading of fertiliser — to encourage the growth of moss to provide an organic layer to protect bare areas
- Laying of tea tree slash — the tea tree is a source of organic matter and local seed. The slash also provides protection from frost heave and wind, and from browsing by animals. The slash was threaded into the jute matting so that it will stay in place in strong winds, or if the area becomes inundated by high water levels.
- Placing of coir logs — these rolls of coconut matting were positioned around eucalypt trees to protect

their roots which had become exposed due to erosion.

Rehabilitation at this site will be regularly monitored. To assist the rehabilitation process, please do not walk on the rehabilitation area.

Help needed!

Further rehabilitation works are planned for the Frankland Beaches on the southern side of Lake St Clair.

If you are interested in assisting in future rehabilitation programs at Lake St Clair, contact the Lake St Clair staff.



Nine days in the bush: rehabilitation of the Gell River airstrips

In the early 1970's, Charles Johnson bulldozed his way from Butlers Gorge to the Denison River beneath the Prince of Wales Range. In a flurry of gold mining exploration fever, Johnson constructed two airstrips en route and left a trail of equipment and rubbish including a bulldozer, a wooden caravan, and drums of fuel. Johnson abandoned the area in 1974 and the airstrips were apparently never used.

In 1978 public awareness of the airstrips was raised. Helen Gee, who had been previously aware of a prospecting license held in the area, reported in the *Tasmanian Wilderness Society Journal* No.8:

"We let Charles Victor Johnson unlawfully bulldoze and squalor his way 23 kilometres across Crown Land into the South-West from Butlers Gorge to the Gell River from where he hacked a track right to the Denison River, under the Prince of Wales Range".

I first visited the area in 1987 to access the Prince of Wales Range. The

bombardier track had become overgrown but we were able to follow it to the Denison River, beneath the Prince of Wales Range. The airstrips showed little signs of any revegetation having taken place.

In March 2001 I returned to the airstrips, this time by helicopter. Michael Comfort (Rehabilitation Officer) and I organised a National Heritage Trust funded rehabilitation project using Parks and Wildlife staff, Green Corps trainees, and volunteers. Personnel (seven at one airstrip and six at the other), food, hand tools, equipment, water supplies and fertiliser were all flown in by helicopter for this nine day project.

No rehabilitation works had been carried out on the airstrips, which continued to actively erode. When the airstrips were constructed, the peat soil and vegetation had been windrowed into mounds on either side. With gradients up to 15 degrees the airstrips became major watercourses during rain. This, combined with the compaction of the airstrips, had prevented natural

rehabilitation.

The main objective of the project was to provide drainage and assist the natural rehabilitation process. At each airstrip, drains were constructed across the width of the strips and through the peat mounds. This slowed water flow down the airstrips and got the water off the airstrips. Equipped only with hand tools, it took up to a day to dig through the peat mounds which were over 1.5 metres high and 6 metres wide. Drains were also dug through the bedrock across the airstrips, and windrowed peat was replaced onto the airstrips. Tea tree slash was laid over the sites to provide a source for seed and organic matter, and to slow the movement of water. 500 kg of fertiliser was hand broadcast over the two airstrips.

The project provided a unique experience for the Green Corps trainees, working and living in a remote location. Weather conditions ranged from scorching sun to rain and heavy hailstorms. However the trainees were heard to ask the pilot on the helicopter flight out if they could fly straight back in for another nine days.

Annette Dean
Ranger
Parks and Wildlife Service
Lake St Clair

WILDCARE at the Botanic Gardens National Congress 2001

The following is a copy of the paper presented of at the National Botanic Gardens Congress 2001 by Andrew Smith Manager of Community Partnerships, Resource Management and Conservation, Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment. Andrew is also Chairperson of WILDCARE Inc. The paper was entitled "Building social capital to protect your natural capital"

We spend a lot of time making sure the financial books balance, and trying to increase the economic capital of our organisation, through things like government allocations, entry fees, sponsorship and grants. Without this effort obviously we would not be able to operate.

We also spend a great deal of effort caring for and managing our natural assets, protecting them and improving them where we can. This investment in our natural capital is essential otherwise we have no purpose for existence. It is after all our core business.

To what extent do we recognise the importance of the social context in which we work? How much do we invest into our social capital?

Various models for sustainability recognise the important contribution that economy, ecology and society play. A three legged stool that cannot stand up with one of the legs missing. How do we go about ensuring that the social leg is there when it comes to sustaining our organisations?

There are a number of levels for investment representing various efforts to involve the community, with differing quality of outcome. In the past, and for some of our grander organisations still, it was seen as sufficient to provide information to the public as and when the organisation felt it appropriate. This created a them and us, and generated very little community ownership. There was also a great deal of distrust generated as decisions were seen to be made behind closed doors. The community was also dependent on those organisations making the right decisions on their behalf. It then moved to trying to generate support for what we do, but still essentially

telling people what we do and why we are important from our perspective, trying to convince the public that what we were doing was right. We have the answer, we just need your support. A lot of people believed us, but a lot didn't and the support was inconsistent. We then moved to stakeholder consultation in the hope that the community would decide for themselves to support what we had decided to do. This usually included a few options for discussion, but basically to disagree required a process of complaint and defence, where the organisation still had the ultimate say. This form of relationship with the community generated a network of independent lobby groups as the only effective way for special interests to engage with the consultation process. Consultation and lobbying is still seen by many organisations as the best form of community interaction and many community organisations and networks see this as a primary method for "having a say" and influencing government direction. However, it does little to build social capital in support of the organisation. In fact it could be seen as more successful in building social capital within community against the organisation.

Then came the concept of partnership, working together to identify goals, needs and possible solutions, working together to implement solutions in pursuit of shared objectives, for mutual benefit with mutual support. Partnerships generate a high level of trust and co-operation, utilising the skills and motivation of each partner as appropriate. Partnership is not about dependence or independence, it



is about interdependence, where the strengths of each party builds a robust relationship capable of extending outcomes beyond what could be achieved by either party in isolation. Partnership is not about getting a cheap volunteer workforce to do what the organisation thinks ought to be done, although committed volunteers are an outcome of good social investment. Partnerships are about recognising community participation as part of our business, of the way we work because then the community will see us as part of their business and their way of life. Building strong partnerships with the community creates great institutional strength. It is no accident that the strongest and best respected botanic gardens for example have the largest and most committed Friends groups. The community knows what is being done is good and right because they helped create it and they continue to participate in it. We know that what we are doing is good and proper because we listened to what others had to say about what was needed, responded to our partners, and reaped the benefits of co-operation in the joint implementation of our shared decisions.

So what do we need to have to be able to develop a partnership?

A shared goal. If there is an overlap of interest there is a possibility of developing a partnership.

A level of trust. Often this will develop and grow as a consequence of working in partnership, but a basic level of trust has to exist at the beginning.

A mutual benefit. This is likely to be quite different for each party, but there must be a benefit for everyone involved.

Willingness to work together. Not everyone wants to work co-operatively. Sometimes the trust is not high enough. Sometimes the goal isn't really a shared one. Sometimes a group or organisation, such as a special interest lobby group, will not see partnership as a desirable relationship, as their independence underpins their philosophy and method of operation. We cannot develop partnerships with others who do not want to work with us.

If all of these things exist a strong

productive and beneficial partnership is possible. And the more we work together, the better we understand each other, the better friends we become and the more friends we have. Those that share a little, through involvement as partners, will be able to share much more over time.

There are a number of programs that have been built on this philosophy of partnership. Landcare was one of the first, and with 4500 groups around Australia is one of the largest community networks in Australia. It was interesting though, that at the International Landcare Conference last year, the principle of partnership and interdependence had to be restated, as it was being lost as landcare groups began talking about being independent organisations in the face of decreased financial support from the Commonwealth government. The Landcare network was built on the principle of interdependency between government and community. No one sector can go it alone.

Today I want to use another particularly successful partnership as demonstration of the benefits of providing an opportunity for government and community to work co-operatively.

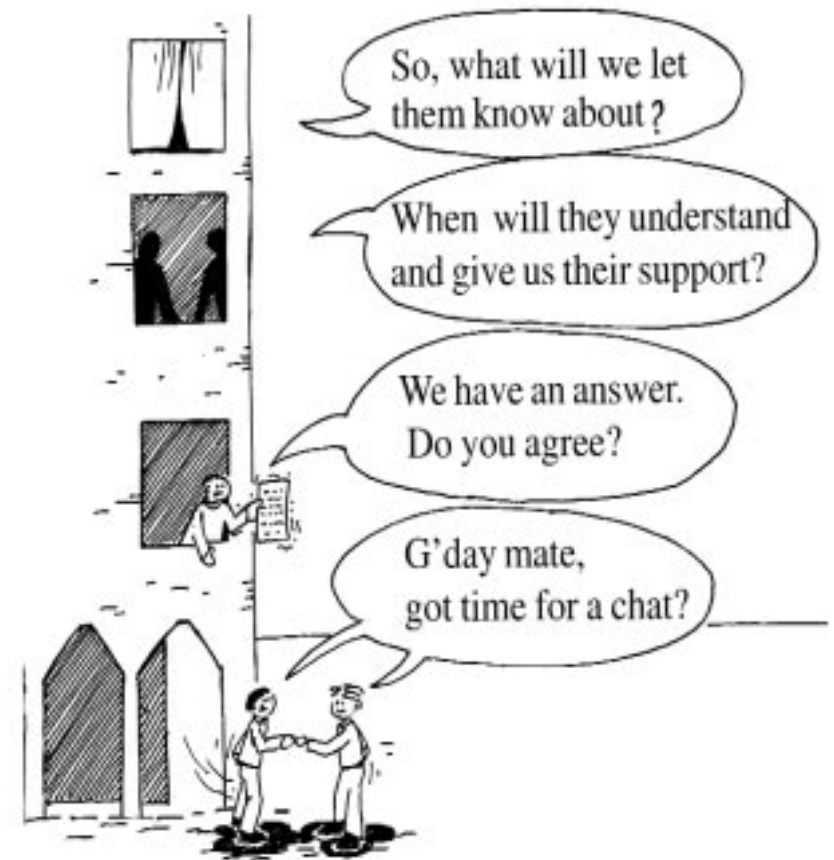
Wildcare was established in 1997 by the then Parks and Wildlife Service as a volunteer program and was then incorporated as a community group in 1998. It was deliberately designed as a interdependent partner organisation.

(See elsewhere in WILDTIMES for rundown of membership numbers etc).

Why has WILDCARE been such a successful partnership? What investments have been made by the partners?

A joint Board of Management — The Board is made up of elected Presidents of Community Action in Reserves groups, a Treasurer and Vice Chairperson elected at the AGM, a Chairperson nominated by the Department (under the Constitution this is tied to the position of Manager of Community Partnerships) and a Secretary nominated by the Department. The Board has a total of 16 members at the moment.

The Annual Conference, involving members and staff, sets the directions and priorities for the coming year.



Members are involved in assessing needs, developing workplans with staff, and work alongside staff to implement the plans.

Mentoring and partnership on the ground by staff, in other words there is a direct relationship between individual staff and individual volunteers.

All projects are real projects, delivering **real results** funded with **real money**.

Training is provided for both staff and volunteers, usually at the same time. This includes relationship training, such as team building and Facilitation skills but also skills training such as Whale First Aid and rescue, trackwork techniques, environmental education techniques, plant conservation techniques, plant propagation, chainsaw and brushcutter operation and so on.

Links with other organisations — these are horizontal partnerships with like-minded community organisations such as the Friends of the RTBG, Landcare groups, Coastcare groups, the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, and so on.

Recognition and rewards for its members. Members are recognised in a variety of ways from the sausage sizzle through to Volunteer of the Year

awards. The Parks and Wildlife Service offers a discount on Annual Park Passes. Some volunteers also receive personal gear such as high visibility vests. **Individual volunteers and groups are acknowledged** in articles in the Newsletter *WILDTIMES*.

Invitation to participate without obligation — volunteers register their interests on the membership form and are direct-mailed when their type of work comes up. They then choose whether or not to be involved. While there is an opportunity to participate there is no compulsion to do so.

Minimal beaurocracy — for example the project funding applications made to the Board of Management are just two pages long

- **Shared goals**
- **Mutual trust**
- **Mutual benefit**
- **Willingness to work together**

Joint decisions

- Board of Management
- Annual Conference
- Works planning

Organisational support

Mentoring on the ground

Training for volunteers and staff

Links to other organizations

Recognition and reward

Minimal Bureaucracy

and involve six questions.

While many of the projects are funded as part of PWS, Nature Conservation or Cultural Heritage operations, **WILDCARE** inc also provides **funds to support projects** that cannot be funded through normal channels.

A great deal of thought is put into making the organisation an **exciting, interesting and productive experience** for members and staff.

How does it all work?

Wildcare has 4 Branches.

The Community Action in Reserves Branch has 1210 members registered, and includes the Friends of groups and Adopt a Track groups mentioned earlier. This branch has the most collaborative approach to working with community with the CAREs and adopt a track groups developing forward works programs based on discussions between the rangers and volunteers.

Nature Care which has 2031 members registered. To date this has been on a volunteer call-up basis but there are now Whale rescue first response groups being formed in stranding hotspots.

The Botanical Guardians sub branch has 910 members registered specifically for plant conservation activities. The Botanical Guardians sub branch is also the Tasmanian community regional network for the Australian Network for Plant

Conservation and works in partnership with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Once again this has primarily operated as a volunteer callup register, but under a proposed adopt a species network local groups will work directly with nature conservation branch to identify, monitor and protect orchid species in the wild. Members have also been working alongside the Friends of the RTBG on a project to propagate and plant Euc. Viminalis for forty spotted pardalote habitat.

Heritage Care, (cultural heritage) has 551 members registered, with two historic site support groups.

And **Wildcare Office** that has 350 members registered. A team of volunteers runs the office including maintaining the member database with other members being involved in assisting with newsletter production, mailouts and event organisation.

(See elsewhere in **WILDTIMES** for projects undertaken over the last year).

The DPIWE, our parent department recognises the importance of partnership with community and specifically identifies **WILDCARE** as one of the important partners for us to work with within its Corporate Plan. The social capital it has developed

demonstrates a supportive and committed community, and one that is willing to work alongside the Department to achieve nature conservation, cultural heritage and Reserve management goals. Many of these goals have been developed through the partnership. At the recent Wildcare conference the Secretary of the Department Kim Evans recognised **WILDCARE** as the ideal partner organisation, and the primary partner for the Department in its responsibilities of nature conservation, cultural heritage conservation and reserve management. The members are an absolute joy to work with and have already made a huge difference without tapping even a fraction of their potential. Its nice to know that what we believe in is the same things as a whole lot of people "out there" do and that there is a great passion and willingness to work together to make a difference.

Andrew Smith

Manager Community Partnerships
Resource Management and
Conservation Division
Department of Primary Industries
Water and Environment

Earth Alive! Biodiversity Month and National Threatened Species Day — how can you get involved?

Earth Alive! Biodiversity Month and National Threatened Species Day 2001 are on again in September. Registration kits are available now.

This year, Biodiversity Month is being organised with National Threatened Species Day, held every year on 7 September to mark the date in 1936 that the last known Tasmanian Tiger died. It aims to raise awareness about Australia's threatened species and encourage all Australians to get involved in their conservation.

Earth Alive! Biodiversity Month this year will be encouraging the community to get their '*Hands on for Habitat*' and create a garden haven for wildlife.

The Community Biodiversity Network and the Threatened Species Network have developed a one-stop-

shop Biodiversity Month/National Threatened Species Day Registration Kit. The Kit includes a product order form, which enables groups taking part to access a broad range of free education and promotional materials.

To receive a copy of the Kit or for more information contact the Community Biodiversity Network. Ph: 02 9262 4743, Email: earthalive@cbn.org.au. For more information about National Threatened Species Day, contact the Threatened Species Network on 1800 251 573.

Groups can also register events and order products on-line through the Biodiversity Month web site at: www.cbn.org.au/projects/earthalive2001/home.html

Lillico Beach Conservation Area, Short-tailed shearwater poaching

During April Short-tailed Shearwater poachers were detected at several locations around the state such as the Lillico Beach Conservation Area and Robbins Island.

Constable Steve Orme of Tasmania Police is to be commended for the prompt assistance he and another officer provided at Lillico Beach Conservation Area when the volunteers detected poachers there. Thanks also to the assistance of Parks and Wildlife Service rangers on two occasions.

The Friends of the Lillico Penguins (some members are also members of Wildcare and registered for Lillico Beach CA) extended their coverage there this year for a further month to assist in catching Shearwater poachers. Members detected poaching on two occasions and promptly called in Parks and Wildlife Service rangers and the police.

It is pleasing that protection can be given to the Shearwaters at Lillico Beach CA so that the 51000 or so overseas and interstate tourists each year can see them shearing through the air and down to and almost touching the surface of the sea as they return to the colony each evening to feed their chicks. This additional monitoring for poachers will continue

next breeding season and for as long as it takes to stamp out poaching. It is vital we protect such a wonderful eco-tourism attraction intact.

The Portuguese Ambassador to Australia, Mr Zozimo da Silva visited the Lillico Beach Conservation Area recently and was impressed that we have such a unique attraction so close to Devonport. He had seen Penguins in another country where some birds were kept in boxes so visitors could see them.

Barry C. Hebbard

Wildcare is everywhere!

Sporting their WILDCARE caps sent by a friend all the way from Tasmania are Kyle (14) and Ryan (11) Beasley from Coventry in England.



A CALL TO ARMS

As some of you may be aware, the Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment recently underwent a significant reorganisation as a result of funding initiatives announced in the 2001 Tasmanian Budget.

Of particular relevance to WILDCARE members was a suggestion that the Community Partnerships Section should be disbanded, with the majority of staff being re-allocated to other Divisions.

As a result of initial reaction to this proposal, the Secretary has agreed to the alternative of a review of the Community Partnerships Section to determine the most effective structure for its continued operation.

An external and independent consultant, who is expected to be announced in the near

future, will carry out the review.

The Community Partnerships Section and its staff provide significant support to WILDCARE, with this co-operation and partnership being a key to our success to date.

I urge all WILDCARE groups to participate in the review by either making written submissions or personal representations to the consultant. If we don't have a say in this extremely important review, then we can hardly complain if the outcome doesn't suit our expectations.

People who wish to make submissions are encouraged to advise either the Chairman or me so that we have a consolidated list of participants to present to the consultant.

Richard Hammond
Vice-Chairman

Foxes in Tasmania? — A grave threat to our wildlife

The European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) was introduced to mainland Australia as early as 1830. Since that time the fox has inflicted enormous impacts on the native wildlife of Australia, being implicated in the extinction of many native animals. Indeed, Australia's appalling record of mammal extinctions in the last 200 years — the worst in the world — is in no small part due to the fox.

Despite a number of sightings of escaped foxes in Tasmania over the past 30 years, including the recent, well-publicised case of a fox which slipped off a container ship in Burnie in May 1998, there is no evidence that the fox has become established in Tasmania. However, the history of reported escapes in Tasmania, and the recent sightings in the Longford area, raise serious concerns that the mechanisms in place to prevent the establishment of the fox in this State are inadequate.

The Potential Threat to Tasmania's Wildlife

The fox represents the single most devastating threat to Tasmania's native mammals and birds. This island State is recognised as a national and international fauna haven due to the lack of foxes, but should the species become established here all of Tasmania's native land animals would be at risk.

Threatened and high conservation significance species at risk would include:

- eastern barred bandicoot
- Tasmanian bettong
- long nosed potoroo
- eastern quoll
- southern brown bandicoot
- long tailed mouse
- velvet furred rat
- New Holland mouse
- hooded plover
- little tern
- fairy tern
- ground parrot
- ground thrush
- painted button quail
- great crested grebe
- green and gold bell frog
- tussock skink
- glossy grass skink.

The Tasmanian pademelon and Tasmanian bettong, both of which thrive in Tasmania, are now extinct on the mainland because of the fox. The mainland eastern barred bandicoot has been reduced to a mere 200 surviving individuals because of the fox. The young of unique species such as the Tasmanian devil, spotted tail quoll that are left unattended in dens are highly vulnerable to fox predation.

More widespread species like ducks, shorebirds, ground nesting birds, blue tongue lizards, mountain dragons, skinks and frogs are all highly at risk. Even animals such as the little penguin and platypus are at risk.

Additionally, foxes are carriers of disease and spread environmental weeds.



The potential threat to Tasmania's Agricultural Industry

Domestic poultry, sheep and lambs are targeted by foxes. Foxes can also carry diseases which impact upon both native wildlife and domestic stock. They are known carriers of distemper, parvovirus, canine hepatitis, heart worm, hydatids and sarcoptic mange. Indeed, it is believed that the individual fox which escaped from a container ship in Burnie in May 1998 had a 12% chance of carrying heart worm.

In Europe, the fox is the main carrier



of rabies. Should rabies ever be introduced into Australia, foxes would likely be the main agent of its spread.

The Fox has Ravaged the Australian Mainland's Wildlife

The European Red Fox is recognised nationally as the single most devastating introduced pest and threat to Australia's native land animals. It has been listed as a National Threat on the *Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*.

A national research and management effort is underway to investigate and trial biological and other forms of eradication. To date, there is no evidence that control measures have met with success in limiting the distribution or abundance of the fox. Introduced to mainland Australia in the 1870's, it is now widespread across every State except the tropical far north and Tasmania.

Australia's wildlife has not evolved in the presence of foxes, and therefore lacks adequate adaptations to cope with the predatory prowess of the fox. In Victoria, for example, the fox has established itself in all terrestrial environments from inner urban areas to alpine heaths, rainforests to coastal heaths and mallee. It is known to have caused the extinction of six mammals and is currently causing the near extinction of the:

- eastern barred bandicoot
- long footed potoroo
- broad toothed rat
- New Holland mouse
- mountain pygmy possum
- brushtailed rock wallaby
- broad-shelled tortoise
- malleefowl
- hooded plover
- little tern.



Minimal Impact Bushwalking

Minimal impact techniques are used to reduce the effects that people have on the environment. Minimal impact bushwalking (MIB) allows walkers to enjoy their natural surroundings without causing too much environmental degradation. It's all about walking softly!

The use of fuel stoves

Campfires cause unsightly scars on the landscape. Burning and collecting wood can destroy homes for small plants and animals. Escaped campfires can lead to disastrous bushfires. For these reasons the entire Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and some other areas in Tasmania have been declared Fuel Stove Only Areas, this means campfires are not permitted and fines apply. When using a fuel stove take care to place your stove and any hot pots on hard surfaces. Some vegetation does not easily recover from the heat of stoves and pots.



Pack it in — pack it out!

Take all of your rubbish out with you! Why? Littering spoils the experience for others. Most rubbish won't decompose and causes pollution. Animals may try to eat your rubbish; this can seriously harm them. Rubbish includes food scraps, twisty ties, sanitary pads and tampons, condoms, and any other bushwalkers' garbage

you can collect off the track!

Stay on track

For your own safety and the environment's sake, please stick to the formed track. If the track is braided or wide stay in the middle of the track. If



there is no track, fan out and do not follow in each other's footsteps. Never create a track with tape or cairns. This is illegal and fines apply. When walking on beaches, please be aware that you are sharing the beach with shore-nesting birds. Walk below the high-tide mark.

Campsite etiquette

Pitch your tent on an established site rather than creating a new one. If raised tent platforms or huts exist please use them. Once camp is established minimise your movements. Collect your water once for the evening rather than making repeat trips. A large water carrier like an old wine bladder is great for this.



Phytophthora procedures

The root rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is present in Tasmania. This microscopic fungus is transmitted in mud and soil and can kill native plants. To help stop the spread of *Phytophthora* make sure you start the walk with clean gear including boots, tent pegs, gaiters and

tent floor.

Make sure you use washdown stations when they are provided on track. At the end of your walk wash down all equipment.

Toilets in the bush

If a toilet exists please use it! This will help reduce the risk of giardi, which can cause an intestinal illness. If there is no toilet then walk 100m away from water and the track, dig a 15-cm hole and bury your waste and the toilet paper as well.

Party size

The Parks and Wildlife Service recommends varying party size restrictions for different walks. If you plan on walking in a group larger than 6 contact the Parks and Wildlife Service for further information. The above information is available as a PDF File (268 Kb) for download and printing.



Thankyou!

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

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And the following *WILDCARE* member-discount sponsors

Parks and Wildlife Service – \$20 discount on Annual Park Pass

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Par Avion Wilderness Flights – 10% discount

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers – \$2 discount per night

Moonpads – 5% discount

The Possum Shed, Westerway – 10% discount on all gifts

(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 Community Partnerships Section** for more details (Ph 6233 2836 — 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

