

WILDCARERS Work & Relax at Maria Island

On the weekend of 13–14 October 2001, 34 *WILDCARE* members drifted over to Maria Island, to indulge in work and play, and to enjoy the hospitality PWS staff on the island.

The weather on Friday was wet, wet, wet, but Saturday allowed us to do some of the work set down for the weekend. After the majority of us disembarked from the morning ferry, we were greeted by Jo Field (Adopt-a-Track Facilitator), loaded our packs onto the trolley and hauled them up to the Penitentiary to settle in.

Once settled, we gathered together in the Convict Mess Hall to get the lowdown from Chris Arthur (PWS Senior Ranger) about the agenda for the island, what had been achieved to date and what was planned within the budgets.

Alan Coates (PWS Ranger) then told of his interests on the island, followed by Andrew Smith (*WILDCARE* Chairman) outlining the weekend activities. A number of activity sheets were posted on the boards for volunteers to write their names under their selected tasks. Saturday afternoon was allocated for relaxing and preparing for the big night time events, however, being members of an "action organisation", we instead shot off in all directions

(compliments of Community Partnerships Section) of steaks, rissoles, sausages, with salads supplied by some of the volunteers and finishing up with fresh fruit. Most members did BYO [alcoholic] beverages, but a couple looked on imbibing with envy ... forgot to bring a supply?!

Night started to stride across the sky but there was plenty of light from a huge bonfire of pine refuses. The kids — big and small — played



Bill Forsyth & Patti Burbury planting trees at campground. Photo A Smith.



Volunteers enjoying a good "nosh" on Saturday evening. Photo J Field.

soccer until it became too dark to score between goals that could only be seen by the game's players!

We drifted up from the picnic shelter to the Mess Hall — which today is used by school parties for lessons and assemblies. The fire in a corner

they proved to be, with Gaelic-flavour music.

Sunday morning we woke to rain, which meant for some a change from outdoor to indoor jobs. But as the old farmers saying goes "rain before seven, cleared by eleven" — and it



The Ranters from Hobart provided hours of entertainment! Photo J Field.

with gloves, tools and equipment needed for our chosen tasks.

Come that evening we ambled down to the picnic shelter for a BBQ

of the Hall was burning well and throwing out lots of warmth. The band for the night were the Ranters (Hobart) and what a great combo

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WILDTIMES

Newsletter of *WILDCARE* Incorporated
Community Partnership Section, Resource Management and
Conservation Division, DPIWE
GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001
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did! The tree planters continued the action in the camping area; this time planting Casuarinas in amongst the Dogwood copse planted the day before. The Rangers kept the materials (wooden stakes and plastic sleeves) up to the 'planters', with one joke (slightly over exercised) "how do you like your stakes, rare or medium?"

All too soon it was time to pack up the gear, have lunch and catch the ferry. A lot was achieved over the weekend — both work and play.

Some of the jobs undertaken by volunteers over the weekend included seedlings re-potted at the nursery near the workshop; a large fence was partially removed to be relocated above the gully near Fossil Cliffs; the inside and out of Preros (the shack in the sand dunes) felt volunteers at work with a tank stand erected and a tank positioned (nearly!), and inside lining and cover strips put into place. A drain was attended to near the Penitentiary toilet block, relocation of artefacts and, as mentioned, the tree planting. All these jobs, which took less than 2 days to complete, would have taken the Maria PWS staff ages to do because of their other work obligations such as talking to visitors, administrative duties and ferries to meet.

WILDCARE members get such a kick out of being in our parks, especially so



"The Ranters" head home. Photo A Smith.

when you have contributed to the maintenance and new projects. That is why our **WILDCARE** membership grew at such a fast rate and it still growing, because volunteers get enjoyment out of the work they do and PWS staff enjoy seeing their ideas come to fruition with our help.

It was a great weekend in all respects!

Bill Forsyth

WILDCARE member

In the Year of the Volunteer, this community partnership program was a classic example of what WILDCARE is all about.

Members gathered from near and far on this little gem of an island by taking the opportunity to mix with fellow **WILDCARE**rs, exchange

ideas, experiences and to enjoy various social activities.

After discussions it became obvious people were keen to assist Park staff with some work from the list of jobs waiting to be addressed. A majority opted to dismantle the old animal barrier fence

near the Fossil Cliffs (which will be re-erected to protect a nearby erosion gully). Other "botanical buffs" worked on revegetation of selected areas, with the Maria Island CAREs group members working on and around Preros hut.

All this activity was followed by an evening of quality entertainment. The bonfire and barby was a feature. **BUT WHERE DID THEY GET THAT IRISH BAND?** They were great, an inspiration to everyone skilled or otherwise in the art of the dance.

Some amazing talent revealed publicly for all to see. **RIVERDANCE EAT YOUR HEART OUT!**

Overnight rain ruined any further effort on the fence demolition, some indoor jobs occupied volunteers before leaving. On a personal inspection of several projects being undertaken by the Maria Island CAREs group I must acknowledge the positive things they have achieved. The Painted Cliffs access track, the circular walk to the historic Oast House Ruins and the reconstruction at Preros are all a testament of their dedication and enthusiasm. Congratulations!

Lyle Rubock

WILDCARE member

Note: Another "Back to Maria" weekend is planned for March 2002. If members are interested in participating and their names included on the mailout out next year, please contact the Community Partnerships Section on 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

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Friends of Mt Field — President's Report

The Friends of Mt Field CAREs group is moving forward with plans for activities involving *WILDCARE* members that will provide a benefit for the park. The uptake of tracks under Adopt-a-Track in Mt Field has also been good and is something we would like to see grow.

One project is to spruce up and paint the interiors of the huts near Lake Dobson.

Another possibility is maintenance of the newly landscaped gardens around the Visitor centre. The plants used are native to the local area and will need some maintenance a few times per year. Removal of weeds, a bit of rubbish and replace the odd dead plant



Mt Field CAREs group — some members at the inaugural CARE's meeting in December 2001. Photo J Field.

that does not make it to maturity.

Signs that have been erected throughout the park need to be checked and records updated and this is something that may interest a few people to take on as a task.

If you would like to be kept regularly

informed about the Friends of Mt. Field activities then contact Peter Franklin by email at <pfranklin@trump.net.au> or by phoning 03 6228 4889.

Peter Franklin
President, Mt Field CAREs Group

A day in the sun on Maatsuyker Island

I was recently lucky enough to grab a helicopter flight to Maatsuyker Island, accompanied by the General Manager of the Huon Municipality, to have a look at the island, meet with the *WILDCARE* members starting their three month placement, check out the type of work they undertake, and have a look at a couple of proposed working bee projects for later in the year.

The day was absolutely wonderful with a light breeze to move that so fresh air around, and warm sunshine,

View of lighthouse and Southern Ocean. Photo A Smith.



not your usual weather for the island. The welcome was warm too with Albert Thompson, the Ranger in charge of the Caretaker program, and *WILDCARE*rs John and Wilhelmina (Willie) Watts meeting us as we landed high on the side of the island. The helicopter pad must have one of the most beautiful views in the country, looking out over the Southern Ocean, rocky islands and Southwest Cape in the distance on the "mainland".

The island has three houses, with the one being used by the volunteer



The "clockwork" of the lighthouse. Photo A Smith.

Caretakers being located just above the original lighthouse, overlooking a seal colony on the rocky island just offshore. These houses have been the subject of volunteer activity, being cleaned, washed, floors replaced and regularly aired, since the program began. The grass around the houses and along the one and only road has now also been tamed to be lawn as it was during the lighthouse keeper times.

The Caretakers also carry out three hourly weather reports from a weather station near the main house. The weather reports we see on the TV and hear on the radio giving wind and sea conditions off the coast of southern Tasmania are provided by

WILDCARE volunteers. These reports are very important for the fishers working in the area and bushwalkers on the South Coast track. After a wonderful lunch of home made (what else would it be?) bread and soup we walked along the road to the red shed. Access to the shore and from the sea is very limited, and the one reasonable location still required a long haulage line (originally powered by horses and later a diesel engine) from the shore to the red shed. Unloading of supplies was a frantic affair as, should the weather close in, the boat would leave, taking with it any unloaded supplies.

The shoreline is out of bounds for the Caretakers nowadays, for safety Lighthouse keeper house and roads on the island. Photo A Smith.



Flying over Hobart town. Photo A Smith.

reasons (the seas are very unpredictable even on apparently calm days) and because the sheltered bay at the haulage is a favourite place for

mosaic of different species creating a tight and low canopy, constantly moving in the wind. Much of the walking around the island is in below this roof of vegetation.

We had a look at the original lighthouse that is still in full working order with beautifully engineered workings of finely tuned bearings, cogs and weights. The lighthouse will possibly be the focus for a working bee on the island as it needs external and internal painting. In the meantime the Caretakers check the light daily to clean up any leaks from rain and salt spray.

John and Willie have been on the island before, doing a wintertime shift so were looking forward to a summer on the island. John has a long background in metallurgy and management with Pasminco. Willie recently qualified as a Library Technician. Both are very independently competent, fit and able to turn their hands to anything — not a bad attribute for a Caretaker in a place like this. Albert Thompson had been on the island with the Caretakers for four days helping them settle in, but as John and Willie are experienced

Maatsuyker Island Caretakers, John & 'Willie' Watts on Maatsuyker.



seals that don't like being disturbed. A second seal colony is clearly visible from the main house and Willie told a story of the great storm that washed seals from the rocks killing a number in the process. On this day though they were loudly lounging on the rocks sunning themselves in the warm sunshine or happily floating in the water below. Other wildlife on the island includes thousands of shearwaters, an occasional sea eagle and wedgetailed eagle, and even a swamp harrier cruising the edge of the vegetation, and the tiny antechinus, no doubt carefully hiding from the Swampy. There are no snakes on the island, and thankfully no rabbits, hence the vegetation is in pretty good condition apart from the occasional breakage resulting from Shearwaters crash landing into the canopy.

The vegetation is a very interesting result of the constant winds cutting across the island punishing anything that tries to poke its head above the surrounding vegetation. Viewed from above it is a colourful patchwork

POETS BREAKFAST EAGLEHAWK CAFÉ

If you are interested in Creative Writing and Poetry, come and join in on this informal group meeting at the Eaglehawk Café, 5131 Arthur Highway, Eaglehawk Neck.

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Next meeting will be 30 December 2001 at 10:30am with special guest Margaret Scott.

WILDCARE members are entitled to 10% discount* off all meals valued over \$20.00.

(*alcohol not included.)



It's hard being a helicopter pilot! Photo A Smith.



Helicopter at Cambridge airport. Photo A Smith.

Caretakers they were able to spend some time together with Albert getting a few of those sorts of jobs done that require three people.

Becoming a Maatsuyker Caretaker (or Matites as some of the Caretakers like to call themselves) is not as simple as just signing up. The training, involving a number of weeks, includes induction, weather reading and recording, first aid, safety, radio use, a medical test to pass, and even a psychological test to ensure that you will be able to cope with the isolation. Re-supplies only happen every four to six weeks. Safety is a big focus of the induction course as should an injury occur it might involve several days waiting for the weather to clear to allow evacuation. So, prevention is better than a cure for sure in this place.

At the end of the day as we waved goodbye to John and Willie and left them to begin their three months alone I felt a huge amount of admiration for volunteers who undertake this type of work. They are very special people. The program is an outstanding example of what can be achieved by volunteers properly supported and trained, working in cooperation with the Ranger staff. I am sure that the island is in safe hands. I am also sure that the Caretakers are in competent hands with Albert obviously very capable of ensuring it all works well.

For those number crunchers out there, it is pretty good value too. The Matites provide 17,480 hours of volunteer presence on the island each year. That alone is worth \$262,200 not to mention the money being saved by preventing deterioration of the buildings and other assets on the island.

To cap the day off, on the way back we did a few tight turns over Vanishing Falls south of Hartz Mountain National Park. These spectacular falls plummet over a limestone cliff to disappear into a cave

system at the foot of the falls rather than flow down the riverbed. Just another example of the amazing natural features that Tasmania has. A truly beautiful group of islands.

If you would like to hear more about the possible working bees on Maatsuyker island, contact the **WILDCARE** Office by email

<wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> or phone 6233 2836 to alter your database records to include Maatsuyker Island as a possible work location. This will ensure that you receive notification of any working bees coming up.

Andrew Smith
Chairperson, **WILDCARE** Inc

Adopt-A-Track News

Tasman NP Track Maintenance Workshop

On a Sunday in early September 2001, 9 **WILDCARE** members attended a one-day track maintenance workshop at the Tasman National Park, located on the Tasman Peninsula. This workshop was specifically held for individuals interested in adopting various tracks within the "new" Park.

The meeting point on that morning was at Waterfall Bay car park, at the northern end of the Park. Once introductions and an overview of the days events were undertaken by David Clarke, PWS Ranger, Taranna Field Centre and Jo Field, Adopt-a-Track Facilitator, the volunteers headed out with 2 PWS Trackworkers — Andrew Ferguson and Rob Edwards — to discuss and view various aspects of track maintenance and how volunteers who nominated to be a Track Caretaker would use those techniques on their adopted tracks.

After following the track up to Tatnells Hill, the group headed back to Eaglehawk Café for afternoon tea (compliments of PWS) and to sign up as Track Caretakers. Tracks adopted/in the process of being adopted include: Mt Fortescue; Lichen Hill-Cashes Lookout-Tatnells Crest; Cape Raoul (part of); Waterfall Bay-Waterfall Bluff.

Individuals who participated on the

day are either from the Tasman Peninsula or have a longstanding attachment to the area (e.g. Hobart Walking Club members). Blane Fitzgerald, co-Track Caretaker of Mt Fortescue track — commented that the terrain where some of the cut tracks are located were possibly okay for low impact usage (i.e. number of walkers), but could see why management practices and techniques used by Parks & Wildlife Service today are needed, especially with

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substantial number increase of people who walk these same tracks now. "The track maintenance techniques we learnt [at the workshop] were a real eye-opener!" said Blane.

There are still a number of tracks available for adoption within Tasman NP. For more information on track adoption within this or other PWS National Parks and Reserves contact Jo Field, Adopt-a-Track Facilitator on 03 6336 5454 or email <adoptatrack@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

Adopt-a-Track Track Maintenance Information Workshop

Sunday 7th October 2001 saw over 35 **WILDCARE** volunteers, Track Caretakers, Park Rangers and Community Partnership Section staff a Track Maintenance Information Workshop held at Mt. Field National Park.

The workshop kicked off at 9.30 am with a welcome from the Adopt-a-Track Facilitator — Jo Field — followed by a presentation from Senior Interpretation Officer, Peter Grant.

Peter's topic "*Explain yourself! Interpretation on the Track*", led to us having a broader understanding about our cultural and natural resources. After some discussion, we broke off into groups to reveal our "hidden drama skills"! Here we took turns as a track volunteer, or a party of people out for a walk asking the "trackie" what they were doing, and why they were doing it and how they became involved. The "trackie" then had to respond to our questions, while the rest of the group listened for the



Mark Fountain demonstrating to volunteers the theory of "invisible pruning". Photo C Leitch.

answers that were the most convincing. Our groups carried out this exercise with enthusiastic intentions, however, soon our acting created lots of laughs and giggles.

Jamie Everett, Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council Field Officer, presented the second topic. Jamie's talk aimed in making us more aware of indigenous cultural heritage. This was followed up by a video taken on the North West Coast, as well as the passing around of stone artefacts that were used as tools. The artefacts were extremely interesting — the shape of the stone tool fitted snugly into our hands. By looking and touching, it raised our awareness how these stone tools can easily be mistaken with other stones lying on the ground.

The third topic presented by Mark Fountain, Horticultural Operations Manager of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, was focused on the art of "invisible pruning practices". We learnt valuable

guidelines to better pruning techniques and now feel more confident when taking that final "snip" with our secateurs and pruning saws along our adopted tracks (not to mention in our garden!).

From this point, our next presentation was a most delicious and tasty lunch. "Thanks" must go to those responsible in preparing such a fabulous lunch that was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us. This was also a time for everyone to become acquainted with other **WILDCARE** members from various parts of the State.

Dick Dwyer, using his extensive knowledge and experience in drainage and surface water management, gave the final presentation. This was coupled by 2 groups undertaking practical sessions on pruning and drainage techniques out in the field, on the Lyrebird Nature Trail, the Woodlands Track, and the Mt Field East track.

On conclusion of the workshop, many aspects became apparent. For example, from our interpretation session we all shared similar reasons for why we volunteer our services to Parks & Wildlife as **WILDCARE** members. Through other sessions we advanced our skill levels and knowledge to the point where we feel confident that we can undertake most tasks that as Track Caretakers, we are required to do on our adopted tracks.

For those **WILDCARE** members unable to attend, we would thoroughly recommend any future workshops. They are not only a valuable learning experience but also lots of fun!

Kerry, Bron & Leigh Smith
Track Caretakers — Mt Field NP

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Mt Field Track Maintenance Information Workshop: A novice's point of view!

The weather deteriorated throughout the Derwent Valley on Saturday afternoon [of the weekend of the workshop], so it was surprising that so many enthusiastic participants gathered on Sunday morning (7 October) at Mt Field Visitor Centre.

The presenters were accomplished speakers and had the undivided attention of their audience with informative and often entertaining offerings.

Peter Grant began the proceedings with a thought provoking quiz and it came as no surprise to him that his audience knew more about themselves than the other three categories — Tasmania's palaeofauna; the trigonometry of walking track design; or high latitude meteorology!

However, I am sure to retain all that I learnt particularly from Mark Fountain [RTBG speaker on the topic of "Invisible Pruning and Other Encouraging Practices"] and Dick Dwyer [PWS Senior Ranger speaker

Dick Dwyer demonstrating to participants the installation of a waterbar. Photo J Field.



on the topic of "Surface Water Management"]. Jamie Everett's [TALC Field Officer] presentation was intriguing and left me reviewing my tendency to collect unusual things in case of they being indigenous stone artefacts!

The practical sessions were experienced in the afternoon in fairly kind conditions. While I hardly plan to use waterbars in my garden, many of Mark's advice on pruning will be incorporated in my garden and on working bees.

I learnt greatly from Dick's dirty work and can't wait for the next club-



Vonda Sushames shows Dick Dwyer (PWS) how to dig a drainage channel for a waterbar! Photo J Field.

working bee where I will hopefully be given the task to make my very own water bar!

Thank you Jo and all who contributed in making this a beneficial and most enjoyable experience.

Vonda Sushames

President, North West Walking Club

+ WILDCARE member

Adopt-a-Track Road Show Photographic Display

Over the next 6 months a photographic display will be travelling around the State, showing WILDCARE members involved in a

number of Adopt-a-Track working bees on tracks located in many Tasmanian Reserves and National Parks. Photos include those taken by Lea Photographics, Hobart.

The display will be held at various Parks & Wildlife visitor centres, Forest and Council visitor information centres, and Service Tasmania outlets in Launceston and Hobart — so keep your eye out!

Forestry Tasmania and the Adopt-a-Track Program

Over the 12 months in developing the Adopt-a-Track Program Guidelines, a number of people showed interested in adopting Forestry-managed tracks. Discussions are currently being held with Forestry Tasmania with the view of extending this Program to allow WILDCARE members to adopt and maintain Forestry tracks. If you have any questions about this process please contact Andrew Smith, Chairman, WILDCARE Inc. on 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

CALL UP NOTICE

Volunteer Callup — Do you know a 2nd language?

Parks & Wildlife's Visitors Service Section is currently developing interpretative information manuals for 5 regions around the State.

A large component is the PWS information note sheets. Approximately 30 of the note sheets could potentially be translated into other languages.

If you are fluent in German, Japanese, French or Chinese

(Mandarin) and you would like to volunteer to assist in this project, please contact the WILDCARE office on 03 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>. Your member record will be updated and the information passed onto the Visitors Service Section Manager. (Note — advice on when the project is to start will not be until early 2002).

Walking Tracks available for adoption (updated)

The following walking tracks are available for "adoption" under the Adopt-a-Track Program*. If anyone is interested in one (or more) of the listed tracks please contact the Community Partnerships Facilitators to discuss what level of involvement is required under the Program. If there is a track not listed which you may have an interest in, please give us a call.

Note: Tracks with a line through them have been adopted.

PWS RESERVES	Track Name
Ben Lomond NP	Bent Bluff
Central Plateau CA [^]	Storys Creek to Stacks Bluff
Central Plateau CA (Western Tiers)	Mother Cummings (Smoko Rd access)
	Mother Cummings (West Thorpe Rd access)
	Higgs
	Parsons
	Syds
	Western Bluff
	Western Creek
Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair NP [^]	Rodway (Cradle Mountain)
	Watersmeet (Lake St Clair)
Devils Gullet SR	Devils Gullet
Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers NP [^]	Fincham
	Kelly Basin Bird River
	Mt Murchison
Freycinet NP	Cooks Beach to Hazards
	Hazards to car park
	Isthmus
	Mt Amos
	Mt Graham to Cooks Beach
	Winglass Bay to Mt Graham
Hartz Mtn NP [^]	Kermadie (old access track to Hartz Mountains)
Maria Island NP	East House Painted Cliffs Circuit
Mt Field NP	Lady Barron Falls from Camperond
	Lady Barron Falls to Tall Trees
	Lake Fenton to Webster
	Mt Field East
	Tall Trees Circuit
	"Valley Track"
Mt Roland	Various beach access tracks at Deep Creek +
Mt William NP	Eddystone Point
Narawntapu NP	Archers Knob
	Badger Head Coastal
	Springlawn
	West Head Coastal
Notley Gorge SR	Notley Gorge
Penguin Cradle Trail	Section between Taylors Flat & Mt Beecroft
Rocky Cape NP	Postmans
Snug Tiers NRA	Pelverata Falls
	Snug Falls
Southwest NP [^]	Needles
	Sentinal Range
	Woolies Tarn
Steppes SR	Steppes Walk
Tasman NP	Bivouac Bay to Fortescue Bay
	Camp Falls to Bivouac Bay
	Cape Hauy
	Cape Pillar (bottom section)
	Cape Raoul
	Devils Kitchen to Waterfall Bay
	Lichen Hill Cashes Lookout Tatnells
	Mt Fortescue
	Waterfall Bay to Waterfall Bluff

CA = Conservation Area (in the WHA), NP = National Park, NRA = Nature Recreation Area, SR = State Reserve, PWS = Parks & Wildlife Service.

* The Adopt-a-Track Program is a volunteer program that provides the community with an opportunity to become actively involved in maintaining walking tracks and other activities associated with track use, on an on-going basis.

Contact details for Community Partnerships Section Facilitators involved with the Adopt-a-Track Program:

Jo Field	Chris Leitch
Adopt-a-Track Facilitator (Statewide)	WHA Community Partnership Facilitator
Ph: 03 6336 5454	Ph: 03 6233 2867
Email: <Jo.Field@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>	Email: <Chris.Leitch@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>

Note: Chris facilitates all tracks adopted within the World Heritage Area (WHA). The Reserves that fall under the WHA are marked with[^].

Eco-tourism at Lillico Beach

A busload of seniors from Western Victoria was some of the first visitors to the Lillico Beach Conservation Area this penguin-breeding season. Being only ten minutes from Devonport Lillico Beach Conservation Area is one of the attractions many interstate and overseas visitors interested in wildlife are anxious to see for the Little Penguins and Short tailed Shearwaters.

When the volunteers for the Parks & Wildlife Service start work in late September the number of visitors is small as it is fairly chilly but as the weather warms up and the evenings lengthen visitor numbers jump to around 200 people each night. While Tasmanians are rather blasé about the penguins and shearwaters our visitors are over the moon to see such fantastic wildlife at very close range in a natural setting. Comments in the visitors book include "Thanks for the important work in protection" (NSW visitor), "Very good to see them in a natural state (Victorian), It is a great



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Barry Hebbard, Chairman Friends of the Lilloco Penguins and Mary Binks, Mayor Devonport City Council, have high hopes for the penguins creating a tourism boom. Photo D Cumming, Advocate Newspaper.

privilege to see the penguins in their natural environment" (visitor from England).

The number of penguins on the 14-hectare site is about 3000 and there are hundreds of Shearwaters. This year two lots of poachers were detected with one person being fined \$1000. This should be a deterrent to anyone else thinking of doing the same. It is pretty poor that this colony

of shearwaters, which is such an attraction for visitors could be so easily wiped out by poachers. A bit like going to Phillip Island to kill the penguins!

At other penguin and shearwater viewing sites around the State visitors have to book and pay before being taken to view the birds. At Lilloco Beach this is not the case, so anyone travelling on the busy Bass Highway

can just pull off the road and be at the viewing platform. This makes the work done by the volunteers from the Friends of the Lilloco Penguins and the summer rangers vital, as not only do they interpret the two species to visitors and explain the rules for visiting the Conservation Area but they also immediately advise Tasmania Police and the Rangers if they suspect shearwater poaching is occurring.

At the moment the number of volunteers at Lilloco Beach is down so there is a wonderful opportunity for interested people to join the team and make a real practical difference on the ground protecting both the values of this important wildlife habitat and the wildlife that live there. This is a genuine ecotourism experience unlike places where ecotourism is claimed simply to increase the amount charged at the gate.

Interested? Please phone Barry, Chairman of the Friends of the Lilloco Penguins on 6424 5178 for details of training and placement on the roster.

Barry Hebbard
Chairman, Friends of the Lilloco Penguins

NEW PROJECTS FUNDED

Project	Contact	Requested	Granted	Details
Track Warden Program Cradle Mountain	Kathy Van Dullemen (PWS)	\$1800.00	\$1800.00	Good project. It was agreed to give the — project in principle support of \$1800 subject to the spending of the \$3500 currently held first.
Education Volunteer Training	Jenni Burdon (PWS)	\$2200.00	\$2200.00	Are getting in kind contributions of \$3000 from PWS. Approve subject to funding needs for the Threatened Species Manuals. Also subject to not being able to find a volunteer to assist with program set up for 4 days (\$640).
Maatsuyker Island Volunteer Reward (PWS)	Albert Thompson	\$1475.00	\$1475.00	Volunteers do a 3-month stint on the island. Want to present sleeveless vest Scheme to the volunteers with the WILDCARE logo on it. Shared costs (\$1475 each). Would involve a ceremony to present the vests to around 70 participants. Application was approved — considered an excellent proposal.
Steppes Walk (signage) (PWS)	Mike Cousins	\$2500	\$2500	Support up to \$2500 with provision of more accurate costs and further details. Also suggest seeking sponsorship for materials.
Steppes Walk (Shelter)	Mike Cousins (PWS)	\$1850	\$2000	Actual costs needed. It was agreed to get Mike Cousins to bill us after the project is finished with the total amount approved up to \$2000.

WILDCARE Small Grants application forms are available from the **WILDCARE** Office, phone 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

Community interest mapping in the Tasmanian World Heritage Area (WHA)

Community Engagement an important way to manage the WHA

One important requirement under the World Heritage Convention is to adopt a general policy which aims to give the natural and cultural heritage a function in the life of the community.

Involving communities in planning and managing the WHA assists with the integration of the WHA into the community and provides for the opportunity for a two-way flow of information between managers and the public.

In addition to involvement in planning, people increasingly want to actively help in managing the area. Volunteers can expand the Service's work capabilities and assist in achieving management objectives.

Community Interest Mapping

The Community Interest Mapping project is being undertaken to implement part of the Established Practices section of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (WHA) Management Plan 1999 (pages 104–106).

Project Aim

The project aims to map all interests and uses of the WHA by individuals, communities and groups (including statutory bodies etc.) and to place this information on a database that is easily accessible to relevant staff of the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Resource Management and Conservation Division (RMC).

Data Use

Staff will use the information as an aid to assist them administer and manage the area. Managers, planners and other staff can use the database to identify those individuals and groups it is necessary to involve when making decisions that may affect an area, preparing management and site plans, or in relation to specific works within the WHA. The WHA Community Partnerships Facilitator will use the information to identify those groups and individuals with common interests who may wish to form a partnership with the PWS.

Data Collection

There are two types of information that we are interested in collecting in this project. Firstly we want to collect general "topic" interests (including uses). This information could include yours/your groups/your community general interest in topics, such as all or some (but not specific) tracks, huts, landscapes/landforms, rivers, campsites, mountains, coastal areas, nature conservation, cultural heritage etc., information that is not easily mapped.

The second type of information is spatially specific, that is easily mapped, such as a specific hut, a track or a section, a campsite etc. This information will be entered onto a map-based database. The two sets of data will be linked to create an overall picture of the interests in the WHA. Data will be collected on an ongoing basis and therefore the database will be constantly updated to ensure that staff has current information.

Your/Your community/Your group Input

As an individual or as a community or group you are invited to fill out the following details relating to your use(s) or association(s) with the WHA. There are several levels of interest that you or your group can be aligned with and these relate to the engagement you or your group wishes to have in this program and the Department.

For more information on how you can register please contact Chris Leitch, WHA Community Partnerships Facilitator on 03 6233 2867 or email <Chris.Leitch@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

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Narawntapu Visitors Hut Revamp

On Saturday 27 October, a small group of members (4 adults and 6 children) of the Narawntapu National Park CAREs group has another working bee in the Park — the project being a much needed spring clean, update and re-organisation of displays in the Visitors Hut.

The morning involved emptying out the hut including lots of heavy duty dusting and cleaning. As always on Springlawn, local residents of wombats, wallabies and pademelons kept us company.

Lunch was a delicious BBQ put on by the Rangers. We also took this time to relax and discuss future **WILDCARE** projects at Narawntapu.

The afternoon consisted of replacing many of the old posters with new, colourful ones that contain updated information, as well as reorganising



Narawntapu Visitors Hut clean up and revamp. Photo S Donkers.

the remaining displays.

At the end of the project we were able to look at and enjoy the revitalised Hut. Though only a small area the Hut gives valuable interpretation of the Park, including photos of track work undertaken by **WILDCARE** volunteers.

As always, a lovely day in the Park and confirmation to myself yet again

that **WILDCARE** is fantastic!

Suzie Donkers

President, Narawntapu CAREs Group
*If members are interested in being involved in future projects in the Park, please contact the **WILDCARE** office on 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au> to add Narawntapu NP to as a “preferred Reserve” on your members record.*

Whale News

Whale Rescuer Training, Strahan

Whale Rescuer Training was held on a wet and dimly grey day at Strahan on Sunday, 11th November 2001.

The aim of the training was to teach participants the importance of supplying accurate information to the Nature Conservation Branch or the Parks & Wildlife Service, if and when they came upon a stranding. The information required includes the type (baleen or toothed), size, number, location of the whale(s) and other important factors that could speed up a rescue attempt, such as access points to the coast, weather and sea conditions.

The course outlined whale biology and ecology, looked at some of our most common species and the differences between the baleen and toothed species in particular. It also covered why whales strand, their use of echolocation and sonar, their behaviour at sea, how and why we should prevent strandings and threats to whales. The fact that many whales

are now listed as threatened species was explained in a historical context — due to people’s actions in the past. Nick Mooney, Wildlife Biologist from the Nature Conservation Branch also explained the many reasons why we (the Department) rescue whales and then ran through the Whale Rescue Plan and gear to bring to a rescue.

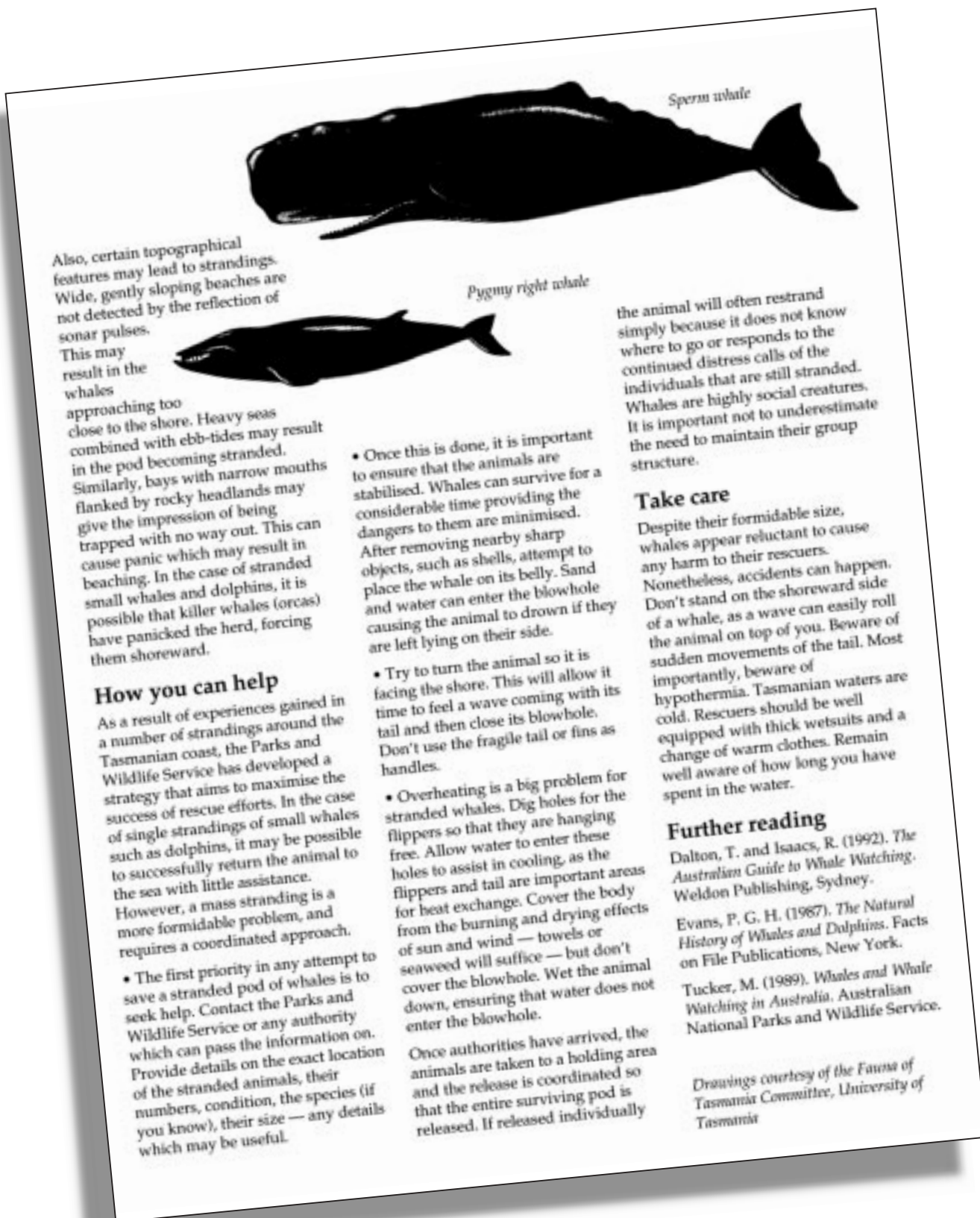
After a great barby lunch we were introduced to the whale rescue trailer

WILDCARE volunteers (L-R) Michael Stokes, Mukta Summers, Vanessa Shoobridge. Photo C Leitch.



and all the rescue gear by Senior Ranger Paul Helleman, then we braved the rain to play on West Strahan beach with the rescue gear, under the supervision of the Nick. The rain stopped briefly and allowed us to pack up the gear before heading home.

*More Whale Rescuer Training courses will be available next year at various locations around the State — watch for the ads in the next issues of **WILDTIMES**.*



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

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 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 for 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.

Take care

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.

Further reading

- Dalton, T. and Isaacs, R. (1992). *The Australian Guide to Whale Watching*. Weldon Publishing, Sydney.
- Evans, P. G. H. (1987). *The Natural History of Whales and Dolphins*. Facts on File Publications, New York.
- Tucker, M. (1989). *Whales and Whale Watching in Australia*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Drawings courtesy of the Fauna of Tasmania Committee, University of Tasmania

Minke on South Arm

You may have noticed on the TV news on Monday evening (12th November) a report about a Minke whale stranding at South Arm.

The Nature Conservation Branch of Resource Management & Conservation responded to the call and sent a small team down to assess the situation and work with those that had reported the stranding. This is

standard procedure under the Whale Stranding Action Plan.

WILDCARE was asked to provide names of members registered for whale rescue who live in the area in case a call up for assistance was necessary (also part of the Rescue Action Plan). However, the Nature Conservation team was able to refloat the whale using the inflatable rescue pontoons and get it back out to sea, without calling for assistance.

Unfortunately, despite the news reporting a successful rescue, the whale was discovered during an air-search the next day, re-stranded on a beach further south. It had died overnight. To add to the mystery of whale strandings, it had re-stranded in calm conditions after apparently spending some time and effort deliberately swimming ashore in shallow water.

Friends of Trevallyn Bushland — formation of new CARes Group

A CARes group (Community Action in Reserves) has been formed for the Trevallyn State Reserve, near Launceston. The aim of the group is to maintain the natural environment while ensuring access for appropriate recreation, working in

partnership with Parks & Wildlife Service in assisting to manage the Reserve. Some of the works identified by group members at the first meeting held at the end of October were weed removal, revegetation of damaged areas, maintaining tracks.

If you are interested in participating in some or all of the upcoming projects at Trevallyn State Reserve, please contact the WILDCARE office on 6233 2836 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>, to have your name added to the Friends of Trevallyn Bushland CARes group.

Tasmania's Natural Resource Management Framework

In April this year, the Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment, David Llewellyn announced the formation of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Steering Committee.

This Committee was given the task of developing the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework by November 2001.

That has involved setting a strategy for sustainable natural resource management for the state.

The Framework sets priorities for Tasmania, so there is a clear understanding of the most pressing natural resource management issues in the state.

The importance of this process cannot be underestimated.

Tasmania's future depends on sustainable industries and healthy ecosystems. A strategic and integrated approach to the management of our natural resources is vital to achieving this.

One of Tasmania's and indeed Australia's greatest challenges is the way we manage our natural resources — our soil, water, plants and animals. It is at the core of being able to be one of the world's great agricultural producers and at the same time protect our unique plants and animals. It also affects the profitability of many rural businesses and the viability of communities across Australia.

The NRM Steering Committee is chaired by Kim Evans, DPIWE, and included representatives from the Local Government Association of Tasmania, Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council, Women in Agriculture, Tasmanian Landcare Association,

University of Tasmania, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Tasmanian Minerals Council, Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council, Greening Australia,

Forest Industry Association of Tasmania, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, Department of Premier and Cabinet and DPIWE.

The Framework was developed to provide for the integrated

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WILDCARE members can now get a 7.5% discount off every product contained in Cartledge Agency's "Wildlife" catalogue.

All members need to do is quote their **WILDCARE** membership number when placing an order.

Stock is available and supplied from the following companies: Healthy Bird, Wombaroo/Passwell, Vetafarm, Inca (Flight), Petcare Direct and Rudducks.

Another customer service offered by Cartledge Agency is to keep their customers up-to-date on any new or deleted products lines as well as forwarding information containing monthly specials.

To request a catalogue or place orders contact:

Mark Cartledge at Cartledge Agency,
26/34 Innocent Street, Kings Meadows Tas 7249.
Phone 03 6344 5466 Fax 03 6344 7721
Email: cartledge.agency@microtech.com.au

management of our natural resources, in a way that takes into account the environmental, social and economic factors influencing their use and conservation.

The Framework will also be a key strategy for implementing the goals, standards, targets and indicators set through the Tasmania *Together* benchmarking process.

The community during the consultation for the Tasmania *Together* process highlighted natural resource management issues.

The Framework sets out high-level natural resource management priorities. It also sets out the formation of a Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council and three regional committees made up of industry and community representatives to oversee natural resource management across the state. The Framework was developed in a two-stage process. An issues and options paper was released in July for public comment. This paper provided background on natural resource management in Tasmania and

suggested options for future management strategies.

These comments formed the basis of discussions by the steering committee with stakeholder groups and the subsequent development of the Draft Framework, which was released for public comment during October.

Detailed submissions were received from a broad cross-section of people representing State and local government, industry, community and conservation groups.

Nominations for WILDCARER of the Year

In the Year of the Volunteer, it is 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 or the Parks & Wildlife Service. Nominations should be in the form of a one page description of why you feel your

nominee 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.

Nominations can be forwarded to the Chairman, *WILDCARE* Inc. GPO Box 44, Hobart 7001 or email <wildcare@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.

*Merry
Christmas and
Happy New
Year from the
WILDCARE
Board of
Management.*

Caretaker Program — Eddystone Lighthouse

Call for Expressions of Interest are invited for volunteers to be placed in a caretaker role at Eddystone Lighthouse. It is anticipated that six-weekly rotation will occur from December 2001 until the current tender negotiations are finalised.

The Eddystone Lighthouse complex, part of Mt William National Park, is currently under negotiation for leasehold through a recent tender process. Until this is finalised Parks & Wildlife Service are seeking

interested parties who wish to take part in a "Caretaker Program" living on site at House 2 and providing minimal maintenance/caretaker roles such as gardening.

The accommodation available is very basic and only partly furnished. Firewood will be provided as well as electricity costs covered.

Please submit expressions of interest to: Senior Ranger, PO Box 50, Bridport Tas 7262 or email <Dominique.Couzens@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year from the
staff of
Community
Partnerships
Section, Dept.
Primary
Industries, Water
and Environment.*

CALL UP NOTICE

What makes the Steppes [State Reserve] special?

It is where the Wilson family homestead is located and was home to the family for a period of 112 years, from 1863.

It is also where the Steppes Stones — large dolerite rock columns with iron sculptures depicting scenes of indigenous people, birds feeding their chicks, cattle droving, native animals — a gift from Tasmanian sculptor Stephen Walker.

And a recent addition to the Steppes Reserve is a new walking track installed by **WILDCARE** Inc. volunteers working with Parks & Wildlife staff, under the Adopt-a-Track Program.

The beginning of the walking track was the inspiration of the local Parks & Wildlife Ranger, Mike Cousins, who envisaged a track linking the homestead and the sculptures. The area the 900m track goes through has a history of its own; having once been an area of selective logging practices and an old saw mill.

On a weekend in November and the 4th **WILDCARE** working bee at the Steppes SR, volunteers participated in the near completion of the track with the installation of 2 new bench seats. The bench seats were cut from old wooden telegraph poles and strategically placed along the track for visitors to the area to sit down and savour the scenery and sounds of the surrounding bushland.

Installing the bench seats were a testament to the dedication of the 6-8

volunteers and Ranger who first had to devise a strategy to get the logs to the location and then manoeuvre them into place. It took 5 people and half an hour to push and pull one log 400m down the partially rocked and gravelled track. It then took 3-4 people to move and cement in the support logs and place a bench seat on top of the supports. All this was done in disintegrating weather conditions often experienced in the Central Highlands.

After lunch on the Sunday and with the bench seats installed, the volunteers advised the Ranger that the 2 seats had been named — “Snow Storm” and “Hail Storm”! (We have it on good authority that at one stage of the operation the ground was white with hailstones.)

So, if you have a weekend and you're inspired to go for a drive, why not head up to the Central Highlands to the Steppes State Reserve, located on the Lake Highway about 35 km northwest of Bothwell. Visitors can access the Reserve at any time (though the interior of the homestead and some of the outbuildings are locked and can only be viewed on open days). Then take a walk along the track to view the sculptures — and don't forget to try the seats out!

If you are interested in participating in other Adopt-a-Track Program working bees at either the Steppes SR or elsewhere in the State, contact the Adopt-a-Track Facilitator on 03 6336 5454.

IYV 2001

Small Equipment Grant Funding

WILDCARE Inc., as part of a Federal Government initiative in the International Year of the Volunteer, submitted a successful application for the Small Equipment Grant funding for \$780, for tools and equipment to be used by **WILDCARE** volunteers participating in working bees on

the West Coast (e.g. Trial Harbour and Granville Harbour coastal management projects). The **WILDCARE** submission was one of over 17,000 applications Australia-wide. The tools will be stored at Parks & Wildlife Strahan Field Centre.

WILDCARE RENEWAL REMINDER NOTICE

If you wish to continue to receive your copy of the WILDTIMES newsletter in 2002, please remember to renew your membership by 31 December 2001. If you wait until during 2002 to renew **WILDCARE** membership with your Annual All Parks Pass, you may end up missing out of the newsletter as well as information on other exciting **WILDCARE** events.

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Thankyou!

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

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- Malcolm Murchison • Dept. Premier and Cabinet
- Brighton Council • Lea Photography
- Resource Management & Conservation

And the following *WILDCARE* member-discount sponsors

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

Snowgum equipment – 10% discount

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

Eaglehawk Cafe — 10% discount (on meals over \$20.00 excludes alcohol)

(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 44 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 44 Hobart 7001. Please make cheques payable to The Tasmanian Trail Association.

ISBN 9 318923 009651