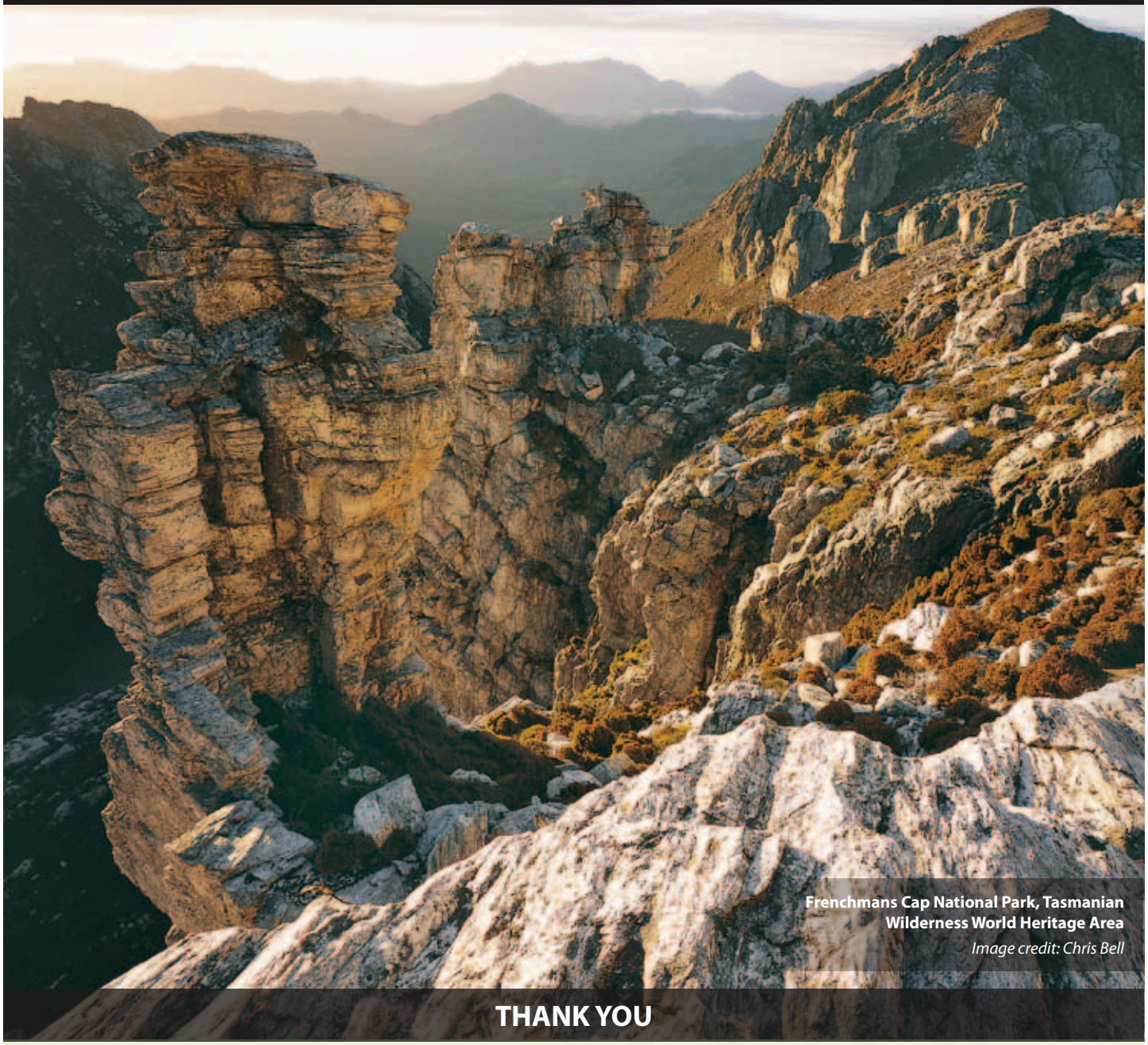
TNPA NEWS

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION INC

Newsletter No 21 Winter 2015



Frenchmans Cap National Park, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Image credit: Chris Bell

THANK YOU

The TNPA Committee would like to thank the following people and organisations who over the last 6 months have volunteered their time to assist the TNPA or have helped in other ways.

TNPA Autumn Walks 2015

Rob Hill (programme coordinator and walks leader), Rosemary Bruce, John Cannon, Catharine Errey, Bec Johnson, Anne McConnell, Lesley Nicklason

Secretarial Assistance to the TNPA

Amy Lin

'Inspire' Slide Night

The Grassroots Union Choir, Kevin Kiernan, Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, Angie McGowan, Bec Kurczoh (for poster design) photographers Chris Bell, Rob Blakers, Dan Broun, Grant Dixon, Ted Mead, Nick Sawyer

TNPA News Production (this issue)

Ricoh Business Centre, Bill Cameron, Grant Hall (Parks and Wildlife Service), Terry Reid, the Community and Public Sector Union, Paul Smith, Rob Hill

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

From The President's Pen

The last issue of TNPA News came out shortly before the closing date for submissions on the draft Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan (TWWHAMP). The TNPA, along with many other organisations and individuals, local and national, worked very hard to raise awareness of what was at stake if this draft plan were to be implemented and to encourage members of the public and organisations to make submissions on it.

In spite of the Government's statement that it would disregard submissions that disagreed with Government policy (and we call our system of government democratic!) over 7600 submissions were received.

As most members would no doubt be aware, on 29 May UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, released Item 7B of its Provisional Agenda for the Bonn meeting, which included a list of concerns and required actions in relation to the draft TWWHAMP. This was subsequently endorsed without changes, (For more detail on this see 'TWWHAMP Review – reflections and update' in this issue of TNPA News).

We will shortly be hearing back from members of the informal combined ENGO's (Environmental Non Government Organisations) who attended the World Heritage Committee meeting in Bonn at the end of June/beginning of July.

One of the specific steps in the list of actions that the WHC requires the Tasmanian Government to address is that the Government provides adequate funding for managing the World Heritage Area.

In this issue of TNPA News we have reproduced a report released by the CPSU (Community and Public Sector Union) in February this year on the impact of cuts to the Parks and Wildlife Service. The drastic budget cuts, resulting in reduced staffing, mean that the agency struggles to effectively carry out its existing management and statutory responsibilities, let alone take on the further workload implied by the draft TWWHAMP and the Government's intention of 'opening up' National Parks to commercial tourism developments.

Earlier this year the media reported instances of illegal and destructive 4WD vehicle activity and other vandalism and damage in the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area. Some of this activity occurred at Easter when staff in the Arthur River PWS station consisted of one ranger, one field officer working in the Conservation Area and one person manning the visitor centre. There was no way that so few staff could monitor or control what was happening at this time of peak visitor numbers.

In keeping with the Federal Government's determination to carry out its agendas and muzzle those who try to oppose or speak out against its actions, the Government is currently holding an Enquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations. Following on from the defunding of the Environmental Defenders Offices (EDO's) across the country (the Tasmanian EDO is still keeping on – see article in this issue of TNPA News) in the early days of this current Coalition Government, the Federal Government now seeks to remove tax-deductibility status from any ENGO's (Environmental Non-Government Organisations) that dare to advocate on behalf of the environment or to educate and inform the public on environmental issues as distinct from organisations like Landcare, that focus on 'on ground' works such as tree planting, and avoid speaking out publicly on contentious issues. A representative of the TNPA appeared at the Hobart Public Hearing of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment's Enquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Catharine Errey (President, TNPA)

by Nick Sawyer

TWWHAMP Review
Reflections and Update

The deadline for the last issue of TNPA News was shortly before the close of public comment on the 2014 draft TWWHAMP on 22 March 2015. We now know that over 7600 submissions were received. Although there was no official breakdown into pro forma and individual submissions, Minister Matthew Groom stated that "there are hundreds of substantive and considered submissions" (Mercury 31 March 2015). This shows a remarkable level of public concern compared to the development of the (current) 1999 plan when the largest number of submissions received on any one of the three stages of public comment was 587.

The next stage of the legally defined plan review process is for the Director of Parks and Wildlife to prepare a report to the Tasmanian Planning Commission containing a summary and analysis of the submissions. The Planning Commission may choose to hold hearings to assist in its review of the representations.

The State government must be regretting its decision to remove almost all mention of wilderness from the draft plan. It succeeded in generating more discussion of wilderness in the popular media (mostly very supportive of keeping wilderness truly wild) than at any time since the Franklin campaign over thirty years ago, and its blatant attempt to use this issue to win the support of the Aboriginal community was revealed as hypocrisy when it simultaneously reopened 4WD tracks in the Tarkine which had previously been closed to protect Aboriginal heritage.

Statutory Powers

Tasmania's National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002 (NPRMA) provides that certain statutory powers may not be exercised on reserved land unless authorised by a management plan (these are powers granted by other legislation – e.g. Hydro's right to maintain existing infrastructure located on reserved land). Page 78 of the 2014 draft TWWHAMP made reference to a proposed (unspecified) amendment to the NPRMA to change the provisions relating to the exercise of statutory powers.

This may appear to be an arcane legal technicality of little importance but the statutory powers provisions of the NPRMA apply to all reserved land in Tasmania and the inability to resolve concerns related to the granting of statutory powers was the reason why the proposed TWWHAMP changes resulting from the 2007 mid-term review of the TWWHAMP were never implemented.

The State government has recently announced, with an absence of fanfare (a letter from ster Groom to conservation groups dated 3 June 2015), that it will not be proceeding with the proposed amendment. It is mysterious that the Minister has chosen to leave this apparently important issue unresolved but his motivation for doing so is not apparent.

World Heritage Committee

On 2 July 2015 at its meeting in Bonn UNESCO's World Heritage Committee expressed remarkably strong criticism of the 2014 draft TWWHAMP:

- Expresses concern over lack of substantial progress in the survey of cultural attributes in the TWWHA (requested by the WHC since 2013).
- Requests more information (obtained both through study and by consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community) on how cultural values relate to the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV's) of the property.
- Requests detailed information on how cultural heritage and sites are to be protected and managed.
- Requests a review of the MP to ensure that wilderness character is a key value and is fundamental to management of the property.
- Wants strict criteria for new tourism developments within the TWWHA to ensure that these are "in line with the primary goal of protecting the property's OUV, including its wilderness character and cultural attributes".
- States emphatically that commercial logging and mining cannot take place within the TWWHA.
- Requests that the State government provides adequate funding for managing the property.
- Requests that the Government invites a combined IUCN/ICOMOS[1] mission to visit the TWWHA to advise on revision of the MP.
- Requests that by 1 Feb 2016 the Tasmanian government submits an updated report on its progress in implementing these steps, including a revised draft MP which ensures adequate protection for the OUV's of the TWWHA.

1 The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) are the two bodies that provide expert advice to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

The Federal government's main concern had been that the Bonn meeting would inscribe the Great Barrier Reef on the World Heritage in danger list. They were clearly relieved when this was not recommended and it must have made them very reluctant to do anything which could reopen this debate – such as challenging the criticisms of the TWWHAMP.

The State government was quick to state that mining would not be permitted anywhere within the TWWHA. It is not apparent why the possibility was canvassed in the draft plan because there are no obvious areas of mineralisation to target, and even the Minerals Council had not lobbied for mining. Perhaps it was included in the draft purely so that its removal from the final plan could be portrayed as a concession to conservation interests.

The State government has not ruled out logging in the TWWHA. Large scale industrial logging is unlikely but the government has already endorsed special species timber harvesting in both Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves (see box). Special species timbers are those used in relatively small quantities by craftspeople such as wooden boat builders. It is likely that adequate supplies of these timbers could be sourced from existing forestry activities outside reserves but this lobby group has convinced the State government that they need special consideration. One individual has stated that the European boat building heritage of Tasmania should be recognised by UNESCO in a similar way to Aboriginal cultural heritage and afforded similar protection. It is unlikely that UNESCO will take this proposal any more seriously than the 2014 attempt to delist the recent TWWHA extensions but this will ensure that the issue remains on the political agenda for a while yet.

Timing

The expressions of interest in tourism developments process is still progressing. This process is separate to the plan review but most of the proposals cannot proceed under the current management plan so they are effectively on-hold until the revised plan takes effect.

The sheer volume of work required to summarise so many submissions, the inevitability of an enquiry by the Planning Commission, the UNESCO request for a revised draft plan by 1 February 2016 and the need to accommodate its monitoring mission all suggest that the government's original intention to have the new plan finalised by the end of 2015 is unlikely to be realised. The most sensible approach would be to abandon the 2014 draft TWWHAMP, wait for the revised statement of Outstanding Universal Values[2] , then start the planning process again using professional natural area planners who are being kept at arm's length from the Minister's office.

However, the political reality is that the government will lose too much credibility if it cannot point to some progress in "unlocking our parks and World Heritage areas" prior to the next election – they need the public to see something actually being developed, but what it is and how it will be approved remains to be seen.

Special Species (craft wood) Timber Harvesting

In late 2014 amendments to Tasmania's National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002 were passed to permit special species timber harvesting in both Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves. This means that special species timber harvesting could now be approved in any of the conservation areas within the TWWHA under the current (1999) TWWHAMP (there are no regional reserves within the area covered by the 1999 TWWHAMP).

A management plan cannot allow activities that are forbidden by legislation but it can impose additional restrictions i.e. the 1999 TWWHAMP could have explicitly banned any logging within the TWWHA but there was no need – special species timber harvesting was not permitted under the legislation so there was no need for the management plan to specifically exclude it. Neither does the 2014 draft TWWHAMP specifically exclude special species timber harvesting.

Advocates for special species timber harvesting usually portray it as having negligible environmental impact. It is true that it will usually have less impact than clear-felling large swathes of forest but it is hardly impact free – the special species logs will not be magically wafted from the forest to the sawmill – loggers will require on-ground access and the trees will mostly be cut and moved using conventional logging techniques and machinery, all of which will leave long-term scars.

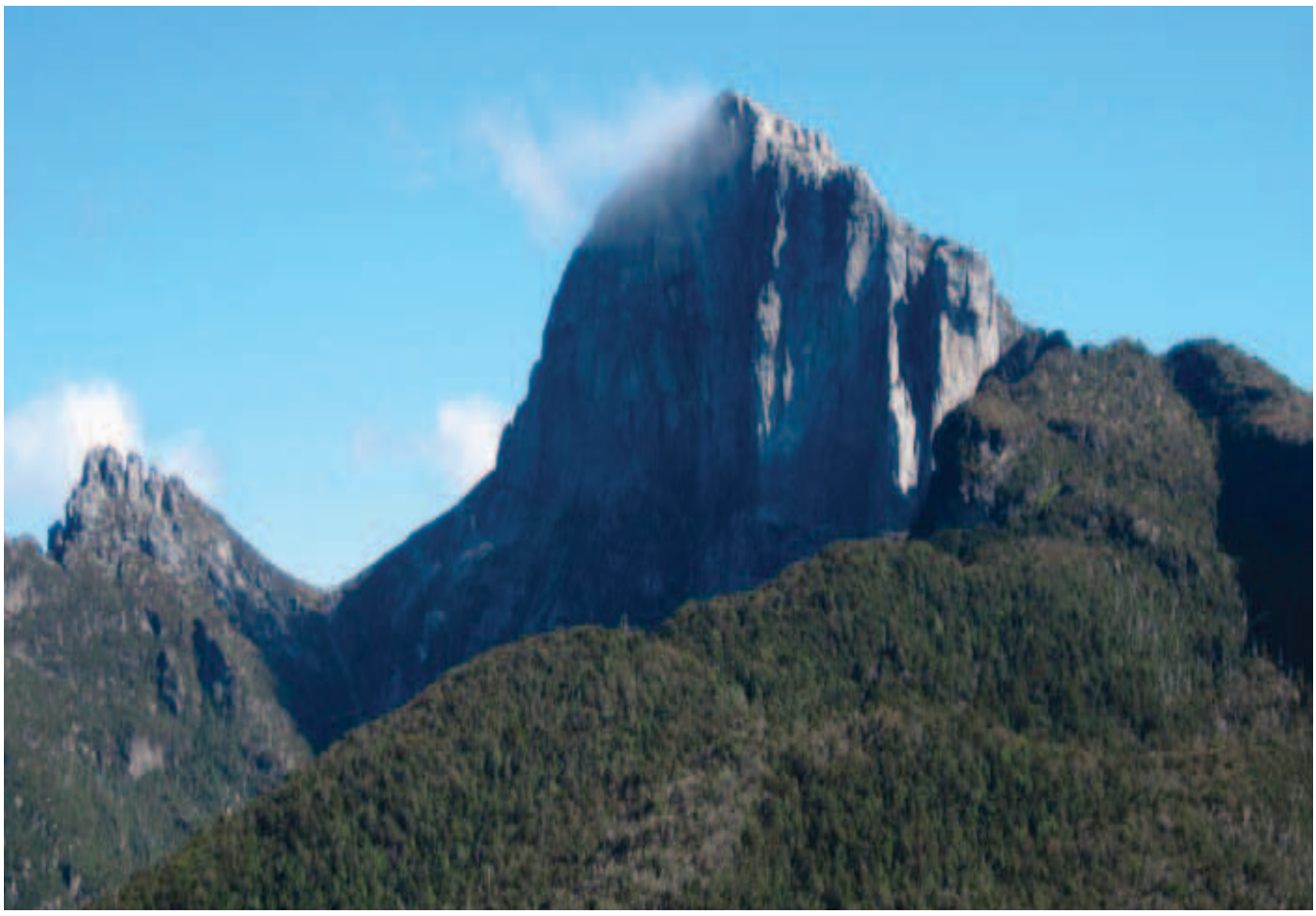
Any proposal for special species logging within the TWWHA would still need EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act) approval from the Federal government.

[2] *The Aboriginal values of the TWWHA have never been clearly articulated and the natural values are overdue for review.*

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

by Anne McConnell

Frenchmans Cap, Easter 2015



View of Frenchmans Cap, Easter 2015

An Easter bushwalk to Frenchmans Cap left me uplifted and inspired, but also saddened and not a little angry.

Having walked to Frenchmans Cap in 1984, with a quick trip in 1999, this year's trip was quite a stark contrast to the previous trips.

The Mountain was still there and as magnificent as ever – it certainly is a stunning mountain made even more beautiful by its setting in a sea of undeveloped forests, buttongrass plains, ridges and incised rivers. It was fantastic to have time enough to be able to head up to the summit, explore a few of Frenchmans Cap's tucked-away features – glacial lakes, rocky shelves and even some fagus.

The experience from Philps Lead on was a real joy – not only the scenery and environment, but the beautiful track work using local materials positioned and sculpted to echo the natural surrounds. This track work is masterful, almost art, and greatly enhances the walk while not being noticeable. So: Good!

Thank you to the Parks and Wildlife Service for maintaining access to this Tasmanian treasure, and for their foresight in commissioning the high quality track work in the 1990s from Philps Lead to the summit.

Not so good however is the new track work, which appears to be still in progress in spite of the track having been opened. The very high numbers of people attempting to get to Frenchmans Cap are also concerning from a management point of view, but it was interesting to note how few of the people who stayed at Vera Hut actually got to Frenchmans Cap, or even beyond Barron Pass. It would seem that the walk is considerably harder than people expect, and maybe there is need for it to be made clear that in spite of a new track section this is a challenging walk.

The new track from the Loddon Plains to where it joins the old Philps Lead Track is downright ugly. Although it may be okay to walk on when finally completed and the mutilated vegetation has grown back somewhat, it was not a pleasant experience: It is big

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Highly sensitive track work from the 1990s and 2000s –
L – Edge of Lake Vera; R –summit track

Recent track work: L – near the Philps Lead intersection;
R – a pretty basic and old fashioned approach to track cutting.

with many straight sections, as a mechanical excavator has been used. There is a lot of old fashioned highly visible duckboarding. There are sections with wide swathes of cut vegetation, which has then just been piled up beside the track (a bit like a mini logging coupe!) and, somewhat like the 'Road to Nowhere', the track winds around the slopes and has as few culverts or cross drains as possible (let's hope this is still work in progress).

Gone, clearly, is the sensitive work of recent years; there is poor stone work in the few places it occurs, poor drainage, and modern white plastic culvert pipes. But the pièce de résistance in unsympathetic work was at the far end where the track is a wide mechanically excavated berm (also with a very wide top drain) with a formation of plastic grid infilled with imported sorted gravel, all edged with pine planking, and all resting on a sheet of white geofabric with the edges left exposed and highly visible.

I have never walked on an uglier track in a national park, or a less appropriate one for a natural area national park (except maybe the new track to Cape Hauy). I couldn't believe my eyes. To the Parks and Wildlife Service: Please fix up this section of track and please don't continue this practice – it creates a highly negative experience, it reflects badly on the Service, and is not what such a magnificent place deserves or needs.

'Inspire Slide Night'
A TNPA Public Event

This event was held at the Dechaineux Lecture Theatre at the School of Art on 13 March 2015, shortly before the closing date for submissions on the TWWHAMP.

The focus of the evening was to celebrate the beauty and wonder of the TWWHA as well as to inform the public about its significant natural and cultural values.

The evening opened with a couple of songs performed by the Tasmanian Grassroots Union Choir, a group of singers who 'speak up' for what matters through the age-old medium of song.

Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick then spoke about the natural values of the TWWHA, Kevin Kiernan about its geoheritage values and Angie McGowan about the cultural values. It is worth noting that the values that these experts talked about covered most, if not all, of the OUV's (Outstanding Universal Values) for which the TWWHA was given World Heritage status.

Following the speakers the audience was treated to a slide montage – no words were needed here as these images, the work of outstanding Tasmanian wilderness photographers, reminded us that we must spare no effort to protect and conserve the TWWHA.

The TNPA would like to thank all those who contributed to this event.

TNPA REPORT

TNPA Autumn Walks Report

Hartz Walk *Photo: Catharine Errey*

TNPA's major annual public involvement event was organised this year by Rob Hill, who undertook this role with great enthusiasm. Rob was ably assisted by Toni Hill, who fielded many phone calls from potential punters.

This year there were eight walks, from late March through April. The walks varied from easy three to four km strolls to harder, longer alpine walks. There were seven walks coordinators and a total of 73 walkers.

The walks were:

Hartz Peak, led by Catharine Errey

An unhurried walk across the subalpine plateau before the ascent to the summit. The heights of Hartz Peak were swathed in cloud on this rather damp day so we did not have the panoramic views we'd hoped for. Despite this the group enjoyed each other's company as well as the tarns and rushing streams, testament to the area's high rainfall! There are some excellent Parks and Wildlife interpretation boards at the start of the walk.

Fern Tree to Waterworks, led by Rob Hill

This walk involved the use of public transport. Participants caught the bus to Fern Tree, where they were joined by a woman from Hong Kong who is involved in the tourist industry and showed great interest in interpretation boards and historical relics. During the Pipeline Track walk conversation centred on the TWWHA and the Government's proposed changes. The group visited the old farm site at McDermotts Saddle where the group reflected on the 1967 bushfires. Those who walked through to Hobart looked at the Korean War memorial in Linear Park and the Friendship Wall in the CBD.

Mt Direction, led by Rosie Bruce

Rosie's excellent local knowledge enhanced the experience of her group. They had good weather and enjoyed great views. Discussion centred on the very impressive cairn at the summit and also on the open plateau to the east of the summit, pondering whether this is treeless because of logging and grazing or is a natural 'high plain' (Editor's note: or the result of past Aboriginal burning practices).

TNPA REPORT

Summit of Mt Direction *Photo: Bec Johnson*

Mt Wellington, led by John Cannon

John is another bushwalk coordinator with a wealth of historical and walks knowledge. At the start of the walk the group was met by a young Frenchman who claimed to be a fortune teller. Maybe he was a weather man as he foretold a fine day ideal for walking – and he was right! Using a variety of tracks, the group walked to Sphynx Rock for morning tea, Kara Hut for lunch, and then via another track to the Organ Pipes Track and back to The Springs. On the way topics of conversation included TNPA programs, the TWWHA draft management plan and the proposed Mt Wellington cable car.

Big Tree Walk, Blue Tier, led by Lesley Nicklason

An easy walk in beautiful rainforest and now, not least because of the tireless efforts of the Friends of the Blue Tier, on a refurbished track. The TNPA much appreciates Lesley putting on a walk in this part of Tasmania each year.

Recherche Bay, led by Anne McConnell

The following is taken from Anne's report on the walk:

"Since it was a relatively short walk (c 5km) we walked from Cockle Creek. After a short introduction to the walk and history of the area we set off. The first kilometre is along a dirt road – to the bronze whale. From there the route is largely along the beach, with a few boulder sections to be negotiated near the points. Near the 'southern head' of Recherche Bay there is a dirt track through some coastal forest across the headland to a boulder beach which is just before Fishers Point, where there are the remains of a 1843 pilot station (and later pub).

"Recherche Bay is such a lovely coastal area, from the pale green waters of Cockle Creek estuary and the white sandy beaches, to the views to bays and headlands and wooded hills behind, and to the wooded northeast peninsula. To the northwest is the backdrop of the Southern Ranges with their wonderfully shaped peaks – Pindars Peak, Mt Leillateah and Mt La Perouse.

"It is not hard to see why the area is World Heritage, with part on the National Heritage List for its associative cultural landscape values related to the Aboriginal history of the area and to the 1790s visit of the French scientific expedition (who were also charged with determining what had happened to the earlier La Perouse expedition). It is however hard to imagine the early 1800s to mid 1900s history of the area which included coal mining, whaling (some 14 bay whaling stations were located in Recherche Bay in the mid 1800s) and the extensive timber extraction that took place with the associated sawmills. Today the area appears largely undeveloped apart from the few houses and grassy areas where people camp in summer, and a few archaeological remains along the coast. A great place to spend a day exploring."

TNPA REPORT

Thark Ridge Walk *Photo: Rob Hill*

Chauncy Vale *Photo: Cath Errey*

Chauncy Vale, led by Bec Johnson

Half of the large (twenty-two) group were children, many well known to Bec, so management was not a problem among the caves and rocks. The caretaker conducted a guided tour of the historic homestead. A great walk and annual favourite.

Thark Ridge, led by Rob Hill

The forecast for Mt Wellington was for -1 to +4 degrees with 25 – 35 kph westerly winds and the chance of a snow shower. Nevertheless the group of five decided to go ahead and found that the summit area was indeed cold but with no mist. They followed the new well marked track, detouring before ascending Thark Ridge to look for (and at) the site of the old Thark Hut. Lunch was taken at the Three Council Cairn and this was also the turn-around point.

One of the participants identified plant species along the way and others were keen on the history of the area. At each break the group found a natural garden that delighted their senses.

There were great views over the three Council areas and the rain hung off till the walkers were back at the car.

The walks were publicised through John Cannon's Saturday 'Mercury' article and the hundreds of flyers organised by Amy and distributed by her with help from Rob. Rob also made attractive posters and put these around.

Thark Ridge Walk *Photo: Rob Hill*

TALKING POINT

By Paul Smith

A Suggested Policy on Development Proposals for the TNPA Manifesto

The TNPA Committee is currently discussing whether or not to add the new policy set out below to the six policies it already has in its Manifesto (www.tnpa.asn.au: go to About us/ Manifesto and see its section 'Policy in Detail'). ****TNPA members are invited to comment on this policy before the end of August, especially as to whether they would like to see us adopt it.**

Such a policy would have TNPA start to address a fundamental ecological principle, one that affects all our work of protecting natural values. The principle is that supplying a demand (or want) ultimately tends, not to satisfy that want, but to increase it (and others as well). This principle holds especially strongly to wants for things that are essential to life, such as food, water and shelter from weather, pathogens and predators. It holds for all organisms, whether plant, animal, fungal, bacterial or viral. Humans are no exception: If our wants for essentials are supplied, they (and our other wants) grow. They do this because that supply does three things: it attracts other people to the place where it occurs; it supports their reproduction; and it encourages each individual supplied, to want more. The policy that is proposed to address this issue for TNPA is as follows.

New Policy

Preamble

New commercial activities in Tasmania's national parks and protected areas often damage their natural and cultural values. On the other hand, the politically legitimate social purpose of such projects - both inside and outside protected areas - is to satisfy some of the desires of Tasmanians for more income and more employment.

Policy

As new commercial developments do not satisfy citizens' desires for more income and more employment and are likely to increase those desires, TNPA opposes all such projects in protected areas unless there are effective measures in place to ensure that those commercial developments will actually satisfy these desires to some degree.

Explanation

In brief

The statement above, that 'new commercial developments do not satisfy citizens' desires for more income and more employment and are likely to increase those desires', contradicts conventional thought. This is because conventional thinking considers only the immediate effects of successful development projects and ignores the consequences of those effects. One of these consequences is that the extra income and employment from successful commercial projects in Tasmania makes the state a more attractive place to live in and this makes its population grow further - by encouraging in-migration and discouraging out-migration. Another consequence is that the boost to incomes enables per capita consumption to grow, which in turn elevates Tasmanians' expectations of future levels of consumption. These two consequences multiply together (rather than add up) to produce a substantial effect: The larger number of people is multiplied by the bigger average desire of each individual for consumption, producing an aggregate growth of desire for more income and more employment.

Further explanation

This process, by which development projects increase rather than satisfy desires for more income and more employment, comprises four positive feedback loops that link supply with demand. It is described in some detail in:

Paul E. Smith. 2009. "How Economic Growth Becomes a Cost: The Scarcity Multiplier." *Ecological Economics* 68(3): 710-718.

---------- **2014.** "How the false promise of economic growth destroys our environment." TNPA News 19 (Winter). Hobart: Tasmanian National Parks Association. (www.tnpa.asn.au)

In June 2016, a more detailed explanation will be available in chapter 5 of the forthcoming book:

Paul E. Smith. 2016. Rescuing Democracy: How public deliberation could minimize government failure. Brooklyn NY: Punctum Books.

The importance of this proposed policy can hardly be overestimated, as it strikes at the heart of the argument used by our opponents.

The 'effective measures' stipulated in the proposed new policy would be laws or regulations or government policies that help to prevent commercial development from increasing the population and/or personal expectations of consumption. Examples of such measures are discussed in the references given above.

It is important to be clear about what this proposed policy is not intended to do. It does not say that other objectives that people may have in supporting commercial development (or economic growth) will not be achieved by such development. Three possible such objectives are: To produce (1) a bigger population for the state; (2) bigger desires for consumption by each person in the state; (3) a bigger total desire for consumption across the state; (4) more wealth for entrepreneurs. As noted in the brief explanation above, it is accepted here that economic growth helps to fulfill the first three of these four possible objectives. The fourth is rather self-evidently true but is obviously questionable as an objective for government policy as it would have government providing private goods rather than public goods. Politicians or citizens claiming any of these four as their objectives will have a complicated (and arguably impossible) task in justifying them as being public goods that government should provide. Those issues could be addressed with other policies and if we did that we would be developing a comprehensive campaign against growth - a 'Steady State Economy' campaign.

The policy proposed here assumes that the main socially accepted (and justifiable) objective for governments to approve or reject commercial development is not one of the four listed immediately above, but is to satisfy (at least to some extent) the desires of citizens (in general) for more income and more employment. This objective is a familiar refrain of politicians, as in election campaign mantras such as Bill Clinton's 'It's the economy, stupid' and Will Hodgman's three priorities of 'Jobs, jobs, jobs'.

The proposed new policy would end at this point, but a discussion now follows to facilitate more thought on it.

Other observations on this proposal

As commercial development in the state (and also in the nation) that is outside protected areas also increases citizens' desires for more income and employment (just as it does when it occurs within those areas) it also produces more political pressure for development both within and outside those protected areas. To be consistent in minimizing such threat to the integrity of the state's (and the nation's) protected areas, TNPA could extend the proposed policy to read: "As new commercial developments…, TNPA opposes all such projects in the state (and nation) unless there are effective measures in place to ensure that those commercial developments will actually satisfy these desires to some degree."

However, as the most direct application of this policy for TNPA is to apply it to proposed commercial developments in protected areas only it has been worded that way here. The intention is to strengthen our arguments against commercial developments in protected areas by exposing the political intention of seeking and approving them as, at best delusional, or at worst as cynically deceptive. **The importance of this proposed policy can hardly be overestimated, as it strikes at the heart of the argument used by our opponents.** It shows their rationale to be misguided as it focuses entirely on the short term, ignoring the longer term objectives that society must consider for its future.

If the TNPA Committee wants to adopt this policy, we could inform other ENGOs in the state (and nation) and ask them to adopt it as well, preferably in the broader form suggested above that is not confined to protected areas.

Rather obviously, this policy clashes with the de facto policy of most environmentalists ever since the movement started, at least half a century ago. If TNPA wants to go ahead with this, it should approach the other ENGOs in this state, perhaps with a seminar so that we can discuss it with each other, face to face. I believe this new policy would eventually do a lot to explain our attitudes to both ourselves and to our opponents. It should also help the latter to understand how short-term and self-centred and their thinking is.

Know Your Parks and Reserves:

Peter Murrell Reserves
An Island of Bush in the Suburbs

Peter Murrell Reserves: White gums, Coffee Creek Dam *Photo: Catharine Errey*

When we consider our National Parks and reserves we tend to think of places that are away from where we, or others, live. However there are also reserved areas managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service that are adjacent to, and in some cases surrounded by, the built environment. The Peter Murrell Reserves, at Huntingfield, a short distance south of Hobart, are an example of such reserves.

Note: The area is known as 'Reserves', in the plural, because it consists of three reserves, each with a different reserve status: The Peter Murrell State Reserve, The Peter Murrell Conservation Area and a small Public Reserve. The total area is 277 hectares and is one land management unit, the Parks and Wildlife Service being the managing authority.

Locality

The Reserves are part of the Huntingfield Estate, within Kingborough Municipality. They are surrounded by the urban areas of Huntingfield, Blackmans Bay and Howden and not far from Kingston.

History

Most of the area encompassed by the Reserves had been earmarked for housing development but an area of approximately 270 hectares of this was set aside for conservation and recreation purposes. This was in large part because of lobbying by people in the community, who recognised the conservation and recreational significance of the area. Community involvement and support for the reserves was key to their establishment and continues to be vital to their ongoing viability and protection.

The initial proclamation (Peter Murrell Nature Reserve) took place in 1997 with various additions and changes of reserve status happening over the next few years.

Because it was recognised from the outset that community support and involvement was essential, at the establishment of the reserves an Interim Management Strategy was developed, with input from a range of interest groups. The Co-Management Group included representatives from the Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Sport and Recreation, Kingborough Council, the Huntingfield Coffee Creek Landcare Group, the Channel Fire Management Area Committee, Margate Primary School, Tarremah Steiner School, a range of recreational and sporting groups, and individual local residents.

The Reserves were named after the late Peter Murrell, first director of the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Special Features

The Peter Murrell Reserves 'tick a lot of boxes', including: preserving natural values; protecting threatened plant communities and species (both floral and faunal); providing a recreational exercise and sporting* area for the surrounding community; an educa-

Peter Murrell Reserves: Black peppermint woodland *Photo: Catharine Errey*

tional and study resource for students – from local primary schools through to postgraduate; and, as with all conservation reserves, giving the public a place to reconnect with the natural environment. There is an extensive network of tracks and trails.

*Activities such as horseriding are permitted only in designated areas of the Peter Murrell Conservation Area whereas jogging, cycling etc. are allowed in the Peter Murrell State Reserve.

The reserves are increasingly being recognised as an important asset for local residents.

Natural Values

The Reserves have high biodiversity and include a wide range of regionally important plant communities, including:

- Black peppermint-heathy woodland
- White gum forest (especially along the creek lines)
- Closed heath (very dense) and sedgelands (including button grass, which most people associate with high rainfall areas in the west and south of Tasmania)

Over 200 native plant species have been identified in the reserves – including a large number of orchids.

A small population of Acacia gunnii (ploughshare wattle) was indentified only after the establishment of the Reserves, following a controlled burn.

A wide range of mammals, reptiles, frogs and invertebrates inhabits the area and the many species of birds which have been identified in the Reserves include the endangered forty-spotted pardalote.

The southern section of the Peter Murrell Reserve/Conservation Area is a stronghold for the Tasmanian Chaostola Skipper, a butterfly which is a listed threatened species.

It is worth noting that the Friends of the Peter Murrell Reserves (formerly the Huntingfield Coffee Creek Landcare Group), keeps species lists of birds, plants, fungi etc. which its members have identified in the Reserves.

Community Co-Management Group

The Parks and Wildlife Service is the managing authority for the Reserves. As mentioned above, the Community Co-Management Group has played a vital role in management right from the start.

The group provides a forum for discussion on management and recreational use of the Reserves and for working through any conflicts or problems that arise.

The group has helped to guide planning for the Reserves and has worked on some of the key issues, including fire management works, trail bike riding policy and reserve boundaries.

The group has also been successful in obtaining funding for various works and projects in the Reserves, including Natural Heritage Trust funding for a Project Officer and on-ground works relating to weed management and the rehabilitation of degraded areas. (This last was secured through the efforts of the Huntingfield Coffee Creek Landcare Group - now Friends of Peter Murrell Reserves).

Friends of the Peter Murrell Reserves

The contribution made by this group has been mentioned above. These very knowledgeable, committed and active volunteers continue their ongoing work of fighting the 'war on weeds', a huge and unending task in reserves with such extensive 'edges' butting up against areas cleared of natural vegetation. At the same time members of the group are constantly observing, identifying and adding to the lists of species that they keep. The group has regular meetings with the Park ranger. They play an advocacy role for the reserves and are active in promoting awareness and appreciation of them. They run interpretative walks for the public, with an emphasis on flora and birdlife.

The existence of such a committed group could be seen as an advantage of a reserve's having proximity to a residential area: 'In sight=in mind'.

Management Issues

Being an 'island' the Peter Murrell Reserves are subject to a large number of pressures, including:

- Phytophthera (root fungus)
- Adjoining development pressures, including stormwater issues
- Services such as sewerage and water lines
- Dumping of rubbish, including of garden waste (source of weeds)
- Fire
- Vandalism
- Weed invasion
- Feral animals and domestic pets
- Silting and run-off degrading waterways and contributing to dieback in riparian plants, including white gums
- Access control (motor vehicles and bikes)
- Proposals to use the reserves, or parts of them, for housing developments, roads, service lines etc.

Conclusion

The Peter Murrell Reserves show that it is possible to strike a balance between conservation and recreation in an urban reserve - but only if there is a very strong commitment by the managing authority along with high levels of support and hands-on engagement by the community – and a good working relationship between management and community.

CPSU Report

Report on the Impact of Budget Cuts on the Parks & Wildlife Service

February 2015

This report was produced by the CPSU (Community & Public Sector Union) Tasmania and is reproduced here with the permission of the authors.

Introduction

Cuts to the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) are not only threatening the loss of cultural and environmental values from our Parks, Reserves and World Heritage Areas but are also placing the health and safety of visitors and staff in jeopardy.

As Parks and Wildlife management pushes ahead with job cuts resulting from a $2.5 million budget cut, staff are desperate to tell the community how further job losses will impact on services.

A Legislative Council inquiry into the operation of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service released in November 2012 noted the service was then funded at around $10 per hectare of land under management when comparable organisations across the country were funded at more than twice that rate. The report suggested an increase to $16 per hectare would be a more appropriate level of funding. The report also found that any increase in management responsibilities for PWS would require a substantial increase in ongoing resourcing.

In November 2013, 221,000 ha of reserves were transferred from Forestry Tasmania to PWS and an additional 97,000 ha of new reserves created under the Tasmanian Forest Agreement were also allocated to PWS for management. Funding of $3.5 million was provided to manage these reserves for the financial years 2014/15 – 2017/18. This money was largely used to employ former Forestry Tasmania staff and provide additional staff in field centres responsible for managing the new reserves and to establish an additional fire crew.

In recent times the Tasmanian government has announced policies to open our Parks, Reserves and World Heritage Areas up to greater commercial activity. The World Heritage Plan is being reviewed, a process has been implemented to bring forward business ideas and consideration is being given to allowing greater access to 4WD recreation. All these things have implication for the workload of PWS staff.

PWS has now indicated staff numbers will need to be reduced by 25 – 30 positions to deliver the $2.5 million of savings the government requires this year.

Impact on Services

While the PWS Minister Matthew Groom claims that the service 'has the money to deliver its core business' and says 'the organization will still be able to protect and promote Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife', staff on the ground have a very different view. When asked what impacts they expected should further PWS jobs be cut they highlighted the following:

Significantly reduced capacity to respond to fire events

As the number of staff falls in the field centres the ability of that field centre to rapidly and safely deal with wildfires is significantly reduced. PWS is the lead Agency when it comes to responding to fires on land it manages. While PWS have engaged an additional fire crew its focus is on implementing the government's fuel reduction burning program and can't substitute for numbers of highly experienced staff, particularly those with specialist incident management team skills, available across field centres, especially on days of high fire risk. The reduced firefighting capacity at PWS is exacerbated by the significant reduction in firefighting capacity at Forestry Tasmania and fewer forest contractors with specialized fire rated equipment who have been able to respond to events in the past.

Downgrading in priority for weed management

The encroachment of weeds into Parks and Reserves is a big issue and if left unmanaged can result in a rapid loss of conservation values. All field centres have significant weed management programs but past experience shows that when resources are squeezed tasks such as weed management slide down the priority list. The transfer of former Forestry Tasmania reserves to PWS management has also placed additional urgency on weed management as many of these reserves share boundaries with farm land and other land where weeds are a particular problem and weed seed stocks. If left unmanaged the values for which the reserve has been set aside can quickly be diminished.

Insufficient staff available to safely respond to emergency situations

With visitor numbers to our Parks and Reserves increasing by 11% in 2013/14 and the government aiming to increase it by a further 5% in 2014/15 there are often very high numbers of visitors

in these centres. It is not unusual to have 1000 – 1500 tourists in a field centre on a given day doing a whole range of increasingly complex activities. On some occasions there may only be one or two PWS staff on duty – insufficient to respond should an emergency arise.

An example of this would be Lake St Clair. As well as staffing the visitor centre and collecting entrance fees staff are also responsible for cleaning toilets, emptying bins, responding to SES call outs, responding to local and regional accidents, including crashes on the Lyell Highway, responding to missing walker callouts, responding to fire callouts and liaising with the local fire brigade, launching the boat to assist visitors in difficulty further up the lake, supporting and monitoring tourism operators such as the Pumphouse Point resort or the float plane service to the resort, and working with a whole range of business and volunteer groups.

If a number of issues arise at once staff can be placed in dangerous situations trying to respond alone to those issues and delays in responding put visitors in risky situations.

Reduced capacity to support local tourism operators

Consistent with government policies an increasing number of businesses are basing their activities around our Parks, Reserves and World Heritage Areas. Liaising with tourism operators and ensuring their activities can occur safely, in a manner that is consistent with the conservation values of the area and doesn't interfere with other users is a complex and increasingly time consuming activity.

Many field centres have at least a dozen regular businesses they support and during peak season this number can be far higher. The government are currently considering 37 business ideas put forward by potential operators and even if only a small percentage of these eventually proceed it will create a large workload for PWS staff, particularly in the first few years.

Closure of sites as a result of inability to safely maintain infrastructure

PWS has a number of responsibilities arising under the Civil Liabilities Act 2002. This Act came about as a result of the Cave Creek disaster where a scenic viewing platform in the Paparoa National Park in New Zealand collapsed, resulting in the deaths of 14 people. PWS also has an obligation to build and maintain its infrastructure in accordance with the Building Code of Australia.

To comply with its statutory obligations PWS has an engineering inspection program that assesses all raised structures at least once each five years. Where any risk is identified through this program it is up to the local manager to assess the risk and if the risk can't be removed or mitigated the only option is to close the site. With reduced staffing fewer risks will be able to be addressed and therefore more sites will be closed.

The same risk assessment process applies to roads and tracks. If tree management is not undertaken and the risk of a limb or tree falling over the road or track exists then local managers need to decide how high the risk is and whether the road or track should be closed until proper tree management can occur. This will of course be further delayed if the local, experienced tree faller has just been made redundant or is required to prioritise emptying garbage bins ahead of track maintenance.

Reduced capacity to undertake enforcement activities

Illegal 4WD access, illegal firewood harvesting, the taking of wildlife such as mutton birds, people exercising dogs in wetland reserves or near penguin rookeries and the dumping of rubbish, including hazardous materials such as asbestos or chemicals, are all on the increase.

Without a comprehensive enforcement program these activities become commonplace and will rapidly diminish the natural and cultural values that our Parks and Reserves are set aside to protect. With a reduction in experienced and authorized staff available in the field centres it is impossible to undertake adequate enforcement activities, thereby allowing activities that threaten reserve values to continue unchecked.

Parks & Wildlife Service – Stats at a glance

Total income ($,000)

2013/14	$46,820
2014/15	$48,572*
2015/16	$47,811**
2016/17	$50,379***

Staffing

2013	285.79 FTE
2014	314.54 FTE****

Tasmanian Reserve Estate

As at 30 June 2014 the Tasmanian Reserve Estate comprised a total terrestrial reserved area of 3,414,000 hectares, or 50.1% of the area of Tasmania. If Marine Protected Areas are included this increases the total reserve area to 3,607,200 hectares.

*plus specific funding of 0.5M for 3 Capes, 3.5 for TFA reserve management and 4M fuel reduction burns

**plus specific funding of 2m for 3 Capes, 3.5M for TFA reserve management, 6.5M fuel reduction burns and 0.43M Highfield House

***plus specific funding of 1M for 3 Capes, 3.5M for TFA reserve management, 9M fuel reduction burns

****increase in FTE resulting from transfer of staff from Forestry Tasmania to manage forest reserves

By Terry Reid

A Winter's Tale

Make a coffee, settle back and, hopefully, find this tortuous, meandering reflection somewhat interesting and entertaining food for thought and, of course, with a moral lesson at the end, reminiscent of those childhood stories we all read.

Setting the scene.

At Easter this year I was concluding my fifth season as the Track Ranger in Frenchmans Cap National Park. I do this each year as it provides the funds to maintain Fraser Creek and Raglan huts (see *Note on author*, below). I am becoming increasingly frustrated and annoyed at the growing number of selfish, gear-spreading, hut-hogging bushwalkers who quite deliberately leave a mess and rubbish and use copious amounts of, but never replace, kindling, leave rubbish at campsites and along the track and so on.

So being pretty jaded it was a pleasure to spend an evening at Lake Tahune Hut with old bushwalking friends who also happen to be involved with the TNPA. Good company and lively discussion.

An enjoyable evening and, of course, politics got a guernsey, and inevitably, as currently happens everywhere in Tasmania, this wide-ranging conversation included the topic of a certain (now independent) Tasmanian female Senator.

I said that I sincerely doubted that this Senator could ever achieve for the environment in Tasmania, anything like Senator Brian Harradine did in similar circumstances. Everyone then demanded an explanation, an expansion on my throwaway line.

Anyway after my telling the following tale Anne requested that I submit it for publication in the TNPA newsletter, so here it is.

It is really just a precis of what some might say are tenuous links to the fantastically successful eradication of introduced and widespread cats, rabbits, rats and mice from Macquarie Island.

So the story begins:

I wintered on Macquarie Island in 1993 as a Ranger with the Parks and Wildlife Service. Amongst a multitude of tasks, culling cats was a high priority. I mused long and hard during those winter nights, alone in the scattered, atmospheric and charming field huts around the island, about the apparent futility of having only one Ranger on the island over winter. An incredibly rugged landscape, steep terrain, windy, wet and often with snow and ice, short daylight hours - all hampered work but clearly it also meant that you could only work one area at a time.

I'd long decided to strongly recommend in my final report upon returning to Hobart that the tourist landing fee currently used to fund a second Ranger on the island for summer be directed instead to doubling the wintering crew.

This was actually adopted two years on with an immediate positive impact on further reducing the cat numbers, and may have been a tipping point except that, more importantly, news came late in the following summer that Max Laughlin, the Director of the Parks and Wildlife Service, was visiting Macquarie Island on the final ship visit which was taking the summerers and long winterers back to Hobart.

It was really fortunate for me as a relatively new Ranger at the time, to be able to spend some of that summer on Macquarie Island with the legendary Nigel Brothers. As Nigel and I crossed paths and spent time together at various field huts that summer we discussed long into the night the whole issue of cats, whether the programme could ever succeed, the pluses and minuses, what was needed, the long term benefit of the programme to the island etc etc.

Nigel was to leave on an earlier ship and stressed so very powerfully to me that the opportunity to "chew the Director's ear as a captive audience on the island" would never come again and that I must carefully, diplomatically and forcibly ensure that whilst on the island and the ship to Hobart Max got the message. The old teaching adage: "Tell'em what you are going to tell 'em, tell 'em, then tell 'em what you told 'em". Good reinforcement. No misunderstanding of the message. Or as a current politician would be advised, stay on message.

Noel Carmichael, who was to stay on as the wintering Ranger and I, who had just wintered and was heading home, managed to get Max out in the field overnight at Bauer Bay Hut via Sandy Bay. He was accompanied by the PWS media person Steve Robertson.

This was an unbelievably great opportunity to fully explain without distractions every aspect of the programme's shortcomings:

The enormity of the task, inadequate funding, different techniques, staff selection, lack of field huts to cover the west coast and so on.

You cannot winter on Macquarie without becoming a very strong and passionate advocate for this amazing place.

I will not go into the details but it did take some real negotiation over an extended period to get that overnight trip sorted with the Antarctic Division.

Anyway within a few weeks of returning to my position in Queenstown I got an invitation from Max to join all the "Macquarie Island Players" at a round table in Hobart. The upshot was that the representative from Environment Australia came prepared and promised a small amount of money to fund a "Macquarie Island Cat Abatement Plan". This was subsequently completed by Jenny Scott who worked tirelessly and produced a very detailed, workable, costed plan. The figure was set at $1 million so of course it immediately started gathering dust on a shelf somewhere in HO.

Let's move forward a few years. We find Senator Brian Harradine with the casting vote on the Howard Government's Partial Sale of Telstra Bill. One of Senator Harradine's rock solid conditions was a "bucket of money" for Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) projects in Tasmania.

Environment Australia in Canberra was absolutely frantic for "shovel ready" projects. Jenny Scott's Macquarie Island Cat Abatement Plan was located, dusted off and submitted. A million dollars and a few years later and the cats were gone. Staff of six makes a huge difference, as well as purposely located temporary field huts and new equipment.

I wintered again in 2001, with, ironically, five colleagues and two dogs and we combed the island month after month and never saw a cat.

And incidentally, in connection with Frenchmans Cap National Park, many bushwalkers are impressed with the Lake Vera Hut. Back at this time NHT funding was used to strip and fully insulate the hut as well as to make internal improvements.

The successful cat eradication programme was used very strongly when arguing for the $25 million required for the integrated rabbit, rat and mouse eradication programme. Basically runs on the board and an excellent submission go a long way. Eventually the Federal and State governments provided $12.5 million each. I was actually acting as the Macquarie Island Executive Officer at the time funding was announced and figured that with Keith Springer in charge of the project and knowing his knowledge, skill, experience and commitment I could retire believing that the work was in good hands and would be successful.

I came back as the seasonal Track Ranger in Frenchmans Cap a few years later, mainly to allow the local Ranger staff to concentrate on the Dick Smith funded trackwork.

So you see, I claim that a prolonged conversation on Macquarie Island with Max Laughlin, at Nigel Brothers' insistence, in April 1994, ultimately led to the eradication of cats, rabbits, rats and mice from the island.

OK it is a long bow to draw that conclusion but if you see me wandering around with a bit of a smug look on my face you'll know why.

Also please do not believe the false premise that eradication of the cats led to an explosion in rabbit numbers. Totally wrong - but that is another story for another day.

Now to the moral of this tale, and it is simply this: Sometimes we think, "What difference will it make? I'm only one person and it will not change a thing". But even as an absolutely minor player in the overall scheme of things you never really know what difference a word or comment or a well researched, crafted letter or Email might make or where it could lead. You have no idea of the twists and turns and ultimate outcome of that initial action.

I hope this inspires you.

Footnote:

It is now time to start seriously agitating for science to deliver an answer to the vexed issue of feral cats in Tasmania, Australia-wide for that matter. A species-specific contraceptive maybe?

Islands can be dealt with, and I thank Rob Pennicott for being a major supporter of the successful Tasman Island cat eradication programme.

Maria Island should be next.

Note on the author:

Terry Reid grew up in Queenstown. His working life started with an electrical apprenticeship in the mine. Quite a few years later, and with a variety of jobs under his belt, Terry got a three month temporary Ranger position with the PWS (Parks and Wildlife Service). This was the start of an eighteen year career with the PWS. During that time he worked mostly as Senior Ranger in Queenstown but also did stints on Maria Island, at Strahan, on Macquarie Island and as manager of the Fox Task Force. For the last 5 years Terry has worked seasonally as Track Ranger in Frenchmans Cap National Park.

Terry is also well-known for his voluntary work in hut restoration and maintenance, most notably the Fraser Creek Hut, near Queenstown. Terry has had an almost 40 year association with this historic bush hut and has involved scouts, schools and many others in its restoration and maintenance as well as giving people the opportunity to visit the hut and experience this part of Tasmania and learn about its history.

The Environmental Defenders Office
We Need It More Than Ever

The EDO continues to play a crucial role, mostly from behind the scenes, in providing legal advice for groups and individuals battling to protect and preserve not only our National Parks and reserves, but also, as can be seen from the list below, cultural heritage, environmental protection, rural livelihoods – and our right to protest.

The EDO is now totally dependent on public support and donations for its survival.

Using the law to protect the environment

Twelve months since losing Federal funding, EDO Tasmania hasn't slowed down. Here are just some of the things they've achieved:

- Successfully challenging a decision regarding storage of acid mine waste in the Tarkine
- Securing an interim injunction preventing 4WDs damaging sensitive cultural heritage areas on the West Coast (and their work continues with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to permanently stop the tracks from being opened)
- Assisting a wide range of groups have their say regarding proposed changes to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area management plan
- Helping farmers and rural landowners understand their rights when faced with mining proposals on their land
- Helping to oppose the anti-protest legislation and advocating for an extension of the moratorium on fracking activities
- Standing up against moves to delegate Federal environmental approval powers to the Tasmanian government
- Advocating for more effective environmental laws, better regulation of forestry and aquaculture, and a planning system that addresses environmental issues and involves the public in decision-making
- Providing advice to people from all over Tasmania concerned about their local environment
- Keeping Tasmanians informed about laws, policies and proposals that may affect them

With the current development pressures on our precious places, including Tasmania's National Parks, it's a critical time for the community to have access to expert legal advice. But EDO Tasmania can't continue providing its services without public support.

There are various ways you can make a tax deductible donate from a one-off contribution, to monthly giving, see www.edotas.org.au/donate-to-edo.

Lake Judd, South-West National Park *Photo: Nick Sawyer*

Lake Judd has been named as a floatplane landing site in one of the expressions of interest for commercial tourism proposals within the TWWHA.

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. For this issue thanks to Anne McConnell, Nick Sawyer, Paul Smith and Rob Hill. Original articles in TNPA News may be reproduced, but please acknowledge the author and source.

Contributions to TNPA News No.22 are welcome (deadline 20 Nov 2015). Please send contributions to: admin@tnpa.asn.au (attention: TNPA News editor).

This newsletter was correct as at 27 July 2015.

Editor TNPA News 21: Catharine Errey

Newsletter production by Ricoh Business Centre Hobart

Lake Petrarch, Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park. *Image by Nick Sawyer*

Lake Petrarch has been named as a floatplane landing site in one of the expressions of interest for commercial tourism proposals within the TWWHA.

Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc

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Treasurer: Patsy Jones

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Other committee members: Robert Campbell, Nick Sawyer

Contact Details

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

Email: admin@tnpa.asn.au

Website: www.tnpa.asn.au

Phone: TNPA Secretariat 0427 854 684

Meetings

Management Committee meetings are usually held one Monday each month at 5.30pm. Members and supporters are welcome. Meeting dates and venue will be advertised in each TNPA Communique or please check with the Secretariat (see contact details, above).

Have your say...

ABC Local Radio: Mornings - Leon Compton
tasmornings@your.abc.net.au or 1300 222 936

Letters to the Editor at The Mercury
mercuryedletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au or
GPO Box 334 Hobart 7001

Letters to the Editor at The Examiner
mail@examiner.com.au or PO Box 99A Launceston 7250

Letters to the Editor at The Age
letters@theage.fairfax.com.au

Premier will.hodgman@parliament.tas.gov.au

Minister for Environment, Parks & Heritage
matthew.groom@parliament.tas.gov.au

Opposition (Labour) Spokesperson on Parks
craig.farrell@parliament.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Greens Spokesperson on Parks
nick.mckim@parliament.tas.gov.au