

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



Volunteer Expressions of Interest are currently being called for Volunteer Campground Caretakers at Mount Field National Park, Tasmania

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) (a division within Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas)) is currently advertising for Volunteer Campground Caretakers for Mount Field National Park Campground, for four and five-week placements, between mid-December and May during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 summers.

Mount Field is one of Tasmania's oldest and most diverse national parks, and offers visitors an array of natural wonders, from tall forests and waterfalls at the base of the mountains to unique alpine plants and glacier-carved lakes in the alpine areas.

The Volunteer Caretaker program provides many benefits to the community, including:

- Campground users benefit from the warm welcome and information provided by caretakers.
- PWS benefit from having caretakers present to report any maintenance issues and provide any feedback about visitors' experiences.
- Caretaker teams greatly enjoy the chance to live in a beautiful reserve campground, connect with a range of like-minded people, and assist in caring for our wild places, while enjoying a relaxing, yet active, volunteering experience.

What does being a Volunteer Caretaker involve?

Volunteer Campground Caretakers are involved in a diversity of tasks, including:

- Welcoming visitors to the campground and providing information about the campsite, Mount Field National Park, and local areas.



Tarn Shelf – Chris Crerar

- Minor site maintenance and ensuring facilities are in clean and good working order, reporting any issues to PWS staff.
- Additional opportunities to assist with track care, or weed control, may arise as needed, and in keeping with caretakers’ preferences and abilities.
- Possibility of taking public money via EFTPOS for camping and shower fees

What are the living arrangements?

Caretakers provide their own accommodation such as a caravan, campervan, or motorhome. A complimentary powered campsite is provided – the campsite contains hot showers, washing facilities, flushing toilets, and a BBQ area. Volunteers will need to provide their own food, cooking materials, and sturdy footwear and clothing for variable weather and work tasks.

PWS will supply personal protective equipment, first aid kits and cleaning materials, tools and equipment, and visitor information resources.

The PWS Visitor Centre and staff offices are a 5-minute walk from the campsite. Support from PWS is always available, and caretakers and staff enjoy the chance to collaborate and get to know each other during the placement.



The Mount Field campground - Chris Crerar



The campground is along the Tyenna River near the small village of National Park. The villages of Maydena and Westerway are a 15-minute drive away. The regional centre of New Norfolk is 40 minutes away, and Hobart CBD is a 1.5-hour drive. 4G phone cover is available in the campsite area. Mount Field offers the chance to live in a National Park, whilst being within driving distance of cafes, shops, and restaurants.

Who does this suit?

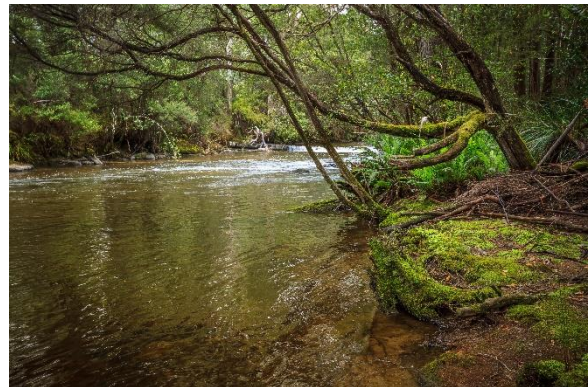
The Volunteer Caretaker role at Mount Field is unique – at times, it can be quite busy in the campground, and at others, it can be quiet and peaceful. It is suited to volunteers who love nature and camping or caravanning, but who are also sociable and enjoy meeting and talking to new people each day.

We embrace, support and encourage diversity and inclusion, where everyone is respected for the unique views and skills they bring, and everyone belongs. Our team at Mt Field is diverse. It is made up of staff who are multicultural, Tasmanian First Nations, LGBTIQ+ and people with disability.

We are committed to valuing and respecting each other as colleagues and peers. We do not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or bullying. Caretakers are never required to act in a compliance role, and any concerns with visitor behaviour should always be reported to PWS staff.

What do people love about this role?

Although Mount Field may be well known for its magnificent waterfalls, diverse forests and spectacular alpine vistas, the aspects that make Mount Field outstanding are still relatively secret. The tranquil Tyenna River flows alongside the campground giving campers some much-needed serenity after long days of hiking and exploring, and the chance to spot an elusive platypus.



The Tyenna River - Craig Vertigan

Photographers will enjoy the diversity of Mount Field NP. Seasonal changes bring with them new sights – flowers and leaves change; birds become more vibrant during their breeding months; waterfalls become even more spectacular after rain. In Autumn, the alpine areas blaze with the ‘turning of the Fagus’ – the Deciduous Beech, which is Australia's only winter deciduous tree.



Russell Falls - PWS

For the birders, Mount Field is wonderful. The National Park contains 11 of the 12 Tasmanian endemic bird species – many of which can be found along accessible, easy strolls from the campground. Volunteer caretakers are accompanied by birdsong as they go about their daily tasks.

For the fishing enthusiasts, the Tyenna River which runs alongside the campground is a trout hotspot and people travel each year to fish in the surrounding rivers and lakes.

Mount Field National Park is the gateway to the vast Southwest National Park – known for its stunning lakes, rugged mountain ranges and the impressive Gordon Dam. Mount Field is the perfect base from which to explore parts of Tasmania that few people get to experience.

Mount Field campground attracts a great diversity of people, from many different locations. Caretakers tend to be ‘people-people’ and enjoy chatting with and assisting visitors.

The volunteer caretaker role offers the chance to collaborate with the PWS at a grassroots level – helping provide memorable visitor experiences and enhance the camper's experience at Mount Field. Volunteer caretakers help inspire other people's connection to the wild and beautiful nature at Mount Field, and Tasmania as a whole.

Volunteers have the chance to help care for the environment, learn new skills, connect with nature, and to enjoy the company of a diversity of people.

We value our volunteer caretakers!

Caretakers will be provided with a volunteer uniform. Other benefits include special access to parts of the park as well as access to the knowledge of our local staff. They will be delighted to let you in on the hidden gems of the area.

Volunteering caretaker FAQ

- **What level of health and fitness is required?**

PWS volunteer caretakers require a reasonable level of physical fitness. Volunteers are encouraged to consider the location of Mount Field, noting that immediate access to health services may not be available. Volunteers should ensure all personal medications are available, and relevant health information disclosed to PWS prior to participation. Information will only be requested from successful applicants and handled following relevant privacy legislation.

- **What training is provided?**

An induction will be provided by PWS staff, assisted by the outgoing caretakers at Mount Field on the first day of each caretaker ‘shift’. To have a good hand-over between caretaker teams, we ask that incoming caretakers arrive by 10am on their first day and that out-going caretakers not leave until after 12noon on their final day. If caretakers wish to arrive a day early or leave a day later, then a campsite will be made available for both sets of caretakers.

- **What is the weather like?**

Weather forecasts for the village of National Park, where the campground is located, can be found at www.bom.gov.au/places/tas/national-park/ For long-term climate statistics, the closest weather station is at Maydena which is 12km from the campground and can be viewed at www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_095063.shtml

- **How can we find out more about Mount Field National Park?**

More information about Mount Field National Park can be found on the PWS webpage at www.parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/mount-field-national-park. For any queries about the role, please email the regional volunteer facilitator at volunteersouth@parks.tas.gov.au.

- **How are COVID risks managed?**

NRE Tas volunteer programs are conducted in accordance with the Tasmanian Government's COVID19 Safe Framework. This includes the Department's COVID-19 Safe Plan, Volunteer Activity Risk Assessments, and any relevant site plans. Individuals most at-risk are encouraged to consider their circumstances and complete a COVID-19 Action Plan in consultation with their medical practitioner.

How do we apply to become caretakers?

Caretaker places are offered based on both the experience and suitability of applicants, and their availability. Please apply in teams of two who will share accommodation (i.e., couple, good friends, siblings). The role is not, unfortunately, suited to solo applicants. Small family groups, or trios etc. will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



Picnic on Tarn Shelf – Chris Crerar

NRE Tas volunteer roles are not paid positions, and therefore an EOI submission should not be written in the same way as a job application.

The department is interested in finding out more about you, what motivates you to volunteer, why you are interested in participating in the program and any skills or experience you might have that you think would add value to the volunteering role on offer.

Please provide a short form submission, being an email or letter addressing the volunteer criteria below:

Step 1 Please tell us a little bit about yourselves - including any information you think might help us understand your suitability for the role. You are welcome to include your resumes.

Step 2 Please address the volunteer criteria below in one or two short paragraphs per criteria

V1 What is your interest in the caretakers' role – why you would like to participate?

V2 What is your experience working, living, or volunteering in a similar location, or role?

V3 What skills or experience do you have that is relevant to the role?

V4 What is your physical capacity to move around a campground setting and perform minor cleaning and maintenance?

V5 What accommodation would you be able to provide? i.e., caravan

Step 3 Please include your preferences in order for the following placements:

Summer 2023/24

5 January 2024 – 7 February 2024 (4 weeks)

7 February 2024 – 6 March 2024 (4 weeks)

Please submit your application to: Emmalene Maher – PWS Regional Volunteer Facilitator (South) via email to volunteersouth@parks.tas.gov.au

Closing date: Monday 8 August 2023

Thanks for your interest!