

# TNPA NEWS

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION INC

Newsletter No 9 Spring 2007

## Welcome to TNPA News 9

*To all our members—thank you very much for your support. To those who are not members, we hope you enjoy reading TNPA News, and I would urge you to consider joining TNPA and helping to support our work.*

*My thanks also to all those people who have supported TNPA in many and various ways over the last year. I would like to particularly thank outgoing management committee members Margie Jenkin and Chris Bell who have put huge amounts of time and effort into helping to protect Tasmania's reserved land through TNPA. Their's has been a major contribution. We hope you enjoy TNPA News 9.*

Anne McConnell, President

### INSIDE...

Tourism alarm on Tasman Peninsula  
Linking landscapes in the north-east  
Standing camps in national parks  
Pumphouse Point update

### THANK YOU

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

#### The Great Australian Bushwalk

Rebecca Johnson, Lesley Nicklason, Chris Corbett, Brian O'Byrne, Michael Dempsey, Rob Hill, John Cannon, Greg Buckman, and Bill Shepherd

#### Other Events & Presentations

Grant Dixon, Carol Patterson, The Verandah Coots and David Wanless & Friends

#### Assistance for Macquarie Island

Jenny Scott, Louise Crossley, Leslie Frost, Daniel McMahon, Christian Bell, Tania Ashworth, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Alex Terauds and the World Wildlife Fund (Julie Kirkwood and Andreas Glanzig).

#### TNPA News Production

Sharon Moore, Tasprint Pty Ltd

#### Other Support

Greg Hogg, Shirley Storey, Eleanor Patterson, Steve Johnson, Joan Masterman.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN:

## Managing Tasmania's reserved land as public estate, not private property

I am sitting here in front of my computer on yet another weekend, wondering why I am not out enjoying the Tasmanian outdoors. The answer seems to be that ever-greater efforts are needed to try and balance an increasing trend by developers to make money from the high quality land that is Tasmania's reserved land, and a government who appears keen to facilitate this development.

It seems that, increasingly, the conservation values of Tasmania's reserved land, land that has been set aside for the conservation of natural and cultural values so that they can be protected for present and later generations, are becoming invisible values or objectives. This land is being treated as 'waste land' which is only valued if we can find a resource to be economically exploited—now. Its resource value appears to be primarily its tourism potential—as land that can be leased for tourism developments (for example the Cockle Creek East resort development) or developed by the government to build Tasmania's tourist numbers (as for example with the proposed Three Capes Walk on the Tasman Peninsula).

If we take the case of the proposed Three Capes Walk, the government, in this case the Department of Tourism, Arts and Environment (DTAE) with the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) acting as its agent, is proposing a scale of development not previously seen in Tasmanian national parks. The argument is that we need a second 'iconic walk' and that it will bring in millions of tourist dollars—yet the feasibility study undertaken to back up the proposal shows that the development will barely cover its running and maintenance costs and that the Tasmanian taxpayer will be paying \$12-15 million dollars (or more) for this walk to be developed—money the government acknowledges it will never recoup! It is also arguable whether, as a self-contained four-six day walk, any tourism dollars will find their way onto the Tasman Peninsula other than via one of two staff salaries,

**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

since the enterprise is being developed and run by the PWS. If (as is probable) the walk is ultimately handed over to a commercial operator, it is highly unlikely that it will be a Tasman Peninsula operator running the walk.

And what of the conservation values, the values for which the park was established? Well the feasibility study doesn't address them in substantive terms. It appears that DTAE is so keen to get this walk happening that the Tasman National Park Management Plan will be changed to allow for the development to go ahead before a detailed environmental impact assessment is undertaken (or a firm plan for the walk and associated accommodation areas is developed). It is not clear as to what happens if there are environmental impacts that are not acceptable or cannot be mitigated—even though this is a significant potential issue with, for example, the phytopthera issues on the track to the third cape, Cape Raoul.

The Three Capes Walk proposal and its development is probably the most extreme case to date of a tourism development proposal in Tasmania's reserved land, yet it is the most recent in a long line of developments and development proposals that are of questionable appropriateness in reserves. To date most have followed prescribed assessment and approval procedures, but these processes have also accommodated a certain level of impact on the cultural or natural values, accepting that all developments will have some impact. This may be acceptable for private land and Crown land without conservation status, but it is not acceptable for Crown land with conservation status, especially where in almost all cases there are suitable alternatives available outside the reserved land.

In the case of the proposed Three Capes Walk, which requires the park management plan to be changed to allow the development to happen, these changes will occur on the basis of a very loose-ended feasibility study, and where the only formal opportunity the Tasmanian community has to comment will be via the statutory opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the management plan (which the government can ignore as the RPDC—Resource Planning and Development Commission—has no authority). This gives the strong impression that the government is much more interested in promoting tourism and economic development than managing conservation values. One wonders what happened to the triple bottom line.

The Three Capes Walk is not an isolated case. The current government has a particularly extensive record of facilitating development in conservation lands or where impacts on acknowledged conservation values will occur. For example, the proposed Walker Corporation marina development at Ralphs Bay has received extremely high levels of government support, including the proposal to introduce facilitating legislation, in spite of significant concerns about the loss of habitat with conservation status, and broad community opposition. And then of course there is the very recent and already infamous fast-tracking of the Gunns' Tamar pulp mill proposal in the face of extensive environmental risks. This when there were alternative locations considered to be considerably less environmentally sensitive.

Now, if the state government was a private organisation and the land was its own property, we might say (possibly not wisely, given some planning decisions) —'well this is undesirable, but they have a right to put up these proposals and we assume the planning and approvals process will ensure that the development will not get up if it is not appropriate'. However this is not the case here: the land in question is not private property, it is *public estate*—land vested in the Crown (the government of Tasmania in this case) to manage on behalf of the people of Tasmania. The government is not a private organisation—it comprises *our elected representatives* and the *public service*. And in the case of reserved Crown land, the development proponent (ie, the government) is not subject to the same scrutiny and rules that private property development is. And, as we have seen recently, the government is quite happy to use its authority, as the government, to change the rules so it can do what it wants, as the developer.

And so it is this behaviour on the part of government in relation to Tasmania's reserved land that causes many Tasmanian residents to spend an unhealthy amount of time in front of computers and at meetings, trying to achieve more responsible management of the public estate, which is in effect *our* 'common wealth'.

Managing Tasmania's public estate on behalf of the Tasmanian population brings a set of obligations with it. Key obligations are to—

- manage the land in a way that is consistent with the legislation and statutory requirements (without manipulating the system);
- ensure the quality of the land is maintained in the long term—in the case of reserved land to ensure the conservation quality is maintained as this is what the land is primarily reserved for; and
- for the government (both ministers and public servants), as manager and caretaker, to ensure that management reflects the wishes of the broad community (not a select few with money) and to ensure there are appropriate mechanisms in place for effective dialogue between the government and the community.

If you owned a unit in a block of flats, would you and your body corporate allow the manager to manage the units in the way the state government manages our reserved land? I think not! You would want to see lawful management, you would want to see your views respected, you would want regular meetings of the body corporate with the manager, and you would want to see the money you pay for management (ie, taxes in reserved land terms) being used effectively to ensure the units are being well managed, ie, regularly inspected and kept in good repair.

But even if the government is not going to take its responsibilities seriously and I have to spend weekends and evenings in front of my computer or at meetings in the hope that it will benefit the way Tasmania's reserves are managed, I am going to find time to enjoy Tasmania's special places. I am going to take the advice of American conservationist Edward Abbey to fellow conservationists—



*Taking Edward Abbeys advice in the Flinders Ranges, SA. Photo: Anne McConnell.*

*Do not burn yourselves out ... It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still here. So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound people with their hearts in a safe deposit box and their eyes hypnotised by desk calculators. I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards.*

[Postscript: This article recognises that within the public service there are many people who take their role as public servants and as conservation land managers seriously and strive to effect management that is truly for the public benefit and that will conserve reserved land values into the future. The TNPA acknowledges and supports these endeavours. Our concern rests with political decision-making and management that views tourism development as the prime use of conservation land and that supports private commercial enterprise over equitable access and real public benefit.]

Anne McConnell

President, TNPA



# LINKING LANDSCAPES

## IMPROVING THE RESERVE SYSTEM ON PUBLIC LAND IN NORTH-EAST TASMANIA

National parks and other types of reserves are the basis for nature conservation in Tasmania. But they have limitations. Many natural processes occur on a larger scale than the small island-like reserves which presently occur in north-eastern Tasmania. Large, well-connected areas of protected land will ensure the future of wide-ranging animals, such as top-order predators.

An extensive, well-connected landscape of native vegetation allows a diversity of disturbance regimes and therefore a variety of vegetation types resulting in a richer, more diverse environment. This in turn provides greater capacity for the flora, fauna and ecosystems to adapt to environmental changes, such as dispersal and reestablishment of animals following wildfire. Animals, plants and forests will have to migrate or evolve to survive in response to climate change. A more extensive reserve system will provide a much greater capacity for survival of biodiversity. It is a long-term vision.

### Background

The 'Linking Landscapes' project in north-east Tasmania is a landscape-scale conservation project developed by the North East Bioregional Network in partnership with local community conservation groups and supported by a Dara Foundation WildCountry Small Grant (funding administered by the Wilderness Society). Linking Landscapes aims to prevent destruction of important landscape values such as threatened species habitat and endangered vegetation communities. Ultimately the project will present a vision for a balanced and sustainable north-east region with landscape planning and new reserves (land and marine)

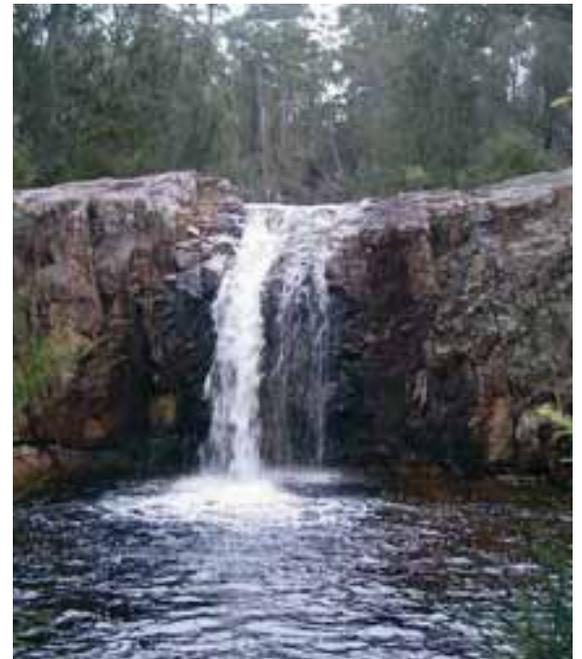
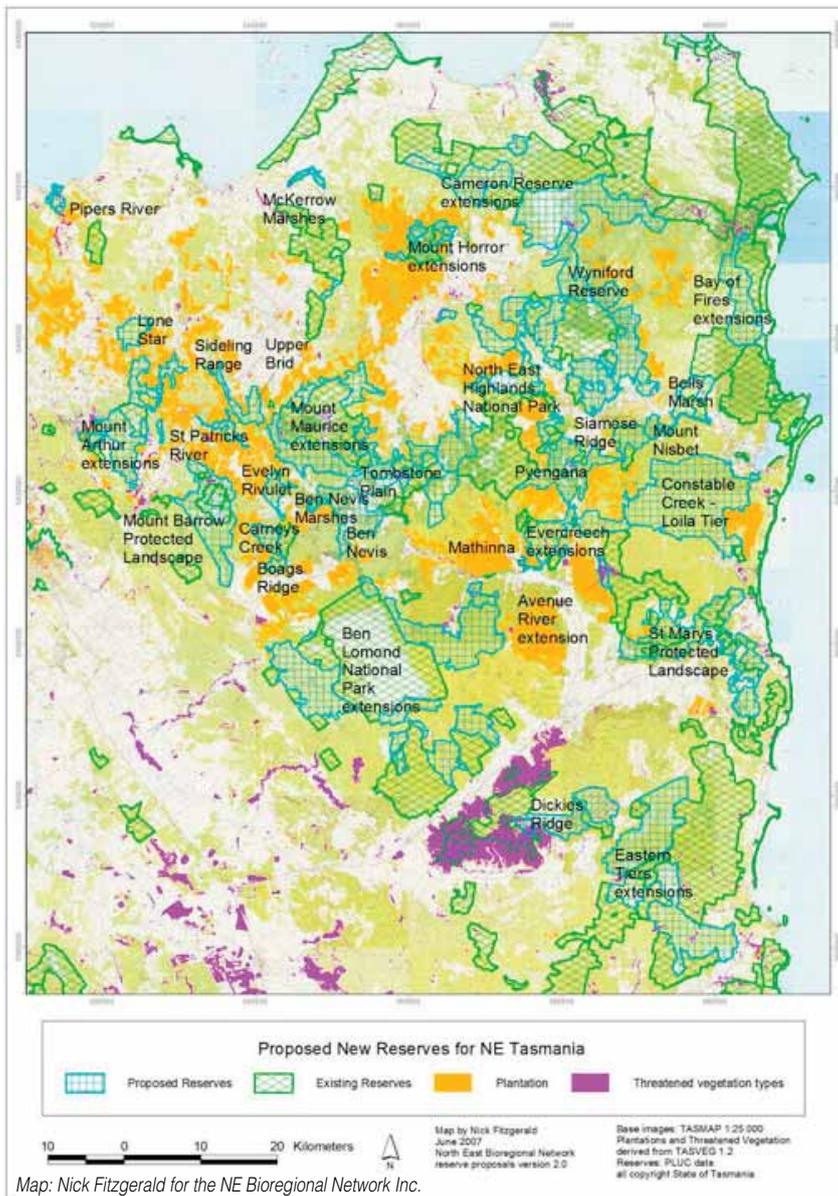
providing habitat connectivity and refuges for flora, fauna and vegetation. To this end Linking Landscapes adopts the WildCountry principles outlined in Mackey *et al.* (2006).

### Scope of 'Linking Landscapes'

For the purposes of this project 'north-east Tasmania' is bounded by the Tamar Estuary, the St Pauls River, east coast and north coast. Linking Landscapes is presently focussed on public land (State Forest, unallocated Crown Land, etc.); however in some instances private land is included in proposals where there is demonstrated commitment from private landowners. Future projects under Linking Landscapes will include more private land.

### Factors considered in reserve design process

- vegetation communities of conservation significance (rare/vulnerable/endangered communities, temperate rainforest, *E. regnans* tall forest, oldgrowth and mature forests)
- connectivity
- protection of headwaters
- protection of riparian zones (e.g. wider buffers than 'informal reserves')
- topographic variety (e.g. north- and south-facing slopes, valley-slope-plateau)—surrogate measure for habitat diversity, provides options for migration
- vegetation mapping unit variety (e.g. vegetation mosaics cf. uniformity)



Constable Creek near St Helens. Photo: Todd Dudley

protected natural areas are disproportionately distributed. At a state-wide scale, the eastern half of Tasmania has much less land in secure reserves than the more oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) western half.

The WildCountry vision for Tasmania sees the whole island as a sustainable, well-connected and diverse suite of ecosystems where ecological processes and flows can continue in the future. As a first step toward this Tasmania-wide vision, Linking Landscapes is attempting to improve the reserve system in north-east Tasmania.

North-east Tasmania is subject to continuing land clearing, habitat fragmentation and hydrological changes. The north east is also predicted to face more dramatic climatic change than other parts of Tasmania. There is substantial potential for improved reserve design on publicly-owned land in the region. The current reserve system in north-east Tasmania is largely piecemeal and is not representative of landscapes and ecosystems of the region.

Other regions of Tasmania face similar issues and will be addressed in future phases of WildCountry. Achieving a WildCountry vision for Tasmania will require significant conservation efforts on public and private land, including landscape restoration (for example The North East Bioregional Network has initiated a project to restore pine plantations back to native forest near Scamander). Off-reserve land management that complements conservation areas is a critical component of Linking Landscapes.

The current Linking Landscapes project has two main components:

- community participation in forest planning with Forestry Tasmania (Special Values Assessments)
- proposals for new reserves and 'protected landscapes' (Linking Landscapes).

### Limitations of previous conservation processes

The existing reserve system evolved over ninety years beginning with "scenery preservation" and later informed by science. The Working Group for Forest Conservation used environmental domain analysis to identify and protect around 170 new areas (Recommended Areas of Protection—RAPs) in the 1990s, however the reservation targets were low.

The Regional Forest Agreement, and the subsequent Community Forest Agreement, between the state and federal governments, involved mapping and analysis of forest communities. These processes resulted in some new reserves and reserve extensions, plus a network of 'informal' reserves in north-east Tasmania. However they did not adequately consider non-forest vegetation, water catchments, landscape context, geoconservation, habitat value for non-listed species or principles of landscape ecology such as connectivity.

The WildCountry vision will build upon these significant achievements in biodiversity conservation by considering the large-scale temporal and spatial ecosystem processes which operate in the landscape.

### Why north-east Tasmania?

Tasmania's landscape and ecosystems are highly varied and hence there are different issues facing conservation in different regions. Although Tasmania is fortunate to have a high proportion of its landmass in secure reserves (approximately forty percent) these

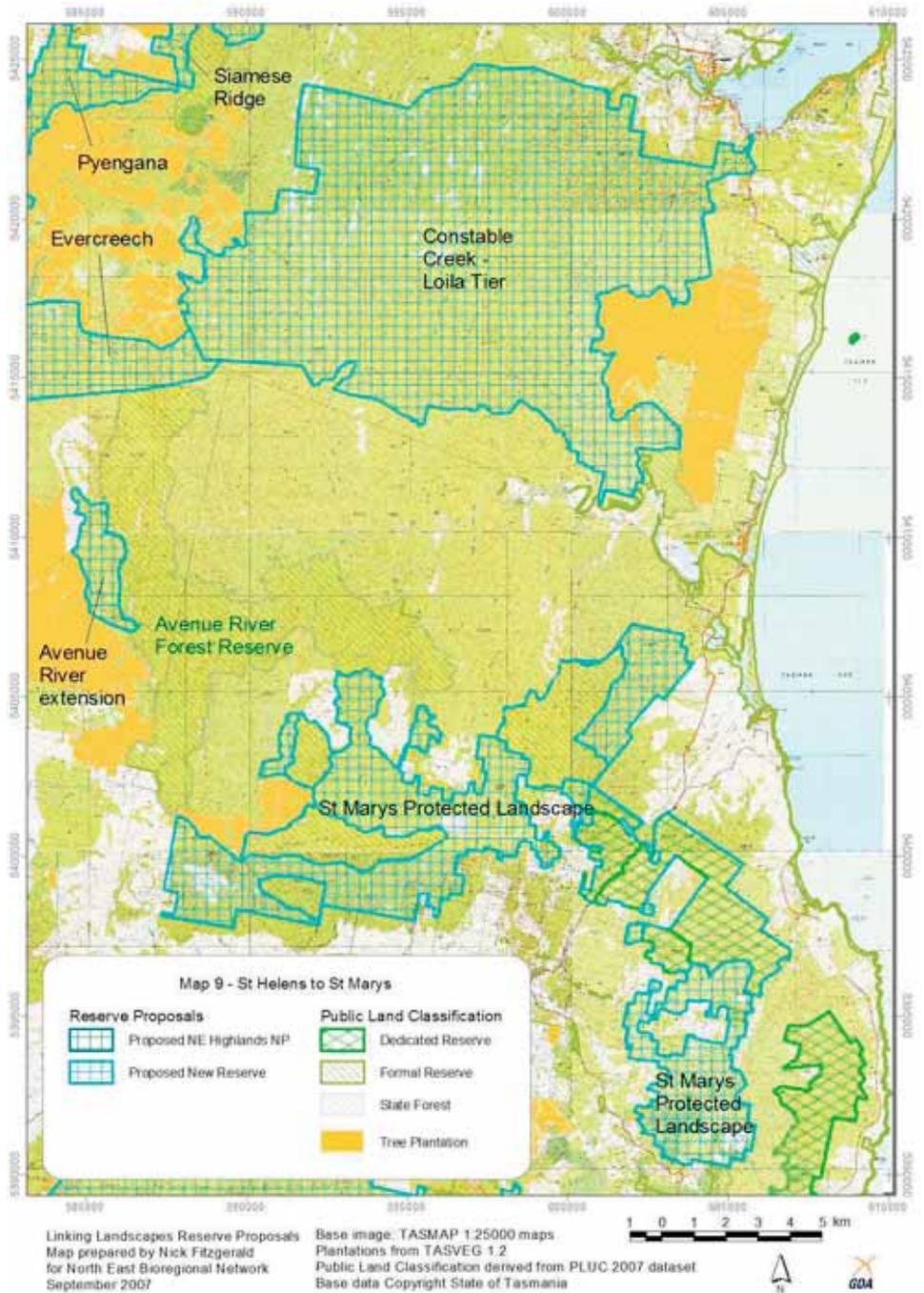
The Linking Landscapes New Reserves for NE Tasmania Proposal has just been completed. This document includes comprehensive mapping of new reserves and detailed documentation of their conservation values, including vegetation communities, threatened species and ecological/landscape context.

New reserves proposed include Constable Creek/Loila Tier near St. Helens, North-east Highlands including Blue Tier/Mt. Victoria Area, extensions to the Douglas-Apsley and Ben Lomond National Parks and Mount Cameron Regional Reserve, connecting Mount Pearson State Reserve to Mount William National Park and protected area proposals for Mount Barrow and St Marys.

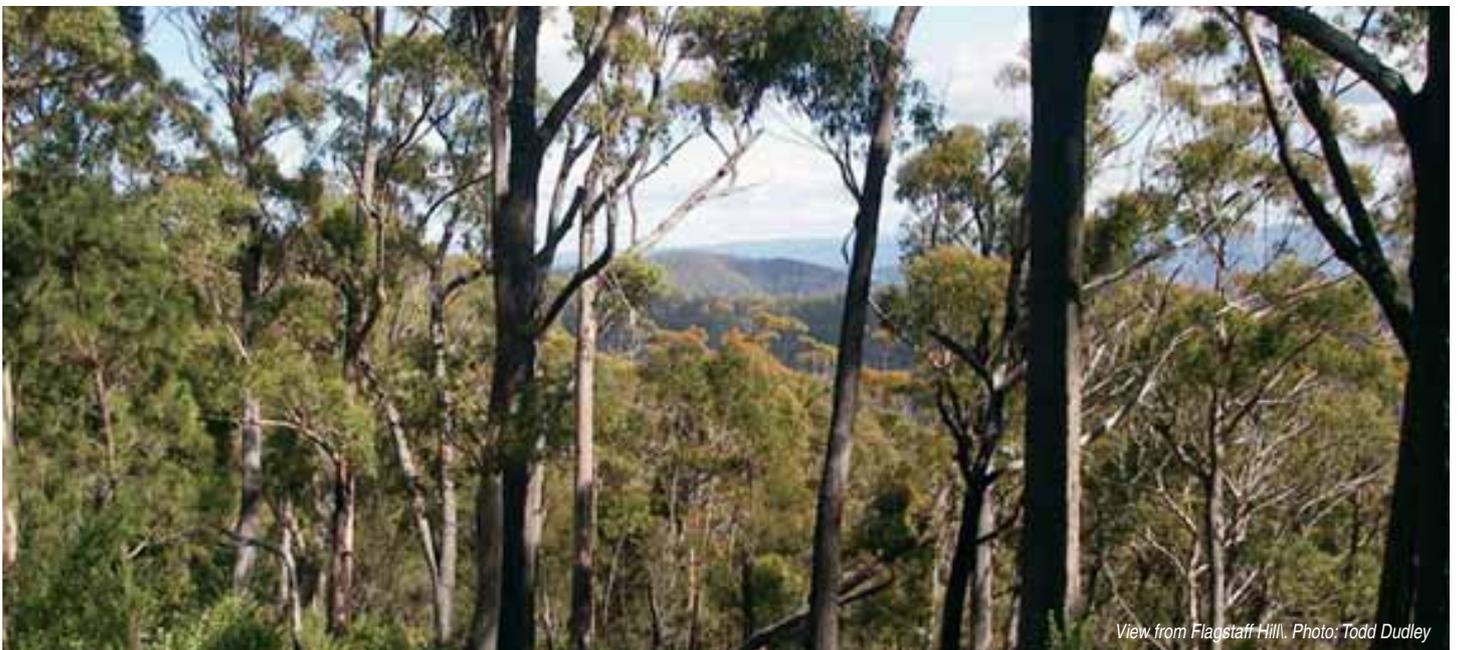
Todd Dudley

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Map: Nick Fitzgerald for the NE Bioregional Network Inc.



View from Flagstaff Hill, Photo: Todd Dudley



Crescent Bay. Photo: Tracey Withers

# REMARKABLE LODGE PROPOSAL

## —Full marks to the Tasman Council for making the right decision

Over the past few months there has been a range of media coverage concerning the proposal by Miff Pty Ltd to construct a tourist accommodation facility, to be known as Remarkable Lodge, on land just behind picturesque Crescent Beach on the Tasman Peninsula. The property was purchased by Dick Smith in early 2006 and followed an earlier attempt in 2004 to construct a 'tourist retreat' on the same site. The previous proponents withdrew their proposal in the light of overwhelming public opposition.

In its submission to the Tasman Council (summarised below and available on the TNPA website) the TNPA opposed the development and therefore strongly supports the decision of the Tasman Council to reject the application. The TNPA congratulates the Council on following due process and upholding the present management arrangements in relation to the site (unlike the recent highly criticised decision taken by the Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council regarding the Swanwick subdivision).

The site of the proposed development possesses outstanding scenic and high natural qualities, lies within the Coastal Protection Zone and is adjacent to the Tasman National Park. The Tasman Planning Scheme states that the intent of the Coastal Protection Zone is to '... maintain the rural character and high scenic quality of the coast landscape' whilst the State Coastal Policy also includes the principal that 'natural and coastal values shall be protected.' The development is clearly incompatible with these stated principles.

The proposed development includes the following components: twenty accommodation suites, accommodation for staff, spa retreat/well-being centre, restaurant and bar, meeting and conference facilities. However, according to Schedule No. 3 Table of Zones in the Tasman Planning Scheme the only permitted uses within the Coastal Protection Zone (apart from primary industry use) are: home occupation and residential (single dwelling). All other uses are generally prohibited. The proposal cannot be classified as either of these permitted uses. While several other uses (including private recreation, public recreation, plant nursery, tourist operation) are permitted subject to Council approval these uses mainly

refer to 'recreational use' of the area (and more likely day-use, as camping is prohibited—see below) and as such do not extend to allowing a large accommodation use as the proposal entails. The applicants furthermore state that the spa is an adjunct to the overall proposal and 'will be a destination in its own right.' As such a development might be classified as a 'health centre' this is also a prohibited use within the Coastal Protection Zone.

While the Development Application (DA) goes to some length to argue that the proposed eco-tourist lodge is not a hotel or a motel this needs to be seen for what it is—mere semantics—as the objectives of all such developments (e.g. motel, hotel, lodge or retreat) are the same: to provide overnight accommodation and related facilities to the public or clients. As Schedule 3 also prohibits the use of any site within the Coastal Protection Zone for a hotel or a motel then it is also quite clear that an eco-tourist lodge (or whatever other fancy name they would like to call it) is also prohibited. To argue, as the applicant does, that the core component of the use of the site is for an 'environment tourist experience' and that the 'provision of overnight accommodation is not the primary focus, although it is a necessary incidental of it' is complete nonsense. Indeed, the intent of the prohibition on overnight public accommodation within the Coastal Protection Zone is quite clear—as apart from a (single dwelling) home occupation, Schedule 3 also states that use of any site within the Coastal Protection Zone even as a camping area is prohibited. Given that the proposed development is much larger and more permanent than a camping area, and cannot possibly be seen as a single dwelling for home occupation purposes, it is obvious that such a proposal is totally incompatible with the provisions of the Coastal Protection Zone.

Section 2.1.6 of the State Coastal Policy also states 'In determining decisions on use and development in the coastal zone, priority will be given to those which *are dependent* on a coastal location for spatial, social, economic, cultural or environmental reasons.' In noting this requirement the DA states that 'Although the primary function of the proposed use and development if the tourist operation *is not dependent* on its coastal

location, the cultural, environmental and social experiences are enhanced by the coastal location.' In its own words, the proposal itself states that it does not satisfy the conditions of the State Coastal Policy. There are plenty of other places outside the Coastal Zone on the Tasman Peninsula where the development would be more suitably located. Indeed, the comment by the applicants that 'The area has been identified by the Tasman Strategic Plan as needing high quality, destination-based tourism accommodation' is very misleading. The 'area' being referred to in the Plan is the whole Tasman Peninsula, not the present site within the Coastal Protection Zone.

Indeed, in the Tasman Council Agenda Notes which accompanied the previous DA for this site it was stated that 'the Coastal Protection Zone is not widespread throughout the Peninsula and covers a relatively small percentage of the total land mass'. It is also stated that 'in allocating particular areas to the Coastal Protection Zone it is reasonable to assume that Council wanted to be able to control and protect the landscape and scenic values of those parcels of land.'

The site is dominated by native vegetation composed of eight identified communities, three of which are threatened communities (heathy white gum, short paperbark swamp forest and freshwater wetland). The site also provides important habitat for a range of species including a number of listed species and the nationally significant peninsula eyebright (*Euphrasia semipicta*). The site also supports breeding habitat for the White-bellied Sea Eagle. The site is highly susceptible to *phytophthora*, a root rot fungus that adversely affects heathy vegetation, which is likely to be exacerbated by any development of the site.

The site of the proposed development is adjacent to the boundary of that portion of the National Park which skirts the coast of the entire headland from Safety Cove around to Crescent Beach. Furthermore,

according to the maps and aerial photographs of the site and the proposed development which accompanied the DA, it is clear that the apron of land which surrounds the main lodge would encroach onto the adjacent National Park. This is totally unacceptable as that part of the Park is zoned 'natural' and any use associated with a tourist facility is not allowed. The plans also indicate a track being built from the lodge and over the dunes behind Crescent Beach. Again this is within the National Park and prohibited under the management plan for the Park.

The fact that Crescent Beach provides a desirable destination for walkers, together with the fact that the area possesses outstanding scenic and high natural and conservation qualities, and given the small size of the existing National Park (which only skirts the coast), the area warrants inclusion within the National Park. This should be the long-term outcome which the Tasman Council should seek for this area.

However, the TNPA acknowledges the regional benefits that such a development would bring to the Tasman Peninsula, and suggests that the applicants choose another site in the region located outside the Coastal Protection Zone.

Miff Pty Ltd is currently appealing the decision of the Tasman Council to the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal. The TNPA, along with Birds Tasmania and local residents, has jointed in the defence of this appeal which has been deferred until early next year. In a recent radio interview Dick Smith has indicated that he would be willing to sell the land if he can recover costs. The TNPA supports the acquisition of this site for inclusion within the Tasman National Park and calls on the Tasmanian Government to use part of the \$15 million it has set aside for development of the Three Capes Walk to achieve this outcome. We will report of the outcomes of this issue in the next newsletter.

Robert Campbell

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# SHOULD WE HAVE STANDING CAMPS IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS?

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Standing camps seem to be becoming highly fashionable in Tasmanian national parks, with several new standing camps having been approved and established in recent years. Originally conceived of as *temporary standing camps*, to facilitate commercially based tourism in remote, 'wilderness' areas where fixed infrastructure was regarded as inappropriate and/or not allowed under the various reserve management plans, the PWS now allows for three types of standing camp in Tasmanian land it manages under its *Standing Camp Policy* (PWS, Dec 2006).

Only one of these types is truly 'temporary' with all infrastructure being required to be removed for twelve continuous weeks each year (type A), and with one type being permanent (type C). There is an in-between option which requires the camp not to be used for twelve continuous weeks each year and for the camp infrastructure to be packed down onto a platform (whether this is onto one single platform or whatever platforms exist is unclear in the policy).

At the time of writing there were eight approved standing camps in Tasmanian national parks and one proposed for the Arthur Pieman

Conservation Area (currently being assessed). Freycinet National Park has the largest concentration, with five standing camps in total. These are located at Bluestone Bay, Hazards Beach, Cooks Beach (currently inactive), Bryans Beach and on Schouten Island. The first such camp in the Tasmanian reserve system was the Forest Lag(oon) temporary standing camp in Bathurst Harbour (licensed in 1981). The next licences were not approved until fourteen years later, and these were for the temporary standing camps at Bluestone Bay and Cooks Beach (PWS, Dec 2006).

With the new (and first) PWS policy on standing camps legitimising permanent infrastructure, the question arises as to what the difference is between a national park 'development' generally and a 'standing camp'? The PWS policy is worded to indicate that there is probably not much difference except that there needs to be a certain amount of canvas in a 'standing camp'. Under the policy it is defined as follows (page 23)–

- the camp may remain standing for the entire year;
  - the camp will be constructed of light demountable materials; use of boardwalks within the camp will be considered if they reduce
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ground impacts. The boardwalks should be removable and the ground underneath easily rehabilitated; and

- all rubbish including packaging and vegetable scraps are to be removed at the end of each trip.

This suggests that not only can the camp be left set up all year round, but that it can be used all year round. Yet this is in clear contradiction with the policy description and rationale (page five) which states that *'A standing camp is a temporary commercial structure on reserved land. It provides a guided tour operator with the exclusive use of a campsite for a prescribed period each year to operate a commercial camping facility as part of an organised guided tour experience.'*

Even with only a twelve week rest period each year (say in the winter low season)—which is fixed by the operator and not the PWS to ensure that it is the best time of year for site rehabilitation—these standing camps are not looking very temporary, with only their design really differentiating them from a standard development. So could it be argued that these standing camps are just a back door to tourist accommodation in our national parks? The experience with the Forest Lag camp is very much that. Although it was established as a temporary standing camp, the infrastructure started to be left permanently in place and over the years of the licence the camp became increasingly hardened and permanent.

This is just one of the TNPA's concerns with standing camps in Tasmanian national parks. Other concerns relate to—

1. the actual environmental impacts that such intensive use creates;
2. inadequate conditions being placed on such camps to ensure minimal environmental impact (and while the recent policy has some good ideas in this respect, the policy has no teeth due to a preponderance of 'should' and 'may' statements;
3. past experiences of creeping growth and permanence such as at the Forest Lag Camp in Bathurst Harbour (see above);
4. the PWS' poor record of monitoring the operation of the standing camps, as for example with the former Cooks Beach Camp;
5. the lack of public transparency about how standing camps are managed by the PWS (ie, the PWS will not provide any information to the public on lease and license conditions and no provision is made in the recent policy to make any part of the proposal, planning, monitoring or review available for public scrutiny or comment);
6. the 'private' nature of the standing camps (ie, these are private areas that do not welcome the general public) which conflicts with the nature of parks and reserves as open public spaces;
7. the question of just what real economic benefit is being returned to the PWS or government (or is this a case of the public subsidising commercial operations?);
8. generally the prices of commercial tours that utilise licensed camps are high-end and unaffordable to a large proportion of the general public, creating a situation of special privilege for the wealthy.

Given these issues the TNPA continues to be opposed to standing camps in Tasmanian parks and reserves. The TNPA argues that as with all human activity, there are limits to how many people our national parks can sustain before irretrievable damage occurs and we destroy the things we originally set out to protect. Until standing camps are better managed by the PWS and their establishment and management is more transparent, no new camps should be approved (and once these issues are resolved

it is the view of the TNPA that only temporary standing camps should be considered).

Indeed the TNPA argued in 2005 (TNPA submission on the PWS draft Licensed Camps Policy) that there were already enough standing camps in Tasmanian reserves and no new camps should be approved, that this form of accommodation is more appropriately located outside the reserves, and that the existing operations at that time already provided an adequate range of experiences and activities for visitors to natural areas. In the TNPA's view, while the camps are for general tourism and do not support a specific, essential, reserve-based activity there is no public or conservation benefit from the existing standing camps, hence no justification. Currently there is no limit on the number of camps that can be authorised, although parks' management plans can constrain the number of camps in a reserve and the purposes for which they can be established (so far this is only the case with Freycinet).

The TNPA is particularly concerned that under the present *Standing Camp Policy*, where a standing camp proposal is not in accord with the reserve management plan, one of the three options put is to *change the management plan*. This seriously calls into question the ability, and desire, of the PWS to manage Tasmania's national parks and other reserved land under their authority for their natural and cultural values.

Because of the potential for breaches of conditions, other mismanagement and environmental impacts, all standing camps should only be issued with short term licenses (maximum of five years) (*note*: the recent policy does not set a maximum lease period), and each camp should be reviewed annually against lease and management plan conditions (*note*: the recent policy provides for annual inspections—with four weeks' notice given to the operator—but there appears to be no ability to review individual leases other than when the lease expires/is renewed). Breaches of guidelines and operating conditions must be penalised by fines or license repeals (*note*: the current policy states only that penalties *may* apply in such cases).

TNPA is also opposed to the transfer of leases for the same reasons. The TNPA is extremely concerned to hear that the leases held by Freycinet Adventures for their relatively recently-established standing camps at Hazards Beach and Schouten Island were on-sold to Federal Hotels. This is particularly of concern as it is understood that the leases have around seven years left to run. It is also a source of concern that Federal Hotels has no prior experience of running this type of standing camp or in running small-scale outdoor recreation-based activities in natural areas generally. Indeed the Federal Hotel's scant regard for the Freycinet Management Plan in the matter of providing water from the park to their resort development north of Coles Bay gives cause to seriously question how committed they will be to managing the camps to achieve minimal environmental impact.

The Bryans Beach Standing Camp, also in Freycinet National Park, is a good example of the complex issues associated with the lease and operation of standing camps and the failures that occur, and why the TNPA believes that if standing camps are to operate in Tasmanian national parks there needs to be stringent guidelines and clear policy in place. Sharon Moore has provided the following review of the Bryans Beach Standing Camp which raises several issues of concern.

Anne McConnell

# BRYANS BEACH STANDING CAMP

An example of why the TNPA opposes standing camps in Tasmanian conservation reserves

Trips to the 'deluxe wilderness camp' at Bryans Beach in Freycinet National Park started in January this year. The Freycinet Escape tours are operated by all4adventure, which also operates all-terrain vehicle tours within the National Park. The company was awarded the licence for a standing camp at Bryans Beach in 2005, and in October 2005 was awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Federal Minister for Tourism and Small Business, Fran Bailey, to develop the company's 'luxury camping experience.' The result is a three-day trip costing \$1,395 per person. The 'tents' shown on television when the trips were announced looked more like small houses.

According to the company's blurb:

'Just because you are camping does not mean you have to rough it. You will have all the luxuries without losing the experience of camping in the Tasmanian wilderness.'

Come again? Luxury, camping *and* wilderness?

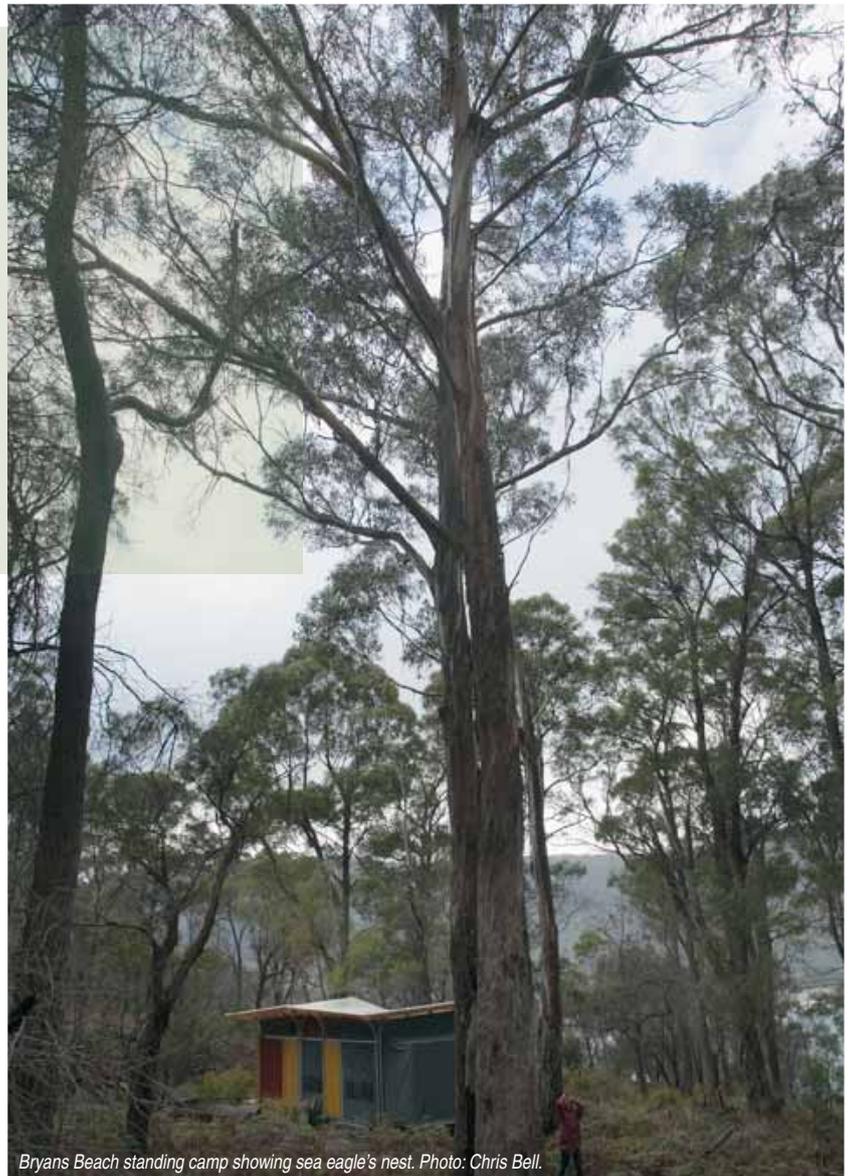
So special are these trips, or perhaps the well-heeled clients the publicity is aimed at, that they offer 'comfortable bedding, the best china, wine glasses and even a private toilet.' Not to mention 'your own chef.'

According to a quote from operator Tim Brammall (ABC online 14 November 2006) 'all waste is removed, including the composting toilets.' However, the brochure offers potential clients flushing toilets—perhaps technology has moved on. 'Short solar showers' are also part of the deal. This is in spite of showers being prohibited under the current Freycinet National Park Management Plan (Table 2, page 52.)

The management plan (section 5.5.7) requires that all tourism developments in the National Park have demonstrated value to the Tasmanian public, and to conservation. They have to:

- provide a demonstrated benefit to the Tasmanian community;
- provide a high quality service to the public;
- avoid impact on the legitimate enjoyment and experience of others;
- directly and identifiably make a contribution to research, conservation or management of the Park.

TNPA had no opportunity to review the proposal, which was assessed entirely out of the public eye by a panel of 'mostly'



Bryans Beach standing camp showing sea eagle's nest. Photo: Chris Bell.

government representatives (according to a PWS officer). It is therefore impossible for TNPA to judge whether the Bryans Beach standing camp could potentially meet any of these requirements, or the environmental requirements of the management plan or the licenced camp policy.

In addition, in June this year a trip to Bryans Beach by members of the TNPA found that, in spite of the environmental requirements for the establishment of a standing camp, the amenities cabin was almost directly underneath a White-breasted Sea Eagle nest—a fact which appears to have escaped the operator and the PWS staff. The location of the standing camp in such close proximity to a nesting area of a vulnerable species is indefensible. It will be interesting to see what action, if any, the PWS will take to mitigate this significant environmental impact of the standing camp.

While development proposals in parks and reserves generally require planning approval by the relevant council, because this camp is classed as a "temporary structure" (taken down for three months each year), it was not required to go through the planning process, according to Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council.

The financial statements in the annual reports of the Department of Tourism, Arts and Environment and its predecessor do not provide specific details of licence fee revenue received by the PWS. This makes it impossible for the public to determine what income Parks is receiving in return for allowing private use of public (our) land.

Sharon Moore

*Postscript: As a result of TNPA's investigations, the standing camp at Bryans Beach was recently removed. PWS offered the licensee an alternative location at Bryans Beach, but this option was turned down.*



View from Cape Raoul walk. Photo: Tracey Withers

# TOURISM ALARM

*Long-time conservationist Shirley Storey gives a personal view of tourism issues on the Tasman Peninsula*

About four years ago my husband and I spent two months walking and camping in New Zealand national parks and returned home with alarm bells ringing, determined that a similar tourism scene should never be allowed to happen in Tasmania. It was nigh impossible to evade the effects of rampant, invasive tourism, as you'll see from some of my diary entries:

*'crowds jostling onto ferries, jet boats, planes, water taxis, helicopters, coaches, rally cars, motor bikes, mountain bikes, 4xwheel funsters ... Flocks of tourists, herded along perfectly flat, short, easy paths, apparently content to view the world-famous peaks from afar, just so they can claim to have set foot on some great NZ walkway, stood on a patch of dirty snow at the foot of a world-class glacier ... so long as they're accompanied by an 'experienced' boot-clad, wind-tanned guide, and afforded any number of photo opportunities, they're pleased to hand over exorbitant amounts of currency.'*

Over recent months, I've been waging a campaign locally against the government's proposed Three Capes development inside Tasman National Park, instead promoting existing bushwalking tracks and eco-friendly adventure tourism in our region, despite the inherent dangers I perceive. As conservationists, we've been hailing tourism as an argument in every issue, from the Franklin to the Meander Dam, from the pulp mill to the laying of 1080, from the devil disease to Macquarie Island. Not only did we use tourism as one of the arguments against the damming of the Franklin, back in the late seventies and early eighties, but we conservationists actively supported the coal industry in Tasmania, prepared to stoop to any depths in order to stop the Hydro's plans. Tourism has been hailed as the clean, green, environmentally friendly alternative to just about every unwanted development, for years, and I too find myself playing the same old devious game—no better than a politician, bureaucrat, or CEO of industry. Truthfully, I loathe tourism and all that it stands for, nowadays. But, do I have any alternative but to be seen to

support our local tourism industry, if I really aim to win? My immediate dilemma is whether or not I should continue to play this game.

Surely, as conservationists, if we're honest, we ought to be out there saying that tourism is bad, bad, bad! We all know about 'peak-oil': we're perfectly aware that the resource is running out. World-wide, cultural practices are being eroded and communities put at risk in pursuit of the tourist dollar. Once precious havens of solitude, the world's remaining wilderness areas continue to be sacrificed in support of jobs in the tourism industry.

Isn't my current style of campaigning, going along with the push to increase local tourism, fraught with danger? If major players in the industry, Peninsula businesses, Tasman Council, and so on, decide to run with my alternative suggestion to promote this region as the premier destination for day walks, and eco- or adventure tourism in this state, how long before the 'eco' in eco-tourism is dead and buried beneath any outdoor activity that is lucrative commercially? How long before we see power boats and jet-skis on Norfolk Bay, a chair-lift on Arthur's Peak, commercial helicopter flights to Tasman Island and to all five of the government's proposed Three Cape 'nodes' in Tasman National Park, bungee-jumping off the cliffs at Waterfall Bay, hired trail bikes and four-wheel drive tours all over the place, sand-boarding at Crescent Beach? Dick Smith's upmarket eco-lodge sounds more attractive by the minute! (See below.)

When the Storeys produced their bushwalking guide-book and campaigned for the declaration of Tasman National Park, both encouraging tourists to this area, our intentions, of course, were honourable. By promoting bushwalking in our Park we hoped that visitors would be shocked into taking action when seeing for themselves the horror of clear-fells and plantation timber crops, in contrast with the natural environment we'd invited them to walk through.

We naively thought that the local and state governments would take action in support of tourism, insisting on more sensitive forest practices and policies, perhaps taking steps to actually stop the desecration of

our forests. We even had some mistaken idea that Forestry would plan their coupes well away from boundaries, tourist roads and walking tracks. Dream on! What actually happened was the reverse. From the moment it was known that we were to get a national park, logging on the Peninsulas intensified, buffer zones and coupes were logged to the very edges of the park, and along access roads, where screens of trees and undergrowth were previously left uncut.

Well, the walking track strategy used to work. Didn't it? Didn't we protect the Koonya Forest from logging by putting in walking tracks? Didn't we get the Douglas Apsley National Park by making a walking track and inviting people to walk there? Or did we get the Douglas Apsley because of the Labor/Green Accord, and the Tasman National Park through providing a heck of a lot of submissions to the RFA, i.e. nothing whatsoever to do with bushwalking or tourism?

I've just read an article in the *Mercury* by Greg Barnes, asking 'why is it that the Greens have adopted such a conciliatory approach to Crescent Bay when they would normally simply oppose such a project', and responded

by suggesting that the proposal to build an ecologically-friendly lodge on private land adjacent to Tasman National Park could just possibly have merit—perhaps it's time for us Greens to give credit where it's due—Dick Smith's generous rescue of Recherche Bay is only one of many projects he has funded through the years, aimed at conserving some of Tasmania's most precious places in perpetuity.

Having recently been privileged to walk again over Dick Smith's land, near Crescent Beach in Tasman National Park (a block of land with which I've been familiar for decades) and allowed to peruse Baillie Lodges' building application, it is clearly intended that the proposed development will be as ecologically-friendly as possible.

Surely, every Tasmanian who cares about Tasman National Park would want the best possible outcome aiming to minimise visual and environmental impacts on this exceptionally beautiful and precious portion of our coast. Surely, it is preferable, therefore, to support such a concept as an up-market eco-lodge on land adjacent to the Park, where ecological considerations are paramount to its future success, and the owner is committed to actions such as eradicating introduced pines and Spanish heath, rehabilitating degraded areas and funding eagle research. Shouldn't we, therefore, encourage Dick Smith and his family to ensure that any future application complies with Coastal Protection requirements and guarantees co-operation with PWS conservation guidelines, including a more sensitive approach to access to the beach, prohibiting commercial use of helicopters in the area, committing to minimising the impact of their business on the natural integrity of Tasman National Park, both during the construction phase and future operation of the lodge?

In my opinion, there is every possibility that the Remarkable Lodge proposal for Dick Smith's land, which lies outside Tasman National

Park, could bring about some environmental positives. By contrast, the government's current proposal to construct five, sixty-bed tourism developments inside Tasman National Park, under the guise of a so-called 'iconic' bushwalk, will have devastating environmental consequences on every one of the five, near-pristine, building sites they've chosen.

Nonetheless, I have called on the Tasmanian Government to purchase Dick Smith's and Geoff Cousin's land near Crescent Bay, which will be easily affordable if it shelves its Three Capes plan. It is unfortunate that the government didn't see fit to purchase the whole parcel of blocks that border the Park when they first came onto the market years ago, and before the prices became inflated. But the government didn't take up our suggestion, at that time, and the land remains in private hands.

Even now, though, it would cost the Government but a fraction of the \$15 million promised for the Three Capes development to make this purchase, upgrade existing walking tracks, honour its commitment in the management plan to build new facilities in the Park, and to support promotion of all

of the existing walking tracks in this region—six-day, four-day, two-day, half-day, two-hour walks and less—providing greater benefit to local tourism operators and businesses than the exclusive, fully self-contained accommodation package proposed in its Three Capes Feasibility Study.

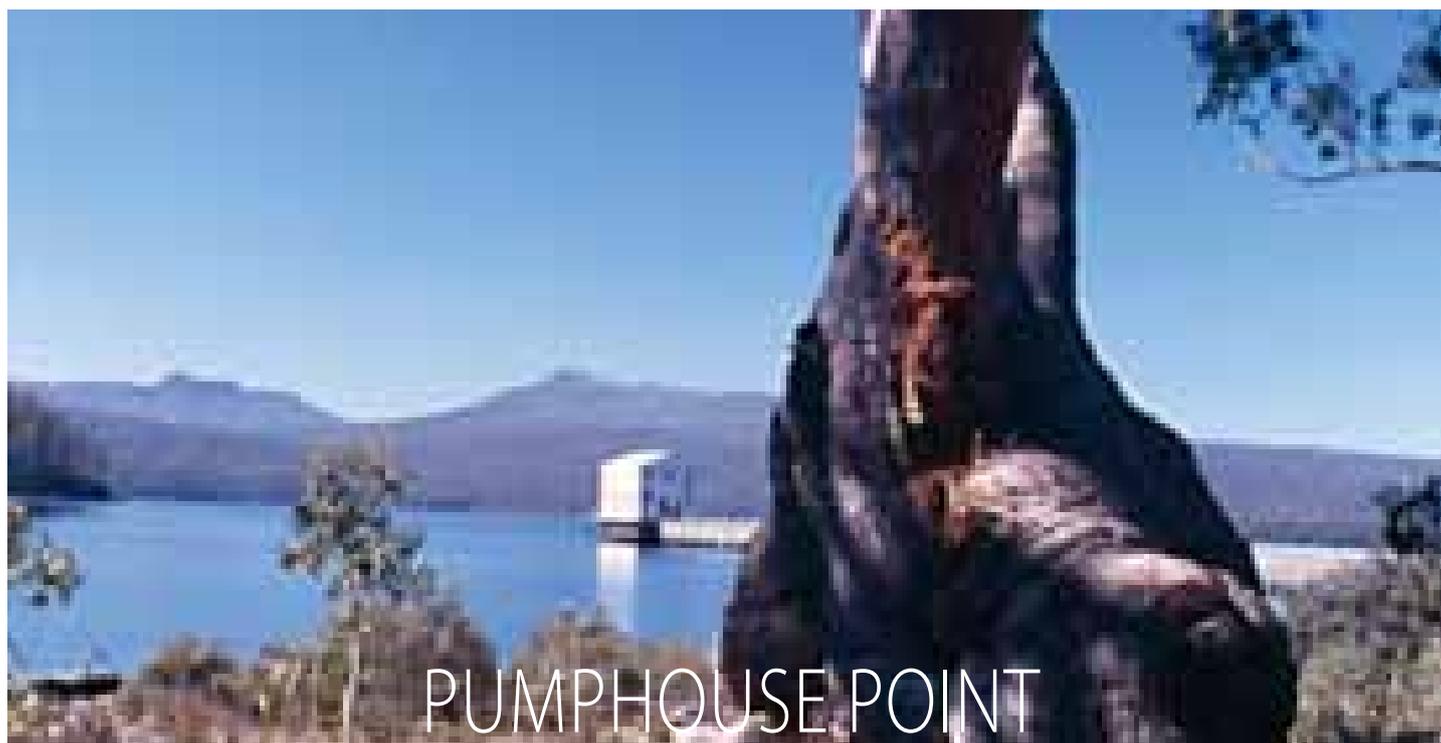
Am I wasting my time garnering community support and lobbying bureaucrats who are bound by government and council legislation and plans? And, isn't it naïve of me to think that there's a hope of changing anything at all, knowing that there are several rich and influential major players in the Tasmanian tourism industry who are already intent on digging their fingers into the Three Capes pie?

For the present, I intend to keep campaigning. But how? If I dump the tourism spin, if I start to speak the truth, will anybody listen? So what, if one more crazy greenie gets all teary-eyed about rainforest, lichens on yellow-gums, eagles nests, the qualities of solitude, individual challenge, and wilderness experience; if I wax on at length about quality of life, suggesting we should all be content with the status quo (Port Arthur already being the premier tourism destination in this state) and recognise that the life we live on the Peninsula, and the fact that we have the Tasman National Park in our backyard, is precious beyond belief in today's world? So, "No huts," I'll say, "in Tasman National Park," which, in effect, means 'No Three Capes Walk', according to government bureaucrats and their Task Force, i.e. no extra tourists, jobs, or \$12-\$15 million dollars for our region. How popular is that going to be with the locals?

**Editor's Note:** *The TNPA is opposed to Dick Smith's Crescent Bay development proposal in its current form as the development is not consistent with the purposes of the local planning scheme zoning of the area as Conservation Zone, the footprint of the buildings is too close to the National Park boundary, and there are potential impacts on wildlife, in particular avifauna.*



## TNPA UPDATES:



—Instead of more development why not advance a proposal consistent with original national park ideals?

As reported in *TNPA News 8*, Tasmanian tourism entrepreneur Simon Curren is developing a proposal to construct a tourist accommodation lodge at Pumphouse Point on the shores of Lake St Clair. While the TNPA was informed earlier in the year that the proposal was soon to be released for public comment, this has yet to happen. Whilst the TNPA believes that there have been some delays in finalisation of the actual proposal, one now fears that, yet again, there may be an attempt to hoodwink the public process by seeking comment on the proposal over the summer holiday period when the public's focus on such issues is likely to be diminished.

This proposal is the third attempt to develop this site, the first being the proposal to build Buckhurst Lodge in the mid-1990s and the second being a proposal in 2002/03 by Michael Doherty to also construct a wilderness lodge. The TNPA believes strongly that such developments are entirely inappropriate within a national park and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) and will continue to lead the opposition to this latest proposal.

The TNPA believes that, instead of being subject to an approach which has repeatedly been rejected by the Tasmanian public, the Pumphouse Point site should be used in a manner that is consistent with the ideals inherent in the formation of national parks. These ideals are based on the dual objectives of nature conservation and appreciation and enjoyment of the natural values and beauty of the area by all people. Achievement of these ideals would allow the site to become a great asset to Tasmania whilst contributing favourably to both nature conservation and visitor enjoyment of the TWWHA.

Given these objectives, the TNPA believes that the Pumphouse Point site should be rehabilitated and used to provide for the enjoyment of day visitors to the area. At present the site is open to all to enjoy, and is popular with fishermen and wildlife and bird watchers. Others come to enjoy the naturalness of the area and view the magnificent surrounding vistas. While the site does not hide the occupancy of its previous use, the regrowth is

very well established and with time the scars of the past will be erased. Active rehabilitation of the site would greatly assist this process and be consistent with the overarching management objective of the TWWHA.

One cannot help but compare the present condition of the Pumphouse Point site with that at Cynthia Bay. The former is tranquil and given over to nature, while the latter is heavily impacted by human developments and commerce and is a site where nature only exists on the fringe. A large accommodation complex at Pumphouse Point would not only destroy the tranquillity and natural values of the site but to a large extent would duplicate existing facilities at Cynthia Bay. Instead, Pumphouse Point offers a wonderful opportunity to complement the commercial developments at Cynthia Bay with a much more natural site where people can come and enjoy the values and beauty of the surrounding areas in a tranquil setting.

In order to help achieve this outcome the TNPA proposes that a sensitively-sited walkway be built from Cynthia Bay to Pumphouse Point. Such a walk is consistent with the proposal for a walk to the Frankland Beaches outlined in the original 1991 Site Plan for Cynthia Bay. Given the World Heritage geoheritage values inherent in the Lake St Clair region, the diversity of natural ecosystems (eg. eucalypt forests, lake-side vegetation, riparian systems including Golden Swamp, and the Frankland Beaches) and the stunning scenery, the TNPA believes such a walk would become one of Tasmania's great 'short walks'. There is a recognised shortage of flat short walks (accessible to all) in the Lake St Clair area and this walk would take in all the best, most stunning views available around the southern end of the lake. This would also complement the walk around Dove Lake at the northern end of the Park.

Having reached Pumphouse Point via the walk, the existing lawns and easy access to the lake would make an ideal site for people to have lunch and to explore and enjoy the natural values of the area. There is also the potential to use the existing buildings for some type of educational/interpretation use, or similar, perhaps focusing on the natural ecology and/or historical

uses of the area, the ideals and values of the TWWHA and the importance and obligations we have to future generations. There is also an opportunity to provide a focus on the prior Aboriginal occupation and use of the surrounding area. This would help overcome a 'significant unmet visitor desire for more information about Aboriginal culture and the relationship of Aborigines with particular areas' (p25 *Summary Report—State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area: an evaluation of management effectiveness*.)

Finally, in line with getting people out of their cars to enjoy a walk through the bush and having an experience that is consistent with being outdoors and appreciating the natural values of the area, the TNPA argues the case that road access to Pumphouse Point should be limited to service vehicles only and possibly for disabled access of some sort.

The TNPA believes that the above proposal is consistent with both the national park ideal and the types of facilities/attractions needed to enhance the visitor experience at Cynthia Bay, which principally caters for the needs of short-stay, in-transit visitors who come to experience the natural values of Tasmania's national parks and the TWWHA. Accommodation facilities, while an important component of the overall tourist experience, should be located at appropriate locations outside Tasmania's national parks.

Robert Campbell

## Introducing TNPA's new Project Co-ordinator JANET HENDERSON



Photo: Peter Henderson

Although I am originally from Zimbabwe, this particular tale starts in England, in 1983, when I got a letter, completely out of the blue, offering me a job in Tasmania for a year. I went straight to the library and looked up 'Tasmania'; I discovered that this was an island state of Australia and had lots of mountains—so I accepted the job!

I was a very good tourist that year—I walked and explored, visited the

national parks and fell in love with Tasmania and her wild places. It took me several years to return to Tasmania armed with a permanent residence visa. Almost twenty years on I have my own Tasmanian family.

I am thrilled to be the TNPA's new project officer; this brings me back to where I started and reminds me that my children can only love and value what they have experience of.

At this early stage I am somewhat daunted by the variety and complexity of the issues in which TNPA is involved; not to mention the sheer weight of the paperwork involved. I am in awe of the committee members who appear to understand it all—and have an impressive vocabulary of acronyms at their disposal. I look forward to meeting and working with more TNPA members.

*Janet works one day per week, spread over Wednesdays and Thursdays. She can be contacted on 0427 854 684.*

# THE 2007 TASMANIAN GREAT AUSTRALIAN BUSHWALK

Thanks to all who participated in the Great Australian Bushwalk (9 Sept.) This year TNPA hosted nine guided day walks, which (if you'll forgive me boasting a bit) was more than most other states! The walks program was quite enticing—ranging from the threatened rainforests of the Blue Tier (north-east Highlands), the cliffs of Cape Hauy, Launceston's First Basin woodlands, Tassie's tall trees, beaches of South Arm, three walks on Hobart's fringes, and the historic Wilmot River track (recently researched and re-formed by the local community).



Lunch at Blue Tier. Photo: Lesley Nicklason

We had good weather, lots of participants and lots of fun. I was thrilled to hear the Mt Field group had seen a platypus, as I had suggested on a promotional radio interview that they may, thinking to myself 'fat chance!'

A big thanks to the walk leaders—Lesley Nicklason, Chris Corbett, Brian O'Byrne, Michael Dempsey, Rob Hill, John Cannon, Greg Buckman, and Bill Shepherd.

It's a great help when TNPA members participate, as you can help to explain and promote the TNPA to like-minded people. Thanks to all members who did participate.

If you would like to participate in next year's GAB, or lead a walk, please have a look at the website [www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au](http://www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au) before July 08, and contact Rebecca Johnson (phone 6239 1962.) See you then!

Rebecca Johnson



Cape Hauy walk. Photo: Chris Corbett

# WORLD HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

In September this year the PWS released for public comment the long awaited *Draft Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 1999–2007 Update*. The review focuses on the following three issues: A) fixing errors, B) addressing significant new issues; and C) dealing with areas of the plan that are significantly under-performing. To the extent that the revisions incorporate comments received during an earlier round of public comment (ten of the 21 issues raised in TNPA's submission have been incorporated to some extent), and also noting that the revisions bring the Plan into line with the legislative changes since 1999, TNPA is generally supportive of the revisions made.

However, we note with some concern that many of the significant issues (including seven issues raised in its submission) which we believe should have been addressed under focus item B above have been held over to the full review to be undertaken in 2009. TNPA believes this delay may result in activities related to some of these issues continuing to

impact in a detrimental manner on WHA values. Of particular concern is accommodation within the WHA. TNPA views approval of past developments within the WHA as a failure to correctly implement the management objectives of the 1999 Plan, and believes that a more definitive statement is required in the revised Plan (as specified by focus item C) clearly stating that all future accommodation development will be located outside the WHA.

TNPA is also concerned that revisions made to the New Proposals and Impact Assessment (NPIA) process will help facilitate further developments being approved within the WHA, and that significant changes have been made in relation to the Walking Track Management Strategy. TNPA has requested changes to strengthen these processes.

Finally, the TNPA is requesting a consultative process to review some of the more substantive issues held over to the 2009 review so that the results of this process can feed in a timely manner into this review.

A full copy of the TNPA submission can be viewed on our website.

Robert Campbell

'THE AXE HAD NEVER SOUNDED'

## 'The axe had never sounded' place, people and heritage of Recherche Bay, Tasmania

John Mulvaney

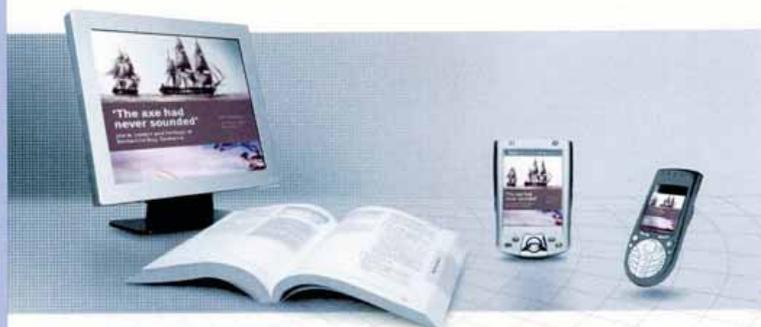
'This book meets well the triple promise of the title – the inter-connections of place, people and heritage. John Mulvaney brings to this work a deep knowledge of the history, ethnography and archaeology of Tasmania. He presents a comprehensive account of the area's history over the 200 years since French naval expeditions first charted its coastlines. The important records the French officers and scientists left of encounters with Aboriginal groups are discussed in detail, set in the wider ethnographic context and compared with those of later expeditions.

The topical issues of understanding the importance of Recherche Bay as a cultural landscape and its protection and future management inform the book. Readers will be challenged to consider the connections between people and place, and how these may constitute significant national heritage.'

Professor Isabel McBryde, AQ, FRAI, FAHA, FSA  
The Australian National University

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Overland Track walkers  
cross suspension  
bridge, after the turnoff  
to Pine Valley.  
Photo: Scott Morgan.

## International Ranger Day

31 July 2007

### 'THIN GREEN LINE'

The first United Nations International Ranger Day was held on 31 July 2007. In celebration of great contributions made to conservation, the world premier of 'Thin Green Line' was held simultaneously in more than 200 places around the globe.

TNPA hosted a premier viewing of 'Thin Green Line' at the Fern Tree Tavern. An intimate gathering comprising local TNPA members and friends was amazed by the courage and commitment of rangers abroad. Lives are put at risk every day to protect endangered species. 'Thin Green Line' explored the beauty of wildlife and wild places beside the greed and corruption of poachers and politics.

The documentary was compiled by Victorian ranger Sean Willmore who sold his car, re-mortgaged his house and travelled for twelve months collecting the scenes and stories.

TNPA would like to thank the proprietors of the Fern Tree Tavern, Pip and Rick, for their support and venue. Our thanks also to Steve Johnstone for his technical expertise in making little speakers belt out big sound! Finally, congratulations to Sean for bringing the stories to us.

Money raised from the events goes to the families of rangers killed on duty.

## Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc

Patron: Peter Cundall

**TNPA Management Committee** (from September 2007)

President: Anne McConnell

Vice Presidents: Robert Campbell, Greg Buckman

Treasurer: Patsy Jones

Secretary: vacant

Public Officer: Tom Baxter

Other committee members: Debbie Quarmby & Pam Fenerty

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Phone: 0427 854 684

### Meetings

Management Committee meetings are held one Monday each month at 6:30 pm at Sustainable Living Tasmania (2nd floor, 102 Bathurst St, Hobart). Members and supporters are welcome.

Meeting dates will be advertised in each TNPA Communique or please contact the TNPA office.

## Have your say...

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[tasmornings@your.abc.net.au](mailto:tasmornings@your.abc.net.au) or 1300 36 1700

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## TNPA News

TNPA News is published twice a year. It aims to provide informative articles on issues related to national parks and other reserves, as well as updates on TNPA activities and campaigns. The views expressed in TNPA News are not necessarily those of the TNPA Inc. In this issue, many thanks to Todd Dudley, Shirley Storey, Robert Campbell, Anne McConnell, Tracey Withers, Chris Corbett, Lesley Nicklason and Chris Bell. Original articles in TNPA News may be reproduced, but please acknowledge the author and the source. Contributions for TNPA News No. 10 are welcomed (deadline mid-March 2008). Please send contributions to [admin@tnpa.asn.au](mailto:admin@tnpa.asn.au) (attention: TNPA News editor).

**Editor:** Sharon Moore **Newsletter production by:** Tasprint P/L