

TNPA NEWS

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION INC

Newsletter No 10 Autumn 2008

Eaglehawk Neck. Photo: Ben Kurczok



INSIDE updates on...

It appears Remarkable Lodge Proposal near Crescent Bay

Update on the proposed Three Capes Track —Tasman National Park

Also, Mt Wellington: the reserve that didn't become Tasmania's first national park

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN:

Paving our Parks

—Ongoing Tourism Development in Tasmania's Reserved Land and Conservation Zones

THANK YOU

The TNPA Committee would like to thank the following people who have recently volunteered their time to assist the TNPA, or who have helped us in other ways, over the last six months.

The Buttongrass Ball

The Verandah Coots, David Wanless, Cathie Hutchinson & Friends, Plants of Tasmania.

TNPA News Production (this edition)

Claire Newman, Tasprint Pty Ltd

Other Support & Assistance

Chris Bell, Christian Bell, John Cannon, Grant Dixon, Todd Dudley, Helen Gee, the Henderson family, Rebecca Johnston, Steve Johnson, Kevin Kiernan, Ted Mead, Jon Nevill, Helen Pryor, Shirley Storey and Ray Thomas

Anne McConnell

In 2003, the TNPA was so outraged by a proposal to build a 200 bed conference facility at Darlington on Maria Island (a place of such outstanding historical significance that the Australian and Tasmanian governments have nominated it along with ten other convict sites to the World Heritage List) that the TNPA lobbied against the development under the banner *Tasmanian National Parks – Not For Sale*. It appears that Tasmanian reserved land is still, in the eyes of the Tasmanian Government, for sale, or at least for lease for development.

Resort and other tourist developments in our parks and reserves are not a new phenomena, but since the Bacon-Lennon government came to power tourist development proposals are at an unprecedented high level.

The TNPA was launched in September 2001 and in the next twelve months it campaigned against the proposed Doherty resort development at Pumphouse Point, against the huge new car park at Dove Lake, and against a communications tower on Mt Olympus, all within Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). Prior to September 2001 a number of the founding members had been instrumental in keeping helicopter tourist flights out of the Southwest corner of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.¹

¹The Friends of the Quiet Lands campaigned against a tourist proposal to have regular helicopter flights into the southwest, complete with heli-landing sites at a number of coastal locations.

To identify, protect, conserve, present, and where appropriate, rehabilitate the area and to transmit that heritage to future generations in as good or better condition than at present.

Overall objectives of the World Heritage Area Management Plan 1999



Pristine Lake Rhona, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, Tasmania (2008, A. McConnell)

In May 2008 the TNPA is still actively fighting a number of new and not so new major and inappropriate tourism developments in Tasmania's National Parks and other reserved and conservation land, including a new resort in the Conservation Zone land on the Tasman Peninsula and, sadly, yet another resort development proposal at Pumphouse Point. Other tourism developments within Tasmania's reserved lands opposed by the TNPA in the intervening period include:

- major expansion of the accommodation facilities at Cynthia Bay (leased by E-S Link);
- the Marriner resort at East Cockle Creek, Recherche Bay;
- a dam in Freycinet National Park to support a proposed Federal Hotels resort at Coles Bay;
- a very large, modern day-use 'hut' at the Hartz;
- the very large 40-60 bed 'huts' on the Overland Track;
- the proliferation of standing camps and the introduction of 'permanent standing camps';
- helicopter landings in the TWWHA (including an illegal landing site in the TWWHA in the Fury Gorge area); and
- the proposed Three Capes Walk with not huts, but villages (termed 'nodes') for accommodation.²

It is important to be clear here that the TNPA is not opposed to sustainable tourism and other development. The view we have consistently advocated and which is contained in TNPA

policy is that the primary objective, hence management priority, for Tasmania's national parks and other reserved land is the protection of conservation values, natural and cultural. All tourism development, other than low level and minimal impact infrastructure that helps present these values, is incompatible with this objective, hence unacceptable. The TNPA's view is that these types of development have no place in conservation areas and should be located outside the reserves.

But like they say in the real estate industry, it seems to be a case of 'location location' and, along with water frontages, developers appear to want the more prestige-status reserved land for their developments, not the common-garden private land outside. Given the minimal fees levied by government for concessions on reserved land, it is also possibly a case of developments outside reserved land costing developers substantially more.

The Bacon-Lennon government, who when they came to power had a vision to double the income to the state from tourism in the first five years, not only welcomed the developers' interest, but have actively sought expressions of interest for some of these developments (eg, Pumphouse Point) and in the case of the Three Capes Walk, are the developer! And yet this government has no policy for environmentally sustainable tourism in the State. Curious for a government whose preferred brand for the state is 'Clean and Green'.

Given this situation, the question arises - where will it stop? The present government appears to have no limit on what it will countenance, and the developments appear to be getting bigger

² The TNPA has also opposed a small number of resource development projects, in particular sand mining in the Seven Mile Beach Conservation area (a government initiative) and a mining lease application at Cox Bight, South West Tasmania.



The other end of the spectrum—highly developed Lake Louise, Banff National Park, Canada (2002, A. McConnell)

and bigger – witness the proposed Three Capes Walk and now ‘wellbeing’ and conference centres at Cynthia Bay! Do we truly want to repeat the mistakes of others and end up with high rise and high density resorts and visitor facilities in our parks. Do we really want a Lake Louise on the shores of Dove Lake or Cynthia Bay?

This sort of development is slowly but surely turning our reserved land into the suburbs and urban areas they were specifically design to allow us to escape from. We are turning the natural, the special, the vulnerable and the unique into the ordinary, the common and the artificial.

We will wake up tomorrow with these words echoing in our minds -

*“You don’t know what you’ve got til it’s gone,
They paved paradise, and put in a parking lot.”*

(Big Yellow Taxi, Joni Mitchell)

The paving has already started – we now have massively expanded car parks at Dove Lake, Cynthia Bay and Coles Bay, and in a recent decision the Central Highlands Council has put as a development permit condition that a new access road at Cynthia Bay is to be sealed, in an area where no sealed roads now exist.

Unlike the present government, the TNPA’s vision is to maintain this paradise we have inherited. Tourism in our national parks and reserved land is only acceptable where it is responsible and truly sustainable. We will therefore continue to oppose the large scale tourism (and other) development the government seems so keen to promote.

We would rather, however, work with the government than against it to achieve this outcome. But this requires a dialogue with the government, and a commitment on the government’s part to develop a policy on environmentally sustainable tourism. It also needs the government to respect its development assessment processes (including established structures such as the RPDC), to respect its natural area management plans, to respect promises and decisions made on the basis of environmental values protection (eg, not to mine sand in the Seven Mile Beach Conservation Area), to respect and utilise scientific information in assessing the impacts of developments, and to require transparent, comprehensive and genuinely triple bottom line assessments.

What else is needed is a commitment to improving our understanding of the natural and cultural values of our reserves (currently very inadequate). The TNPA would also like to see more independence of the Parks & Wildlife Service to distance it from tourism and other developments. In our view the recent departmental changes were a step in the right direction (specifically the removal of tourism from the department housing parks and environment), but another critical step to achieving this is to reinstate the position of Director (as provided for in the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*) as a dedicated position for someone with expertise in environmental values management.³

³ Under the Bacon-Lennon government the position has been held by the Secretary of the Department (a political appointment), until recently the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment – clearly indicating the priorities of this position. The two pieces of legislation that govern the creation and management of national parks and reserves in Tasmania make it clear that the position of Secretary and of Director of the PWS are two separate roles and positions.



Crescent Bay. Photo: Tracey Withers

TNPA APPEALS REMARKABLE LODGE PROPOSAL NEAR CRESCENT BAY

Robert Campbell

On 21 April 2008, a media release announced that the Tasman Council had approved the development application lodged by Miff Pty Ltd for an eco tourism operation near Crescent Bay, Port Arthur. The development, known as Remarkable Lodge (due to its proximity to Remarkable Cave) and which will include 20 suites for guests, staff accommodation, restaurant, spa retreat and conference facilities, was the second attempt by the Dick Smith family to have the development approved.

Tasman Mayor Jan Barwick stated in the media release that the current application was extremely comprehensive and adequately addressed all the relevant issues in the planning scheme as well as meeting all the requirements of the State Coastal Policy. However, this is despite the fact that the Tasman Council had rejected an almost entirely similar application in July 2007 on the following grounds:

- Access to the site from Dog Bark Rd will result in environmental damage,
- Access from the site onto Crescent Bay will result in environmental damage,
- Non compliance with the State Coastal Policy
- Non compliance with the Tasman Planning Scheme
- Application lacks sufficient information for an informed decision to be made having regard to the impact of the development on native fauna.
- The noise and frequency of helicopters accessing the site and the detrimental affect on native fauna, in particular White-bellied Sea Eagles.
- The proposed development is of little economic benefit to the Tasman Peninsula.

Given the name of the proposed development, the TNPA finds it remarkable that despite such strong grounds for rejecting the previous application, less than a year later the Tasman Council has done a complete back-flip and has now approved the application. While the revised application includes a Sea Eagle Management Plan (which the TNPA deems to be inadequate) and the removal of a proposed walking track between the lodge and Crescent Bay (which is to be negotiated separately with the Parks and Wildlife Service) none of the other grounds, particularly the non-compliance with both the State Coastal Policy and Tasman Planning Scheme, have been addressed.

The site of the proposed development is contiguous to the Tasman National Park and within the Coastal Protection Zone under the *Tasman Planning Scheme 1979*. The *Tasman Planning Scheme 1979* states that the intent of the Coastal Protection Zone is to "... maintain the rural character and high scenic quality of the coastal landscape." The subject site is of outstanding scenic values and has high natural qualities and thus deserves its inclusion within the Coastal Protection Zone (if not the National Park).

In its decision to reject a previous tourism proposal lodged in 2004 for this site, the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) determined that such a development did not comply with the *Tasman Planning Scheme 1979*. The RPDC stated that "*The proposed amendment is contrary to the intent of the Coastal Protection Zone. It is difficult to understand how Council will ensure the environmental and scenic values can be protected with development of the site...Development ...will significantly conflict with the natural and aesthetic qualities of this stretch of coast*". (TASRPDComm 19 (5 July 2005)).

The proposed development site is also within the State Coastal Zone (as defined under the *State Coastal Policy Validation Act 2003*) and must therefore also comply with the *State Coastal Policy 1996*. The *State Coastal Policy 1996* states as one of the three main principles guiding the Policy that "Natural and cultural values of the coast shall be protected". Furthermore, clause 2.3.4 specifically states that "Tourism development will be located where there is environmental capacity and where it does not significantly conflict with the natural and aesthetic qualities of the coastal zone".

In its previous decision concerning a proposed tourist development on this site (TASRPDComm 19 (5 July 2005)), the RPDC noted that "This area exhibits high landscape values, which could easily be destroyed by large inappropriate developments, associated roads and infrastructure which the draft amendment promoted. A site visit suggests the area should be considered to be incorporated into a public reserve which allows a minimum and very controlled access by the public." (TASRPDComm 19 (5 July 2005)). The same can be said for the present proposal.

Finally, according to Schedule No. 3 Table of Zones in the *Tasman Planning Scheme 1979*, the only permitted uses within the Coastal Protection Zone are primary industry use, home occupation and residential (single dwelling). All other uses are generally prohibited, or discretionary. Those that are discretionary include private recreation, public recreation, plant nursery and tourist operation, with the latter defined under the Scheme to include wildlife parks, host farms, country clubs, outdoor historical or bush displays and the like. The TNPA argues that these uses mainly refer to recreational use of the area (and more likely day-use, as camping is prohibited). Additionally, the use of terms such as *wildlife, farms, country and outdoor* reinforces the concept that the intent is for use focused on outdoor activities. The TNPA does not believe that this discretionary status should extend to allowing a large accommodation use as proposed.

While the applicants go to some length in their application to argue that the eco-tourist lodge is not a motel the TNPA argues that the objectives of all such developments (e.g. motel, lodge or retreat) are the same—to provide overnight accommodation and related facilities to the public or clients. Given that Schedule 3 of the *Tasman Planning Scheme 1979* prohibits the use of any

site within the Coastal Protection Zone for a motel, it is also quite clear that an eco-tourist lodge is also prohibited. To argue, as the applicant does, that the core component of the use of the site is for an "environment tourist experience" and that the "provision of overnight accommodation is not the primary focus, although it is a necessary incident of it" is complete nonsense.

The issue of what constitutes an eco-tourism operation and the definition of a motel was discussed by the RPDC in its decision concerning the proposed development at Sympathy Point (TASRPDComm 12 (16 June 2004)) and is also relevant to the present proposal. Under the planning scheme, a motel includes any premises that are primarily used or intended to be used for the temporary accommodation of the motoring public and provision of car parking is made within the curtilage and includes holiday village/unit types of accommodation. The proposed eco-lodge principally falls within this definition, with some additional ancillary uses. Nothing about the use - based on current standards of waste water disposal, access and facilities - particularly labels this application as anything other than principally a motel. As such, the development application is for a prohibited use and cannot be approved without an amendment of the Tasman Planning Scheme.

Crescent Bay provides a desirable destination for walkers, either via the track from Remarkable Cave or from the end of Dog Bark Road, and the area possesses outstanding scenic and high natural and conservation qualities. At present the Tasman National Park only skirts the coast and is too narrow to adequately protect the natural and conservation values of the area. Given this situation the proposed development site warrants inclusion within the National Park. This should be the long term outcome which the Tasman Council should seek for this area and is clearly supported by residents on the Tasman Peninsula as demonstrated by their wholesale rejection of previous proposals to develop the site. Indeed, such a conclusion was reached by the RPDC in relation to the decision cited above.

The TNPA lodged an appeal with the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal on May 5 and is joined by Birds Tasmania, Friends of Crescent Bay and another local resident in having the Council's decision overturned.

FUN IN THE SNOW IN TASMANIA & LET'S HIT THE HIGH SPOTS; TASMANIAN MOUNTAINS

Dr Kevin Doran presents assorted images at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania.
Thursday 3 July, 7pm. \$10 waged \$8 unwaged. *Proceeds to the TNPA.*

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED THREE CAPES TRACK —TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Janet Henderson

Has TNPA lost the plot in opposing a walk in the park – that is, the proposed Three Capes Track? No!

To summarise: the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) has proposed spending \$15m on a commercial, 6-day-and-5-night, tent-free, 'iconic' walk through the Tasman National Park - incorporating two boat trips. Five 'nodes' are proposed for overnight accommodation. According to the Feasibility Study (produced in 2007), each 'node' would consist of a hut/lodge to sleep 60 people, a commercial hut to sleep 20 people, a ranger's hut as well as toilet and kitchen facilities and a helipad. That is, five of these substantial developments are proposed within the National Park. The Feasibility Study predicts up to 10000 walkers and 50 000 bed nights (in peak season). All this commercial activity is proposed for a National Park which is in the unique position of having an adjoining community which could accommodate and cater for walkers. Suitable partnerships and support would keep developments out of the park and the economic advantages in the community.

Furthermore, the Feasibility Study is not clear on a number of points: such as the practical operation of the two proposed boat trips and whether or not traditional day walkers or campers would still be able to enjoy the areas proposed for the Three Capes Track.

There has been limited, informal community consultation and the first formal opportunity for public comment was in relation to changes which would have to be made to the Tasman National Park Management Plan in order to allow the Three Capes project to go ahead. This commentary period closed on 11th March 2008.

It is clear that the proposed Three Capes Track is a reversal of the intention of the 2001 management plan. At that time it was considered that the existing Tasman Coastal Track (from Pirate's Bay to Fortescue Bay along the coast, then to Cape Huay and Cape Pillar and looping back to Fortescue Bay) provided a spectacular, multi-day walk and that any further walking tracks in the Tasman National Park were inappropriate because of the cost and the environmental issues – such as the area's high susceptibility to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (root rot fungus).

The TNPA co-operated with the Peninsula Environment Network and other members of the community to produce a very attractive leaflet outlining the proposal, our objections to it and the alternative - the existing Tasman Coastal Track. TNPA members were at Salamanca market on 3 successive Saturdays to draw

attention to the issue; an open day was held at Koonya and the leaflets were put into most Peninsula letterboxes.

The representations are now being reviewed by PWS and a report will be prepared for the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC). This report will summarise the representations, include opinions on the merit of each one and whether or not further changes to the draft management plan should be considered.

There are some additional points to be made here:

- Is it appropriate that the proponent of this project collects and assesses the representations?
- Is it appropriate that the minister in charge of the Parks and Wildlife Service makes the final decision to alter the management plan in order to allow the project to go ahead?
- When one reads (and re-reads) the paragraph on how representations are assessed, one is left with the conclusion that a representation will not be given any weight if it conflicts with government policy (p. iv Draft Management Plan).

Once all the reports and representations are with the RPDC the representations will be made available for public viewing and public hearings may be held.

If the management plan is changed to allow the Three Capes proposal to go ahead the next two stages will be finalising the Management Plan and preparing the Master Site Plan – after which there is another opportunity for public input.

The timeline for the project does not list a specific stage when an Environmental Impact Assessment would be undertaken - presumably it will be carried out during the process of preparing the master site plan.

Given that a significant amount of time and resources will have been committed to this project by the time an environmental impact assessment is carried out, can we be sure that the project will be abandoned or significantly altered if the environmental impacts are found to be unacceptably high or will the investment dictate that the best we could hope for is 'mitigation'?

The TNPA will be addressing the Tasman Council about the Three Capes Track on the 2nd July and will also be holding a social day at Fortescue Bay on 27 July. For further information please contact Janet Henderson on 0427 854684 or admin@tnpa.asn.au

CURRENT ISSUES & SUBMISSIONS

Over the last six months the TNPA has been working on a number of issues. Most of these are related to new, inappropriate developments in or adjacent to our national parks or other conservation land. In summary they are –

Three Capes Walk, Tasman Peninsula, Proposal

- TNPA input into the Feasibility Study
- TNPA submission on the revised Tasman National Park & Reserves Draft Management Plan 2008 (no decision as yet).

Resort Development (Miff Pty Ltd) Crescent Bay, Tasman Peninsula (proposed)

- TNPA representation to the Tasman Council on the initial development application (not approved by Council)
- TNPA representation to the Tasman Council on the second (recent) development application (approved by Council) and has appealed.

Pumphouse Point Resort Development (Simon Currant), Lake St Clair, Cradle Mountain—Lake St Clair NP (proposed)

- TNPA representation to the Central Highlands Council on the development application (approved by Council)
- TNPA has appealed the decision.
- TNPA representation to the Parks and Wildlife Service

Cynthia Bay Accommodation Expansion, (E-S Link) Lake St Clair, Cradle Mountain—Lake St Clair NP

- TNPA representation to the Central Highlands Council on the development application (approved by Council).
- TNPA submission on the PWS DPMP for the full expansion proposal (no decision as yet).

Federal Hotels Resort, Coles Bay (proposed)

- TNPA representation to the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council on the development application noting concern that a major dam was approved within the Freycinet NP

before the resort was approved and on the basis that the application was for a considerably small resort development (approved by Council).

Tourism Use for a Heli-pad, Strathgordon (proposed)

- TNPA representation to the Derwent Valley Council on the development application (opposing the change of use if this would lead to helicopter overflights and landings in the TWWHA) (approved by Council).

Mining Lease Application, Cox Bight, SW Tasmania (proposed)

- TNPA representation to Dept Infrastructure, Energy & Resources opposing the proposed mining (no decision as yet).

RPDC Final Recommendations on the Marine Protection for the Bruny Bioregion

- TNPA submission to Dept Primary Industries and Water condemning the minimal recommendations and compromise of the assessment process (no decision as yet).

WHA Mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

- The TNPA met with the Mission as part of a combined Environmental NGO delegation headed by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.
- The TNPA made a verbal and written submission to the Mission.

Some submissions can be found on the TNPA website. For copies of other submissions, please contact the TNPA Project Manager, Janet Henderson.

MT WELLINGTON:

the reserve that didn't become Tasmania's first national park

Debbie Quarmby

At the time Tasmania's national parks movement began, Mt Wellington was Hobart's most popular tourist attraction. During the 1905-06 season 10,320 tourists were driven to The Springs¹ and, as a result of agitation by the Tasmanian Tourist Association (TTA) and other members of the public, the *Mountain Park Act* was passed in 1906 to preserve part of the eastern slope, near The Springs². While many lobbyists wanted the legislation to provide national park status, control remained vested in the Hobart corporation.

Excursions to Mt Wellington were extremely popular (the number of tourists visiting the mountain quadrupled in the five years to 1907³) and large numbers of people traveled to the Springs, part way to the top of the mountain, using transport provided by the TTA, the membership of which included some national park activists. Somebody at the time described the mountain's capacity to lift a walker's spirits by writing:

To ascend this hill is the favorite trip of a stranger, and though the toil is great, it is more than repaid by the sublimity of the scene, - D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Brown's River, and the Huon seem like silver threads amid the dense mass of foliage around. But you are only now half-way, and the ascent higher up is still more laborious; yet the view from this is so grand that you gain fresh courage and hurry up the towering hill above you. Some level places afford rest to the weary feet, and, as you approach the top, the air becomes more rarefied, cool and refreshing; at length you throw your exhausted frame on the highest rock, and rejoice that your difficult task is completed. The view from hence is transcendently beautiful, and though from the extreme height the city seems but small, yet the distant sea and all its sinuous bays and inlets, now easily scanned, are spread out like living panorama before the eye, imposing and grand in the extreme⁴.

A shining confusion of light and shade is there to be seen - shining moss clothing the moldering boles of prostrate forest giants - lichens luxuriating on every rock, and water cresses growing on every pool - scintillating gleams of golden sunshine here and there dart through the umbrage of the dense foliage like angel visitants from the outer world - silence broken only by the occasional flitter and note of the forest bird or the sigh of the wind⁵.

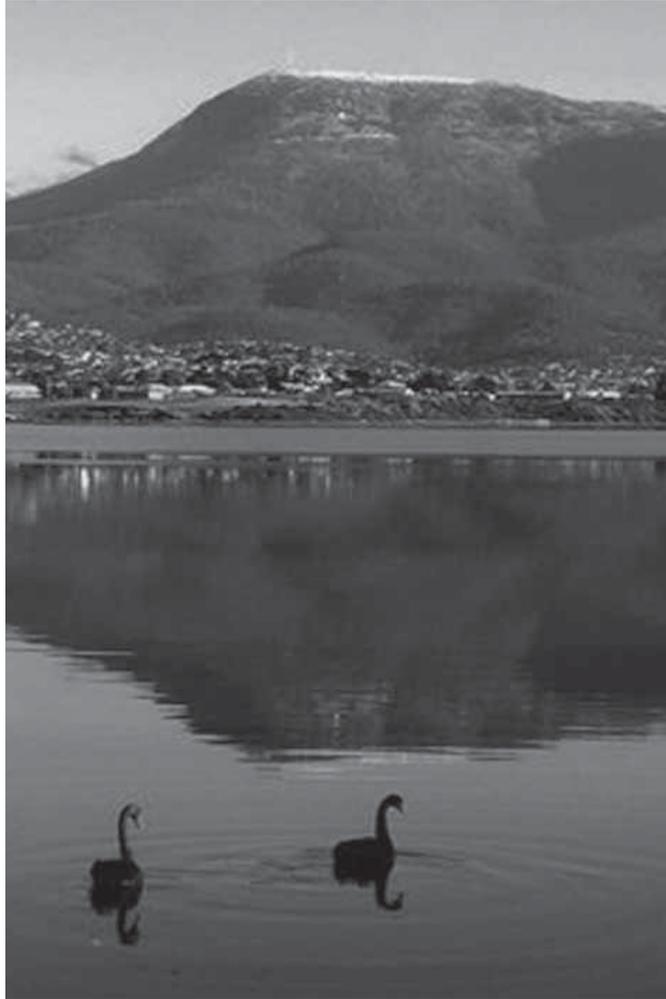


Photo: A. Christie-Johnston; courtesy of WPMPT

Lobbying by members of a number of organisations, notably the TAA, Tasmanian Field Naturalists Association and the Australian Natives Association (a friendly society that actively advocated patriotic causes in public debate⁶) resulted in an understanding that a large part of the eastern slope of Mt Wellington was preserved for a national park. In 1871, 3,750 acres of the mountain fronting North-West Bay River had been reserved and management vested in the Hobart Corporation, for the purpose of the city's water supply⁷. Legislation passed in 1906 foreshadowed transferring some of this land on the mountain's eastern slope to national park status and its management to a board of trustees. This understanding led park proponents to refer to the reserve as a national park, and the Minister of Lands, Alec Hean, also acknowledged it as such⁸. In January 1906 a deputation of representatives of the TAA, Australian Natives Association and the Field Naturalists Club, all of whom belonged to the TTA in addition to any other group

they represented at the meeting, met with the Minister of Lands to discuss the appointment of trustees to take charge of the park. A member of the delegation, Philip Seager, said that,

one of the most important planks of the Tourist Association platform was the protection of the beauty spots in and around Hobart. The most important of these beauty spots was the portion of Mt Wellington known as the National Park, and what they wanted was a carefully selected committee or board who would not only make it their duty to preserve the natural beauties of the place, but to add to them by the judicious planting of native trees and shrubs⁹.

It had been practically agreed upon, one of the delegates argued, that the managing body should be elected from the TAA, Australian Natives Association and Field Naturalists Club, and that land should be vested in them as trustees for the good of the community¹⁰.

The delegates suggested that, though members of the organisations represented would contribute their services, the government should provide a grant for the park's maintenance. The Minister, however, responded that, while he recognised the advantages of having enthusiasts such as Leonard Rodway and others involved in the committee, it should also include representatives of the Lands and Works Department and

that, as for funding, he thought that the committee should

endeavor to arouse a spirit of emulation among the people of Hobart, so that they might, like the people of Launceston, put their hands in their own pockets and assist in a practical way such a deserving object¹¹.

The committee could expect to benefit from any revenue derived from leasing a portion of the park for a hotel or other development, but the government was not prepared to provide finance in order that the TAA, in collaboration with other non-government bodies, could manage the reserve.

The national park proponents' aspirations never came to fruition because of opposition from the Hobart Corporation. The Corporation, strongly opposed to any development at The Springs because of possible detriment to Hobart's water supply, fought against the proposed National Park and accompanying Springs Hotel. Through 1906 it was the subject of a protracted public debate between health officials, Henry Dobson, who was the park proposal's chief advocate, municipal council officials and State politicians. The Chief Health Officer objected to Dobson's hotel scheme because of potential contamination of the Bower Creek water supply, especially the possibility of infected sewage from typhoid convalescents who might stay there¹². Dobson, however, argued that he saw no evidence of this danger given that sewage need not affect Bower Creek, and that people were entitled to their park after seven years' delay¹³. The government was caught between two competing public interest groups in deciding on the fate of the proposed Mt Wellington National Park, that representing the Hobart Corporation's view on Hobart's water supply and that representing the public reserve. Given the health problems linked to poor sanitation that Hobart's population experienced during the late 1890s the Hobart Corporation had considerable public and political support for its position, with which the park lobby had difficulty competing.

The 1906 Act had failed to proclaim the land described as 'national park' as such, and had not defined reserve boundaries. It simply designated an area in the vicinity of The Springs for a potential national park. The Corporation, Henry Dobson argued, should have been made to honor the intention of the legislation—public enjoyment of the park, and provision of accommodation at the Springs—and organise its water schemes accordingly. But, with public health concerns in its favour, the Hobart Corporation won the Mountain Park debate, and it retained control of the reserve. Dobson wrote to the Premier;

[I am] ...amazed and disgusted at the action of the Corporation. In applying for the National Park I wrote that the Park would be a sham unless it included the Bower Creek. This sham was given us and in order to make the Park a sham in every way the Council put their fence against the picnic shed and declined to allow the public to step beyond the shed. Our real National Park therefore consists of about 100 square yards surrounding Gadd's Cottage and the track to the Pinnacle¹⁴.

After protracted debate about drainage and the impact of accommodation at The Springs on Hobart's water supply, Henry Dobson's application to erect accommodation at The Springs was eventually granted, though the area of land that accompanied it was very small, and Mt Wellington failed to become the site of the State's first national park.

¹ Archives Office of Tasmania, PD1 1907, File 28.

² K. Aves, 'Mount Wellington', *Tasmanian Tramp*, No.12, December 1955, p.40.

³ J. Davidson and P. Spearitt, *Holiday Business*, 2000, p.42.

⁴ Capt. H. Butler-Storey, *A Residence in Tasmania*, London, 1856, pp.24-25.

⁵ H. Thomas, *Guide to Excursionists between Australia and Tasmania*, Melbourne, 1870, p.72.

⁶ J. Bassett, *The Oxford Illustrated Dictionary of Australian History*, Australia, 1993, p.15.

⁷ *Tasmanian Government Gazette*, 20 September 1971.

⁸ *Mercury*, 10 January 1906.

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² Archives Office of Tasmania, PD1 1906-07/ 28.

¹³ *ibid.*

¹⁴ *ibid.*

NEW OCCASIONAL PAPER FOR WELLINGTON PARK

Michael Easton

The Wellington Park Management Trust has recently released Wellington Park Papers No.1, the first in an ongoing series of publications featuring the values and significance of Wellington Park.

Over recent years, the Trust has received manuscripts from local community members seeking feedback on the suitability of material for publishing. While some has not been considered suitable for mainstream publication, a significant amount of material provides interesting personal insights into relationships with Mount Wellington, and the broader Park. These perspectives may be of public interest, offering a useful record of historical and social values over the longer term.

There are a number of unpublished manuscripts, diaries and photo albums that contain historical information about Wellington Park which are likely to be of public interest. In addition, staff and students from the University of Tasmania (and other institutions) regularly undertake research in the Park, and this useful work remains unpublished and relatively inaccessible.

Given this, the Trust saw the opportunity to produce a high quality, inexpensive limited-edition publication that allows for this valuable and otherwise inaccessible material to become publicly available.

Papers No.1 features a diary of observations, Mountain View: a diary of reflection, written by Alistair Christie-Johnston. Alistair was born in Scotland in 1940, and has spent most of his life in Hobart (always with a view of the Mountain). He took up writing late in life and has one published novel *Nor Heard the Clock Strike* (Shetland Times, Scotland 2004). He is currently working on an etymological dictionary of the Shetland dialect.

The diary, written over a twelve month period from December 2005, takes a thoughtful and witty look at the role of the Mountain within our daily lives, and provides an ongoing conversation with the reader regarding the values and presence of this most significant backdrop.

Wellington Park Papers No.1 is now available for \$14.95 from the Hobart City Council Customer Service Centre (cnr Elizabeth and Davey Street) and from selected bookshops in Hobart.

Future editions of the Papers will include historical albums, manuscripts, diaries and research reports. The Trust welcomes submissions for consideration—please contact the Wellington Park Office on 6238 2176 for further information.

TNPA Appeals Proposed Development within National Park

Robert Campbell

On April 15 this year, the Central Highlands Council approved the application lodged by Simon Currant & Associates for development of a visitor accommodation facility (including ancillary managers residence, staff accommodation, restaurant, maintenance and storage buildings) at Pumphouse Point on the shores of Lake St Clair. The site is within both the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

For regular readers of the TNPA News it will come as no surprise that the TNPA has since lodged an appeal with the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal. Since its formation in 2001, the TNPA has consistently argued that such developments do not belong within Tasmania's conservation reserves as you cannot place facilities such as being proposed within a National Park without degrading the very essence of the natural environment and the World Heritage conservation values for which the area was originally protected.

In an article published in the Mercury (Resort Gets Pumping, 2 February) Simon Currant stated that his proposal would exceed the requirements for operating in a World Heritage Area (WHA). However, this flies in the face of the TWWHA Management Plan which states that in order to protect WHA values accommodation should be provided in nearby townships and areas adjacent to the WHA. Indeed, it specifically states that "if adequate facilities or services exist or can be developed outside the WHA that meet visitor needs, such facilities and services will not be provided as concessions within the WHA." Clearly such services can be provided outside the WHA. Furthermore, Schedule 5 of the Central Highlands Planning Scheme 1998 states that in consideration of any application, Council must take into account the provisions of any management plan in force under any Act.

It is interesting that Mr Currant compares his proposal with the Bay of Fires Lodge for this accommodation is located outside the boundaries of the adjacent Mount William National Park. If the development is to proceed, then a site within Derwent Bridge or a nearby locality outside the National Park, should be chosen.

Mr Currant also states that his resort will be aimed at those seeking a natural wilderness experience. However, dining in a fine-restaurant before retiring back to a luxury suite is not a "natural wilderness experience." Lets be honest, this development

*"In the midst of scenes so lonely,
Visited, and looked at, only
By times both brief and rare:
With its mighty hills surrounded,
Is lovely Lake St Clair.*

*Far from human haunts secluded,
Every jarring sound excluded,
Here Nature dwells alone.
Absent all the sounds of pleasure,
And of business' hasher measure,
The only voice our own*

*(extract from poem Lake St Clair
by Richard Smith, 1879)*

is nothing more than a scenic escape for those who can afford it. The development will destroy the present tranquillity of the site where, despite its previous use, nature now dominates and the noise and lights at night will diminish the wilderness experience sought by others within the Lake St Clair precinct.

A large majority of eco-based travellers are now aware of the need to locate accommodation away from areas of high conservation values, not only to minimise human impacts but to minimise disturbance to the ecology and natural values of the area. There is of course a small minority who insist on the 'ultimate experience' – the wealthy seeking the sort of armchair experience that resorts of this intended type offer. As the proponents state that their proposal

is "to provide maximum comfort, amenity and a natural setting for guests at a very high standard" and "will be targeted at the higher end of the market offering high quality accommodation in a wilderness setting" it leaves little doubt that this latter group is their intended clientele. However, it should not be the policy of the Tasmanian Government to promote such non-sustainable developments and pander to this selfish minority.

If the proponents are sincere about protecting the wilderness values of the area and educating visitors to appreciate these values (as outlined under Objective 6 of the TWWHA Management Plan), then the TNPA insists that the Management Plan be adhered to and that the development be sited outside the National Park. Then the interpretive signs can inform the visitor that their accommodation was sited outside the Park in order to preserve the natural and wilderness qualities that they came to experience.

The TNPA is also concerned at the effective privatization of a site within a National Park. At present the site is open to all to enjoy, and is popular with fishermen and wildlife and bird watchers. However, the development will restrict access and activities at the site. For example, public parking on the site will be denied, access will be restricted (denying visitors the most scenic vantage points) and the dining facilities will not be open to the public. Together with the restrictive signage to be placed at the entrance to the site it is not inconceivable that the proponents would eventually want to exclude public access to the site completely. The TNPA argues strongly that private concessionary rights are



Existing Cynthia Bay accommodation development. Photo: Anne McConnell



Pumphouse Point beside Lake St Clair. Photo: Anne McConnell

incompatible within a National Park. Parks are for conservation and the enjoyment of their values by all people, and the lands are vested in the Government for this purpose.

It is interesting to note that the reason given in the development application to restrict public access to foot traffic only is “to ensure that the natural values of the site are not degraded.” How one reconciles this reasoning with the proposal to build a facility which will destroy many of the natural values within the development site remains unknown!

The TNPA supports appropriate tourism based projects in Tasmania and the regional benefits that flow from such projects. However, we argue strongly that these same benefits can be achieved by placement of such projects outside the boundaries of Tasmania’s National Parks. Developments such as Strahan Village, previously undertaken by Mr Currant, and Tidal Waters resort in St Helens (originally developed by Doherty Hotels who previously attempted to develop the Pumphouse Point site in 2002) are excellent examples of this successful approach

Indeed, if accommodation developments have all been sited outside the park at the northern end of the Cradle-Mountain-Lake St Clair NP (and not around Dove Lake, for example), then

why allow the opposite to occur at the southern end of the park (surely Cynthia Bay is enough!). The reasons for conservation of the WHA values at the northern end of the park should also hold at the southern end of the same park.

Tasmania’s National Parks are world renowned for their unique and spectacular landscapes and wilderness qualities. They also help preserve Tasmania’s unique natural and cultural heritage. If we do not stop developments intruding into these areas, then where do we?

With the recent resignation of Paul Lennon as Premier, and the desire of the new Premier David Bartlett to be clever and kind, the TNPA supports Chris Harries call in the Mercury (Letters, 29 May) that Tasmania’s new leaders should focus on repairing the State’s severely damaged brand. As indicated by the following statement published by *National Geographic Traveller*:

“Heritage assets still well conserved but need to watch commercialization in and around major parks” (Destination scorecard for Tasmania, www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/scorecard)

Reversing the decision to approve the development at Pumphouse Point would be an excellent start.

UPDATE: TNPA Policy Development

Marine Conservation Policy

The government recently released the final recommendations for protection of the marine values of the Bruny Bioregion for public comment. To support our response to this document and to assist the TNPA in being pro-active in the area of marine conservation, the TNPA will be developing a policy on marine conservation and the management of marine protected areas.

TNPA member Jon Nevill has prepared an initial draft policy which is currently being reviewed by the Management Committee. Member involvement in the formulation of the policy is welcomed. Please contact Anne McConnell, on annemc@aaa.net.au if you wish to be involved.

Fire Management Policy

Arising from ongoing concerns about aspects of fire management on reserved land in Tasmania and from the PWS current strategic fire management planning initiative, the TNPA have started to develop a policy on fire management for reserved areas. This will be ultimately incorporated in the TNPA Manifesto.

The policy is in initial draft stage. Again, member involvement in the formulation of the policy is welcomed. Please contact Anne McConnell, on annemc@aaa.net.au if you wish to be involved.

The new Windy Ridge Hut under construction



WINDY RIDGE HUT FIASCO

Chris Bell

Once again the conservation community is confronted with more inappropriate, invasive infrastructure inside our national parks. The latest example of this "industrial tourism" is the Windy Ridge precinct within Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park. PWS are replacing the original hut with another lavish, over-designed, oversized, Pelion-style lodge, rangers accommodation, tent platforms etc. The latest lodge (see recent photo) shows the building under construction (the old hut still visible before demolition); the dotted line shows the final size of the 'lodge'. When finished the new 'hut' will be 4 x the size of the original – yet with an increase of only 8 beds – AND at an astonishing cost of over \$1 million (this includes \$200 000 for helicopter time and the unnecessary rangers hut). For a comparison, an addition to the Windermere Hut several years ago increased the size of that hut by 8 beds – yet for a modest outlay of less than \$60 000. The clearing of the Windy Ridge site for the oversized hut and more tent platforms has resulted in considerable clearance of vegetation; as such the lodge, toilets, tent platforms etc are now highly visible from Mt Acropolis and Mt Geryon.

It is ironic that at a time when the Premier, Mr Bartlett, talks up the Global Warming initiative of the government to reduce CO2 emissions, the PWS – as the premier land management/conservation authority in Tasmania – seems oblivious of its

forthcoming obligations, proceeding instead to increase our reliance on fuel-guzzling helicopters. The PWS should be *minimising* its reliance on helicopters (particularly when it means massive outlays of \$200 000 and when there are other areas that are in dire need of maintenance [the Western Arthurs for example]) and start playing a leading role in reducing CO2 emissions. The recent review of the WHA also stressed that the PWS... "should be proactively reducing noise levels so that visitors to the WHA experience peace and quiet". Obviously a recommendation to be ignored! The era of over-reliance on helicopters should be well and truly over for a land management authority such as PWS. If this fiasco is a sign of things to come one can only imagine the noise levels, degree of disturbance, CO2 emissions etc that will be experienced with the proposed environmentally-unfriendly 3 Capes Walk and its helicopter-dependant construction and servicing.

One final concern is that given rising fuel costs the projected costs of the 3 Capes Walk will blow out and that Tasmanians will be left with one of the most severely infrastructure-impacted natural landscapes in Australia. We should heed the platitude of how we need to be more clever, and start by thinking long-term, big-picture. The future demands it!

WHAT! NO MARINE PESTS?

According to scientists from the Tasmanian and Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI), Port Davey – Bathurst Harbour is arguably the most pristine estuarine system in southern Australia and certainly one of the most unusual.

TAFI was awarded NRM South funding under the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust earlier this year to undertake a comprehensive survey of the benthic (bottom dwelling) fauna of Port Davey—Bathurst Harbour and adjoining Payne Bay, James Kelly Basin and Hannant Inlet. Invertebrate communities living within the sediments were sampled at 70 locations throughout the system. Alastair Hirst, lead scientist for the project, states “One

hundred and ninety-seven native species were recorded during this survey, and not one single introduced species was found amongst the benthos”. New species discovered include a new genus of sea spider (pycnogonid) and a new species of crustacean. These have yet to be fully identified.

Although previous studies have recorded small numbers of introduced species, including the New Zealand Screw Shell, *Maoricolpus roseus* and the toxic dinoflagellate *Gymnodinium catenatum*, Port Davey—Bathurst Harbour has fewer introduced marine species than other ports located in south-eastern Tasmania and only one of these species, the dinoflagellate *G. catenatum*, is listed as a target species of concern.

The study highlights the need to be vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of marine pests into this incredibly pristine environment. According to scientists a substantial component of the introduced and cryptogenic (neither clearly native nor exotic) fauna of Port Davey are fouling organisms that would have arrived attached to the hulls of visiting vessels. This phenomenon continues to be the largest source of introduced species in Australia, and is likely to be a continuing source of further introductions to Port Davey. According to the scientist’s report there are a number of introduced fouling organisms endemic to south-eastern Tasmania not currently recorded from Port Davey and its environs – all are potential future colonists. Therefore the threat is real. If you own a vessel and are fortunate enough to visit the Port Davey area please be mindful of this threat. Things you can do include:

- Inspect your hull if you are heading down to Port Davey, especially if your vessel has been moored for a long time in one place. Check hull monthly to monitor potential biofouling.
- Do not scrape down your vessel hull in the water, on the beach, at boat ramps, tidal grids or careening bays.
- Ensure your vessel and gear is clean to help prevent translocation to Port Davey. Rinse in freshwater at the boat ramp or in your back yard if your boat is trailered. Allow boat to drain completely and air dry.

Draft best practice guidelines with more precautionary information have recently been developed by Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Department of Primary Industries and Water in Tasmania will have carriage of the protocols. For more information on the project please contact Fleur Gedamke, NRM South Marine, Coastal & Estuarine Coordinator on 6234 5566.

TASMANIA HOSTS

THE 2008 NATIONAL PARKS

ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL MEETING

The committee of Australia-wide National Parks Associations hold an annual meeting. This year, for the first time, the Annual Conference will be held in Tasmania. The meeting will be held over the weekend of the 5–7th September and based in Hobart.

This is a great opportunity to benefit from the wealth of expertise of the other National Parks Associations (NPAs), particularly the larger and established NPAs such as the NSW NPA and the Victorian NPA (VNPA) and to discuss matters of common interest and concern. A field trip will enable us to show those from interstate some of our special areas and to discuss management concerns.

We also hope to use this opportunity to hold a Public Lecture on some aspect of national park management.

More details on the weekend will be available be closer to the event—watch the TNPA website.

FORTESCUE BAY DAY

Celebrate the wonderful
Tasman National Park on 27
July at Fortescue Bay.

There will be a range of activities and discussions regarding the realities of the proposed Three Capes Track. Get involved in this important TNPA campaign.

Please contact Janet Henderson on 0427 854 684 or admin@tnpa.asn.au for more information and to confirm numbers for the day.

UPDATE: Cynthia Bay—Accommodation Expansion

The Cynthia Bay accommodation area concessionaire, E-S Link, has recently sought approval to expand the accommodation in its lease area at Cynthia Bay. The expansion includes:

- doubling the size of the bunkhouse (already approved) and adding an amenities block;
- creating 3-4 additional caravan sites (as existing sites will be lost through the bunkhouse extension);
- significantly increasing the size (and footprint) of half (9 of 18) new proposed cabins;
- using an existing cabin for a 'wellbeing centre' (for tired bushwalkers to get a massage!); and
- developing a conference centre in the concession area of the Visitor's Centre (in a new mezzanine level understood not to increase the building footprint).

Given the TNPA's strong policy of development outside national parks rather than inside, the TNPA has made a submission to the Central Highlands Council and to the PWS asking that the changes to the cabins and the conference centre not be approved. This continual expansion needs to stop and additional (overflow) accommodation and other facilities should occur at Derwent Bridge, not inside the Park and World Heritage Area. We are particularly concerned by the conference centre and well being

centre proposals which are a completely new uses that have direct relevance to the National Park.

The essence of the TNPA's submission is that it is time the PWS took heed of the TWWHAMP policy for accommodation to be located outside of the TWWHA and refuse the additional development at Cynthia Bay (and elsewhere in the TWWHA). The PWS must develop a position on where the incremental development at Cynthia Bay will stop, instead of being perpetually reactive to developer demands. The PWS must work with developers and Councils to promote strategic and responsible development outside the TWWHA, and now is the time to do this. To fail to do so is to fail to meet the Service's and State government's obligations for the management of the TWWHA.

The TNPA is also concerned by the PWS decision to adopt a new approvals process for this development proposal that is not one of the two assessment pathways provided for in the TWWHA Management Plan 1999 (ie, to revise the Development Plan and Environmental Management Plan to include the proposed changes, and to put this out for public comment). In our view this contravenes the statutory provisions and given the nature of the proposed additional expansions, they should be treated as a major pathway development.

UPDATE: World Heritage Centre Mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

In March 2008 a three member World Heritage Centre Mission to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) visited to assess the state of conservation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area property, focusing on:

- a) appropriate management of areas of heritage value which are currently outside the property,
- b) an assessment of the degree of risk related to regeneration fires in areas adjacent to the World Heritage property as well as of the effectiveness of the fire management system in place, and
- c) impacts of proposed forestry operations (including the construction of new roads) on the outstanding universal value of the property.

This World Heritage Mission came about largely in response to the concerns of some Tasmanian NGOs in relation to Forestry operations on the boundaries of the TWWHA and other forestry practices (eg fire management) which have the potential to impact the TWWHA values and other related values outside but adjacent to the TWWHA.

The TNPA met with the World Heritage Mission as part of the Environmental NGO meetings on the 18th March 2008. At this meeting and in our written submission we largely supported the views of the combined environmental NGO's, but we have also put other points to the Mission as the TNPA is of the opinion that there are other important current issues in relation to the management of the TWWHA and in our view this World Heritage Mission was a rare opportunity to again present and remind relevant bodies of ongoing issues and to raise other new concerns, particularly given that the values and boundaries of the TWWHA have not been comprehensively and independently reviewed since the Helsham Inquiry (1987/8).

Matters that the TNPA brought to the Mission's attention included—

- there have been several studies identifying World Heritage values beyond the current TWWHA boundary, and calls for their addition to the WHA;
- there has been recent research detailing World Heritage values within the TWWHA (and in some cases implicitly outside);

- the inadequacy of the existing TWWHA boundary (acknowledged when it was declared);
- the major deficiency of the Regional Forests Assessment in not including consideration of geoheritage and cultural heritage values in the reservation assessment;
- the unresolved matter of the former Lake Pedder and its rehabilitation;
- recent changes to the Parks & Wildlife Service, the management agency for the TWWHA, which the TNPA argues has reduced the agency's ability to effectively manage the TWWHA;
- recent decisions by the present State government that promote tourism development in reserved land areas, including in and on the boundaries of the TWWHA, at the expense of the natural and cultural values and the presentation of these values.

The TNPA submission is available from the TNPA website.

Great Australian Bushwalk 2008

13-14 September 2008

The 2008 Great Australian Bushwalk will be held across the nation on Saturday and Sunday 13-14 September to celebrate spectacular natural places and conservation management. First initiated as a state event by the New South Wales National Parks Association in 2003, the GAB has since become a national event. In 2006 approximately 2,560 walkers joined 120 free guided walks across Australia, with eight walks in Tasmania.

Once again the TNPA will be co-ordinating Tasmanian walks and we need walk leaders!

Who can lead a GAB walk?

Anyone with bushwalking experience who is comfortable leading a group of people on a walk. They also must be a Wildcare member (or happy to become one). This is a requirement for our insurance.

What types of walks are included in the GAB?

Short walks and longer walks, easy walks and more difficult walks. Walks on the coast and in the mountains. Flat walks, steep walks—in national parks, reserved land and interesting places. All walks are considered, and anything is possible!

Who participates in the GAB?

It's a mix of inexperienced walkers and seasoned walkers, locals and visitors—the young and the not so young. Walks are promoted with their grade of difficulty, length and altitude, allowing participants to choose a route to suit their fitness and preferences.

Who co-ordinates the day?

The day is nationally coordinated by the NSW NPA. In 2007 bookings were mostly made online, then walk leaders

were notified of participant numbers. Additionally each state and territory has their own network of coordinators. TNPA member Rebecca Johnston coordinated the GAB in Tasmania in 2007 and will be coordinating the event again in 2008. Can you help for 2008? Contact Rebecca via beccannell@hotmail.com or the TNPA (see below) for more information.

What is expected of walk leaders?

Walk leaders are expected to liaise with the state co-ordinators about operations on the day. They are sent material which they are expected to read and follow, including leader guidelines regarding group management and safety.

When do walk leaders and co-ordinators need to sign up for the GAB?

Any time!! The sooner the better.

What else?

The Great Australian Bushwalk is a terrific event which encourages appreciation and care of the natural environment. It's a fun day out, and a great opportunity to meet new people and see new places. In recent years, walk leaders have received a free hat or t-shirt to wear on the day, and to keep for their support and efforts.

How do I enrol?

Contact us on admin@tnpa.asn.au or by phone 0427 854 684. For more information see the Great Australian Bushwalk website www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au or the Tasmanian National Parks Association www.tnpa.asn.au.

Illustration by Francine Henderson (11yrs)



BUTTONGRASS BALL

April 26th 2008

Many thanks to the verandah coots for their generous donation!

Janet Henderson

The Buttongrass ball was... well... a ball! The music emanating from the amazing "home among the gum trees" verandah (complete with elaborate tea-pot and possums on the roof) was so irresistibly toe-tapping that even the buttongrass heads could be spotted shyly bobbing up and down in time.

By the end of the third dance the ladies' toilet was packed with dancers stripping off superfluous thermal layers.

The dances were expertly called – so that a total novice, like me, could get away with not looking a complete fool and get some idea of the rhythms and patterns weaving through the dances... even cope with some inexplicable sex changes!

Many were game enough to come decked out in convict or heritage costumes – many more of us were trying to remain inconspicuous! I noticed that those who came dressed up generally knew what they were doing.

Thanks to Helen Gee for her inspiring address about the issues facing the Tasman Peninsula – aptly illustrated with our spectacular poster of the Tasman coastline (photographer Ted Mead).

Thanks also to 'Plants of Tasmania' for the loan of those beautiful, delicate iconic buttongrass - *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus* (translated as "naked stalk round head" - doesn't it just roll off the tongue?!)

It was a lovely evening – thanks to everyone!

Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc

Patron: Peter Cundall

TNPA Management Committee (from September 2007)

President: Anne McConnell

Vice Presidents: Robert Campbell, Greg Buckman

Treasurer: Patsy Jones

Secretary: Greg Wood

Public Officer: Tom Baxter

Other committee members: Debbie Quarmby & Pam Fenerty

Contact Details

Postal address: GPO Box 2188, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001

Email: admin@tnpa.asn.au

Website: www.tnpa.asn.au

Phone: 0427 854 684

Meetings

Management Committee meetings are held one Monday each month at 6:30 pm at Sustainable Living Tasmania (note new address - 2nd floor, 191 Liverpool St, Hobart). Members and supporters are welcome. Meeting dates will be advertised in each TNPA Communique or please check with the Secretary.

Have your say...

ABC National—Tim Cox

tasmornings@your.abc.net.au or 1300 36 1700

Letters to the Editor at The Mercury

mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au or
GPO Box 334 Hobart 7001

Letters to the Editor at The Examiner

mail@examiner.com.au or PO Box 99A Launceston 7250

Letters to the Editor at Herald Sun

hsletters@hwt.newsltd.com.au

Letters to the Editor at The Age

letters@theage.fairfax.com.au

Minister, for Environment, Parks, Heritage & the Arts

Michelle.OByrne@parliament.tas.gov.au

Minister, Economic Development & Tourism

Paula.Wriedt@parliament.tas.gov.au

Minister, Planning

David.Bartlett@parliament.tas.gov.au

Minister, Primary Industries, Water & Energy; Minister, Resources

David.Lewwlyn@parliament.tas.gov.au

TNPA News

TNPA News is published twice a year. It aims to provide informative articles on issues related to national parks and other reserves, as well as updates on TNPA activities and campaigns. The views expressed in TNPA News are not necessarily those of the TNPA Inc. In this issue, many thanks to Debbie Quarmby, Janet Henderson, Robert Campbell, Anne McConnell, Michael Easton and Chris Bell. Original articles in TNPA News may be reproduced, but please acknowledge the author and the source. Contributions for TNPA News No. 11 are welcomed (deadline mid-March 2008). Please send contributions to admin@tnpa.asn.au (attention: TNPA News editor).

This newsletter was correct as at the end June 2008.

Editor: Claire Newman Newsletter production by: Tasprint P/L