



# TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION **MANIFESTO**



November 2003

The Tasmanian National Parks Association Manifesto is a working document. It will be revised continuously and upgraded if and when the need arises.

TNPA recognises the long association that Tasmanian Aboriginals have had with the island.

Produced by The Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc

**Front cover image:** reproduced with kind permission Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

**Principal Author:** Chris Bell

**Design:** Harris Squirrel Pty Ltd

**Printing:** Printing Authority of Tasmania

Thank you to the many other contributors

# INTRODUCTION

National parks<sup>1</sup> are for conserving the priceless remnants of the natural world in perpetuity. They are about protecting the inanimate physical structure of the Earth and the associated life forms that together constitute the living world. National parks are where we can witness raw land unimpaired by human manipulation, and as such, all commercial development – which can only degrade the integrity of wild land – belongs outside our parks' boundaries.

National parks are reference points – benchmarks – of the health of land; they are about ensuring that at least a part of our island, our state, our country – our world – is still in 'working order'. National parks are anchor bolts in a sea of unsustainable, human-induced change. They are about ensuring that what remains of the natural world will be here forever and that its fate should be decreed by Nature alone. National parks are about the maintenance of wildness, for a nation bereft of wild things and wild places is a nation without a soul; a nation without a future. National parks are about humans' acknowledgement that not only are we dependent on Nature, we are also part of Nature – but only a part, for other life forms also have rights. National parks are about love of land for its own sake. They are a milepost in the evolution of our ethics which now encompasses the spiritual welfare of all the creatures with which we share the planet and the inanimate world which houses them; their fate will be determined by not just our management, but by the love we bestow upon them. National parks are a measure of that love.

## National Parks in Tasmania

Tasmania has one of the world's most extensive and spectacularly beautiful national park systems. Furthermore, this parks and reserves system constitutes one of Tasmania's most important assets.

Over the past twenty years, the area protected within national parks and other reserves within Tasmania has increased to approximately 2.45 million hectares, and represents some 30 per cent of the island state. Included in this reserve system are 19 national parks of significant natural and cultural importance for the state, for Australia and for the world. A large part of this reserved land is included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, itself comprising an area of around 1.38 million hectares or around 20 per cent of Tasmania. This area is one of only two World Heritage Areas in the world which satisfies at least seven of the 10 criteria required for WHA listing.

Tasmania's reserve system encompasses a diverse range of environments, including ancient forests, wild rivers, remote coastlines and some of Australia's most rugged mountain scenery, much of it wilderness. Images of these wild places have come to help define Tasmania. The parks and conservation reserves also contain distinctive combinations of plants and animals – many of which are unique to Tasmania.

A fascinating and significant Aboriginal cultural heritage dating back 35,000 years is located within these reserves, as well as historical icons such as the Port Arthur penal settlement.

Tasmania's reserve system is a conservation asset of unique significance and a recreation resource for all Australians.

Tasmania has a higher proportion of its land in parks than any other Australian state. Consequently, Tasmania more than any other state, has a vested interest in properly managing its parks. Given the heightened importance of these reserves for both conservation and recreation purposes (and the threats posed by the latter), it is important that there is on-going community involvement in the management of this unique system of reserves. It is also important that there exists a strong and independent voice that can play an advocacy role for Tasmania's reserve system. The Tasmanian National Parks Association has positioned itself to play an important role in this process.

1 The term 'national park' is taken in this document to refer to any type of conservation reserve as defined in the Tasmanian National Parks Act (1970). A simple definition is given under a following heading, **Definition of a National Park**.

**The Tasmanian National Parks Association**

Officially launched in September 2001, the Tasmanian National Parks Association ( TNPA ) was formed in response to the increasing threats to park values posed by inappropriate development, questionable management, and the on-going failure of governments to bestow national park status on important natural and cultural assets that deserve the highest level of protection. The Association is a non-profit, non-government organisation which gives park users a voice on issues that affect national parks. Like similar associations in other Australian states, the TNPA provides a link between the community and the park policy makers to identify and address issues concerning the on-going management of Tasmania's national parks and other reserves.

The aims of the TNPA are:

- To ensure the conservation, protection, and where possible, the rehabilitation of the natural environment of national parks.
- To maintain conservation as the primary role of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- To promote effective legislation for our national parks.
- To encourage community involvement in national park management.
- To increase community awareness of the value and importance of national parks and conservation in general.
- The appropriate promotion of conservation of cultural heritage within national parks and to secure its on-going reservation.

Further to these aims, the TNPA:

- Maintains that Tasmania's national park system is far from complete. The Association will therefore be promoting areas worthy of national park status to be included in the current reserve system as a matter of urgency.
- Is particularly concerned about the increasing focus on the provision of tourist related facilities and activities within our national parks at the expense of the conservation values inherent in the national park system. The TNPA aims to uphold the natural and cultural values of national parks and has developed clear policy objectives to support this goal.

Given that much of Tasmania's national park system is inscribed on the World Heritage List, and is therefore an important component of Australia's world heritage, the TNPA stresses that the integrity of these areas must never be undermined by decisions that give local commercial interests priority over World Heritage values. However, the TNPA also believes that all land encompassed within the national parks system is worthy of the same care, and as such should be managed in an equal manner to ensure the long term protection of the natural values inherent in the entire reserve system..

**Definition of a National Park**

The TNPA adopts a modified version of the IUCN definition of a national park. The IUCN definition of a national park is as follows:

A national park is a natural area of land and/or sea, designed to:

- a** protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations;
  - b** exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area; and
  - c** provide a foundation for spiritual, educational and recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally compatible.
- (IUCN, 1994)

The TNPA adopts the IUCN definition in general terms, but also broadens the concept from the narrow, essentially biocentric focus of the IUCN to also include physical elements of the natural environment such as land forms and other aspects of geodiversity, and the conservation – where appropriate – of significant cultural heritage.

The TNPA believes that the broad principles contained in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter developed by the Australian Council of IUCN must apply to the management of our national parks

Sphere of involvement: TNPA has determined that if the area is a national park, or warrants national park status, it is within the Association's brief. TNPA will give in-principle support to conservation issues beyond its brief but will leave prime advocacy of these issues to others.

# TNPA'S GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

In framing general policy, and our response to specific issues as they arise, the TNPA will be guided by the following broad considerations:

## The worth of natural environments

Natural environments and natural phenomena warrant protection for many reasons which may be conceptualised as falling into three broad categories. An area or feature may be considered worthy of protection because of its importance in terms of:

### 1 Pure existence or intrinsic values

Natural phenomena (living and non-living) have a legitimate and important place in the world and should continue to exist irrespective of any worth they may or may not have for humankind; they are a part of the world as much as is our own species, and it is important that they remain so. This maxim represents the fundamental core of TNPA's *raison d'être*.

### 2 Natural process values

Particular natural phenomena may be of consequence to other elements of the natural world (living or non-living) because they form part of a web of interdependent features or processes, such as geological or ecological processes. Physical environments also form the stage upon which the acts of life are played out – there can be no biodiversity without geodiversity!

### 3 Instrumental values to humankind

Natural phenomena may be of value to humans in a variety of ways: as a resource of intangible values from which human inspirational, spiritual, or creative needs can be met; as a keystone for the maintenance of human health, both mental and physical, through exercise or other interaction in an uncontaminated environment; as a source of scientific knowledge of either intellectual or applied value; as a means of ensuring humankind continues to benefit from essential natural phenomena such as carbon sinks; and as a resource that may contribute to the material needs of humankind, either through sustaining natural processes that underpin opportunities for material benefit (e.g. fisheries) or more directly (e.g. the arts, tourism).

The protection of natural phenomena may be warranted for any of these three broad reasons, either individually or in combination with one another.

In developing policy for the establishment or management of natural environment protected areas, the TNPA considers that 'existence values' and 'natural process values' override 'instrumental values' to humankind. Where different instrumental values may be in conflict with one another, primacy rests with those uses that do not harm existence or natural process values.

## Conserving environmental diversity

In a world that is increasingly subject to change by humankind and where so much has already been lost, the retention of the environmental diversity that remains is paramount. The aim of the TNPA is the conservation of environmental diversity in a broad sense. Rather than being constrained by buzzwords such as 'biodiversity', the many other elements of natural environment diversity – such as geodiversity – are of no lesser worth. It was Lake Pedder the *physical* place that generated outcry regarding its proposed destruction, not merely the endemic biological species it was later found to support and which became a rationale for conservation only towards the end of the campaign.

Just as there are different species and communities of plants and animals, so too are there different types and assemblages of land forms and other physical phenomena; some are common and some are rare, some are robust and some are fragile. For example,

Lake Pedder was the only lake of its kind recorded in the world geoscientific literature, and while the case for its preservation was never dependent upon scientific reasons alone, its warranted preservation as a rare land form type even had all its other values not existed.

Notwithstanding the importance of conserving diversity, the TNPA recognises that the retention of 'representative' samples of some natural phenomena is insufficient and that 'outstanding' examples also require protection (e.g. a particularly well developed example of a certain type of waterfall, even if that broad 'species' of waterfall is well represented in the reserve system).

The preservation of a significant, representative cultural heritage also warrants consideration.

<p><b>Conservation in a temporal context</b></p>	<p>Change occurs naturally through geological time as environments evolve, but we live in the present and aim to ensure the world's natural phenomena have a future despite ever increasing human numbers, needs and avarice. Policy for the management of natural values needs to be framed on the basis of the natural processes and natural rates of change that exist under the environmental conditions found today. It is not appropriate to compromise natural environments by making management decisions based on conditions that may have existed in the distant past. It has at times been suggested that levels of erosion and sedimentation higher than those that now occur naturally are of no concern because they were naturally high at times in the past due to cold Pleistocene climates. Such considerations should not</p>	<p>form the basis upon which acceptable levels of erosion are determined in the more stable environment that exists today, because the passage of 'ecological generations' has now entirely overwhelmed an earlier natural system long since gone.</p> <p>Similarly, the fact that areas where a natural environment now exists may have been exploited or changed by humans during past periods when natural environmental conditions were very different to those existing now does not negate the essential naturalness of such an area today. Such a history does not validate a level of present-day human impact, or a claim that may theoretically have been appropriate at an earlier time.</p>
<p><b>A holistic regard to place</b></p>	<p>Scientific assessment of natural places through discreet disciplinary studies, while useful, may not identify all the values of a place, in particular the intangible values. The TNPA believes therefore that</p>	<p>the significance of a place may be more than the sum of its parts, and that a holistic regard must be given to natural places to identify their values.</p>
<p><b>A place to participate in nature</b></p>	<p>Before the development of the modern industrial society, visitors to national parks inevitably left the city far behind them. They may not have been a backpacker or a mountain climber, but they were genuinely immersed in a natural setting. They may only have strolled around the area near the entrance to the park, but they were in a place where the sounds of birds ruled rather than the sound of cars, where the planned entertainment disappeared in favour of a place with nothing to do but what the visitor discovered for themselves. They became an observer of, if not a willing participant in, Nature's play.</p> <p>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 life-style transported onto a scenic background. There are demands for modern accommodation units, air-conditioning, packaged foods, business conventions, and efforts to bring year-round commercial tourism to places where previously Nature was dominant. In quoting the American writer/conservationist Edward Abbey, Joseph Sax in his book <i>Mountains without handrails: Reflections on the National parks</i> graphically describes this threat: "What's wrong with parks, says Edward Abbey, is that they have been too much given over to the clientele of 'industrial tourism', people who visit from their cars and whose three</p>	<p>standard questions are: "Where's the john? How long will it take to see this place? and "Where's the coke machine?"...he is troubled to see people using the parks as they use Disneyland, simply as places to be entertained whilst they are on vacation".</p> <p>While the TNPA recognises the right of people to seek a range of tourist activities, it believes that conventional tourist opportunities are amply provided for <i>outside</i> national parks. The TNPA urges a recognition that the parks have a distinctive function to perform that is separate from the service of conventional tourism, and that they must be managed explicitly to present that function to the public as their principle goal, separate from whatever conventional tourist services they may also have to provide. As such, the TNPA maintains 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 planned entertainment 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 his or her own agenda and allows one to learn 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 lost in our modern city-scapes and societies.</p>

# TNPA POLICY OBJECTIVES

<p><b>1 Primary Objectives of Management</b></p>	<p>The TNPA believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The integrity of the natural environment and conservation values within national parks must not be compromised by activities and infrastructure which are inimical to conservation, aesthetics and the 'maintenance of wildness'.</li> <li>• The primary objective of management must be the conservation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage consistent with the Australian Natural Heritage Charter (1996) and Burra Charter (1999); in particular with principles recognised in these; and for the WHA – the Richmond Communiqué (1995).</li> <li>• Visitors have a right to a fully natural experience in a national park.</li> <li>• Protected areas have the right to be managed by a well-resourced, conservation-oriented government organisation with the range of appropriate expertise, under secure legislation that specifically prohibits potentially damaging actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for a streamlined consultative, planning-and-approval process that is transparent and consistent with the primary conservation objectives of national parks as enshrined in the National Parks and Management Act 2002.</li> <li>• Management plans should be in consultation with the public with outside expertise and experience and should not be subject to whimsical changes and manipulation by any Govt when it sees fit (a case in point is the changing of the Management Plan for Cockle Creek which was altered – ignoring community concerns – to allow for an exclusive resort).</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Recreation management in national parks</b></p>	<p>The TNPA believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those recreational activities which do not support or uphold the nature conservation values contained within national parks are inappropriate.</li> <li>• Aircraft landings on lakes anywhere within our national parks should be prohibited. The use of aircraft and helicopters over our parks should have number ceilings placed upon them to avoid the out-of-control fly-overs that occur at places</li> </ul>	<p>such as the Bungle Bungles in WA (100 flights per day). Limits need to be determined immediately. Helicopters should be banned from landing in our parks except for emergency and the Service's logistical use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued monitoring, best practice, and the adoption of the precautionary principle should be applied to all recreational activities within national parks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Commercial activities</b></p>	<p>The TNPA believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The granting of permits for any further commercial tour group activities within our parks must be halted until the carrying capacity of our parks has been established.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial tour groups must not be given precedence over individual park users unless a compelling case can be demonstrated that it is unequivocally in the interests of protecting conservation values.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 Accommodation facilities</b></p>	<p>The TNPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages the development of a range of appropriate facilities OUTSIDE the park boundaries in association with educational interpretation of the national park.</li> <li>• Opposes accommodation facilities within national parks, (except perhaps where established historically) and favours appropriate facilities located adjacent to parks near suitable existing infrastructure and access points.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains that where accommodation already exists within a park boundary (e.g. Lake St Clair) it must remain basic and low-key (camping facilities/ simple cabins) and affordable by a range of users, ie non-exclusive.</li> <li>• Maintains that 'best practice' be adopted in the management of all facilities within national parks to ensure such facilities do not cause water, air, or <i>visual</i> pollution and wastes generated must be entirely removed from the park.</li> </ul>

# POLICY IN DETAIL

**Primary Objective of Management.** As previously stated, the TNPA insists that the primary objective of management must be the conservation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage consistent with the Australian Natural Heritage Charter (1996) and Burra Charter (1999); in particular with principles recognised in these; and for the WHA – the Richmond Communiqué (1995).

## 1 Areas Deserving National Park Status

Whilst the total area currently protected within the national park system reflects favourably on our state, many areas of outstanding conservation value remain unprotected – the largest of these, the Tarkine, is seriously under threat. The TNPA insists that the Tarkine – as well as the other outstanding natural areas currently being assessed by the TNPA – be included in the national park system forthwith. The TNPA also believes strongly that all WHAs *not* in the national park system be included as a logical progression (e.g. Central Plateau Conservation Area and Protected Area, and the Arthur Pieman Protected Area). As a principle TNPA also advocates rehabilitating damaged land back to ‘as wild a state as possible’. The argument that developments such as Pumphouse Point be allowed as the area is already degraded must be rejected.

The TNPA believes that competition between agencies seen to be managing land for conservation purposes must not be allowed to stand in the way of areas of

high conservation significance receiving the highest possible level of statutory protection. More reservation of areas under the National Parks & Wildlife Act 1970 has been blocked in order that they be established instead as forest reserves for political purposes; these areas should instead be proclaimed as national park under the Nature Conservation Act 2002.

The separation of the Parks and Wildlife Service from the Dept of Primary Industry, Water and Resources must not be allowed to trigger competition similar to that which previously existed between the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Dept of Lands, whereby weaker protection as a ‘regional park’ or ‘protected area’ resulted, due to the obstruction and lobbying by the Dept of Lands in order to capture potential parkland to justify the existence of a conservation management division within the Dept of Lands.

## 2 Planning and Management Processes

Management must be open, transparent and consultative – we are talking about *public assets* here (not a private resource of government or anyone else.)

The TNPA calls for the abolition of zoning within our national parks; all proposed activities/infrastructure can be dealt with *on their own merits*. At the very least, zoning needs to be re-examined. The current user-based zoning framework is inappropriate for areas with outstanding universal natural and cultural values such as Tasmania’s western wilderness parks. This zoning has allowed the very infrastructure and activities that already has belittled and degraded the wildness of some of our outstanding parks – of our land in general.

At the time of writing, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Division has been removed from the

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) and placed within the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and Arts, with the Nature Conservation Branch remaining at DPIWE. This move was made swiftly in August 2002, immediately post re-election of our current Bacon Labor State Government. It has caused controversy and concern amongst employees in both departments and also in the greater community. The TNPA calls for the re-establishment of the ‘National Parks & Wildlife Service’ (to re-include nature conservation), to be an entity in itself, and not subservient to Tourism or any other department. The TNPA believes Directorship of this new body should be, as a matter of principle, someone with a long history of passionate involvement with nature conservation.

## 3 Recreation Management

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. TNPA recognises that already some of our national parks are being visited by too many people;

their numbers cannot be sustained. It is beyond dispute that the numbers of walkers, in particular, need limiting – not only to halt the unacceptable damage that is occurring as a result of their excessive numbers, but also to halt the increasing physical infrastructure which inevitably accompanies an

increase in visitor numbers (particularly huts). Such infrastructure not only continually changes the dynamics of the landscape and degrades or damages the naturalness of our parks, but also detracts from our experience. Never is Nature enhanced by humans.

It is for this reason the TNPA insists that limits be placed on the numbers of walkers using some of our parks – not only in our more fragile montane areas with limited camping areas which are already seriously degraded, but also – and perhaps in particular – in our more popular walks such as the Overland Track where walker numbers have been allowed to grow exponentially without any policy by the Parks & Wildlife Service to regulate the unsustainable numbers. The TNPA maintains that the only workable method is the introduction of a permit system in heavily-used, sensitive areas as had been previously proposed.

Additionally, some areas of high tourist visitation – for example the Cradle Mountain precinct – need very careful monitoring to ascertain how many

tourists is ‘too many’ and exactly what type of infrastructure is unacceptable (the planned ‘bus shelter’ at Lake Dove is a case in point) and how many ‘improvements’ should be made. Once ‘unacceptable’ infrastructure becomes established (and tolerated) it becomes disruptive and costly to remove. The desirability of costly ‘interpretation’ centres is also becoming highly questionable.

**Inappropriate events** – The TNPA calls for the re-examination of competitive sporting activities within our national parks, the Cradle Mt - Lake St Clair ‘marathon’ being a prime example. National parks are for nature conservation and associated activities that are in keeping with an intercourse with Nature; they are not training grounds for sportspeople! Competitive sporting activities should not be encouraged; their rationale, associated advertising and commercialism is totally out-of-keeping with nature conservation and the national parks system in general

#### 4 Commercial Activities

In 2003 incremental intrusions into Tasmania’s national parks are underway and these developments are eroding the very values that generations have fought so hard to protect. The Heritage and Parks Acts are being manipulated at will making a mockery of the ideals cherished by generations who have in the national interest championed our natural heritage in Tasmania.

The TNPA believes that any further applications for commercial tourism operations that stay overnight within our national parks must be carefully scrutinised. Only where the carrying capacity of the particular national park involved (ie. taking into account track and campsite suitability) can sustain such an operation, should a licence be given. The licence needs to clearly state that:

- Only self contained camping operations will be permitted. This means the tourism operator uses tents and no form of standing structure.

- No off-track walking by the operator and their clients is to be permitted .
- All human waste should be removed from any regular campsite.
- These campsites and areas used undergo regular monitoring and if shown to exceed the limits of carrying capacity for the area, the operator’s licence will not be renewed.

The TNPA maintains that the strategy of introducing a ‘bond’ system to repair any environmental damage through sloppy tourist activities should be examined.

The TNPA is more supportive of commercial tourism which visits our national parks on day walks and accommodates its clients in areas outside our national park boundaries.

#### 5 Accommodation facilities

The TNPA is opposed to any additional commercial developments within our national parks. It is very strongly opposed to any standing camps which, in essence, are ‘de facto lodges’. To date there has been a failure by the Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure that temporary standing camps are ‘temporary’ in nature. As we now see at Melaleuca Inlet and Maria Island, these ‘temporary’ camps have evolved into

inappropriate solid walled and roofed iron-clad ‘villages’. Standing camps are destroying the natural values of our national parks. The TNPA therefore recommends that Parks and Wildlife Service *does not renew* the leases to operators of existing standing camps. We encourage visitors to have a ‘natural’ and authentic experience by being guided on a day walk or camping journey.

<p><b>6 Park Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>Over the last two decades the amount of building infrastructure in our parks has increased dramatically – some of it sensible additions, but some – the new Pelion Hut in Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park for example – have broken all the ‘understood’ rules concerning infrastructure (huts, bridges etc.): that they must all be appropriate, low-key, in-keeping additions that are hidden from view so as to not intrude on the natural landscape. The new Pelion Hut with its associated helipad, gas bottles, twin oversized toilets and its highly-visible siting (clearly visible from Mt Oakleigh and parts of the Overland Track etc.) is perhaps the worst case of park management carried out on the Overland Track to date. It is folly to argue for the construction of new, oversized huts when the very question of a ceiling on walker numbers has not been debated.</p> <p><b>Tracks</b> – The TNPA also urges that the desirability of new tracks must be very carefully examined; any new tracks approved must have a low impact visually; as a rule restoration of eroded tracks should take precedence over re-routes. Re-routes often leave us with <i>two</i> unsightly tracks (e.g. Melaleuca Plains).</p> <p><b>Huts</b> – The TNPA insists no more huts should be constructed in our parks and indeed, there is an argument that some be removed. The old (and possibly illegal) hydro hut on the eastern Windermere Plains which was earmarked for removal several</p>	<p>years ago, needs to be removed forthwith (and the cost of its removal charged to the HEC ). The TNPA is also opposed to a new commercial hut being allowed on Pine Forest Moor.</p> <p><b>Trigs and cairns</b> – The TNPA strongly discourages the proliferation of cairns and trig points on our mountains. Given the nature of current satellite navigation and the redundancy of trig points there is no legitimate reason why most of the steel tripod structures (eg summit of Cradle Mtn, Frenchmans Cap etc) should not be removed forthwith. The only possible exceptions are cairns of recognised historical value; e.g. those that have Tasmanian Heritage Register listing. The building of cairns by walkers to illustrate human prowess has no place in the natural environment and must be vigorously discouraged.</p> <p><b>Buildings of a historical nature</b> – Whilst TNPA strongly supports the preservation of appropriate cultural heritage, the Association is opposed to the reconstruction of historic buildings etc. which have already either fallen down or are in a non-repairable condition. A 2003 re-build constitutes a replica, not the maintenance of a historic site. The adopt-a-hut programme needs re-visiting; this process has allowed some huts which perhaps should have been allowed to fall down or indeed should have been removed to be now semi-rebuilt/restored. The TNPA insists the community needs to be consulted here.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative impacts on our national parks</b></p>	<p>While the TNPA encourages a compatible relationship between humans’ use of our parks and their conservation, the Association maintains there is a gradual and incremental eroding of the standard of our national parks. This is occurring through small decisions about developments and activities that individually may not appear to have much effect, but which cumulatively have a devastating effect.</p>	<p>Whether it be a tourist resort, a radar tower on a mountain, helipads dotted about, the odd cruise ship in Port Davey, or a marina in an estuary... the impact of each activity/development may be limited, but the accumulated impact becomes very large. The precautionary principle when zealously applied will ensure we do not make the mistakes of others.</p>
<p><b>Principles to Consider</b></p>	<p>The following Principles are recognised in the TWWHA Management Plan (1999) – and are extremely important for all national parks and reserved land management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle of Inter-generational Equity</li> <li>Principle of Intra-generational Equity</li> <li>Principle of Existence Value</li> <li>Principle of Uncertainty</li> <li>Precautionary Principle</li> <li>Principle of Ecological Sustainability</li> <li>Principle of Indigenous People’s Rights</li> <li>Principle of Community Involvement</li> <li>Principle of Transparency of Decision Making.</li> </ul>	

---

**References**

**Australian Committee for IUCN**

1995 *The Richmond Communiqué – Principles and Guidelines for the Management of Australia's World Heritage Areas.*

Australian Committee for IUCN Inc., Richmond, NSW.

**Australian Committee for IUCN**

1996 *Australian Natural Heritage Charter.*

Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra

**Australia ICOMOS**

1999 *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter).* (Revised edition)

**Joint State Government & Tourism Council Tasmania**

2001 *Tourism 21: The Conversion Challenge –*

*Strategic Plan for the Tasmanian Tourism*

*Industry 2001/4.* Joint State Government & Tourism

Council Tasmania.