

TNPA NEWS

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION INC

Newsletter No 4 Autumn 2005

From the President's Pen:

NATIONAL PARKS - TOURISM COMMODITIES OR CONSERVATION HAVENS

"Heritage assets still well conserved but need to watch commercialization in and around major parks"

(Destination scorecard for Tasmania, National Geographic Traveller, www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/scorecard)

In recent years we have heard much about the growth and importance of tourism to the Tasmanian economy. The joint industry-government strategy *Tourism 21*, initially developed in 1997, has overseen the development of a billion dollar tourism industry in Tasmania – three years ahead of schedule – and aims to expand this to \$2.5 billion by 2014. While we welcome tourism as an integral part of a vibrant Tasmanian economy, we nevertheless need to be on guard to ensure that Tasmania's unique natural assets are not sacrificed on the tourist altar. In particular, it is important that Tasmania's National Parks are not treated just as tourist commodities, required to respond to fleeting and self-serving demands by developers and tourist operators to satisfy every passing whim of visitors; but continue to be managed for the conservation and recreational purposes that they were originally proclaimed.

The TNPA believes that present policies of the government and sections of the tourism industry pose a major threat to the preservation of the natural integrity and conservation values of Tasmania's National Parks – which are rightly recognized internationally for the role they play in the conservation of Tasmania's unique and wild natural and cultural features. Whilst proposals for large-scale resorts within the Maria Island National Park and Pump House Point (within the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park) did not proceed in the face of community opposition, a large scale expansion of accommodation facilities at Cynthia Bay and the construction of an 80 cabin resort at Cockle Creek East within the South-west National Park have been approved. Expressions of interest have also again been lodged for re-development of the Pump House Point site and the TNPA understands that another site, possibly Maria Island again, is being looked at for "upgrading".

These developments are part of the *Tourism 21* strategy to "ensure that Tasmania's natural assets have the infrastructure to support sustainable visitor growth." The strategy also seeks to "encourage best practice conservation management and sustainable tourism development", but it is disconcerting to note that while the strategy aims to "ensure" the development of the infrastructure it only seeks to "encourage" best practice and sustainability, as if these goals are not of primary importance. Surely these goals should be reversed. (continued on page 2)

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an ongoing issue?**

THANK YOU

The Committee would like to thank the following people who have recently volunteered their time. We are very grateful as without this support the many events the TNPA is asked to get involved in would not happen.

Staffing the Wildflower Spectacular

15-17 October

Sharon Moore	Melva Truchanas
Janice Bird	Shaun Walsh
Catherine Errey	Penny O'Brien

GAB Walk Leaders Sunday 24 October

Peter Tonelli	Peter Franklin
Ben Rea	Catherine Errey
Lesley Nicklason	Helen Gee
Greg Jordan	Greg Buckman
Jane Balmer	Bec Johnson
Shaun Walsh	Mike Dempsey
Tony Rigby	

The GAB Committee

Mel Lambourne and Bec Johnson

Maria Island Weed Weekend

David Reynolds

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

While it is obvious that the first part of the *Tourism 21* strategy (infrastructure development) is being actively pursued with vigour, the TNPA believes that this approach is incompatible with “best practice conservation management” and is, in fact, largely being ignored. Indeed, the World Heritage Area Consultative Committee has stated that there is a perception that all tourism development proposals are adopted without question (p.218 of the *State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area* report) and the prevalence of this attitude calls into question any commitment to a rigorous scrutiny of development proposals. So much for “encouraging” best practice! Indeed, amongst the main threats to the WHA identified in the same report is the “development of new facilities and other infrastructure, especially inappropriate sited facilities and infrastructure which can cause direct and/or indirect impacts.” Like the tragedy which befell the goose which laid the golden eggs, a similar tragedy also awaits our National Parks if the present policies are allowed to continue.

While the TNPA recognizes the right of people to seek a range of tourist activities, it believes that conventional tourist opportunities are amply provided for outside National Parks. At the time that the National Parks concept was first being implemented in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in western societies, visitors to National Parks inevitably left the city far behind them and were genuinely immersed in a natural setting. They may not have ventured far into the park but they became immersed in a natural setting, where the planned entertainments disappeared in favor of a place with nothing to do but what the visitor discovered for themselves. They became an active observer of, if not a willing participant in, Nature.

By contrast, the demands of the modern tourist and the mass-scale marketing of National Parks are threatening to undermine this relationship. National Parks are under threat of offering little more than an extension of the city and its modern life-style transported onto a scenic background. There are demands for high-class accommodation units, air-conditioning, packaged foods, business conventions, and efforts to bring year-round commercial tourism to places where previously nature was dominant. As Edward Abbey once bluntly wrote “What’s wrong with parks is that they have been too much given over to the clientele of ‘industrial tourism’, people who visit from their cars and whose three standard questions are: ‘Where’s the john? How long will it take to see this place? And, where’s the Coke machine?’”

The TNPA urges recognition that National Parks have a distinctive function to perform that is separate from the service of conventional tourism. As such, the TNPA believes that certain kinds of developments and activities, if allowed in parks, will undermine the attitudes that parks can, and should, encourage. The TNPA argues that a park full of up-market accommodation developments, together with planned and standardised activities promotes passivity and dependency and does not engender a participatory role in Nature, whereas an undeveloped park leaves the visitor to set their own agenda and allows one to become immersed within and understand the wonders of Nature unimpeded. In this regard,

National Parks allow us an opportunity to rediscover our sense of Self and our links with the Natural world – opportunities which are now lost in our modern city-scapes and societies.

The TNPA calls on both the State Government and the tourism industry to acknowledge this unique role of National Parks, and to ensure that our National Parks remain the havens for nature conservation and self-reflection that they were originally set aside for. In this regard the TNPA supports the vision outlined by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service in their Strategic Framework for visitor services in Tasmania’s parks and reserves:

“Everyone who visits our parks and reserves is there to experience the natural and cultural areas at first hand: to be immersed in areas that feel largely untouched: to experience their beauty and tranquility”

The TNPA looks forward to supporting the PWS achieve this vision

PS. For an inspiring insight into the role of national parks, I highly recommend the book by Joseph Sax “Mountains without Handrails: Reflections on the National Parks” from which some of the views expressed above are taken.

Robert Campbell (President – TNPA)

Deep Blue

On Monday 29 November 2004 the TNPA hosted the National Premier of the underwater film spectacular *Deep Blue*, a film described ‘as taking the audience under the water’s surface and introducing them to a host of new creatures, never before seen by man.’

In conjunction with the distributor, Hopscotch Films, we had roughly 2 weeks to get this event organised. Our initial reaction was.... gulp, and despite a few hiccups with delays in printing the posters and tickets (so we only had 3 days to sell them) we somehow managed to not only get the event off the ground, but to also sell all the tickets! There were a few tense moments on the day when we thought we would be left with stockpiles of tickets, but this situation reversed and we were desperately trying to get more tickets. Unfortunately there are only a finite number of seats in a theatre.

We were very pleased that Christian Bell from The Marine and Coastal Community Network - Winner 2003 Gold Banksia Award agreed to introduce the film and, despite a couple of technical hitches providing an unscheduled intermission, the evening was a great success!

Our thanks go to Hopscotch Films for providing us with the fundraising opportunity, to all who supported the event, including the Tasmanian Environment Centre, the Zoology Dept (UTAS), Kathmandu and the Wilderness Society Shop for selling the tickets on our behalf. And our apologies to those people we had to turn away at the door.



State of the Tasmania Wilderness World Heritage Area

By Robert Campbell

In September last year the TNPA passed on its congratulations to the Parks and Wildlife Service on the publication of the first State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Report. The report (available on the PWS website: www.parks.tas.gov.au) provides a structured and evidence based account of how management of a WHA has performed against its management objectives and the obligations of the World Heritage Convention, and makes a significant contribution to making management of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area more open, informed and accountable. The TNPA hopes that this evidence based evaluation process will be ongoing.

The TNPA notes the excellent work being carried out by the PWS in many areas and welcomes the opportunities identified in the report for enhancing management performance. However, the TNPA also notes with some concern the ongoing threats listed in the report to the Tasmanian WHA. In particular, it is of major concern that all four major stakeholder groups asked to assess the performance of management in the protection and conservation of World Heritage values listed “Inadequate management of unsustainable visitor use” (p.213) as their primary concern. In this regard, the TNPA supports the need identified by the WHA Consultative Committee

for the management plan to have an integrated and sustainable visitor strategy. In this regard, the TNPA also calls on the State Government to abandon its present development approach to Tasmania’s National Parks (see President’s message).

Most discouraging, the report identified a lack of political commitment to adhere to management prescriptions, and identified this as one of the key factors limiting or threatening management performance (p.194). The amendment to the 1999 TWWHA Management Plan to allow the proposed development at Cockle Creek East is a case in point. Furthermore, the TNPA notes the concern expressed under Proposed Action 1 – “there were insufficient funds to allow for full implementation of the statutory 1992 management plan during its term, and the uncertainty surrounding future funding levels raised concerns regarding the continuity of many management programs for the TWWHA.” The TNPA urges both the Commonwealth and State governments to take all measures possible to ensure funding to secure the adequate implementation of the current TWWHA management plan so as to ensure achievement of the management objectives and in order to meet their obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

Tasmania's Shame: The Devil Disease



By David Obendorf

Even before we Europeans arrived in Tasmania, there was a **Devil in Paradise**. Today we have Devils in Paradise dying of cancer. And yet the cliché descriptors for Tasmania are 'the natural state', 'clean, green & clever' and 'disease-free'.

The plight of the Tasmanian Devil is worsening by the day. A unique cancer is spreading like a contagion and has now consumed over 50% of the estimated 130,000 devils in **less than a decade**. Although not proven, the facial cancer disease appears to be transferring from devil to devil through direct contact by biting. In a matter of months the cancer is invariably fatal and 'attack rates' recorded in some populations is 100% - that is, all animals have died.

Field surveys show that the disease covers well over 65% of the State with wildlife biologist, Nick Mooney (Australian Nature Summer 2004/05) saying that *'it's hard to imagine the disease will not saturate the State sooner rather than later'*.

This aggressive, apparently transmissible cancer is without precedent in the world. As Tasmanian cancer specialist, Professor Ray Loewenthal has suggested, there is nothing to compare with this cancer in humans.

This is one of the most important unsolved diseases in the world. *'You may think that it's just a state issue, but the Tasmanian Devil is a national icon. The world community is watching to see how Tasmania manages this situation'*, Wildlife Veterinarian and Co-ordinator of the Australian Wildlife Health Network, Dr Rupert Woods said.

I have been puzzled at the on again-off again surges of government-generated information cast into the media on this very important disease mystery.

This policy decision devalues the Devil as a species

As a wildlife veterinarian and an individual who has contributed expertise the disease investigation, I have been critical of the way the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) has essentially been stage-managing at a political level with tight control on both the access to and the release of information. This policy decision devalues the Devil as a species and diminishes the community contribution to our island's unique biodiversity.

Epidemics of disease and especially new and unusual diseases are highly topical. Readers might recall the worldwide media coverage given to Mad Cow Disease (BSE), Foot and Mouth Disease, SARS and Bird Flu. Governments generally don't like the adverse connotations of disease be it in animals or, God-forbid, in humans! Attempts to play down, minimise and cover up the facts are commonplace. Without the attention of international health bodies like the World Health Organisation and the World Animal Health Body (OIE), national governments' first response to disease is generally to play down the significance and in the worse cases deny it altogether. In various countries BSE, SARS and Bird Flu outbreaks were all initially met with public denials and then publicly stage-managed with misinformation. This has been the pattern of behaviour.

Imagine if this cancer had killed 50% of the Tasmanian human population in a little over five years. This is a comparison that might be worth contemplating. A human malady of those proportions would be comparable to the Black Death in the middle ages in Europe. It would dwarf the death rates due to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (Mad Cow Disease in humans) and deaths from SARS in 2002. Only the pandemic of HIV/AIDS and the potential impact of a virulent strain of human influenza would be greater. World Health Organisation would be demanding daily updates from Australian and Tasmanian health authorities. Tasmania would be literally on the map. The world's leading epidemiologists, disease modellers and bio-medical researchers would be directly contributing and involved. International cancer researchers would be applying their collective talents and energies to understanding all aspects of this unique cancer. A common compassion for our fellows would accelerate the effort. Indeed the research efforts might have ground-breaking implications for other cancer research.

For decades Tasmania, the island state has portrayed itself as the last refuge for many unique marsupials no longer present on the Australian continent. Yet now Tasmania looks to its offshore islands for its own last refuge for the beleaguered Devil. What is going on?

It is nearly 15 months since a State government sponsored workshop on DFTD, a workshop where the media was excluded from attendance. Such an important disease process and such an unusual cancer and yet I'm not aware of a single publication describing any aspects of this unique cancer appearing in any national or international peer-reviewed science journal. Why this hesitancy?

This is only Tasmania and after all it is only the Devil!

Reporting on new diseases is usually the hottest of hot topics for researchers to commit to press. Even the early observational material and qualitative descriptions are useful because they communicate to all scientific peers and build co-operation.

But the reality is this is *only Tasmania* and after all it is *only the Devil!*

Even the Commonwealth government initially declined to assist with funding the DFTD because of the lack of a detailed 'case definition'. It is still awaited. Even requests to formally provide regular situation reports to the Australian Wildlife Health Network have been resisted. It beggars belief that a disease process as unique as this, one that has no counterpart *anywhere in the world*, a cancer that is transferring between animals like a highly infectious contagion is given such paltry attention.

Regrettably, and to Tasmania's eternal shame, the full import of this significant wildlife epidemic is being diminished into an under-resourced, highly controlled political exercise.

On 20 May 2004, a packed meeting at the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery was told that the State was preparing the documentation to nominate the Tasmanian Devil as a threatened species under the *State Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. And yet within the last few weeks DPIWE dismissed calls from the State Opposition parties to nominate the species for listing. And now the Government has decided to deploy containment lines across peninsulas and dispatch devils to island refuges.

But which devils are free of the disease and which are cancerous (or pre-cancerous)? To date there is no way to tell with certainty, because there is no magic test.

Without an accurate diagnostic test for 'the disease', without any scientific experimental work to show how 'the disease' is being transmitted between animals, without evidence on an external causal agent (like an exogenous or endogenous oncovirus) being detected, and without ruling in or out any genetic or environmental factor, 'the disease' remains an unsolved mystery.

Maria Island National Park is being considered as a destination for 'healthy' devils. This is the island national park that was set aside as a potential refuge for any thylacines caught in Tasmania. Disastrously for the island ecology, Tasmania's largest marsupial herbivore, the Forester Kangaroo was placed on Maria Island in late 1960s along with a number of other wildlife species. Initially Foresters were placed in a purpose-built enclosure, until they got out! Today the PWS needs to regularly cull Foresters to reduce their impact on the environment. Perhaps introducing the carnivorous devil to Maria is a simplistic fix for previous follies.

What has Tasmania learnt of the impacts of predators?

Anyway what has Tasmania learnt of the impacts of predators on the island? Much time and effort has been spent on eradicating feral cats from Macquarie Island because of its effects on this fragile sub-Antarctic island. Devils were transferred from Tasmania

to Clarke and Badger islands in the Furneaux Group. And now the Devil Facial Tumour Disease has turned up on Badger Island. Even Bruny Island may have a resident devil population. Who is healthy and who is pre-cancerous?

Tasmanian history chronicles its first people dying through introduced disease, persecution by colonisers and then island banishment? The thylacine exterminated, what is to be the fate of the next largest marsupial carnivore?

International and national scientific recognition and effort must be brought to bear in regard to this important disease process. In the absence of a structured epidemiological assessment and an *independent and authoritative* review of progress to date, it is quite legitimate for the scientific community and the broader community to be questioning the program.

The history of disease investigation shows that the politicians will try to control and cover up what they do not understand or fear. If scientists are compromised and controlled by their political masters then this island will continue to lose its precious natural resources. It will diminish this island by every measure and it diminishes us all.

(David Obendorf lives in West Hobart. He is a veterinarian specialising in study of animal disease. He came to Tasmania in the early 1980's and has a special interest in diseases of wildlife. In 1994 he was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the World Animal Health Body - the Office of International Epizootics - in recognition of his wild disease expertise.)

After a 17-year career with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry Water & Environment, David resigned having publicly exposed the consequences of restructuring and downsizing the State's animal health capabilities. His current interest is in protecting the social, economic and environmental values of his island state through the development of a workable Biosecurity Framework supported by legislation. Currently David is involved in survey of Tasmanian wetlands for another new disease, this time in our frogs.)

The Aims of the TNPA are:

- To ensure the conservation, protection, and where required the rehabilitation, of the natural environment of National Parks.
- To promote the conservation of cultural heritage within National Parks.
- To maintain conservation as a primary role of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- To secure the reservation of suitable areas of National Parks.
- To encourage community involvement in National Park management.
- To promote effective legislation for our National Parks.
- To increase community awareness of the value and importance of National Parks.



Cynthia Bay- Death by a thousand cuts

By Robert Campbell

In October last year the public was requested to provide comments on a proposal lodged by ES Link Pty Ltd for a large scale expansion of accommodation facilities at Cynthia Bay. The proposal is to build a further 14 luxury cabins, a premium Backpacker Lodge and expand on the existing backpacker facility. In total the redeveloped facilities will accommodate 324 persons.

Cynthia Bay lies within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), and many of the values for which the WHA is recognized are evident within the area, particularly the significant geoheritage within the glaciated landscape. Other important features include a suite of Aboriginal and historical values, habitat for endemic flora and fauna, and a suite of important social values stemming from the beauty and recreational opportunities of the area.

The proposed development is required to be consistent with the management objectives for this area as stated in the 1999 TWWHA Management Plan. This plan states that “the highest level of management responsibility is to protect, conserve and present the area’s world heritage values”, while there is also “an obligation of long-term care and stewardship of the WHA to ensure that the area’s natural and cultural heritage is not degraded through cumulative impacts over time”.

In its submission (available on the TNPA website), the TNPA argued that the proposed redevelopment at Cynthia Bay would be in breach of the management objectives and that any further expansion of accommodation facilities should be undertaken

outside the park, possibly at Derwent Bridge. Such a move would be consistent with the approach being taken in Cradle Valley at the northern end of the same park.

Adhering to the objectives of the Management Plan would appear to be the proper course of action in relation to this proposal, however considerable modification and weakening of the management prescriptions in successive Site Plans for Cynthia Bay since 1991 is evident, with the consequence that the original visions outlined for the Cynthia Bay area appear to have been sacrificed in order to continually appease the tourism cargo-cult which has captured the agenda of successive State Governments.

As stated in the 1991 Site Plan, the initial planning objective was to keep accommodation facilities at Cynthia Bay “approximately at present levels and standards” for around 60 persons. This objective was first weakened in the revised 1993 Site Plan when the limit on accommodation was raised to 72 persons, while in the, again revised, 2003 Site Plan there is no stated limit at all! Nevertheless, a limit on the site is mentioned on page 132 of the Management Plan where it is stated that Ministerial Council approval had been given to construction of structures “with the total maximum accommodation being no greater than 72 people per night (as specified by the December 1993 site plan)”. The obvious question is why this limit is not been adhered to?

Furthermore, the original 1991 objective to “Provide relatively low-cost basic accommodation facilities and amenities that are accessible to the average family group (p2)” has similarly been weakened in the 2003 Plan to “Provide a range of accommodation facilities and amenities that are accessible to the average family group (p26).” There has therefore been a subtle but important modification to this objective. The original focus on the provision of “relatively low-cost basic accommodation” has been broadened to a “range of accommodation”, though the important criteria that accommodation remains accessible to the average family remains.

In its submission, the TNPA argued that the proposal to build another 14 luxury cabins (believed to be around \$200 per night) does not cater for the ‘average family’ but only to the top-end of the tourist market and as such does not comply with the planning objectives for the site. (Note: the existing luxury cabins are also in breach of this objective and should be removed). The Premium Backpacker lodge (believed to be around \$100 per night) – and which “will be marketed for conference and executive retreat groups” - likewise will not cater for the ‘average family’ and should also be rejected. The fact that the luxury-style cabin accommodation does not adhere to this important principle, and is not supported by traditional users of the National Park, is echoed in the following complaint:

“I first came to Tasmania in 1966 and quickly discovered the delights of the, then, relatively undeveloped Lake St Clair. For many years my wife and I would bundle the kids into the car and take them up to Lake St Clair for an affordable holiday. We enjoyed many times with the

kids in the bush, in the snow and on the lake in a canoe. Then tragedy. A bloody mainlander thought he could make a buck, tore down most of the delightful old huts and replaced them with super expensive new huts to cater for the well heeled. This is to be repeated at Cockle Creek, where my family retreated to after the Lake St Clair fiasco.” (Email sent to the TNPA).

The management prescriptions outlined in the WHA Management Plan for Visitor Service Zones such as Cynthia Bay state that these areas should cater “principally for the needs, interests and abilities of day visitors.” Furthermore, in the section of the Management Plan that relates specifically to Accommodation, it is an objective “To encourage the provision of accommodation in nearby townships and areas adjacent to the WHA”. The rationale provided for this approach is based on research that “much of the experience sought by visitors ... is based on the area’s wilderness quality. To maintain this it is important that accommodation has minimal impact on wilderness quality and the WHA and the other natural and cultural values of the WHA.” In relation to Concessions, it is also stated that “If 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”.

The Cynthia Bay site is already congested (with significant overloads in the car park during peak periods) and any further expansion of facilities will only exacerbate these problems. Indeed, the TNPA notes that the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park Management Plan, 1988, contained the following management prescriptions:

- *Due to limitations of space at Cynthia Bay, any further camping and accommodation will be established nearer to, or at, Derwent Bridge.*
- *Any further expansion of these services will be considered only in concert with any plans by private enterprise for the provision of camping and accommodation at Derwent Bridge*

These management prescriptions are generally consistent with the primary objectives relating to accommodation facilities contained in the 1999 Management Plan and should continue to be followed.

The TNPA believes that these successive modifications to the Site Plans (the “death by a thousand cuts” approach) makes a mockery of the overall rationale, as first stated in the 1991 Site Plan and reiterated in the 2003 Site Plan, to “guide the long-term development of the Cynthia Bay area and so ensure that development proceeds in a coordinated and integrated manner rather than on an ad hoc or facility-by-facility basis” (1991, p1; 2003, p5). The TNPA argues that development of the Cynthia Bay area is still ad hoc with major developments being approved and proceeding on a facility-by-facility basis. Indeed, if there is to be any credibility placed on the ability to focus on a long-term planning process, it is imperative that the original management objectives and limits specified in the 1991 Site Plan (or at least the 1993 Site Plan) be adhered to. In light of the arguments outlined here, it is somewhat ironic that Judy Jackson, then Minister for Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, wrote in the Preface to the 1991 Site Plan for Cynthia Bay:

“Visitor surveys and public input have consistently indicated that visitors come to national parks in order to experience and enjoy the natural world and do not wish to see major developments, preferring instead a low level of visitor facilities of a small and unobtrusive nature”.

Finally, on the issue of siting the development at a place other than Cynthia Bay, the brief to the proponents listed 10 questions which were required to be addressed as outlined under the New Proposals process of the WHA Management Plan. The third question asked “specifically why the development or activity needs to be located within the WHA (rather than adjacent to, or elsewhere outside the WHA)”. However, nowhere was this question answered in the Environmental Impact Assessment. The TNPA argues strongly that unless a coherent reason can be provided as to why this proposal needs to be sited at Cynthia Bay instead of outside the WHA that the proposal should not be allowed to proceed. The TNPA also argues that no such reason exists.

The Parks and Wildlife Service is presently determining the final configuration of new accommodation facilities at Cynthia Bay. We urge you to voice your concern by writing to either the PWS, the Minister for Tourism, Parks and Heritage, Ken Bacon, or to your local newspaper.



Chronic Need to Review Marine Protected Area Management in Tasmania

By Christian Bell

On February 17, 2005, the necessary regulations under the Living Marine Resources Act were issued as a public notice to give full effect to the new marine reserves at the Kent Group of Islands and at Port Davey. The two new reserves are 27,000 hectares and 17,000 hectares respectively.

Tasmania has not had a review of the management of its present Marine Protected Area (MPA) system since the first reserves were implemented in the early nineties. With the recent addition of the Kent Group and Port Davey to the reserve estate it would be timely to have such a review. It would also be appropriate for the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to lead the review. Such a review would need to involve the Marine Resources Division of DPIWE as well as the Tasmanian Marine Police, both of whom could address some of the resourcing issues associated with the reserves. The review needs to include community groups, scientists and other stakeholders

Our present marine reserve system is chronically under funded. Few resources apart from baseline studies have been spent on it. In the early nineties the Field Labor government (during the Green Labor Accord period) did invest in a resource package to publicize its newly created marine reserves (a poster and some glossy brochures). The outlay was modest but a first step in a communication strategy in relation to its new reserves. An update and reissue of the brochures was done late in the nineties but very little money has been spent on Tasmania's marine protected area system since.

With the creation of the Port Davey and Kent Group MPAs, Tasmania has created two new reserves that now dwarf our previous efforts (with the exception of Macquarie Island the earlier reserves were all fairly small marine reserves in comparison). With the establishment of Port Davey and the Kent Group MPAs, Tasmania has now developed a substantial system of MPAs.

It is time to think about some of the resourcing issues associated with managing such a system. Previously Tasmania's marine reserves management activities consisted of a few part time hours (sometimes voluntary) as a non core function spread across a range of public servants amongst a suite of departments and divisions (not including some marine police and ranger hours). This situation is not sufficient to manage the system as it exists today.

Tasmania is the only Australian state that does not have a public servant whose full time job is the management of MPAs. Other states and the Commonwealth have whole divisions entrusted to the management of their MPAs. Tasmania does not have one ranger whose fulltime job is predominately the management of an MPA (again the only state not to have such a position).

On 16 November 2001, the Victorian Government created 12 new marine national parks and 10 marine sanctuaries. The Victorian

Government invested approximately \$39 million over four years to establish the new marine national parks system, to assist industry to adjust and to provide for a major upgrading of fisheries enforcement. Monitoring and research has been undertaken to ensure the effective management and assessment of the parks system and to improve knowledge and understanding of the marine environment.

To protect the new marine national parks and sanctuaries, an additional \$3 million per annum has been provided to substantially enhance fisheries enforcement along the Victorian coast. This includes:

- over 30 new regional, field based park management and fisheries officers;
- 3 strategically located Regional Investigations Officers to plan coordinated major, intelligence based, joint agency enforcement operations;
- expansion of the Special Investigations Group (SIG) to include an additional intelligence analysis and investigators to concentrate on the abalone fishery; and
- purchase a new fisheries patrol vessel to provide additional ocean-going enforcement capacity.

This represented a 75% increase in the Victorian budget for enforcement and has helped to ensure that the new marine national parks and sanctuaries are adequately policed. While it is obvious that the Victorian economy is very much bigger than ours and they can afford to spend much more than us on these matters, the creation of not a single new job in relation to these two new Tasmanian marine reserves compares very poorly with their efforts.

The most significant investment the Tasmanian Government has made in recent years with regard to MPAs was the development of the *Tasmanian Marine Protected Areas Strategy* and the *Inquiry into the establishment of marine protected areas with the Davey and Twofold Shelf bioregions*. The Network acknowledges the Tasmanian Government's efforts (and the expense incurred) and particularly the current Minister of the Environment's role in furthering the development of the Strategy. But we cannot continue to under fund our existing MPAs.

The Network has put a detailed proposal to the Parks Minister regarding the posting of a ranger at the Kent Group National Park. We also propose that a new position be created in the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to coordinate the needs of Tasmania's existing MPAs network as a statewide position. The state's existing MPAs are not well served by the present regional structure and we do feel there is a role to strategically manage the state's MPAs as an integrated system.

The timing of a review should not affect the immediate needs of the new reserves (the placement of a ranger at the Kent Group and the creation of a new coordinating position for the management of Tasmania's existing MPAs).

If you are interested in being involved in marine protected area management please contact the Marine & Coastal Community Network and we will keep you informed as to developments. Our email is tas@mccn.org.au.

(Christian Bell is the Coordinator of the Marine & Coastal Community Network. He has worked for the protection of marine protected areas and for marine conservation generally in Tasmania for over 15 years, and in 2004 won the Prof. Harry Bloom Memorial Award in recognition of this work.)

Other National Park Associations — VNPA & NSW NPA

Though the Tasmanian National Parks Association is a young organisation, the idea of non-profit, non-Government organisations committed to conservation and the protection of natural areas is not new in Australia.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) was founded in 1952 by a dedicated group of people committed to protecting the State's biodiversity through a representative national parks and reserves system. Now Victoria's leading nature conservation organisation with 3,000 members, 10,000 supporters and 16 staff members, the VNPA promotes the care and enjoyment of local natural heritage. Providing advice for park managers and politicians, the organisation also runs campaigns and operates outdoor activities and conservation programs with an emphasis on protecting the natural environment and biodiversity. Today's campaigns focus on the marine and coastal environment, Barmah-Millewa forests and wetlands, grasslands, the Victorian Alps and park management.

For more information see www.vnpa.org.au or contact the VNPA at: Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton Vic 3053; phone : (03) 9347 5188

The National Parks Association of New South Wales (NPA) was formed five years later in 1957 to establish the national park system, achieved with the passing of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act and the establishment of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in 1967.

Today the NPA continues to build on this work through a network of 19 branches and over 4,000 members. The public reserve system now consists of over 500 national parks and nature reserves covering 6.7% of NSW. The NPA continues to engage with and monitor the National Parks and Wildlife Service, while attempting to secure natural areas to reduce biodiversity decline. Nature conservation is addressed across all tenures recognizing the need for a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) protected area system through private and public land.

For more information see www.npansw.org.au or contact NPANSW at: PO Box A96, Sydney South NSW 1235; or phone: (02) 9299 0000

Compiled by Margie Jenkins

Buttongrass Ball 2004

With swinging and swaying the annual Buttongrass Ball was an absolute hoot! In frills and festive garb, enthusiasts learnt traditional dances from the Apple Shed Sugar Gliders. Some dances have only recently been recorded, but provided the crowd with as much enjoyment as the jiggers and stompers who would have practiced these authentic moves in Huon Valley apple sheds fifty years ago. Many thanks to the organisers and the band for donating \$200 in proceeds to the TNPA.



Mullum Trust again provides grant to the TNPA

Last August the TNPA was again successful in obtaining a grant of \$7500 from the Mullum Trust. This is the second year that the Mullum Trust has provided a grant of this size. The funds are being used to employ a Project Officer to coordinate the Parks Guardian and Monitoring Program which was established in 2003 after the success of the first Mullum Trust grant. Based on the Neighbourhood Watch concept, this program is based on developing a network of partnerships with user groups, government and other community organizations to ensure the continued environmental protection and promotion of the conservation and heritage values within Tasmania's reserve system.

The Mullum Trust is a private charitable trust whose main objective is to support and engender projects which have significant ongoing, or catalytic, environmental outcomes. The TNPA again extends its thanks to the Mullum Trust for its generous support of the above program.

Mullum Trust
Environmental conservation

Freshwater Protected Areas

By Jon Nevill

Most Australians are familiar with national parks in terrestrial environments, and marine parks in our oceans. However the concept of protected rivers is seldom discussed – or the more general concept of freshwater protected areas.

The United States passed their *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* in 1968 after a vigorous public campaign to stop the damming of several major rivers. In Canada, the *Canadian Heritage Rivers System Act* (1984) is now so popular that nominations for further protected rivers come entirely from community pressure. Forty rivers are now protected under these provisions in Canada. New Zealand has embarked on a *Waters of National Importance* project which should see many major river systems protected.

Australia is the driest inhabited continent, and river systems across the southern portion of the Australian continent have been degraded by water extraction and regulation, and by several other forms of habitat destruction. Many major river systems are in a state of ecological crisis, and their inhabitants (like Tasmania's giant freshwater crayfish) are in decline. Increased protection for the ecosystems of Australia's rivers (and lakes, wetlands, subterranean ecosystems and estuaries) is long overdue.

The story of freshwater protected areas in Australia is a story of good intentions not carried through. Australia signed the Ramsar convention on wetlands in 1971, which requires the protection of all wetland types – which, under the Ramsar definition of 'wetlands', includes rivers. After 34 years, no Australian rivers have been protected under Ramsar provisions.

Similarly, the requirements contained in the World Charter for Nature 1982 (a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly) and the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (with respect to freshwater protected areas) have not been carried through in any Australian jurisdiction other than the Australian Capital Territory.

Victoria passed their *Heritage Rivers Act* in 1992, nominating 18 rivers to be protected. However, 13 years later, none of the river management plans have been completed, and protective regimes have not been implemented.

Both Western Australian and New South Wales considered similar legislation to Victoria's *Heritage Rivers Act*, but there was inadequate parliamentary support in the face of opposition by farmer and fisher groups. Western Australia developed a *Wetlands Conservation Policy* in 1997 which covered rivers using the Ramsar definition; however the protective provisions foreshadowed in this policy have not yet been put in place. New South Wales amended their *National Parks Act* to allow for the declaration of 'wild rivers', however to date this provision has never been used. An internal paper was prepared by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2004 on the wild rivers provisions, but this paper has not been released.

The Queensland Government started work on a rivers policy in 2000. In 2004 the government announced that legislation was proposed to protect Queensland's wild rivers, and 18 rivers were nominated for immediate consideration. Work is currently underway drafting the necessary legislation. Whether it will be implemented remains to be seen, and the Victorian example provides an unhappy precedent.

South Australia and the Northern Territory both have government policy statements committing to the protection of representative examples of all major freshwater ecosystems. At this stage however these commitments have not been implemented, and neither jurisdiction has funded programs to carry the commitments through.

South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania all have fisheries legislation providing for the establishment of freshwater protected areas, however none of these provisions have been used.

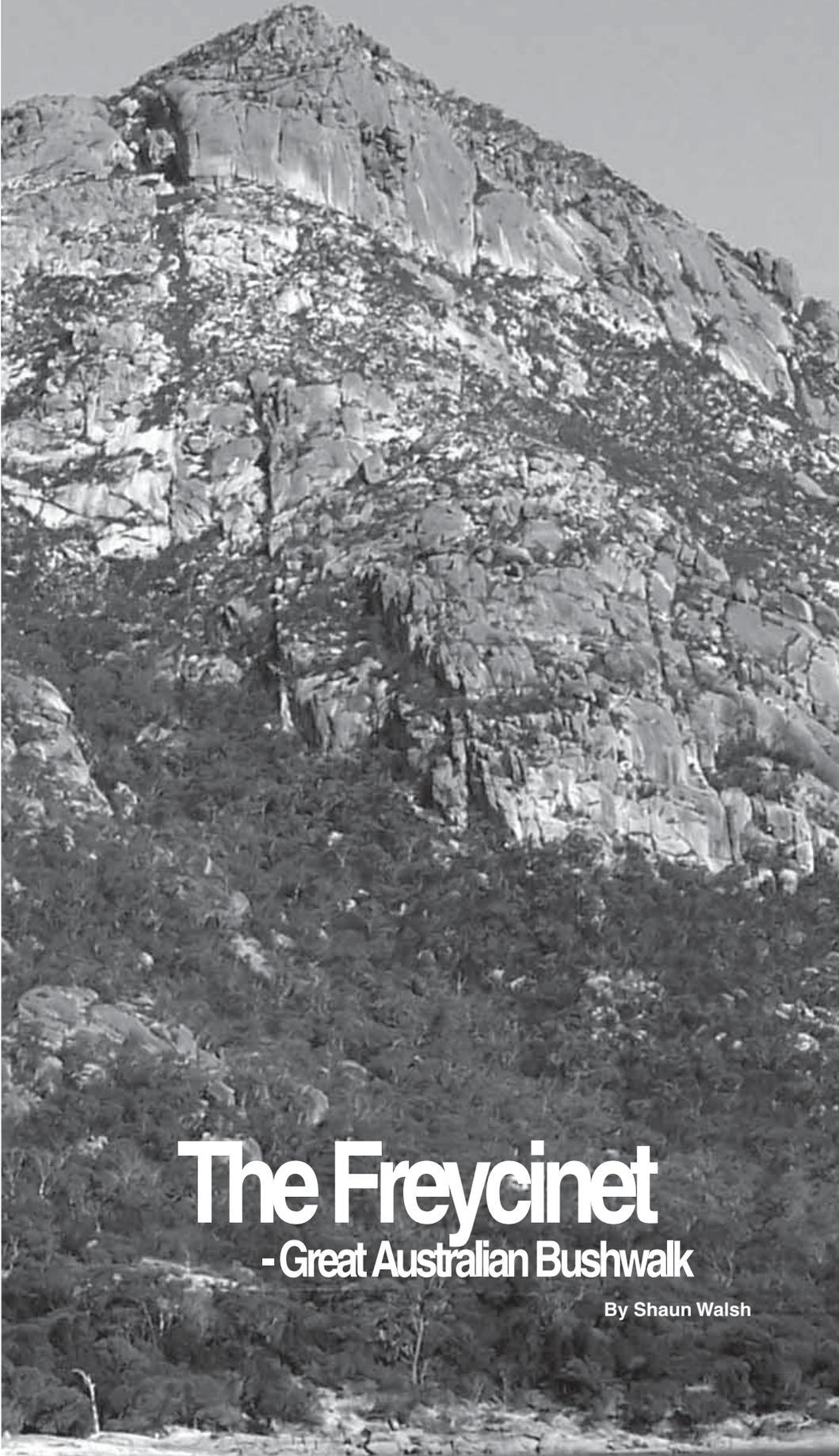
Tasmania's State Budget 2002 contained provision for the establishment of freshwater protected areas as a component of the State Water Development Plan – as required by the State's Nature Conservation Strategy. The Conservation of Freshwater Values (CFEV) Project has undertaken the design phase of this work, which, when completed, will establish the conceptual basis for the identification and selection of freshwater protected areas across the State. The CFEV project was originally expected to produce its final report in December 2004; however the work has been delayed, and funding for the project has been extended to the end of the 2004/2005 financial year.

Now is the time to urge the Tasmanian government to commit adequate funds for the implementation phase – the most critical phase – which will start in the 2005/2006 financial year. The sorry history of freshwater protected areas in Australia underlines just how important it is for politicians to understand that they do have community support. Letters to the Premier underlining the importance of the program are critical at this time.

Letters to the Premier could well congratulate the government on its excellent start, and mention the fact that the World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-25 November 2004, recommended that all states "establish protected areas representative of all freshwater ecosystems, including but not limited to riverine, lacustrine, wetland, estuarine and groundwater-dependent ecosystems, in cooperation with local communities and resource users, so as to safeguard the biodiversity of each of their freshwater ecosystems...".

Further information on freshwater protected areas in Australian (including the full text of the World Conservation Congress resolution) is available on the www.onlyoneplanet.com.au website.

(Jon Nevill is director of OnlyOnePlanet Consulting, specialising in aquatic conservation policy issues. He can be contacted at: jon_nevill@yahoo.com.au or phone 0422 926 515, or (03) 6225 1497)



The Freycinet

- Great Australian Bushwalk

By Shaun Walsh

The walk in Freycinet went really well. There were only six of us, but we were high in quality and enthusiasm!

Apart from myself none of the walkers were from Tasmania - there were three Queenslanders and two Canadians. It shows you what interest there is in preserving Tasmania's National Parks from the entire world.

It was a delight in having the Canadians Veronique and Elisa - for the first time they saw a wallaby (including a joey) and were also amazed at the grass trees - it was like the rest of us were seeing the Australian bush for the first time through their eyes. Elisa had great skills in observing wildlife - she managed to spot a couple of black swans with a family of goslings from afar and we managed to sneak right in for close observation.

Anne from Nanango in Queensland is a keen bushwalker and despite her mature years put us all to shame with her cracking pace - but her enthusiastic stories and humorous manner had us all laughing frequently.

Anita and Eric from Brisbane were delighted when we spotted an echidna - the first they had seen. Eric had just flown in the previous Thursday night from South Africa before flying the next day to Hobart for a holiday - talk about commitment!!!

The weather was beautiful and the sandy beaches, granite mountains and blue waters of Freycinet put on a real show. All of us agreed how important it is to protect our special National Parks.

We all got on so well we had a great Australian Bushwalk Reunion at Rectango (Salamanca) in Hobart.

I certainly will be happy to lead another walk again - it was very rewarding.

Recherche Bay – An ongoing issue ?

Since the discovery of the 'French Gardens' on the north east peninsula of Recherche Bay in 2003, there has been considerable interest in this area that is believed to have been the site of temporary settlement by the French expedition lead by Bruni D'Entrecasteaux. There has been a call to have a large area of the peninsula reserved to protect the cultural heritage values, but a large area of the peninsula is private property which the owners are proposing to log. As a consequence the area and its future have become contentious. After a review of the cultural heritage protection requirements by the Forest Practices Board, and review of a local community nomination of the peninsula for listing on the Tasmanian Heritage Register by the Tasmanian Heritage Council, the government announced its decision for the protection of the cultural heritage values in late 2004.

There has been unhappiness in some circles about the government's decision, and the Minister responsible for the decision, Ken Bacon, has written to us an article for the Newsletter explaining his decision – see below. Because of the controversial nature of this Recherche Bay matter, TNPA has also asked for, and included an article, on the cultural heritage viewpoint.

Letter from Ken Bacon, Minister for Tourism, Parks, Heritage & the Arts, Tasmania

Thank you for the opportunity to correct the misinformation being circulated about my decision to protect the significant heritage sites of the NE Peninsula of Recherche Bay in Southern Tasmania. You would be aware that, based on nominations, the Tasmanian Heritage Council (THC) recommended that I should declare, for a period of two years, the area to be a heritage area under Part 5 of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 (HCHA)* on the grounds that it does, and may contain further places of historic cultural heritage significance, in particular relating to the expedition of Bruni D'Entrecasteaux.

Part 5 of the *HCHA* only allows for a heritage area to be temporarily listed for up to five years to enable further investigations to determine any specific sites of significance, which, when found, would be declared as significant sites under Part 4 of the *HCHA* and, subsequently, afforded ongoing protection.

My announcement of 14 October 2004 went beyond the recommendations of the THC. I felt there was already strong evidence suggesting a high probability that the garden and observatory sites are the same as those connected with the French expedition. Therefore, I have requested that the THC immediately declare a 100 metre area radiating from each of these two sites to be sites of heritage significance under Part 4 of the *HCHA*, thus enabling immediate and ongoing protection.

Further I have requested that the THC list a 100 metre heritage area around the entire coast of the NE Peninsula from the high

water mark including the existing coastal reserve for five years to allow for further investigations to be undertaken.

It is worth noting that most of the land is private freehold, zoned rural B and owned by the Vernon brothers. It is surrounded by a coastal reserve and conservation area. The coastal reserve is zoned open space. The Vernons' land is a private timber reserve. The Forest Practices Plan requires that extensive surveys of natural and cultural values must be completed prior to forestry activity occurring on the land. Sites with natural and cultural heritage values of significance are required to be protected under the Forest Practices Code. Forestry activity is exempt from the *HCHA*.

The listing in itself will not constrain the ability of the landowner to carry out forestry activities. However, all known sites of significance will be protected by buffers under any forest practices plan that might be certified by the Forest Practices Board.

Most of the reasoning supporting the nominations is based on the notion that the area constitutes a landscape of national and international significance due to its Aboriginal and European connections, subsequent land use and occupation, and represents the type locality for the Labillardière collections.

The area quite possibly is a landscape of national and international significance but whether it has remained 'little changed' from then is debatable as the area was burnt regularly by the Aborigines and has seen much activity since. Unfortunately the *HCHA* does not contain a provision for the listing of cultural landscapes and therefore this is not a criterion for consideration. The *HCHA* is currently under review and, as part of my decision, I have requested the THC to consider this issue as part of that review.

Aboriginal heritage is already protected under the *Aboriginal Relics Act and Forest Practices Act*.

Historical and eco-tourism opportunities on the peninsula also have been proposed. However, it is worth noting that those advocating tourism are also opposing the granting of road access to the block which seems to contradict a desire for ordinary people to appreciate the site unless they charter or own a boat.

The area's value for historical and eco-tourist opportunities is likely to be enhanced by listing a 100m protection zone around the entire coast and allowing some logging to occur in order to fund the appropriate surveys, ensure good access and appropriate ongoing management.

This decision has been reached after extensive research and consultation. I believe it offers the highest degree of protection available within the constraints of the existing legislation. It represents a win-win for the landowners and Tasmania's heritage.

The French, Recherche Bay & Historic Heritage Protection – A Cultural Heritage Perspective

By Anne McConnell

Late last year - two years after its rediscovery - the Minister for Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Ken Bacon, announced the government plan for the protection of what is considered to be the site of the D'Entrecasteaux Expedition. The solution – a protective listing on the Tasmanian Heritage Register of a 100 metre area around 2 key locations and a 100 metre strip of land around the full coast of the north east peninsula of Recherche Bay. The State Government says this will adequately protect the heritage values of the north-east peninsula of Recherche Bay and has given the Commonwealth Government assurances to this effect.¹ But is this so? Will this reservation adequately protect the cultural heritage values of the site?

In the view of many professionals who work in cultural heritage in Tasmania and elsewhere in Australia this is a minimum protection option - it protects the physical evidence that has been found to date, but will not protect cultural landscape values.² For example, if logging occurs on the private property in the area, then the cultural landscape values the area potentially has will be erased. It is highly unlikely that these values will be protected under the Forest Practices Code since to date they have not been included in the protection they have proposed. While the government is to be commended on taking steps to protect such potentially significant heritage, the approach they have taken falls far short of what is required for the area, and better protection could, and should, be offered. In this context it is important to remember that cultural heritage is a non-renewable resource.

Let's explore this issue: To date we have claims that this is the area in which the French expedition led by Bruni D'Entrecasteaux spent time - exploring, meeting indigenous Tasmanians, and establishing a garden and an observatory. These claims are substantiated by expedition maps which show the locations of the gardens and observatory and by physical evidence at the gardens site at least. It has also been argued that, as well as the physical evidence, the area has major cultural landscape values because the area is one of native forest, hence has a forested landscape very similar to that the French would have experienced during their stay. Professor John Mulvaney, a pre-eminent Australian archaeologist, has been a strong advocate of this view publicly (and to the Australian Heritage Council). If the physical evidence is that of the French expedition, then the area has highly significant cultural heritage values and is likely to have highly significant cultural landscape values – of significance not just in relation to Tasmania, but at National and International levels.

¹ As a consequence of which the Commonwealth Government has not intervened (Environment & Heritage media release, 28/1/2005).

² A cultural landscape is an area of land with natural features and elements modified by human activity resulting in patterns of evidence that give a place its particular character reflecting human relationships with or attachments to that landscape. A cultural landscape has historic significance where the landscape or its components have strong links to, or associations, with important historic themes or where the evidence assists in understanding the past. Cultural landscapes may also have value for aesthetic, social or spiritual reasons.

A difficulty here is that it is not yet conclusively proven that the physical remains that have been located relate to the French visit. Urgent archaeological and related studies of the area to substantiate the French origin of the physical evidence have been recommended by heritage professionals. It does not make sense to make conservation and management decisions about a place that we know very little about, particularly in view of the fact that the area has been the focus of other historical uses (eg, coal mining) which might conceivably be the origin of the physical remains that have been located. It is also good heritage practice, and a process advocated by the Australian guidelines for the conservation of places of cultural significance,³ that before deciding on the policy for a place, studies must be undertaken to understand the place and to allow the significance of the place to be established. So why hasn't this occurred in this case?

The Tasmanian Government has stated it is committed to undertaking further heritage surveys of the areas concerned, however given the Government's recommended Tasmanian Heritage Register listing this would seem to be a case of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted! Firstly, since only a very small proportion of the peninsula has been included in the Tasmanian Heritage Register listing logging can occur over most of the north-east peninsula. The result of this is that the potential cultural landscape values will be lost through logging, and they will not be recoverable – not in the next 100 years and possibly never. Secondly, forestry is exempt from the Tasmanian Heritage Register provisions, so listing does not afford any real protection – although we have been led to believe that this will change when the *Historical Cultural Heritage Act 1995* review recommendations are implemented. However, as the review was carried out over a year ago, yet the Act has still not been changed, it is likely that the area will have been logged before the Act can offer protection.

The Government has argued that the full peninsula cannot be protected because the *Historical Cultural Heritage Act 1995* does not allow cultural landscapes to be listed. The Act however was designed to allow for large areas, including cultural landscapes, to be listed. To this end 'precincts' were included as a registrable place type. Heritage precincts are areas with heritage significance, commonly streetscape or other landscape values. To be listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register a place must fulfil at least one of seven criteria for significance – if the Recherche Bay area is the site of the French expedition then there is no doubt that it meets this requirement. If the government is concerned about the lack of clear, substantiated evidence, then it still has the option of using the emergency protection that can be afforded for 'places' for 2 to 5 years under Part 5 of the Act (declaration of Heritage Areas) to carry out the necessary studies. In fact, it is puzzling why the Government has not chosen to take one of

³ i.e. the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999) which has been endorsed by the Commonwealth Government and the Tasmanian Government as the standard for cultural heritage practice. Australia ICOMOS is the professional body for people working in cultural heritage in Australia, and is a chapter of the International Council of Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS) which is closely linked to UNESCO and is the cultural heritage equivalent of IUCN.

these options. Rather than focussing on historic heritage matters, should we perhaps be looking more closely at forestry issues such as Government reluctance to pay compensation to private landowners where conservation requirements prevent logging under the Forest Practices Act?

Both Australia ICOMOS and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania, the latter a network of Tasmanian cultural heritage practitioners, wrote to the then Premier, Jim Bacon, in 2003 arguing for the necessary research to be carried out as a matter of urgency to determine the nature of the heritage in the area and its cultural significance in order to provide a foundation for making a management decision. They also asked the government to ensure that the full area that might have values be adequately protected until the work was done. These views were ignored in the Government decision in late 2004 to reserve only the 100m buffer and coastal strip (although the government has made a commitment to undertake research – at some undefined time in the future). After the Government's decision was announced, Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania wrote again to the Minister Ken Bacon, to express their concern, stating –

In our view, all of Recherche Bay should be the subject of an independent professional study to identify all natural, Aboriginal and cultural heritage values and in particular identify those of State and National significance. The potential for international significance (particularly to France) should also be considered. We are concerned that the current situation has arisen in reaction to a nomination that was directed toward issues other than best heritage management...

We are also concerned that the current proposal for reservation ... [the 100m coastal strip plus an additional 100m around the key sites] is inadequate until a full investigation has been done, as to allow for logging or other developments in the rest of the private land precludes the option of reserving the full Peninsula as a cultural landscape if this proves to be an identified value ... We believe that this is possible under the Act as the Act allows for the listing of 'precincts', and in our view the full area can be considered a 'precinct' ...

This study will allow informed decisions to be made on how to best manage the cultural heritage places in Recherche Bay for future generations. Given the public pressure and views in Tasmania we recommend that an independent experienced multi-disciplinary team be considered to carry out this study. The study should include community consultation on social and shared heritage values (CHPT letter to Ken Bacon, Oct 2004).

The CHPT letter recommended that the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999) should be used to identify describe and assess the full range of heritage values. It also recommended a cooperative approach between Commonwealth, State and Local Government because of the potential for the area to have

International or National as well as State significance. The letter concluded –

Until such an identification and assessment stage is carried out, it is not possible to determine the appropriate protection and management for this potentially culturally important area of the State. This and the follow on analysis to prepare a Conservation Management Plan will also we hope result in the identification of opportunities that can arise from proper recognition and management of heritage values in terms of both pride in our heritage and its potential educational, recreational and tourism value.

In my view, the government's handling of the Recherche Bay 'French site' has been inadequate, ill-informed and embarrassing, and it would appear that the Government has been poorly advised by the Tasmanian Heritage Council on this matter. It has failed to use the mechanisms that exist to adequately protect this potentially outstanding heritage area, and failed to understand the heritage issues and apply the basic principles of cultural heritage conservation. This has put the potentially outstanding heritage values of Recherche Bay at risk of imminent loss. Governments world-wide were appalled at the Taliban's wanton destruction of the Buddha statues at Bamiyan. Are we to stand by and see another place with potentially international heritage values, this time in Tasmania, be wantonly destroyed? Or can the Tasmanian Government be persuaded to do what it should in this case and provide the resources to properly assess the site, and vouchsafe real interim protection while this takes place?

(Anne McConnell has 25 years working experience in cultural heritage management, including 7 years as Senior Archaeologist with Forestry Tasmania. She currently works as a consultant in cultural heritage based in Hobart).

The TNPA Committee 04-05

A new TNPA committee was elected at the 2004 AGM. The new committee comprises –

- President Robert Campbell
- Vice President 1 Margie Jenkin
- Vice President 2 Anne McConnell
- Treasurer Lisa Kavanagh
- Secretary Lisa Kavanagh
- Public Officer Tom Baxter

The new committee would like to thank the outgoing committee members for their hard work, in particular retiring President, Chris Bell, for the enormous energy and commitment he contributed to the TNPA to help ensure that Tasmania's National Parks remain high quality natural and wild areas whose primary goal is conservation.

The TNPA is Growing – and Planning for its Future!

The TNPA is growing not only in numbers, but it is maturing. With this comes the need to look ahead and assess the challenges for the TNPA as an independent lobby group for National Parks and other protected areas in Tasmania. In other words, its time to start planning the TNPA's route forward over the next year or so – time to start developing a planned strategic approach that will help the TNPA meet its objectives. The steady growth in membership also means that the TNPA needs to consider its obligations to its members and has an opportunity to make better use of the diverse range of skills of the membership.

To start the ball rolling in taking a more planned and strategic approach to the operation of the organisation the TNPA Committee held an initial planning meeting in December 2004. The ideas generated from this meeting were built on at Planning Meeting No.2, held in mid-February 2005 and which was open to the membership. The meetings provided for the review of the role and function of the TNPA generally and looked at useful future directions, approaches, strategies and actions.

What was the outcome of the two meetings? Overall it was felt that the TNPA has been doing an amazing job for an organisation that is so small and new, but there is a lot more it could be doing. The view of the meeting was that there has been enormous energy directed very effectively at countering commercial development in the National Parks, but it is perhaps time that TNPA broadened its scope, became more pro-active, and matured in terms of how it operates as an organisation. Greater inclusion and valuing of the membership was also seen as important. A range of ideas for achieving the above were generated and discussed. Out of this came the following short to medium term priorities for the TNPA:

Policy on Development in National Parks

With tourism (and other) development in Tasmanian National Parks as an ongoing threat to the conservation of these conservation lands, the development of a *Policy on Development in National Parks* is a TNPA priority. Such a policy, which develops the philosophies stated in the TNPA Manifesto, would enable the TNPA to put their position to government and developers more coherently and forcefully. It would also provide a basis for management of our protected areas and would be a policy the TNPA can campaign to have adopted by government.

Review of the TNPA Manifesto

There is a need to review the *TNPA Manifesto* regularly to ensure it is current and reflects all TNPA policy and views on reserved land/National Parks. An annual review has been suggested – preferably at a regular time of the year and allowing adequate time for member comment. Items suggested for consideration in the next review include – walking track fees and cruise ship visits to coastal protected areas. The next TNPA Manifesto review has been scheduled for 2005/6.

Update the Constitution

The TNPA Committee has also made a commitment to a full review of the TNPA Constitution this year. This is seen as important to

streamline the way in which the organisation operates. The Constitution was developed from the 'Model Rules' for incorporated associations, but now the TNPA has had time to establish itself, some inefficiencies and inconsistencies with the way TNPA wishes to operate have come to light.

Working Group Structure

The TNPA has decided to develop a number of *Working Groups* to assist the TNPA Committee in specific areas that need to be developed, and is also a way of better using the specialist skills and knowledge of the TNPA membership. The Committee is looking to establish the following Working Groups as a matter of priority –

- **Parks Guardianship & Monitoring** – this is a key area of interest for the TNPA and one for which we have been active. A working group is seen as being an effective way of developing and running this program, particularly in the absence of a paid project officer.
- **Parks Management & Planning** – to consider the management framework of the Tasmanian reserve system and to review draft management plans and other protected area planning issues.
- **Boundaries & Reservation** – to consider the adequacy/inadequacy of the reserves system, including boundaries.
- **Fundraising** – to consider ways of increasing TNPA funding.
- **Events** – to develop and organise public events to inform, lobby and fundraise.

It is envisaged that each Working Group will work independently researching, responding to issues in each area, developing lobbying and campaigning approaches, and putting these into effect as appropriate.

Action Timeline

The development of a forward plan, including forward budgeting, is seen as providing an important administrative framework for the TNPA – for keeping a clear focus, to help apply for funding, to give confidence in taking on major projects, and to encourage participation of the membership.

Communications

It was agreed that the monthly communiqué to members and the twice yearly TNPA News be continued as they are seen as effective means of communication and promotion of the TNPA and its activities. A regular stall at the Saturday Salamanca Market in Hobart is also being considered as a way of raising the profile of the TNPA and campaigning and generally informing locals and visitors about Tasmania's National Parks (yes we will need volunteers for the stall – see advertisement elsewhere!).

Fund Raising

As TNPA has no regular income, fund raising is critical to allow TNPA to do what it needs to do. A full time Campaign Officer is also essential if the TNPA is to be able to deal with the range of issues that arise. Considerably more funding on an on-going basis is therefore essential. Key ways of achieving this are seen as through building the membership, increased donations and grants, merchandising, paid advertisements in the newsletter and sponsorship. Most of the above (other than membership and donations) need exploring and development.

TNPA Calendar of Events

The TNPA intends to develop an annual calendar of events which would provide regular events for members and help 'badge' the TNPA. It is also seen as more efficient than one-off event organising although the TNPA needs to be open to and able to run once-off events where appropriate, especially as part of campaigns. Regular events that have been considered for the calendar included a Member BBQ/picnic, a Film Night, a Photography/Art Competition, a mid-year TNPA Dinner and Awards Night, and the TNPA AGM with Guest Speaker. It is hoped to continue with other regular events that already happen such as bimonthly speakers at the regular TNPA meetings (on the 1st Monday of the month) and the Buttongrass Ball (if the band is willing).

The TNPA Committee will be working to develop and implement these new directions over the next 12 months. The Committee is particularly keen to get comment and assistance from TNPA members in relation to its new approach. If any members would like more information on the range of ideas that came out of the two planning meetings or want to provide feedback, please contact the TNPA at admin@tnpa.asn.au or phone Anne McConnell on 6239 1494 (H&W).

Douglas Apsley 15 Years Celebration November 2004

On Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November 2004 a weekend of celebration was held to celebrate the fact it had been 15 years since the Douglas Apsley National Park was proclaimed. A gathering was held at the northern end, at Thompsons Marshes. A number of activities were arranged including walks, interpretation of the history of the area, lots of relaxing socialising, music and jaffles!

Volunteers Needed to Run a TNPA Salamanca Stall

To help publicise the TNPA and the need to work actively to ensure that Tasmania's National Parks and other protected areas are properly conserved, protected and managed for 'the people for all time' TNPA are planning to have a regular Saturday stall at Salamanca Place (Hobart).

We need volunteers to help run the stall. The work will not be onerous – Salamanca on a Saturday is a pleasant and lively place to be and the work is light and sociable – mainly chatting to passers-by about Tasmania's wonderful National Parks and the role of the TNPA.

Please – if you can give your time for this on a regular or occasional basis – contact the TNPA (admin@tnpa.asn.au) or phone Anne McConnell (6239 1494 (H&W)).

New TNPA working groups – The TNPA needs YOU!

TNPA is intending to use 'Working Groups' as a way of progressing the work of the TNPA in specific high priority areas. It is envisaged that each Working Group will work independently – researching the area, responding to issues in each area, developing lobbying and campaigning approaches (if appropriate), and putting these into effect. Each Working Group will have one TNPA Committee member who will act as liaison with the Committee and will operate as the Working Group Coordinator.

For these Working Groups to be effective we need members with a strong interest in these areas. The Working Groups are seen as a way in which members with specialised skills can contribute to the conservation of Tasmania's National Parks. TNPA has a diverse membership which collectively has an extraordinary range of skills that are relevant to the Working Groups. So if you have a desire to be more involved in the TNPA, but wish to do what interests you, contribute your special skills and knowledge, and work to your own level of commitment – join one of the TNPA Working Groups. The more people in a Working Group, the more the TNPA can achieve!

The Working Groups which are seen to be most important at present and which the TNPA Committee would like to establish are –

- **Parks Guardianship & Monitoring Working Group** – this is a key area of interest for the TNPA and one for which we have had funding from the Mullum Trust. In the absence of a paid project officer, a working group is seen as being an effective way of developing and running this program.
- **Parks Management & Planning Working Group** – to consider the management framework of the Tasmanian reserve system and to review draft management plans and other protected area planning issues.
- **Boundaries & Reservation Working Group** – to consider the adequacy/inadequacy of the reserves system, including boundaries.
- **Marine & Freshwater Protected Areas Working Group** – to consider this 'poor cousin' of terrestrial protected areas, and help promote the need for a comprehensive system of protected areas for these environments which contain highly significant natural values and are important ecosystems, as well as the sound management of existing such areas.
- **Fundraising Working Group** – to consider ways of increasing TNPA funding through a variety of approaches.
- **Events Working Group** – to develop and organise public events to inform, lobby and fundraise for the TNPA and to raise the profile of Tasmanian protected areas and their conservation requirements and status.

To make these Working Groups a reality we need YOUR support and participation. If you feel you can contribute to one of the above TNPA Working Groups please let us know – contact the TNPA at admin@tnpa.asn.au (attention Anne McConnell) or phone Anne McConnell on 6239 1494 (H&W).

Introducing the TNPA Committee

Although small, the current TNPA committee has a broad range of expertise and interests, contributing a range of knowledge, skills and views to the work of the TNPA. The following 'profiles' on three of the current five committee members is included to help members get to know the 2004-2005 committee members.

Rob Campbell (TNPA President)



I am originally from Melbourne and moved to Tasmania in 1988 after being enchanted by the island after several bushwalks and rafting the Franklin River. I find the human scale of Hobart and the closeness of Nature to the city very accommodating to the soul.

I wandered through university completing an undergraduate degree in maths/physics, a masters in environmental science and a doctoral degree in cosmology. For the past 18 years I have worked at the CSIRO Marine labs as marine / fisheries scientist.

A keen bushwalker and photographer with a love of the natural world, I joined the TNPA at its inaugural public meeting in September 2001. I served as vice-president for two years, and also am presently serving as conservation representative on Bushwalking and Track Review Panel.

I am a strong believer in the need to share this planet with Nature, and the necessity of preserving the integrity, wilderness and beauty of natural places as touchstones for the human spirit to counterbalance the intrusions of the modern consumer society. Henry Thoreau sensed this need when he wrote, "We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of vast and titanic features – the wilderness with its living and decaying trees. We need to witness our own limits transgressed and some life pasturing freely where we never wander." Having had the opportunity to marvel at the intricacy and wonderful beauty and magnificence of Nature, I see my role as an advocate for the natural world so that future generations can also marvel at the very soul of this planet. I invite others to join me in this role.

Anne McConnell (Vice President)



An archaeologist who has worked in the area of cultural heritage management for over 25 years, Anne was attracted to Tasmania after working on an archaeological excavation on the north-west coast and visits to walk the Overland Track and South Coast – Port Davey Track and raft the Franklin River in the late 1970s-early 1980s. Anne moved to

Tasmania in 1988 to take up the position of Senior Archaeologist in the Forest Practices Unit of the, then, Forestry Commission. In 1995 she left Forestry Tasmania to become an independent consultant. Her professional work in Tasmania, with its focus on

rural and natural areas, has given her an in depth knowledge of cultural heritage conservation matters in the State. Anne also has a background in geoscience, and an interest in geodiversity and geoheritage.

Anne spends much of her free time in Tasmania's National Parks and other conservation reserves. Having grown up in places where outdoor recreation mainly occurred on golf courses or beaches (Western Australia & Thailand) her passion for bushwalking, skiing and natural areas developed relatively late. In spite of this, or perhaps because of this, she has visited many National Parks and World Heritage Area's world-wide, including what is in her view the planet's most important conservation area – Antarctica. These experiences have convinced her of the importance of conserving natural areas, the important role of National Parks, and of the special place of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area – as one of the few remaining truly wild, remote and undeveloped natural areas in the world. They have also convinced her that these places need to be protected and well managed into the future for all people as well as for their intrinsic values, and it is a goal worth fighting for.

Anne was a member of the Tasmanian National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council (1999-2003) and was the cultural heritage representative on the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Consultative Committee for a term (1995-1999). She is also a long-standing member of Australia ICOMOS, the professional organisation for cultural heritage practitioners in Australia (with links to UNESCO), and she served on the Executive Committee of Australia ICOMOS from 1996 to 1999.

Lisa Kavanagh (Treasurer/Secretary)



My parents came to Tassie from the UK for what they initially thought would be five-years. Instead, they fell in love with Tassie's natural beauty and outdoor lifestyle and fortunately for myself and two siblings they decided to raise a family in Tassie. As children growing up in Tasmania, my parents

regularly took us into our National Parks on weekends and during summer holidays, camping, running free, exploring the bush and walking along deserted beaches. To us the parks were just an extension of our own backyard that we had to drive to!

I can remember running up and down giant sand dunes at Eddystone Point, collapsing early to bed (I suspect to our parents' relief so the adults would have some peace), spending hours hunting for good skimming rocks to skim across Lake St Clair, searching for magical fairies at Cradle Mountain in the pouring rain, wading barefoot in the Tyenna river at Mount Field, making snowmen on Mt Wellington with soggy woollen gloves, pretending we weren't cold (despite the photos showing blue faces) and as we got older disappearing over to Wine Glass Bay with friends just to get away from all our parents!

Whilst they are simple memories (and there are many many more) they remind me that Tasmania's National Parks are worth fighting to protect and what an important role the TNPA has in helping to ensure their protection.

What the TNPA has been doing – Summer 2004-5

The TNPA has been extremely active over the summer of 2004-5, not only with events and regular committee meetings, but with behind the scenes meetings with government and tourism people, letter writing, and looking at how the TNPA can grow into the future. The following summarises some of the main TNPA activities and happenings over this period.

2004

August

- TNPA holds Annual General Meeting.
- TNPA endorses proposal put forward by Tarkine National Coalition calling for establishment of Tarkine National Park in north-west Tasmania.

September

- Letter sent to PWS condemning the blasting of holes in Blowhole Valley, in the South-West National Park, for fire management purposes during recent control burn in the area.
- TNPA writes to Dept. Primary Industries, Water and Environment and the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal requesting an appeal of the recent decisions made regarding the Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council Application for Water Licence – Tin Mines dam and Southern Tin Mines dam within the Freycinet National Park.
- TNPA places article in Wild Magazine drawing attention to proposal development at Cockle Creek East within the SW National Park. It asks that people express their concern about the project and requests that the development be moved to outside the National Park by writing to Stage Designs and the PWS.
- Subcommittee formed to organize logistics of holding the Great Australian Bushwalk in Tasmania.
- TNPA sends letter to PWS congratulating it on the production of the recent State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area report.
- TNPA letter published in Mercury drawing attention to threats to World Heritage Area outlined in report cited above.
- TNPA represented at National Resource Management meetings by Paul Smith.
- TNPA interviewed by ABC- The World Today in relation to Government announcement of its “in principal support” for a large expansion of accommodation facilities at Cynthia Bay, within the Cradle valley-Lake St Clair National Park.
- TNPA letter of support and donation sent to Tasmanian Conservation Trust relating to the TCT appeal to the Resource Planning and Development Commission over the proposal to build dams within the Freycinet National Park.
- TNPA granted Tax Deductibility Status.

October

- Submission written and sent to PWS and Central Highlands Council relating to proposed expansion of accommodation facilities at Cynthia Bay within the Cradle valley-Lake St Clair National Park. Copies of submission also sent to:
 1. Bryce McNair, Chair, TWWHACC
 2. Rowena Bell. Chair, NPWAC
 3. Glenys Jones, Coordinator for the Evaluation of the WHA Management Program
 4. Helen Dunn, Member, TWWHACC
 5. Terry Bailey, Director of Natural Heritage Management Section, DEH, Canberra
 6. Linda Selg, Desk Officer for Tasmanian WHA, DEH, Canberra
 7. Senator Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment and Heritage, Canberra
 8. Anthony Albanese, Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage, Canberra
 9. Senator Bob Brown, Parliamentary Leader, Australian Greens
 10. Senator Lyn Allison, Parliamentary Leader, Australian Democrats.

(The submission is available on the TNPA website)
- TNPA organizes publicity table at the Tasmanian Wildflower Show (15-17th Oct).
- TNPA organizes Great Australian Bushwalk in Tasmania. Held on 24th Oct, twelve themed walks were offered and over 140 people participated.
- In relation to a proposal for tourist facilities to be built at Pump House Point, in the Cradle Valley-Lake St Clair National Park, TNPA puts out Media Release “Parks-Tourism Developments, Government asked to Explain”
- Campaign Officer (via phone hook-up) participates in Annual Conference of National Parks Australia Council.
- TNPA letter published in the Mercury in relation to the Pump House Point redevelopment.

November

- TNPA organizes Australian film premier of Deep Blue as fundraiser. Over 300 tickets sold raising \$2,600 for the TNPA. Thanks to Hopscotch Films and Village Cinemas, together with Kathmandu, Wilderness Society Shop, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Zoology Dept (UTas) and others for selling tickets.
- TNPA writes to the Mercury in relation to cuts to funding for Track Workers.
- Meeting held with Scott Gadd, Secretary of the Tasmanian Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts to discuss issues relating to Government policy associated with proposed tourist developments and ongoing management of National Parks
- Meeting held with Simon Currant (Chair, Tasmanian Tourist Council) and Daniel Leesong (Executive Officer) to discuss the relationship between tourism and National Parks, in particular the provision of accommodation facilities.
- TNPA develops an alternative proposal for the Pump House Point site (as a day use area) which is sent to Scott Gadd and Simon Currant.
- Button Grass Ball donates \$200 to TNPA. Thanks to the Apple Shed Sugar Gliders.
- Letter sent to Referrals Section (EPBC Act), Dept of Environment and Heritage, Canberra raising concerns related to a proposal lodged by World Heritage Cruises for tours to sites associated with the endangered Orange Bellied Parrot. The TNPA indicated that it does not support such a use of the area and called for the proposed action to be declared as a controlled action under the EPBC Act.
- Letter sent to Tasmanian Heritage Council supporting the nomination of the Freycinet/Coles Bay Tin Field Site (which is within the Freycinet National Park and threatened by the dam proposal in the Park) to the Tasmanian Heritage Register.
- TNPA organizes the Kayaking in Tibet Slide Show at the University and raises over \$1,000.
- The TNPA says farewell and thank you to Helen Gee, who has been our extremely active Campaign Officer for the past year.

December

- Glenys Jones, coordinator for the Evaluation of the WHA Management Program, gives presentation to members about recently released State of the Tasmanian World Heritage Area Report.
- Letter sent to Referrals Section (EPBC Act), Dept of Environment and Heritage, Canberra relating to proposal to enlarge an existing dam to irrigate a 400 ha vineyard adjacent to Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve – a declared Ramsar site for migratory birds. The TNPA called for the proposed action to be declared as a controlled action under the EPBC Act due to the impacts on the Ramsar site and the listed species that depend on it.

- Letter sent to David Marriner, Stage Designs, requesting the proposed development at Cockle Creek East be relocated outside the South West National Park.
- Discussion Paper “Towards a Common Goal” written and sent to Tourism Tasmania.
- The TNPA welcomes Greg Wood back from the Mainland into the position of TNPA Campaign Officer (Greg was the TNPA Public Officer until leaving to travel interstate in early 2004).

2005

January

- Christmas / New Year Break – The Executive Committee out and about enjoying a well-earned break in Tasmania’s National Parks!!

February

- Submission written and sent to Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service relating to mid-term review of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan. List of 19 issues which need to be addressed. (*The submission is available on the TNPA website*).
- Letter sent to Prime Minister relating to the delay to implement the election promise to identify the 170,000 ha of high conservation value forests to be added to the Tasmanian Reserve System.
- Meeting held with Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service concerning the introduction of a booking system for the Overland Track, due to commence in November 2005.

Urgent Call for New Committee Members

The TNPA Executive Committee urgently needs more members to assist it do its work. As the TNPA has grown in size and the scope of its activities has expanded, the committee urgently needs to find additional members to help them carry out the range of tasks that need to be done to keep the TNPA running and able to act quickly and effectively to ensure the sound management and ongoing protection of Tasmania’s National Parks.

The TNPA Executive Committee can have up to 8 members, but at present only has five. The Committee would like to co-opt people to the 3 additional positions at least until the next AGM (about 5 months away). There are a variety of tasks that the committee needs help with, including – secretarial matters (collecting mail, acting as a phone contact & taking Committee Meeting minutes), editing the Newsletter, keeping the membership informed, organising events and assisting with lobbying (publicising the TNPA and attending meetings).

If you are interested in helping the TNPA by becoming a temporary Committee Member, please contact the President, Robert Campbell as soon as possible at admin@tnpa.asn.au or on 6229 1839 (H).

New! - Memberships On-line

Our Community is Australia's national gateway to 700,00 community groups and schools. It is Australia's leading online supporter of community groups with the assistance from, community leaders, political leaders, business leaders, investors and a large number of people.

They currently provide the TNPA with a free secure facility to accept regular or one off secure Tax Deductible donations on line. An on line service that is so important to the on going running of the TNPA.

Now Our Community are offering a new facility, memberships on-line. We are very excited that the TNPA has been chosen to trial this new facility.

For more information about this service or to donate on-line visit our website www.tnpa.com.au or visit www.ourcommunity.com.au.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have used, and are using, the secure on-line donation service. Your support is really appreciated!!



The Great Aussie Bushwalk

On Sunday the 24th of October 140 Tasmanians laced up their walking boots and participated in the inaugural Great Aussie Bushwalk. This was a fantastic number for our first event and feedback has been enthusiastic, with many participants asking when the next one will be.

We have also had great feedback from the NSW NPA who thought our themed walks idea was excellent. Next year we of course hope to make the event bigger and better.

For a full report you can visit the GAB website at www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au (the report is to be posted soon)

(One negative however is that the Groom River Trail in the Blue Tier is in logging coupes which are ready to go any day)



Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc

Patron: Peter Cundall

Sponsor: The Mullum Trust

Executive Committee

President: Robert Campbell

Vice Presidents: Margie Jenkin, Anne McConnell

Public Officer: Tom Baxter

Secretary/Treasurer: Lisa Kavanagh

Campaign Officer: To be appointed

Contact Details

Postal Address: GPO Box 2188, Hobart Tasmania 7001

Email: admin@tnpa.asn.au Website: www.tnpa.asn.au

Meetings

General meeting: First Monday of the month at the Tasmanian Environment Centre - 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart.

All are welcome.

Have your say...

ABC National - Tim Cox

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

Letters to the Editor at The Mercury

mercuryledletters@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

Please email: hsletters@hwt.newsltd.com.au

Letters to the Editor at The Age

letters@theage.fairfax.com.au

Minister for Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts

Ken.Bacon@parliament.tas.gov.au

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TNPA News

TNPA News is published twice a year. It is intended to provide informative articles on issues related to National Parks and other protected areas, as well as articles and other items that relate to the TNPA and the fulfilment of its objectives.

In this issue we welcome a range of outside contributions on various matters relating to the conservation of natural and cultural values in Tasmania. We thank Ken Bacon, Jon Nevill, David Obendorf, Christian Bell, Judith Andrews, Rebecca Kurczok and Anne McConnell for these articles.

Contributions for TNPA News No.5 (deadline – mid August 2005) are welcomed. Please send contributions to: admin@tnpa.asn.au (attention- TNPA News Editor)

The views expressed in TNPA News are not necessarily those of the TNPA Inc.

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