

WILDTIMES

Issue 29
March 2007



In this issue

- News from the Parks & Wildlife Service
- Wildcare 10th Anniversary National Conference
- Group reports
- Floral signatures in the Blue Tiers
- Why don't I get any call-up notices?
- Parks & Wildlife Service shows its commitment
- Wildcare AGM

Newsletter of WILDCARE Inc

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

C/o GPO Box 1751 Hobart
TAS 7001 Australia.

Ph: 03 6233 2836.
Fax: 03 6223 8603.

E-mail general:
office@wildcaretas.org.au
E-mail newsletter articles:
wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au

Web: www.wildcaretas.org.au

Celebrate 2007 10th Anniversary of WILDCARE Inc.

Ranger of the Year Award

Call for nominations

The success of *WILDCARE* Inc depends on our partners from the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Bio-diversity Conservation Branch (DPIWE) being interested and willing to work with our members.

This sounds a simple concept and of course these staff appreciate any assistance with their heavy workloads, but some people go that little bit extra and really work at providing a worthwhile and high quality experience for the volunteers that help them out. It's time to recognise these people.

So, as a special part of our 10th Anniversary, we are calling for nominations for the 10th Anniversary Ranger of the Year Award.

Which staff member (Rangers/field or office staff) from the PWS or the Bio-diversity Conservation Branch (DPIWE) have you really enjoyed working alongside? Which staff member has really made you feel welcome? What do they do that makes the *WILDCARE* Inc experience special? What do they do to build and maintain a productive relationship?

To nominate your favourite Ranger/staff member supply the following details on one side of A4 paper:

1. The Ranger/staff member's name.
2. Their position.
3. Indicate why you feel that your nominee deserves special recognition as the Ranger/staff member of the year. This information will guide the judges in their decision.
4. Your name (as Nominator).
5. Your *WILDCARE* Inc membership number (only current *WILDCARE* Inc members can nominate).
6. A name of a second Nominator.
7. The second Nominator's *WILDCARE* Inc membership number.

The winning staff member, to be announced at our National Conference in November, will receive a free membership of *WILDCARE* Inc, a bag of *WILDCARE* Inc goodies, and will be recorded on a 10th Anniversary Honour Roll in the Newsletter.

Nominations close 30th May 2007. Your nomination information should be sent to Office@wildcaretas.org.au or *WILDCARE* Inc c/- GPO Box 1751, Hobart, Tasmania 7001.

Change of Address

The *WILDCARE* Inc Office has moved to the Parks and Wildlife Service, 2nd floor 134 Macquarie Street Hobart. The postal address has changed to c/- GPO Box 1751, Hobart Tasmania 7001.

WILDCARE Inc thanks the PWS for their in-kind provision of a place to work. This is a great contribution to strengthening our partnership and will increase our capacity to provide volunteer support and assistance to PWS management activities.

Although the office has moved, we will continue to assist programs and projects run from the Bio-diversity Conservation Branch of DPIWE and our other partners.

News from the Parks & Wildlife Service

Lagoon Track construction forges ahead.

The construction of the new Lagoon Track in the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area is two-thirds complete, despite wet weather in December and January. Southern Region acting manager Dave Whitelaw said that construction of the new six kilometre track into Southport Lagoon is expected to be complete by the end of this month, with a new campground, information sign, toilets and dinghy launching area to be constructed before the area is opened to the public.

The new four wheel drive track includes cording in wet areas, several water points for fire fighting and is part of the implementation of new access arrangements for the Southport Lagoon Conservation area. The Leprena Track was closed permanently last year in an effort to halt environmental damage and provide better protection for the significant natural and cultural values of the conservation area.

A concerted monitoring and enforcement effort has paid off, with only a handful of vehicles attempting illegal access since the changes came into effect.

'We're looking forward to finishing off the new facilities and providing a different experience for visitors to the conservation area', Dave said.

Public input sought on female factory conservation plan.

Public comment is being sought on a draft conservation management plan for the Cascades Female Factory. The aim of the plan is to assist policy and strategy development for the protection and management of the site. The primary focus of the plan is on land areas known as Yard 1 (the Female Factory Historic Site managed by the PWS, Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment), and Yards 3 and 4 South (owned and managed by the Female Factory Historic Site Ltd).

The Cascades Female Factory, in Degraves Street South Hobart, is Australia's premier female convict site. It operated between 1828 and 1856 and comprised five conjoined rectangular sandstone compounds or 'yards' to house and reform convict women. More than half the 25,000 women transported to Australia came to Van Diemen's Land, and most had a connection or association with the Cascades Female Factory.

The heritage values of the site are recognised at a local and state level, with listing in the City of Hobart Planning Scheme and in the Tasmanian Heritage Register respectively. The site's national and international values are also being acknowledged, with its recent nomination to the National Heritage List and inclusion

in the Australian Government's convict serial nomination to the World Heritage List.

To make a comment on the draft plan, go to www.dtae.tas.gov.au/femalefactory.

For more information on the Cascades Female Factory, please visit the Female Factory Historic Site Ltd website www.femalefactory.com.au

Summer Discovery highlights.

The number of people taking part in Discovery Ranger activities has remained strong this summer. One new location, Ansons Bay, proved a great hit, with 1331 participants during the three 10 day shifts that Sam Cuff was employed. Lake St Clair and Maria Island had a higher average number of participants, and Mt Field enjoyed similar participant numbers to last year.

Jenny Calder, Discovery Ranger at Freycinet National Park this summer, reported on some of the highlights of her season:

- 'It's been fantastic being able to watch the Pied Oystercatcher chicks grow up on Richardson's Beach while watching participants grow to love the environment they are visiting'.



Discovering...




An exciting union of cutting-edge design, plantation wood and technology with principles of sustainability. The EcoCentre is the first of its type in the Southern Hemisphere, combining forest tourism, regional promotion and Forestry Tasmania's offices.

Discover Tasmania's north-east forests. From coast to mountain, past to present and from traditional bush skills to world-class wood design.

Open: 7 days a week, except for Christmas Day, at King St, Scottsdale.
General enquiries: (03) 6352 6466
Café bookings: (03) 6352 6458



10% Discount to WILDCARE members



TASMANIAN
 minerals - crystals - gemstones
 fossils ...and from around the world



175 Lune River Rd, Lune River
 Open most days 9-5
 (near Hastings Caves)
ALSO
 Saturdays at Salamanca Market
Ph: (03) 6298 3182
 10% discount to WILDCARE members

- At one activity, kids who initially wouldn't stop talking about how they loved driving on the beach, turned out to be the keenest participants in the Coastal Critters activity. 'They wouldn't go home afterwards, so I spent an hour looking in rockpools with them', Jenny said.
- Other participants in a Rockpool Ramble activity were a mother and daughter who were initially too scared to touch things in the rockpools. According to Jenny, 'The two were getting really into it towards the end, with lots of squeals and giggles, and they ended up finding a large hermit crab'.

While some programs are continuing 5 of the original 18 Discovery Rangers have now finished up for the summer. Each of them has had a very positive impact on visitors to our parks and reserves according to Discovery Ranger Program coordinator, Jen Fry.

So it's a big thank you to Kirsty Albion, Sam Cuff, Alex Dudley, Fiona Hume and Sue Street. We hope to see them all back again next year. The Discovery Ranger program is in its 28th year. Approximately 70,000 participants enjoy the activities each year.

I would like to add that my 2 young children and I enjoyed a great couple of sessions at the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre over the holidays. We learnt about the water cycle and what ends up in the Tamar River, made and flew kites, went on a treasure hunt and saw a HUGE snake (from the safety of the boardwalk I hasten to add). Our thanks go to Discovery Ranger George and the volunteers at the TIWC for making the school holidays extra exciting. –Ed.

New visitor shelter at Hartz Mountains National Park.

Construction is under way on a new visitor shelter and toilet next to the main car park at the beginning of the Hartz Peak track, Hartz Mountains NP (www.parks.tas.gov.au/natparks/hartz). 'It will be a great improvement for visitors to what is one of the overlooked jewels of Tasmania's Parks and a window into the southwest wilderness', Huonville ranger Phil Bradley said. 'The shelter will include walker registration and information sections, an area for picnics and it will provide a great view of the mountain ranges. Even during inclement weather visitors will be able to stay a while and enjoy the magnificence of the Hartz sheltered from the weather'.

Phil said that Mr Reg Riley who was representing the Geeveston community Streetscape Committee and who visited the site recently, was very positive about the new facility: 'Mr Riley commented after the visit that the facility is a much needed addition to the Hartz Mountains NP and he expected it will be very welcomed by the many visitors to the area'.

The new shelter will complement a series of recent improvements at the Hartz NP, including walking track upgrades and viewing platform installations. The shelter is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Campground host program kicks off at Cockle Creek.

Despite some hiccups in the preparation because of the East Coast fires in December, the Huonville Field Centre kicked off its volunteer Campground Host Program at Cockle Creek in early January. Southern Region Volunteer

Facilitator and Program Coordinator Craig Saunders explained that the program is designed to complement the work done by permanent staff at Cockle Creek: 'The volunteer campground hosts are available to provide a visitor information service, including selling park passes and maintaining a full-time presence at Cockle Creek. This allows permanent staff to attend to other projects and duties, often remote from the visitor services site at Cockle Creek'.

The program builds on the success of other volunteer caretaker programs at Melaleuca and Maatsuyker Island and it also taps into the strong connections that people have with particular areas. The first host this season was Launceston Primary School Principal Malcolm Hales. Craig said that although Malcolm lives at the other end of the state he has a special connection with the far south, spending many of his annual holidays in the area. 'At the end of his two week stay at Cockle Creek Malcolm was enthusiastic about the program, confident that he had made a positive contribution to Parks and to the many visitors he met', Craig said. Malcolm added that it was a refreshing break from his other work, and that he was keen to return for another stint at Easter!

The campground host program has also been greatly appreciated by the permanent staff who have been especially busy this season with the development of the new road and campground at Southport Lagoon, scheduled to be finished late in the summer. Site officer Peter Price said that he has had much more time to get out and attend to other matters, while relying on the campground

WILDTIMES publication schedule

| Issue # | Article Submissions Due | Publication Date |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 30 | 31 May 2007 | Jun 2007 |
| 31 | 31 Aug 2007 | Sep 2007 |
| 32 | 31 Dec 2007 | Jan 2008 |

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

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers



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

\$2 discount per night for WILDCARE members

hosts to sell a record number of parks passes and answer the many questions experienced at this busy time of the year.

The Campground Host Program at Cockle Creek is scheduled to run from early January through to Easter and it's also planned to have a volunteer host at Southport Lagoon when the new campground is complete.

Tasmanian convict sites to be part of nomination for World Heritage List

Five of Tasmania's key convict sites will be included in a nomination for World Heritage Listing. They are among 11 sites to be nominated by the Australian Government.

The Tasmanian sites that will form part of this nomination are the:

- Port Arthur Historic Site.
- Coal Mines on Tasman Peninsula.
- Cascade Female Factory in South Hobart.
- Woolmers - Brickendon precinct (encompassing Brickendon Historic Farm and the Woolmers Estate) near Longford.
- Darlington Probation Station on Maria Island.

The World Heritage List contains natural and cultural sites that demonstrate outstanding and continuing importance on a global scale, with the objective to ensure they are protected for future generations. There are 15 Australian sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List including the Tasmanian Wilderness, the Great Barrier Reef, Macquarie Island and the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne. The final list of 11 new proposed sites was chosen after rigorous assessment by the Department of Environment and Heritage, the state governments of Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia, the Norfolk Island Government and expert consultants. Various sites were assessed against the technical requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. Tasmania's Aboriginal and natural heritage is already recognised and inscribed on the World Heritage List, as part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Tasmania will continue its partnership with the Australian Government to ensure Tasmania's sites of world significance are recognised and preserved for future generations. The nomination will be prepared by

the Department of Environment and Heritage in partnership with Tasmania and other states. It is expected to be submitted in mid 2007. An outcome is expected within four years.

Stakeholder consultations and information sessions with local communities will occur early this year in partnership with the Australian Government. These sessions will provide information about the World Heritage process and give the community opportunities to comment on the nomination process.

World Wetlands Day celebrated with zest at Tamar Island Wetlands

Over 300 children and parents enjoyed an activity-crammed day on Friday 2nd February to celebrate World Wetlands Day. This year's theme 'Fish for Tomorrow' was timely considering the challenges facing the world's ocean and fresh water fish stocks.

Over one billion people around the globe rely on fish and shellfish as their main, or in some cases sole, source of protein in their diet. Most of us enjoy and include fish in our regular diet.

Janice Miller, Tamar Island Wetlands Centre business enterprise coordinator said that World Wetlands Day is a great opportunity to work with other organisations to help to promote value of wetlands to the community.

"This year we had Fishcare representatives from the Department of Primary Industries and Water and Tamar NRM's Gambusia project officer Grant Scurr, with interactive displays," Janice said.

The day was spent in creative style with a perfect breeze allowing test flights of paper kites and pleas of 'I need longer string' emanating up and down the boardwalk. The treasure hunt to find and identify various native animals was a hit, so too the drawing and colouring-in of the wetland wall hanging. Kids (and adults!) brought along T-shirts, pants and even overalls for the screen printing activity.

One of the most popular activities is the gum nut babies according to Launceston-based Discovery Ranger George Darby.

"The kids just love making gum nut animals, it really brings out the creative side in them," enthused George.

Some fantastic creations were taken home with pride: wombats, possums, fish and insects, all made from banksia

cones, gum nuts, leaves and twigs.

Many of the Tamar Island Wetlands WILDCARE volunteers came along to help with the activities and macro-invertebrate identification and a guided walk to the island were also popular. At the end of the day many tired but happy children and parents struggled home laden with goodies.

Launch of new self-guided walk

World Wetlands Day also saw the launch of a new self-guided walk to Tamar Island.

"Thanks to the terrific work of volunteer Michael White, Tamar Island Wetlands can now offer visitors the opportunity to learn more about the reserve on their walk from the interpretation centre to the island," Janice said.

The two-page full colour brochure with photos and information is linked to 13 black-and-white numbered discs along the boardwalk. Flying Colours very generously sponsored this new initiative by printing 2000 brochures free of charge.

The walk covers the natural and cultural heritage of the reserve and the photo-information points highlight some of the special attractions for visitors. The guide not only provides a high quality interpretation activity on site, but also a great take-home souvenir. 🐾



Something Wild is a rehabilitation and conservation sanctuary for orphaned and injured animals. We nurture our native wildlife back to good health and prepare them for eventual release. Something Wild also has a number of habitats for animals that are unsuitable for release or may have been bred in captivity.

Come and visit Tasmania's Premier Wildlife Experience, on the road to Mt. Field National Park and the SouthWest wilderness.

Ph: 03 6288 1013
Fax: 03 6288 1341
Mob: 0408 128 325
www.somethingwild.com.au



A really early notice:

The WILDCARE Inc 10th Anniversary National Conference

The Board of Management have decided to run a National Conference as part of our 10th Anniversary.

The Conference will be in November and will finish the year off nicely.

The conference will bring together volunteers, their organisations and the partner organisations in government, local government and community to share experiences and ideas, develop new approaches and generally strengthen the community and volunteer networks and relationships that support reserve management, nature conservation and cultural heritage conservation.

Are you interested in:

- hearing about and sharing exciting ways of volunteering?
- learning new ways to build relationships to support volunteering?
- identifying issues and exploring solutions relating to volunteering?
- sharing your successes, and how you have conquered challenges?
- sharing experience and knowledge about innovative and effective ways of encouraging, managing and supporting volunteers in the natural and cultural environment?
- meeting with other interesting volunteers and volunteer program managers?

If so, you are invited to attend the 10th Anniversary National Conference in Hobart November 2007.

WILDCARE Inc is a broad community, not-for profit, volunteer organisation whose members provide time, effort, intellect and funding to a myriad of projects and programs in reserve management, visitor services, community education, for nature conservation (on both public and private conservation land), rehabilitating and rescuing wildlife and supporting cultural heritage conservation, in partnership with state and local government and private landholders.

We are uniquely suited to bringing together people from a diversity of

volunteer organisations and their partners.

Our membership numbers have at times been in excess of 4000 (that is 1 in every 100 people in Tasmania).

The number of hours our members provide each year is in the many hundreds of thousands, with a value of many millions of dollars.

We have 42 Friends of style groups (Community Action in Reserves groups) within our organisation, supporting reserves and caring for wildlife.

We are a registered Environmental Organisation with a tax-deductible Gift Fund, and an approved charity under the Tasmanian State Service Workplace Giving Scheme.


We are keen promoters of cooperative partnerships with reserve managers, private land holders, wildlife managers and cultural heritage managers, with the aim of making a real difference in the real world.

We like sharing ideas, developing new approaches and lending a practical hand to others.

We want to hear from others who share these passions.

This conference presents an opportunity for volunteers, volunteer and other community organisations, volunteer program managers and staff from partner Agencies to get together and take time to build better ways to work together towards a healthy reserve system, a protected, cared for and rehabilitated environment and wildlife, protected and cared for cultural heritage and sites and an educated and aware community.

Watch this space, and the website www.wildcareas.org.au for more information and details as the organising committee finalises arrangements.

WILDCARE Inc Conference Organising Team 

Par-Avion
Wilderness Tours

For enquires and bookings
Phone (03) 6248-5390
Fax (03) 6248-5117

Flights to Tasmania's South West National Park –
World Heritage Area.

Award winning Par Avion can take you to this
pristine and remote region allowing you the
opportunity to experience Tasmania's inspiring
wilderness.

Tours range from half to full day World Heritage
Flights to overnight camps as well as luxury cruises
aboard MV Southern Explorer.

1995, 1996, 1997
Tourism Award Winners.

10% discount to WILDCARE members
(Just quote membership number when making a booking.)

Group Reports

Derwent Avenue WILDCARE Inc Group (caretakers of The Dave Burrows Walk) 2006 review.

2006 involved a deeper assessment of our work with the Parks & Wildlife Service.

1. The contract between the PWS and our group.

With assistance from Craig Saunders, Regional Volunteer Facilitator, we went through the process of drafting and signing a Partnership Agreement with the PWS in order to formalise our voluntary work. Apart from our annual work plan in the Reserve, other key elements of the contract which had to be resolved were:

- The role of our group in that relationship.

Our original role was managing the Reserve under the PWS. After examination, we understand that our role is, more appropriately,

caretaking.

- The classification of The Dave Burrows Walk

We examined the Australian Track Classification Scheme and found that the Dave Burrows Walk did not fit well into the Australian Track Standards. Steve Sallons, (Manager, Strategic Asset Management, PWS) advised us that a revised seven-tier classification system called the Walking Track Classification System, designed by the PWS, was more appropriate for Tasmanian conditions. This Tasmanian system is designed to align with the Australian Track Standards so that a common measure can be used for all States and Territories. The Dave Burrows Walk fits well into the Tasmanian T1 Track Grade 1 classification (Tasmanian T1 Track Grade 1 equals the Australian Track Standard Class 3).

- risk management assessment

The process of understanding the issues of risk involved:

- a. Attending a risk management seminar.
- b. A long session with Paul Dimmick (PWS) discussing warning signs, safety barriers and the Australian Track Classification System.
- c. Completing a 'Matrix of Risk Assessment' of our Reserve. As a result of this we recommended the installation of 'Moderate Hazard' signs nominating the three risks below, with words instructing the visitor to 'Stay on the Path':
 - i. Slumping Cliffs
 - ii. Falling Tree Branches
 - iii. Uneven Ground

The PWS modified the third risk as Trip Hazards and Paul Dimmick designed a symbol for it.

- d. A visit from Steve Sallons (Manager, Strategic Asset Management, PWS). He answered our queries on hazard signage, our group's 'Duty of Care' to the visitor and our legal responsibilities in the light of the Civil Liability Act 2002 (No. 54 of 2002 - Tasmanian legislation). He emphasized the need to transfer the risk away from our group. He pointed out that our installation of two entry signs to the Reserve in 2005 had transferred a large

portion of the risk away from the visitor and towards our group. He recommended we should:

- i. Reduce that risk by increasing the Visitor Safety Rating Classification by installing the Moderate Hazard Warning signs.
- ii. Give details on paper to the PWS on the processes of our group's decision making on risk management and concluding with a strong statement saying that, given our limited physical energies and little financial support, this is as much as our group can do to minimise our risk.

The PWS approved the modified risks and designed and paid for two Hazard signs which we installed close to the two entrances. The decisions detailed above were incorporated into the Partnership Agreement that we signed with the PWS in July 2006.

2. New Planting in the Reserve.

From three subscriptions to the Understorey Network (National Heritage Fund), we received 400 shrubs and small trees. The plants were propagated from seeds and cuttings taken from species around North West Bay including Coningham Nature Reserve. We also purchased appropriate plants from local nurseries using our own funds. We are improving the diversity of plants on eroded sections on the cliffs, areas where native plant numbers are reduced due to repeated fire and the bulldozing of debris onto the Reserve, and areas where exotic weeds and non-native grasses have been removed. The new plants have been heavily mulched. Our goal is to improve the habitat for animals and plants and create a healthy bushland which can regenerate itself.

3. Part 2 of the Reserve: Derwent Avenue to Gemalla Road.

Since the PWS have formally accepted our caretaking of this new section, we have assisted with their blackberry poisoning; liaised with Kingborough Council in the resolution of the problem of waste water from a private company which was damaging the Reserve, and conferred with the Council on ways to reduce the effects of storm water from the road on the Reserve.

Our group has begun to map the vegetation of this area. We were helped by a visit from Alex Buchanan,

Platypus Park



Country Retreat
Bridport




Country Hospitality
by the Seaside

Ada Street, Bridport, Tasmania 7262
Ph: 03 6356 1873
Fax: 03 6356 0173
 Web: www.platypuspark.com.au
 Email: platypuspark@tassie.net.au
 15% discount to WILDCARE members.



a Botanist from the Herbarium. He advised us on the significant plants, riparian vegetation, exotic weeds and the condition of damaged and dry trees and plants in this area. The mapping will continue under the care of Dinah Jones, our new President.

– Lorraine Nielsen (Past President, Derwent Avenue WILDCARE Inc Group (The Dave Burrows Walk)

Tamar Island Wetlands Volunteers CARes Group – Julie Nermutt

At our October meeting we welcomed Janice Miller as the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre Business Enterprise Manager and we are all looking forward to working as a great team to make 2007 a very exciting and successful year. Also, over the last two months, we have welcomed four new volunteers as guides at the Centre.

At the end of November Janice Miller and I attended a two day workshop, organised by the national organisation, Wetlands.edu at the Hunter Wetlands, Newcastle, NSW. The theme of the workshop was raising the awareness and appreciation of wetland values and as a result each group developed a communication and education plan for their wetland. The Tamar Island Wetlands Centre is now part of this network and next year we will be hosting a Wetlands.edu training program.

On December 19, to increase our knowledge of the local cultural heritage and to have an enjoyable Christmas outing (of course), the volunteers had a guided tour of Clarendon, Evandale, and the Wool Centre and Female Factory at Ross.

We will be very busy during January with many visitors from all Australian states and overseas. We will also be working with the Discovery Ranger (formally the Summer Ranger) and his exciting program of activities such as Bush Babies, Snakes and Raptors, water sampling and heritage walks. This will culminate with the celebration of World Wetlands Day on February 2 with many activities planned on a wetlands theme. Please phone the Centre on 6327 3964 for more information about the summer program, World Wetlands Day or about joining our dedicated team of volunteers. 🐾

Chrystine Klimek, a WILDCARE Inc member, recently spent a few days at The Blue Tier, Gould's Country (NE Tasmania) and wanted to share with other members this special part of our island State.

Floral Signatures in the Blue Tiers

When you first break out of the forest on the winding dirt road leading to Poimena, you level out into open country of granite rock and grass and it is almost as if you've entered a vast 'landscaped' native garden. The land has been altered by human hands in a way, although not by gardening. Mountain Pepper (*Tasmannia lanceolata*), *Monotoca sp.*, *Richea sp.*, Cheeseberry (*Cyathodes glauca*) and Waratah (*Telopea truncata*) all tell of the forest that was once here and offered shelter. These plants are now rounded from their exposure to the forces of sun and wind. A few remnant Myrtles (*Northofagus cunninghamii*), the trees that once dominated these high rainfall slopes are scattered about, still decaying back into the earth. These rainforest trees, as well as Sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*), were harvested over 100 years ago, following on from the tin-mining in the region that brought townships such as Poimena into being. Amongst the faint lines of rubble in the abandoned township are clumps of golden daffodils, testimony to the presence of people and a need for familiar beauty.

Beneath areas of tea-tree and re-growth, vast oceans of grey and silvery lichens and rich, green mosses spread around the creeks. Here and there, a living Myrtle matriarch spreads long limbs, festooned with pale drifts of lichen, towards the sky. It will be a very long time before Myrtles reign supreme here again, but in the mean-time other plants are flourishing (as well as they can on a wind-swept mountain-top!).

A number of colour-tagged tracks take you amongst the remnant Myrtles, over and along streams, across ridgelines (wonderful panoramic views, including distant Mt. William N.P. to the north) and over the slopes. Some tracks pass the old tin-mine sites, where loud choruses of frog-song can be heard during the day. The St.Helen's District Historical Society and Forestry Tasmania have established the walking tracks (a range of distances, including one through to Weldborough), some information panels, a picnic table and a toilet for visitors, all low key and well done. We enjoyed our two days there and look forward to returning later in summer to this sub-alpine region, maybe to catch any late flowering Waratah.

Chrystine Klimek. 🐾

Specialists in Adventure Equipment



Packs, Tents, Boots,
Clothing, Sleeping Bags,
Climbing Gear, Stoves,
Maps, Foods, Cookware,
Torches, Compasses,
Kayaks & Accessories.
Expert Advice.

104 Elizabeth Street, Hobart
Ph 03 6234 7877

Mail order welcome.
Phone for catalogue.

Prepare yourself for adventure
10% discount* to WILDCARE members
(Just quote membership number when making a purchase.)
*Does not apply to Kayaks, Chaco sandals and scouting.

Why don't I get any call-up notices?

We thought that some members may be wondering this and we hope that this article will help readers understand how call-up notices are directed to members who want to volunteer for the various activities offered through WILDCARE Inc.

When people join WILDCARE Inc using one of our forms, they can write the names of reserves and CARes groups they are interested in and tick boxes showing the type of volunteer activities they would like to be involved in.

Those joining at the same time as paying for their Annual Parks Pass are sent a form.

People who join on-line and tick that they would like to be volunteers are given the opportunity to tick places, groups and activities.

All of this information is entered into the database of members.

When an activity comes to the WILDCARE Inc office, we use the database to find people to direct call-up notices to, either by mail or email.

For example, if a working bee to be held on Maria Island that involves

weeding, the database will be asked to generate a list of members who have ticked "Friends of Maria Island" or "Maria Island National Park" as a reserve.

People who live in southern Tasmania who have ticked "weed management", "general assistance" for Community Action in Reserves or "any place" as a reserve are also found through the database.

If the area to be weeded is on the coast, those who have ticked "coastal management" may also be added to the list.

Please note that ticking places, groups and activity boxes does not commit you to attending the activities.

Naturally, the person organising the activity would love to have your assistance but when you receive a call-up notice you choose whether or not to respond and join in the activity.

Although there can sometimes be hard work involved, there is also fun, camaraderie and a feeling of satisfaction in the work achieved.

You also get to work in some beautiful

places.

Many new members who joined on-line have ticked a box to receive call-up notices but have not indicated any areas or activities of interest.

The database cannot direct call-up notices to you without this information.

Unfortunately, some people's information was 'lost' in the recent transfer to a new database.

If you would like to check what areas and activities you are registered for, you can log onto the website by going to www.wildcaretas.org.au and clicking on 'Member's Login' just below the top right hand corner.


Unless you have already chosen your own, your 'User name' is either your full email address or your surname with the first letter as a capital and your 'Password' is your 2007 membership number.

If you have any problems with this, please ring or email.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can ring us on (03) 6233 2852 or write.

The WILDCARE Inc office is staffed by volunteers; Mike Bowden is usually available on Tuesday mornings and Marianne Watson on Thursday mornings.

Other WILDCARE Inc activities sometimes take us away from the excitement of managing the database, so please do leave a message on the answering machine if we don't answer.

Marianne Watson & Mike Bowden. 



Parks Shop

24 Main Road Huonville

Ph: 03 6264 8460



- Range of pre-visit information relating to Tasmania's National Parks & Reserves
- Parks Passes
- Maps
- Books – Adult and Children's Range
- Australian Animal Puppets
- Jigsaws – 24 to 2000 piece, including Southwest National Park
- Souvenirs
- Clothing – fleecy jackets, vests, ponchos, raincoats, t shirts
- Posters
- And more

10% discount to WILDCARE members



Parks and Wildlife Service shows its commitment to WILDCARE Inc

The WILDCARE Inc Office has moved locations, from the 4th floor of 134 Macquarie Street (DPIW) to the 2nd floor (PWS) and is now being provided with in-kind support by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

This arrangement, along with other changes such as...

- an increased discount on Park Passes for WILDCARE Inc members,
- changes to the Park Pass Forms to emphasise the partnership between Parks and WILDCARE Inc,
- a maturing understanding of the supportive role that WILDCARE Inc provides,
- and a desire to better promote the partnership to the community,

demonstrates very clearly that Parks and Wildlife Service strongly supports and values its partnership with WILDCARE Inc.

WILDCARE Inc will continue to work alongside Biodiversity Conservation Branch staff in RMC in joint-pursuit of nature conservation goals.

WILDCARE Inc congratulates PWS for its strategic and far-sighted response to the need to be better engaged with the community, and looks forward to building a strong and effective partnership to assist reserve management and natural and cultural heritage conservation in Tasmania.

Welcome back to WILDCARE Inc

Although in reality WILDCARE Inc has never been away, and so to welcome you back isn't quite correct, it is with pleasure that I welcome this renewed and enhanced opportunity to build and support our relationship with WILDCARE Inc as a result of the WILDCARE Inc Office relocating to our floor.

Through discussions at Ministerial and General Manager level it became clear that a real opportunity existed to better support the relationship with WILDCARE Inc and to build the capacity of PWS to work in partnership with the volunteer community.

In a similar vein, we in Parks and Wildlife Service had identified an important expertise gap that meant that we weren't doing as well as we could in terms of engaging and working cooperatively with the Tasmanian community. To do so is seen as very important and fundamental to the Parks and Wildlife Service. To fill this gap Andrew Smith has moved from DPIW to take up the position of Manager of Community Partnerships in Parks and Wildlife Service. Andrew possesses a very highly respected expertise in engagement planning, facilitation, community and staff capacity building, and the philosophies and practice of developing resilient, sustained partnerships. This expertise will be invaluable to PWS as we look for new opportunities to work with the Tasmanian community, and strengthen our existing relationships with organisations such as WILDCARE Inc. His role is to develop our capacity and processes so that we are better able to engage the community right across our business and activities. Andrew will be looking at methods for building the capacity of PWS staff and community to work together towards conservation and

management goals. Training in this area will continue to be offered to staff from other Agencies and to community members engaged in conservation, and land management activities.

Andrew will work closely with PWS Regional Volunteer Facilitators and Reserve staff to support and build high quality and up-to-date community engagement practices in the Regions.

Andrew founded WILDCARE Inc initially as an Agency program to encourage and support volunteers with the Parks and Wildlife Service, while working with PWS back in 1997. He has since been instrumental, in partnership with Richard Hammond for most of that period, in building WILDCARE Inc into a productive organisation - the largest environment volunteer group in the State.

Andrew continues to be government's nomination to the position of WILDCARE Inc's Appointed Co-Chair, as a consequence of his position as Manager Community Partnerships.

So I welcome Andrew back to the PWS with great enthusiasm. I am pleased that his return to PWS will in turn strengthen the vibrant relationship between Parks and Wildlife Service and WILDCARE Inc and its volunteer members.

Peter Mooney

General Manager – PWS 

WILDLIFE PRODUCT DISCOUNT

GREAT NEWS for Carers of **Orphaned/Injured Animals**

Cartledge Agency –

Your Wombaroo/Passwell distributor

This means ALL WILDCARE MEMBERS CAN NOW GET AN 8% DISCOUNT off any product (except for Seed and Mixes for Birdlife).

- Product data sheets for most products
- Buy \$35 of Wombaroo/Passwell products and receive FREE PRODUCTS to the value of \$7.
- Buy \$55 of Wombaroo/Passwell products and receive FREE PRODUCTS to the value of \$12

Visit our web site cartledgeagency.com.au

Orders can be delivered statewide for a delivery fee of \$6.25 per carton up to 30kg with next day delivery to most metropolitan areas.

Cartledge Agency would like to thank all WILDCARE members for their past support and look forward to future dealings.

To place an order contact:

Mark Cartledge at Cartledge Agency,
26, 34 Innocent Street, Kings Meadows Tas 7249
Phone 03 6344 5466 Fax 03 6344 7721
Mobile: 0408 335 498
Email: cartledge.agency@hotmail.net.au

WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE ANIMAL
BUT WE CAN SURE HELP YOU TO LOOK AFTER THEM!

WILDCARE Annual General Meeting and Annual Conference Notice

Date: Sunday April 1st 2007
 Time: Conference 10am – 12 noon
 Lunch 12 noon – 1pm
 AGM 1pm – 1.45pm
 Location: Narawntapu National Park (Bakers Beach)
 Lunch: BBQ provided
 Note: Bring a chair

Conference workshop topic – Developing a practical vision for the next 10 years.

WILDCARE Inc is turning 10 this year, and amazing things have been achieved during those years. Hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer time have been provided to reserve management and natural and cultural heritage conservation.

Over 40 WILDCARE Inc Community Action in Reserves groups now operate around the State. Membership has climbed as high as 4000 members. Annual programs are supported by our members' participation – all adding up to millions of dollars value contributed by WILDCARE Inc. We have run Music Festivals and offer the WILDCARE Nature Writers Prize every 2 years.

The organisation has incorporated, registered as an Environmental organisation, created a Gift Fund for accepting tax-deductible donations, become listed as an approved charity, developed sponsorship opportunities and relationships, developed operating procedures and group guidelines, attracted \$100,000s of extra external grants for projects, and made internal grants from our own funds for dozens of small projects.

We have continued to work in partnerships with Parks and Wildlife Service, Biodiversity Conservation Branch and Cultural Heritage Division (and their various forms) over all of those years.

We now have relationships with Wild Fisheries Branch management, and even a Memorandum of Understanding with Forestry Tasmania to assist with management of walking tracks. We

have some great sponsors, and people are donating to our funds all the time. We now have a fantastic web page and database of members, and have moved into the modern era of emailing and texting event notification to members and providing newsletters on line. It's a truly remarkable and extremely productive and resilient organisation.

That's the first 10 years.

The question now is - what do you want to be able to say about WILDCARE Inc's achievements, 10 years from now? What are some of the critical targets for success? What targets do you want to see achieved on ground, or in an organisational sense? What is it that you would like to be able to say if 10 years from now someone asks "So what has your organisation WILDCARE Inc achieved?" What would make you proud?

WILDCARE Inc will shortly be undertaking a Strategic Planning process to map out where we want to head over the next 10 years. The Conference will be the first step in that process, and an opportunity to contribute to defining and clarifying where you want your organisation to be.


This is not an Open Space conference as we have run in past years. This will be a facilitated session of 2 hours to develop a Practical Vision to guide the strategic planning process. We will work as a whole group, and in small groups. Come along and be part of it!

The AGM will be conducted at the end of the session (after lunch) to elect the positions of Co-Chair Elected and Treasurer and to acknowledge the Presidents from each of the Community Action in Reserves groups elected by their membership.

We will hear from the Co-Chairs about the year that was and have the finances presented for approval. We will appoint an Auditor and then its off home (or to the spectacular Bakers Beach for a refreshing swim and stroll). Then the journey of the next 10 years begins. 🐾

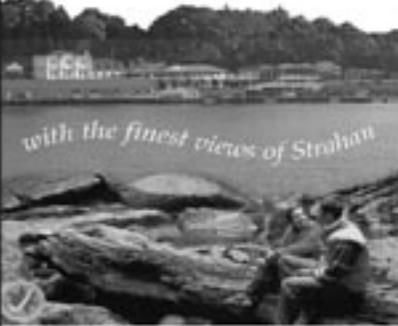
Gordon Gateway

The Ultimate Strahan break



10% discount on door prices for accommodation to WILDCARE members

The new look Gordon Gateway



with the finest views of Strahan

The Esplanade, Regatta Point, Strahan, Tasmania, 7468, Australia.
 Ph: 1300 134 425 Ph: 03 6471 7165
 Fax: 03 6471 7588
 Email: ggs@tassie.net.au
 Web: www.gordongateway.com.au



Moon Pads™

Washable, reusable, products help you reduce waste, save money and support local small business!

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

At Salamanca Market most weeks or contact:
 Moon Pads, PO Box 118, Sandy bay 7006,
 Tas. Ph: (03) 6223 5151
 info@moonpads.com.au
 http://www.moonpads.com.au

10% discount to WILDCARE members when purchasing menstrual pads





We take care of **YOU** and the
environment

10% discount on all services for WILDCARE Members*
*Excludes bulk rates on colour copying and seasonal promotions

Printing • Secretarial Services • Serviced Meeting spaces
Association/Body Corporate Management
Bookkeeping • Graphic Design

Proud supporters of WILDCARE Inc

Cnr George and Cameron Streets
Ph 6334 4355 • Fax 6331 3496
reception@branchoffice.com.au



RSVP Conference and AGM 2007

Name(s) of member(s) attending _____

How many for BBQ lunch? _____ How many vegetarians? _____

Are you wanting to camp overnight? (circle) Saturday evening Sunday evening

Nomination Form – Co-Chair Elected (and Public Officer)

Name of Nominee _____ Membership number _____

Signature _____

Name of Nominator _____ Membership number _____

Signature _____

Name of Seconder _____ Membership Number _____

Signature _____

Nomination Form – Treasurer

Name of Nominee _____ Membership number _____

Signature _____

Name of Nominator _____ Membership number _____

Signature _____

Name of Seconder _____ Membership Number _____

Signature _____

Send completed RSVP and Nomination Forms to
Andrew Smith Co-Chair (Appointed),
WILDCARE Inc
c/- GPO Box 1751,
Hobart 7001 by Tuesday March 27.

Note: nominations for Co-Chair Elected and Treasurer can be made at the AGM.



Thank you!

WILDCARE wishes to thank the following sponsors for their continuing support especially the Resource Management and Conservation Branch of DPIW for hosting the *WILDCARE* office

Gold Sponsors (\$10,000 plus)

Category 2 sponsors (\$5000–\$9999)

Category 3 sponsors (\$1000–\$4999)

Forestry Tasmania

Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council

KPMG

And the following *WILDCARE* member discount sponsors

Branch Office Business Centre – 10% discount (refer to advertisement)

Cartledge Agency – 8% discount (refer to advertisement)

Eaglehawk Neck Backpackers – \$2 discount per night

Gemstones at Lune River – 10% discount

Gordon Gateway – 10% discount on accommodation (door prices)

Moonpads – 10% discount

Par Avion Wilderness Flights – 10% discount

Parks and Wildlife Service – \$25 discount on Annual All-Parks Pass

Platypus Park, Country Retreat, Bridport – 15% discount

Snowgum equipment – 10% discount

Something Wild – 10% discount on entry fee

Forest Discovery Centre Scottsdale - 10% discount

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

We are looking for other sponsors, both for our operating costs and as discounters. Know someone who you think might be interested? Why not have a chat to them and suggest they contact **Andrew Smith on 03 6233 2836 or Richard Hammond on 0500 520 644.**

