

# WILDTIMES

Issue 23  
December 2004



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## Newsletter of WILDCARE Inc

Tasmania's largest incorporated volunteer organisation, caring for wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage.

C/o GPO Box 44 Hobart  
TAS 7001 Australia.

Ph: 03 6233 2836.

Fax: 03 6224 0884.

E-mail general:  
<office@wildcaretas.org.au>.

E-mail newsletter articles:  
<editor@wildcaretas.org.au>.

Web: <www.wildcaretas.org.au>.

## Christmas greeting

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, HAVE A HAPPY AND safe Christmas and a secure, peaceful and productive New Year, with friends, family and fellow **WILDCARE**rs by your side.

To those who have been able to make the space to get involved as volunteers during the past year, thank you very much for your efforts.

To the volunteers spending their Christmas time volunteering in the Parks, on the tracks, on the islands and in the visitor centres, we hope that everything lives up to expectations, and that the experiences you have reward you appropriately, and in comparable terms to the level of your immense commitment.

To the numerous staff members of our partner organisations that have worked with our members during the year, its been great and lets keep doing it. We extend the same heartfelt Christmas wishes to you and you families.

We are looking forward to an even more interesting, productive and caring year in 2005.

Regards and warm wishes. 

**By: Richard Hammond & Andrew Smith, Co-Chairs, WILDCARE Inc.**

*PS If you haven't renewed your **WILDCARE** membership for 2005, make sure that you do so before December 31. A membership renewal from is included in this newsletter!*

## WILDCARE members assist in whale strandings

TWO WHALE RESCUE OPERATIONS WERE undertaken within a day of each other in Tasmanian waters. North of Naracoopa on King Island, over 150 pilot whales and dolphins were discovered stranded on or near the shore at Sea Elephant Rocks on November 28. A rescue effort was mounted immediately, although well over half of the animals were reported to have died before anything could be done.

A short time later another mass stranding took place, this time on Maria Island, where 53 long-fin pilot whales were discovered on the beach at Darlington Bay by a ranger on the morning of November 29. Thirty four whales were rescued and sent back to sea and nineteen perished on the beach.

Significant resources and personnel from Parks & Wildlife and the Nature Conservation Branch, as well as trained **WILDCARE** volunteers and school

children whom happened to be camping on the island were utilised in the rescue effort. Experienced whale rescue team members were also diverted from the King Island to this stranding. The beach was cordoned off to facilitate the rescue attempt.

The Darlington rescue effort was the most successful in recent times and proved that the whale rescuer training undertaken by Nature Conservation Branch in-conjunction with Parks and Wildlife Service staff and **WILDCARE** volunteers works.

The advances in marine mammal rescue techniques as a result of regular training exercises, combined with what has been learned from other rescue efforts paid off at Darlington, however the late discovery of the whales at Naracoopa meant that most of the animals were dead before help arrived.

Environment Minister Judy Jackson and Parks Minister Ken Bacon said that both incidents were responded to quickly with a coordinated community and multi-agency effort and passed on their heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. They also acknowledged the high level of community spirit and willingness to help.

Thank you to all **WILDCARE** members who assisted in the rescue efforts. Other people can register to help with any future strandings by completing the relevant box on their membership renewal form.

Remember prompt action can save animals — the Whale and Dolphin Sightings Hotline is 0427 942 537 or 0427WHALES. 🐾

By: Chris Leitch, Statewide Volunteer Engagement Facilitator, Community Partnerships Section, Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment.

# Job Safety Analysis — A load of cobblers??

MANY INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS AND volunteer groups will realise by now that the Parks and Wildlife Service have recently taken a more direct role in managing occupational health and safety issues (including volunteer insurance) for **WILDCARE** volunteers. This change has resulted in many volunteers coming 'face to face' for the first time with the dreaded Job Safety Analysis (JSA).

What is a JSA? Why do we need one? Who's responsible for doing them? What are we going to do with the damn thing when we've got one?

These are some of the more polite questions I've heard from our volunteer community over the last few months, and not only from volunteers. The need for more formal handling of OH&S issues is still relatively new to PWS staff as well and some of us are handling it better than others! Here's a very brief introduction to what they are all about.

## What is a JSA?

A Job Safety Analysis is nothing more than a systematic examination of a task to determine what control measures are required to ensure we can safely carry out that task.

A JSA usually borrows from more general risk assessment procedures in that we list what could possibly go wrong (ie the risks) and then reduce the risks to some acceptable level through a hierarchy of elimination, substitution, isolation, engineering, administration and PPE (personal protective equipment) measures.

There are forms available to help us keep our thoughts in order but these are not essential to the process.

## Why do we need a JSA?

I often hear that the answer to this one is "to protect the bosses a - - e". Well, that is unfortunate, and usually means the whole process is a load of cobblers. I would rather think that the JSA exists to ensure that we can all go home safely at night.



## Who's responsible for doing a JSA?

The JSA is normally done by the task supervisor, in conjunction with others they may be working with and perhaps other colleagues who may have special experience in the area. It may need to be approved by higher authority, depending on the highest level of risk identified.

In our **WILDCARE** context a JSA may be an informal examination of the issues completed by the group convenor or task supervisor, passed to their PWS liaison who might knock it into shape to fit the official form, approved by a senior ranger and finally passed back to the task supervisor.

## Then what do we do with the JSA?

At the worksite we implement the control measures specified on the JSA, that is, we work safely and we all go home safely!

So next time your friendly ranger or volunteer facilitator mentions the need for a JSA please don't roll your eyes or run for the hills — have pity on the poor dear and truly amaze him/her by pulling out your already completed version from the back pocket! 🐾

*More Info: Anyone wishing to learn more about the Parks and Wildlife Service Occupational Health and safety Policy should speak to your nearest friendly ranger or contact Southern District Volunteer Facilitator Craig Saunders on 03 6264 8463 or email <Craig.Saunders@parks.tas.gov.au>.*

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# Gambusia Project launch

MR KERRY FINCH MLC INDEPENDENT Member for Rosevears launched **WILDCARE's** Natural Heritage Trust Project 'Investigate Distribution and Control of *Gambusia holbrooki*' at Tamar Island Wetland Centre on November 11th 2004. A total of 48 people attended the launch with ABC Radio, Win Television and the Examiner and Mercury newspapers covering the event.

The Tamar Island CAREs Group and **WILDCARE** Inc have received funds from the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust Fund, with the support of NRM North, to employ a Project Officer to undertake the *Gambusia* Project. The

funding received will be used to raise public awareness of the introduced pest fish, *Gambusia holbrooki*, determine the extent of its distribution and to investigate possible control methods. The Project Officer will be working with the community, local and state governments, NRM Facilitators and private landholders.

*Gambusia holbrooki* is an introduced North American pest fish that threatens Tasmania's freshwater biodiversity including the green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*). It has become a pest around the world, including Australia. It is often mistakenly referred to as a

mosquito fish in the belief that it will help control mosquito larva in waterways. Research indicates that this is not the case, in fact most native fish species are better at controlling mosquitos than *Gambusia*.

Members of the community can help by not spreading *Gambusia* around, in fact you should never move any fish, native or introduced from one area to another. 🐾

**By: Rodney Milner, *Gambusia* Project Officer.**

*More Info: **Gambusia Project Officer, Rodney Milner, Phone: 03 6336 5410, Email: <gambusia@wildcaretas.org.au>, Web: <http://www.wildcaretas.org.au>. Inland Fisheries Service, Dave Jarvis, Phone: 03 6233 2458, Email: <davej@ifs.tas.gov.au>. Fishcare Volunteer Coordinator, Quenton Higgs, Phone: 03 6336 5319, Email: <quenton.higgs@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>.***



## What's happening on the Overland Track?

THE OVERLAND TRACK TRAVERSES from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair, through the heart of the Cradle Mountain — Lake St Clair National Park, at the northern end of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. An iconic Australian bushwalk, the Overland Track has been attracting walkers for over 50 years. The popularity of the Overland Track has increased, to a point where management decisions have to be made to ensure the use of the area is sustainable, and still provides a world class experience for visitors to the state. In May this year, the Minister for Tourism & Parks, Ken Bacon, announced a Vision for the future of the Overland Track. The

vision was developed by a steering committee and the document is very strategic. Along with Kent McConnell (a ranger at lake St Clair since 1986), it has been my job to look at how the vision for the Overland Track can be implemented.

There were three key announcements in the vision statement:

- A booking system will be introduced, for the peak walking season only (November to April). It will commence in November 2005;
- During the peak walking season walkers will have to walk the track from North to South; and
- An Overland Track fee will be introduced.



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Barn Bluff early morning. Photo: Sandra Wright.

We are motivated by a desire to ensure sustainable and sound environmental use of the Overland Track, and improving the experience walkers currently have on the track. Use of the Overland track has doubled since 1990, and has been doubling nearly every 10 years since records were first kept in the 1970s. I think everyone would agree that this type of increasing use cannot continue forever, and to ensure long term sustainable use of the area, management intervention is required.

The extent of the over-crowding on the track is of concern. It detracts from walkers' experience. For many walkers, the Overland Track is their opportunity to experience the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and get back to nature. It is hard to do this if you are spending each day sprinting from one location to the next to grab a hut or tent site, sharing a hut that safely sleeps 16 with over 30 others, and fighting stomach bugs easily passed around when so many are packed into together.

One of the features of the Overland Track is the magnificent landscape, with so many interesting side trips to peaks and waterfalls just begging to be walked. To ensure walkers have the flexibility to walk at a comfortable pace, the booking system will manage departures only, and not lock walkers into a fixed itinerary. Walkers won't book their track accommodation, rather they will book a departure slot. By managing departures onto the track, we aim to minimise the number and extent



Overland Track. Photo: Tourism Tasmania.

of over-crowding events by flattening out the peaks and spreading use more evenly during the peak period.

The booking system will be web-based, and is due to go live in May 2005 to

allow advance bookings for November 2005. The Parks and Wildlife Service will retain some capacity for emergency use, and to allow for stand-by bookings.



Inside one of the huts. Photo: Tourism Tasmania.

We also want to address the level of preparedness and experience people have when walking on the track. The booking system will also be used as an educational tool. It will reinforce to people the Minimal Impact Bushwalkers Code, remind walkers what they should be carrying, how much food they might need, what safety equipment they should take and how long they should plan for their trip.

The booking system will also be the point where the fee is collected. The final fee has not been set, but it will reflect the cost of maintaining



A waterfall on the Overland Track. Photo: Tourism Tasmania.

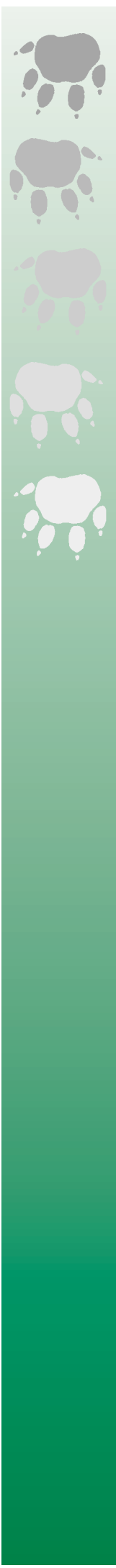
infrastructure, the quality of the experience and environmental protection. For those people without access to the Internet, there will be a phone line set up, and Parks and Wildlife Staff at St Clair and Cradle will also be able to accept bookings over

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Lake Windermere. Photo: Grant Dixon.

the counter. The success (or otherwise) of the booking system will be closely monitored with baseline surveys commencing this summer (with the help of **WILDCARE** Volunteers ... thank you all).

While people do experience the Track

differently, a common concern is that crowding degrades enjoyment. A strategy that addresses this issue and is demonstrated to be successful in practice is encouraging people to walk a route in a single direction. Significant success factors are that walker numbers are maximised and it reduces passing

walkers which contributes to perceptions of overcrowding.

Everything outlined so far is pretty short-term, management for issues that exist now. A plan needs to be written that not only addresses immediate needs, but also looks to how we want the Overland to be in 10, 20, or 30 years' time. This is what the Recreation Zone Plan for the Overland Track will set out. A subsidiary plan to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, the Recreation Zone Plan will set out future directions for the management of this area. It is a statutory document and will be on public display early next year for public submissions. 🐾

**By: Sandra Whight, Overland Track Project Officer, Parks and Wildlife Service.**

For more information about the Overland Track, visit the website: <[www.overlandtrack.com.au](http://www.overlandtrack.com.au)>.

## Friends of Maatsuyker Island

### Weed Eradication Project 31 October 2004– 12 November 2004

THE LONG PLANNED WEEDING working-bee on Maatsuyker Island took place from the 31st of October to the 12th of November. The **WILDCARE** group, Friends of Maatsuyker Island, had been successful in securing funding through Envirofund and have worked in partnership with the PWS Southern District to arrange the trip. Much work was achieved by a remarkable and resourceful bunch of volunteers.

Dense patches of blackberries that intertwined an over-storey of tea-tree were brush-cut to allow for spraying of the regrowth that will occur over the summer. The mass of blackberries left hanging were pulled from the trees to allow for ease of movement in the forthcoming spraying and to ensure that all the canes had been cut to ground level. The edges of these large patches of

blackberries were also cut and paste, with frilling of the bottom of the canes.

Other previously unknown patches of blackberries were located and treated. Although some of these were not that small they were treated by the cut and paste method to minimise disturbance to native vegetation. The tedium of this is what may have inspired the American Negro style slave songs being sung.

Monbretia (a flat leaved lily with orange flowers and masses of underground corms) was sprayed with backpacks in locations around the lighthouse precinct and along the edge of the track that runs from the lighthouses out to the disused haulage way.

Of interest and concern was the identification of another weed problem, *Hebe elliptica* that had originally been planted around the lighthouse quarters. This woody shrub extends into the surrounding tea-tree, upslope of the quarters in a cryptic manner until it reaches the ridge above the beautiful

tussock grassland known as the Macquarie Slopes. With less competition from other woody shrubs it has become the dominant species. Alex Buchanan of the Tasmanian Herbarium confirmed the plant as *Hebe elliptica*, an introduction. This plants only other known "wild" distribution in Tasmania is on Entrance



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El' Fresco dining on Maatsuyker Island. Photo: Steve Cronin.

Island in the mouth of Macquarie Harbour. By coincidence this island also has a lighthouse on it. You can imagine the keepers' wives sending cuttings of this plant via the re-supply ships. The natural distribution of *Hebe elliptica* is widespread, including the islands of New Zealand, Southern South America and the Falkland Islands. All weed locations were also mapped to allow effective follow-up.

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But the trip was not only work.

Our trip was blessed with many things. Tremendous flying weather for the helicopter trips in and out from the island. We were also fortunate in the broad culinary skills of the group. Many loaves of bread, cakes and fine meals were baked and cooked. The frequency of El Fresco dining is testament to the predominantly fine weather we got. Even the heavy easterly rain was a treat with the island being covered in a sheet of water. The welcome of Caretakers on the island Phillipa Foster and Mick Eccles was amazing and we enjoyed a creative social calendar. This included BBQs with views to catch the sun dropping below the horizon (is there really a green flash), social croquet matches that only threatened to get ugly a couple of times, they ensured that we didn't fail to observe the Australian tradition of the Melbourne Cup Sweep and the slide

shows were very impressive. But what impressed us all the most was the conjuring up of a Southern Light Show that few people in Australia would have had the opportunity to see with as little light interference as we enjoyed on Maatsuyker Island.

All up a remarkable trip. The group are all acutely aware of the need for regular follow-up for effective weed control and everybody expressed a desire to be involved. Must have been an OK experience.

Volunteers: Kate Kiefer, Jason Whitehead, Victoria Reid, Pip Buchanan, Steve Cronin, Jean Jackson, Mark McCall, Colin Malcomn-Rowe and Karen Ziegler.

Thanks to Craig Saunders from PWS Hounville who helped coordinate the trip. 

**By: Karen Ziegler.**

## President Reports

### Friends of Mt Nelson Signal Station — Andrew Hingston

The Friends of Mt Nelson Signal Station **WILDCARE** Group was formed in May 2003, to help care for the Mt Nelson Signal Station and Truganini Reserves between Mt Nelson and Taroom. The area contains communities of *Eucalyptus pulchella*/E. *globulus* woodland, E. *globulus*/E. *obliqua* wet forest, dry rainforest, and E. *globulus*/E. *viminalis* scrubland, and is habitat for several threatened species of animals including swift parrots, masked owls, grey goshawks, wedge-tailed eagles and eastern barred bandicoots.

During the past 18 months we have been removing environmental weeds from these reserves. Our strategy has been to initially remove scattered Spanish heath, tree heath, boneseed and bluebell creeper from near the Signal Station to prevent these weeds from spreading down slope into the largely weed-free *Eucalyptus pulchella*/E. *globulus* woodland. We are now working deeper into Truganini Reserve

on a large infestation of boneseed in the E. *globulus*/E. *viminalis* scrubland that flanks the dry rainforest, as well as removing cotoneaster, Elisha's tears, banana passionfruit and hawthorn from near the walking track through the E. *globulus*/E. *obliqua* wet forest and dry rainforest.

### Friends of the Trevallyn Reserve — Roy Skabo

The Friends of the Trevallyn Reserve has been revived and is active again in caring for the Reserve. At a meeting on October 21st we elected a president (Roy Skabo) and a secretary (Jenny Mayne).

We had our first working bee on November 6th at which ten people turned up to do some weeding in an area adjoining houses in New World Avenue. The Launceston City Council (which controls this portion of the Reserve) has agreed to do some spraying in the area before our next working bee. We will then do some more "mop-up" weeding on December 11th, from 10am until noon.



## Events calendar

| Date                          | Description                               | Contact                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31 December 2004              | Membership renewals due.                  | <b>WILDCARE</b> Office, Service Tasmania Shop or Parks & Wildlife Service field centre. |
| First week of February 2005   | General maintenance — Maatsuyker Island.  | Craig Saunders, 03 6264 8463.                                                           |
| 16–25 February 2005           | Track Construction — Melaleuca.           | Craig Saunders, 03 6264 8463.                                                           |
| Second Saturday of each month | Friends of Trevallyn Reserve working bee. | Roy Skabo, 03 6334 6787 or Jenny Mayne, 6331 0008.                                      |
| During 2005                   | Weed control training.                    | Craig Saunders, 03 6264 8463.                                                           |

We will hold working bees on the second Saturday of each month and it has been suggested that we do some seed collecting at our working bee in January so that we can restore some of the vegetation in the areas we are weeding and other suitable areas.

People who would like to participate in our activities should phone Roy Skabo on 03 6334 6787 or Jenny Mayne on 03 6331 0008 for details.

### Friends of Adventure Bay — Marcus Henry

Much has been happening in recent months. In late August a working bee, assisted by the local Parks Ranger, Bernard Edwards, put in 78 volunteer-hours in removing a dangerous tree that had fallen from the foreshore into the water close to the jetty (see full story in this issue). During August and September, five members attended the PWS Volunteer Training Courses in First Aid, Bushland Weed Management, Brushcutter Use and Volunteer Group Management. These courses were partly funded through a grant from **WILDCARE** Inc. On 2nd October, a public meeting was held at Adventure Bay to explain to the local residents the aims and objectives of the group and the meeting was followed by a most successful clean up of the Adventure Bay Foreshore. 

## Summer in the Southwest

CRAIG SAUNDERS, DISTRICT VOLUNTEER Facilitator for the Parks and Wildlife Service Southern District advises of two special volunteer opportunities in the Southwest over the coming summer.

### General maintenance — Maatsuyker Island


In the first week of February 2005, timed to coincide with the changeover of the island's volunteer caretakers, a group will travel to the island by helicopter and carry out general maintenance duties around the light station. Accommodation will be provided in one of the stations vacant light keeper's houses.

Prospective volunteers should have general practical skills and be prepared to stay on the island for up to a week.

### Track construction — Melaleuca

Over the period 16–25 February 2005 PWS ranger Stuart Graham will lead a small group of volunteers to Melaleuca to complete 'hardening' of sections of the South Coast Track between Melaleuca and Cox Bight. Travel to and from Melaleuca will be by light aircraft

with the group likely to camp on site.

Prospective volunteers should have general practical skills and be prepared to camp out on the job. 

*Further details on these opportunities to visit remote parts of the Southwest are available from Craig Saunders at PWS Huonville on phone 03 6264 8463 or email <Craig.Saunders@parks.tas.gov.au>.*

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## Request for information: Observations of bumblebees in native vegetation

A FERAL POPULATION OF THE EURASIAN bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* was discovered in Hobart in 1992. The effectiveness of this bee as a pollinator of greenhouse tomatoes has prompted repeated calls for its importation to the Australian mainland, where it does not yet occur. However, enormous harm has already resulted in Australia from deliberate introduction of animals that were believed to be harmless or beneficial, and this may also be the case if bumblebees are introduced to the Australian mainland.

The most important factor influencing the severity of an imported pollinator's ecological impact is its capacity to

become established beyond the agricultural areas where the target crop is grown. A survey of the distribution of bumblebees in Tasmania up to autumn 2001 found evidence of them breeding in all of Tasmania's major types of native vegetation, including within six National Parks and the most remote parts of the World Heritage Area. The survey concluded that bumblebees were breeding across a large part of southern and western Tasmania. This conclusion was subsequently questioned because it had accepted sightings of only two bees in one day as evidence of colony establishment, which may have been sightings of the same bee. However, more than 10 bumblebees were seen (by

one person) in one day at 23 of the 51 locations where the original survey found evidence of breeding in native vegetation, including within the most remote areas from human settlement.

Because of the ongoing debate over the capacity for bumblebees to invade native vegetation, and the time that has passed since their distribution was last surveyed, I would like to survey the distribution of bumblebees in Tasmania during the coming spring, summer and autumn. I would appreciate it greatly if people could let me know of any places where they see more than 10 bumblebees in one day in native vegetation between spring 2004 and autumn 2005. 🐝

**By: Dr Andrew Hingston, Geography & Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 78, Hobart, Tas. 7001. Email: <hingston@utas.edu.au>, Ph: 03 6223 1223 (h).**

*References for the above article can be obtained from Dr Hingston.*

## Derwent Avenue Group — land grab

OUR GROUP WHICH MANAGES A small stretch of coast south of Margate (see *WILDTIMES* #21, May 2004) is on a land grab! Not content with our little lot, where, during the last twelve months, we've managed to get on top of most of the serious environmental weeds, we have made a bid for more coast to look after.

We have Parks conditional approval to extend our management interests by a 20 metre wide, some 200 metres length of coastal reserve to the north of our original site. We had always had this in mind as a prospect but in the last 18 months or so have also been working closely with the owner of land which abutted the coastal strip. We worked through the subdivision phase — approvals, appeals and so on, and now more closely with the developer as he started work on site. As part of the subdivision process, the developer agreed to hand over to Kingborough Council, as Public Open Space, a strip of

land running more or less parallel with the coast and in effect becoming a buffer zone between the State Coastal Reserve and the new estate. This additional buffer zone is some 6200 M2 of varying width and includes a number of trees (e.viminalis and e.ovata) which we considered worth preserving. Additionally under the terms of the subdivision settlement, two other eucalypts just inside the property line have been protected by a 6m diameter tree covenant. We are working through the details and hope to be able to sign-off soon with Council, Parks and the developer on all arrangements for a common management regime for the Coastal strip-Public Open Space.

One of our aims in this exercise is to extend the coastal walking trail to reach the settlement around the Margate Jetty — North West Bay Ships area.

Like many other groups this year we had a number of our members participating

in training courses kindly arranged by Volunteers Coordinator Craig Saunders. By the time this issue of *WILDTIMES* hits the stands we expect to have new site identification signs installed — again kindly facilitated and funded by Parks through Craig. This year we also had a significant survey and documentation of plant species in our site — courtesy of Rae Glazik, DPIWE.

We have just had our first formal birthday as a Group but are not resting on our laurels. We realise the continuing effort we need to maintain the area we manage; during 2005 we hope to develop new working partnerships to tackle weeds in "our" new area and develop the walking trail to bicycle/stroller level. And, we'll continue to have great afternoon teas following our working bees!!

To mark our first birthday we have voted in our Group executive for 2005. Convenor is Lorraine Nielsen, phone 03 6267 1083, email: <c.lnielsen@bigpond.com.au>; Secretary is Gordon Bain, phone 03 6267 2143, email: <HausBain2@bigpond.com>. 🐝

**By: Gordon Bain, Secretary, Derwent Avenue Group.**





# Weed control — getting smarter

AS I LOOK OVER PAST ISSUES OF *WILDTIMES* I realise just how much time volunteers have spent on weed control projects over recent years. Weeds are of course one of the biggest threats to the natural values of our bushland, particularly urban bushland, and it comes as no surprise that almost all our CAREs groups have weed control close to the top of their agenda.

At the same time I have also seen a shift in how the volunteer community has tackled weed problems. This shift has seen individual volunteers and groups gaining more skills and experience in weed control measures allowing them to take on more complex problems and to handle them more efficiently, and very importantly, more safely.

In 2002 DPIWE Vegetation Management Officer Rae Glazik devised a short course in bushland weed control and safe use of herbicide for community groups. This half day course was delivered in the south by TAFE contractor (and ex PWS ranger) Andrew Kirkley and is well summarised in *WILDTIMES* Issue 17 April 2003 (available from the **WILDCARE** website).

This course provided a grounding in safe and efficient use of herbicide, generally qualifying volunteers to carry out 'cut and paste' with S5 schedule (eg Roundup and other glyphosate based products). Any works requiring the use of more toxic herbicides (eg S6 - Garlon 600) or spraying were still left to PWS employees or contractors.

In the Southern District I have continued to offer this course, especially to new formed groups hoping to tackle weed control problems, and have run about 10 sessions over the last year or so.

However, in the course of working with many groups on their weed control projects I realised there was a need for a higher level of training, at least for key members of some groups. This higher level of training was required firstly to provide groups with a broader range of 'tools' with which to tackle weed problems, including access to a wider range of herbicides and control

measures, and secondly to give them a better understanding of 'strategic' weed control, that is, a better overview of the long term issues and how to manage them.



Using all the 'tools': The picture shows Bruny Island ranger Bernard Edwards assisting Friends of Snake Island group members spraying Spanish Heath (*Erica lusitanica*) regrowth with Garlon 600 using a portable electric sprayer (12 volt, 50 litre capacity). The erica had been brushcut 10 months previously by contractors using funds the group obtained through the Australian Government Envirofund program. Key members of the group have ChemCert accreditation.

Without designing a whole new course the only accredited training available was the ChemCert qualification, usually a 2 day course designed for users of agricultural and veterinary chemicals (including herbicides) in commercial agriculture. Some volunteers completed this course but it was immediately apparent that we needed a similar level course but with a bushland weed rather than commercial agriculture focus.

Working with DPIWE Weed management staff, TAFE Horticulture in Hobart and the Huon Valley Council Landcare Advisory Group we devised such a course and a pilot program was offered in Spring 2003. The course was further refined and offered again as part of the PWS 2004 Volunteer Training program in September 2004.

The result is that we now have community groups who can take on

almost all aspects of weed control projects including:

- Identification and prioritisation of weed problems;
- Selection of the appropriate weed control measures from a wide range of 'tools';
- Obtaining necessary resources such as grant funding and training;
- 'On-ground' weed control using a wide range of techniques; and
- Supervising contractor staff where necessary.

The advantages of groups taking on all aspects of a project in times of smaller PWS budgets and reduced staff availability are clear.

In 2005 I hope to again offer training to volunteer groups in weed management at the two levels described above. Volunteer coordinators from most local government councils in the south are also now aware of this program and are joining with the Parks and Wildlife Service in providing this training to their bushland management groups. 🐾

Any staff or volunteers who are interested in this program can contact Craig Saunders, District Volunteer Facilitator, PWS Huonville on 03 6264 8463 or email <Craig.Saunders@parks.tas.gov.au>.

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# Friends of Adventure Bay

## Removal of dangerous tree material

A large fallen tree on the foreshore adjacent to the Adventure Bay jetty has been a real safety issue for some time.


Fears had been held that children sliding down the trunk may become impaled and/or trapped underwater on its branches. A project was initiated to remove the hazard; Dave coordinated works, Chester devised some ingenious engineering feats, Bernard put in some

nine hours in the water as saw operator and removal organiser, with general assistance from several other members, resulting in the successful removal of all dangerous material from the site over some 80 man hours of effort.

A public meeting was held on October 2nd providing general background information on the aims of the Association.



Foreshore clean-up. Following the public meeting approximately 30 members/supporters held a successful clean-up of refuse from the Adventure Bay Foreshore. Some 45 man hours were involved, and we were pleased to recruit new members for our Association, and as Volunteers with the Parks and Wildlife Service.

FAB would like to publicly thank the Parks and Wildlife Service for their support in these endeavours, and in particular for the services of ranger Mr. Bernard Edwards. 

**By: Charlie Turnbull, Secretary.**

Bernard and Steve at work in the water, and Charlie (foreground) preparing to demonstrate his Olympic-class rendition of unsyncopated underwater swimming complete with waders.



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## Getting busy at Mt Field

WITH THE EXCEPTIONAL SNOW LEVELS of winter disappearing and favourable work conditions returning Friends of Mt Field are getting busy again.

A group of around 9 volunteers travelled to Lake Nicholls on the Mt Field East track on Saturday 13 November to carry out urgent repairs on the hut beside the lake. Sections of the floor framing had


rotted, causing the door to drop and not close properly.

Under the guidance of Kerry Smith the source of the problems was quickly exposed and new timbers installed. The excellent end result provided much satisfaction to all who attended. The group will probably return to the hut later in the summer to install a new door



and replace some rotted cladding.

The group is planning to install a new logbook in this hut, including perhaps details of the area's history. If anyone has information on history of this area of the park the group would be keen to hear from you. Contact Peter Franklin on 03 6228 4889.

Before Christmas the group is also planning working bees on the Lake Fenton to Lake Webster track and the hut at Lake Newdegate. Contact Peter Franklin if you would like to know more about the group's activities. 

**By: Craig Saunders, PWS Huonville.**

Friends of Mt Field at Lake Nicholls (volunteers Greg Kidd, Leigh Smith, Kerry Smith, Bronwyn Smith, Alan Sanderson, Peter Franklin, Sue Franklin, Philip Rogers).



## District Volunteer Facilitator — South East District

HI THERE!


My name is Leah Page. I am the new Parks and Wildlife Service Volunteer Facilitator for the South East District based at sunny Seven Mile Beach. I have a background in marine science having completed a science degree with honours in South Australia before working as a research scientist in Western Australia and the United States.

I moved to Tasmania four years ago after falling in love with the place. Since then, my partner and I have had two children and therefore feel like we are honorary Tasmanians. I worked as a Summer Ranger on the Tasman Peninsula in 2000/2001 and was also the Assistant to the Summer Program for two years running. Through this role I worked with many staff from PWS and the Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment.

With the birth of my children I began working from home as a consultant producing interpretative and management material for community groups, predominantly in the South East District. I have worked closely with many local Coastcare groups and I am an active volunteer as the Vice President of the

Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania. With my positive work history with SE district PWS staff and my strong connections with existing volunteer

community groups in the district I look forward to nurturing a healthy, productive partnership between the Parks and Wildlife Service and the community.

I am available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. 

*More Info: Leah Page, District Volunteer Facilitator, South East District, Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, 293 Surf Road, Seven Mile Beach, TAS, 7170. Ph: 03 6214 8107, Fax: 03 6214 8112, Email: <Leah.page@parks.tas.gov.au>.*

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# Cradle Mountain news

## New Cradle senior project manager

The new Cradle Senior Project Manager is Ralf Zenke. He is based in the Parks and Wildlife Service's (PWS) head office in Hobart.

## Cradle shuttle service

The Cradle shuttle service is operating on its summer timetable, with four buses and one on stand-by. The feedback from users is still positive. The shuttle service operators, McDermott Coaches said they hope to be able to offer an after-hours service and valued-added service — for instance a pick-up service from accommodation centres to the information centre.

## Sewage treatment plant

A consultant has been appointed for the design of the sewage treatment plant and preliminary investigations are under way. It is planned to have the plant operational by June 2006, which allows for a contingency of several months before the existing lease runs out.

## Water supply

A consultant for the new water supply system should be appointed by mid-December.

## New village centre and visitor centre

An Expression of Interest (EOI) for

consultants to develop a master plan for a village was advertised and the Cradle Steering Committee is investigating the possibility of proceeding.

## Cradle Mountain National Park update

The construction of a toilet at Kitchen Hut will go ahead as soon as the council development application process is completed. The design for the toilet is complete and the heritage issues associated with Kitchen Hut will also be addressed. The new toilet will be a fully enclosed system and the waste will be flown out, providing a good environmental outcome.

## Bringing structures up to standard

A recent review of risk management in relation to park infrastructure identified issues with several structures. As a result of this review, the viewing platform at base of Pencil Pine Falls was closed temporarily and will be repaired as soon as river levels permit. The Enchanted Walk has been closed for several months. Standards have changed since the walk was first constructed and it now needs to be brought up to modern standards.

## Information and interpretation

The *Cradle Currawong* newsletter should be out on pamphlet racks by now. This edition will be valid for up to 12 months. It will be distributed through the Parks visitor centre, accommodation businesses in Cradle and visitor centres at Deloraine and Sheffield. At the request of DIER the newspaper includes road safety messages for people and wildlife.

A familiarisation day for Kentish Visitor Centre volunteers will be held on November 29. The objective is to provide an update on the shuttle and visitor services, accommodation options, etc.

A series of new interpretive signs have been produced. They will be installed

over next month and Cathie Plowman is working with Professor Sofield from the University of Tasmania on a project where students will undertake evaluation of the signs during January 2005.

A training package for shuttle bus drivers has been developed in conjunction with McDermotts. The packages will also be used by new Parks staff.


## Research project

Jim Curtis from the Monash University Tourism Research Unit is undertaking research for a PhD about alternative tourism transport services within national parks with a focus on how visitors can be persuaded to use alternative transport systems. He will be at Cradle Mountain in December for about five days to conduct interviews with visitors at the Cradle information centre.

## Overland Track update

PWS staff have been working to implement the changes announced for the Overland Track by the Minister for Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Ken Bacon, earlier this year. An update can be found on the Overland Track website <[www.overlandtrack.com.au](http://www.overlandtrack.com.au)> or through the Parks' website <[www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)>.

## Concerns about feral bumblebees

There is growing concern that the infestation of feral bumblebees in the park is increasing and the effects on the environment are unknown. A study is being undertaken about the distribution of bumblebees. 

Contacts for the Cradle Senior Project Manager: Ralf Zenke, Phone: 03 6233 6425 or 0428 563 630, Email: <[Ralf.Zenke@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:Ralf.Zenke@parks.tas.gov.au)>.



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**NOTE: WILDCARE DOES NOT AUTHORISE members to care for snakes or other venomous animals and accepts no responsibility for accidents associated with the care of those animals.**

**This authorisation does not replace the need to hold permits to have and rehabilitate wildlife.** Permits are available from the Nature Conservation Branch of the Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment. Phone 03 6233 6556 for information.

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**If the above details have changed since you renewed/joined in 2004 please provide your previous address details so that we can find you on the membership database.**

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Please leave my background information and volunteer preference unchanged on the database.

Please update my record with the following additions...

Preferred reserve/place (if you have one)

.....

.....

**Circle volunteer activity categories you wish to add to your record.**

**CARes — Community Action in Reserves:** General management assistance, Adopt-a-Track Program, Enterprise projects, Visitor Education, Walking hut maintenance, Habitat Care, Action for Coasts, Cave Care.

**Naturecare — conserving Tasmania's plants and animals:** Whale rescue, Oil Spill response, Raptor research, Wildlife survey, Threatened

species assistance, Data records (computer), Community education, Fox eradication assistance, Land For Wildlife, Caring for injured/orphaned animals. **Botanical Guardians:** Monitoring, Survey, Replanting, Propagation, Field collection, Community education, Orchid Guardians program.

**Heritagecare — conserving Tasmania's cultural heritage:** Site recording, Data records (computer), Archival research, Excavation assistance, Community education, Historic site management.

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# Mid-term Review of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 1999

THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE PARKS and Wildlife Service, Peter Mooney, said today the mid-term review of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 1999 had commenced.

Mr Mooney said that the Tasmanian Wilderness management plan is an important plan for Tasmania as it determines how 20% of the State is managed.


"This mid-term, limited review is to ensure the plan is up to date and takes account of new issues prior to the full plan review in 2009," Mr Mooney said.

"For this review we are adopting the motto 'if it's not broken, don't fix it'.

"We don't intend changing the plan's structure or broad management approach, however we are looking to fix errors, take account of any major new issues, and fix parts of the plan that

are not working."

Mr Mooney said there will be two stages of public comment on the plan: an initial issues identification stage from 11 December 2004 until 4 February 2005; and the release of the draft management plan for comment in mid 2005.

"I encourage all Tasmanians with an interest in the World Heritage Area to raise issues they believe are important and urgent so they can be addressed in the review," Mr Mooney said. 

Issues can be identified via the plan review website <[www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/planreview](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wha/planreview)> or by requesting a plan review Issues Feedback sheet from the Parks and Wildlife Service (03 6233 6285).

## Occupational Health and Safety, for everyone!


DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT THE newly appointed volunteer coordinator who learned from the old hand that the three most important things to incorporate in any volunteer activity were:

- having fun,
- getting some meaningful work done, and
- going home safely at night.

On his first volunteer project the new chum was a bit rushed and didn't think

the group would have time for all three so he thought he would save some time by splitting the group up.

Group 1 was going to have fun, group 2 was going to get the work done and group 3 was going to go home safely!

Which group would you want to be in? 

**By: Anonymous PWS volunteer facilitator.**

### New CAREs Groups

Trevallyn  
KarstWatch  
Coningham  
milaythina muka

Photos taken by Murray Willcox at a weed bash at Royal George recently.



### WILDTIMES 2005 publication schedule

| Issue Number | Cut-off Date for Article Submissions | Publication Date |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 24           | 28 Feb 2005                          | Mar 2005         |
| 25           | 31 May 2005                          | Jun 2005         |
| 26           | 31 Aug 2005                          | Sep 2005         |
| 27           | 30 Nov 2005                          | Dec 2005         |

Publication dates are subject to receiving a sufficient number of articles to allow publishing to go ahead.

# Thankyou!

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We are looking for other sponsors, both for the *WILDCARE* Fund and as discounters. Know someone who you think might be interested? Why not have a chat to them and suggest they contact **Andrew Smith at Community Partnerships Section** for more details (Ph 03 6233 2836 — GPO Box 44 Hobart 7001).

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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

