TNPA NEWS

TASMANIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION INC

Newsletter No 7 Spring 2006

Ralphs Bay Conservation Area, photos by Ray Thomas

From the President's Pen:

Let's Celebrate Our Natural Heritage,

Not Sell it off to Developers

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Tasmania's two oldest national parks. Both Mount Field National Park and Freycinet National Park were formally reserved on 29 August 1916. Since then Tasmania's reserve system has grown extensively. There are now 19 national parks, 78 nature reserves, 23 nature recreation areas, 12 game reserves, 29 historic sites, 60 state reserves, 21 regional reserves, 180 conservation areas and 23 private nature reserves, with some of these reserves included in Tasmania's two World Heritage Areas, the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA and Macquarie Island WHA.

In total these reserves account for about 37% of the land area of Tasmania. Not only do they help protect Tasmania's unique fauna and flora, they also give Tasmanians and visitors to the state access to one of the world's great natural reserve systems. This is something all Tasmanians should take great pride in and celebrate.

While we celebrate the achievements of these past ninety years, we nevertheless need to remain alert to the ongoing threats to this reserve system. Each piece of the reserve, from the larger national parks to the small pocket-sized conservation areas, are

THANK YOU

The TNPA Committee would like to thank the following people who have recently volunteered their time to assist the TNPA, or who have helped us in other ways, over the last six months. We are very grateful for this assistance as without this help the TNPA would not be able to undertake the range of activities it does.

- Jo Carswell
- Lisa Kavanagh
- Eleanor Patterson
- Jamie Kirkpatrick
- Jenny Scott
- Debbie Quarmby
- Sharon Moore
- Eleanor Patterson
- Luna Ostereich
- Greg Buckman
- Ricoh Business Centre Hobart

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- Dave Wanless
- Cathy Hutchinson
- Hobart Old Time String Band
- Will Fletcher

Kevin Doran for presenting terrific images and stories on Federation Peak at the Stanley Burbury. This was a great fundraiser for the TNPA and an inspiring night out.

Fundraising supporters

Hobart Book Shop
The Tasmania Map Centre
The South Hobart Butcher

The Great Australian Bushwalk leaders and supporters

- Christine Corbett
- Michael Dempsey
- Lesley Nicklason
- Catharine Errey
- Matt Conolan
- Rob Hill
- Rebecca Johnson
- Greg Buckman
- Jayne Balmer
- Chris Waugh
- Wildcare

Thank you as well to the outgoing TNPA committee for the fantastic work they have done in the past year (ed.).

Inside:

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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

important elements in the still-to-be-completed reserve matrix, as each has been recognised and acknowledged as providing protection to an element of Tasmania's natural heritage. A threat to one element of this system is a threat to the whole.

In this regard the Sydney-based Walker Corporation's proposal to build a residential marina within Ralphs Bay on Hobart's eastern shore needs to be wholeheartedly rejected. Whilst the proposal is still to be assessed by the Resource Planning and Development commission, the fact that the development would destroy the conservation values of the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area and further threaten an already endangered species, the spotted handfish, is disturbing to say the least and shows an arrogant disregard by the present state government to the conservation of Tasmania's natural heritage.

Spotted handfish (*Brachionichthys hirsutus*) are small, unusual, slow-moving fish that prefer to 'walk' on their pectoral and pelvic fins rather than swim. The pectoral or side fins are leg-like with their extremities resembling a human hand (hence their common name). The spotted handfish was one of the first Australian fish known to science, with the earliest collections made in the late 1700s. Once commonly encountered in the Derwent River estuary, it has since declined in distribution and abundance. All

Tasmanian handfish were protected under the state's *Living Marine Resources Act 1995* and the spotted handfish was protected under the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act 1996*. The Tasmanian *State of the Environment Report 2004* lists the spotted handfish as teetering on the brink of extinction.

In early 1996, dive and trawl surveys covering 57 sites recorded only seven spotted handfish across their previous range while subsequent surveys by CSIRO located three small and highly restricted colonies. The cause of the decline remains unclear but the biggest threats are seen to be from illegal collectors, habitat disturbance by dredge or net fishing and from the introduced seastar. Sediment and silt thrown up into the water column during the construction and longer term dredging of canals for the proposed Ralphs Bay development, together with the release of heavy metals that are bound in the sediment, are likely to have a toxic effect on handfish. With so few sites with handfish in the Derwent, and with so few handfish altogether, loss of the Ralphs Bay population would not only significantly increase the risk of overall extinction but would also threaten the genetic diversity of the population.

Under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, the stated management objectives of the class of reserved land deemed a conservation area include (a) to conserve natural biological diversity; (k) to protect the conservation area against,

Ralphs Bay Conservation Area, photo by Ray Thomas

and rehabilitate the conservation area following, adverse impacts such as those of fire, introduced species, diseases, and soil erosion on the conservation area's natural values; and (l) to encourage appropriate use consistent with the conservation of the conservation area's natural and cultural values. The Ralphs Bay Conservation Area is clearly an important element in the conservation of the biological diversity of the spotted handfish, and given that the above Act requires that we protect such areas against adverse impacts, and given that the construction of the Ralphs Bay development would be in breach of all these management objectives, one can only wonder why such a development has not already been rejected by the Government!

The obligation to conserve the state's natural heritage is clearly articulated in the *Tasmanian Nature Conservation Strategy 2002-2006* which states: "While Tasmania is in the enviable position of possessing considerable natural beauty and having a diversity of natural resources, there is a responsibility to prevent further loss of species and habitats and the destruction of important ecosystems upon which the state's social and economic wellbeing depends. ... Our natural elements are what make Tasmania unique – they deserve respect and careful management".

Already 33 native plants and animal species are extinct in Tasmania, with another 600 species being threatened. If the spotted handfish becomes extinct it would be the first marine fish species to become extinct in the records of human history – no doubt bringing international condemnation to Tasmania. Surely we have a duty of care to ensure the long-term survival of this species.

The above strategy states that "most of the processes which have lead to species becoming threatened are still operating and action is urgently needed to manage them" and "human actions represent the greatest threat to plant and animal survival and habitat." The 'Guiding Principles' identified to prevent further loss state that successful protection requires identifying, preventing and reducing threats together with a system of ecologically viable reserves. For the spotted handfish, together with the other species which inhabit this area (including rare wading birds), the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area provides one element of the protection required – the other element is that the threats to the area, such as the present development proposal, also be eliminated.

Unfortunately, the attitude towards the conservation issues associated with Ralphs Bay continues a sad assault on Tasmania's protected areas during the present Bacon/Lennon Labor government in order to appease the mainly interstate development lobby.

"Already 33 native plants and animal species are extinct in Tasmania, with another 600 species being threatened."

In 2000 the WHA Management Plan was altered to allow for a development at Cockle Creek East within the Southwest National Park, whilst in 2004 the *Freycinet National Park Management Plan* was amended to allow for the siting of a dam to supply water to the Federal Hotels development at Coles Bay. A proposal for a development at Pump House Point within the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park is also presently being considered. One needs to ask what national park or other reserve will be next?

These recent incursions follow equally sad precedents set by previous state governments, and include the *National Park and Florentine Valley Act 1950* which revoked the western, forested section of the Mt Field National Park (15,860 ha), excisions from the Hartz Mountain National Park in both 1952 and 1958, followed by the Hartz-Precipitous Bluff swap of over 2150 ha in 1976, apparently to compensate Australian Paper Manufacturers for the loss of logging rights in adjacent forests after the inclusion of Precipitous Bluff in the Southwest National Park (despite the government being able to legally revoke such concessions at any time without compensation). Commenting on this event, Les Southwell in his book *The Mountains of Paradise* wrote "That it [the government] was now prepared to confiscate part of a national park instead was a clear indication of the weight given to the forest industries and the attitude of the ruling politicians to resource-exploitation in general."

Today, it would appear that tourism and property developers have joined the queue waiting for state governments to hand over public reserves for private gain.

As illustrated by the loss of Lake Pedder in the 1970s, nothing appears to be safe. Tasmania's 'empty quarter', with Lake Pedder the jewel at its heart, was supposedly safe after the region was proclaimed a national park in 1955. However, after the announcement in the mid-1960s that the lake would be "modified", and the passing of the Gordon River Doubts Removal Bill which retrospectively legalised the flooding of Lake Pedder after it was found that the Hydro was contravening the National Parks and Wildlife Act, by the mid-1970s Lake Pedder had been flooded. Whilst this loss still haunts us today, the tragic consequences of these actions were highlighted last year when on 6 June 2005 the freshwater fish species, Pedder Galaxias (*Galaxias pedderensis*), was declared 'extinct in the wild'.

It seems we never learn. While the TNPA supports the actions of several members of the Legislative Council in rejecting the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area (Clarification) Bill (itself an echo of the past infamous Doubts Removal Bill), the battle to protect this area has only just begun. But fight we must. For if the development proceeds, we may as well tear up all the management plans which underpin the ongoing conservation of all Tasmania's natural heritage, as if one can simply revoke the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area then nothing can be considered safe against the hand of a willing government to appease a developer's whim. Need it be that in another thirty years or so we will be reading of the listing of the spotted handfish as 'extinct in the wild'?

There is a fundamental but simple principle at stake here: do we protect our national parks and other protected areas or do we allow them to be delivered up for development? Ought these areas be inviolate, "for the people for all time", or ephemeral reflections of the passing values of successive generations? Do we, as custodians, have an ongoing duty to protect our natural heritage? For if we, the people of Tasmania, cannot guarantee the protection of this state's unique and wonderful fauna and flora, then who will? If each generation nibbles away at the edges, manipulating the management plans to suit immediate needs and wants, the values of the parks inevitably erode, even if at an imperceptible rate, such that the trend is increasingly nurtured by reduced expectations.

David Horton, in his book *The Pure State of Nature*, writes that "a country which sees triumph over the environment, the conquest of Nature, as defining its national character, is a country in whose future the environment becomes more and more degraded and destroyed, until the settler ethos makes a country that is unfit for settlement." Given the present situation perhaps more fitting is his comment that "If you commercialise an environmental resource you do so to make money. Don't pretend that it also benefits the environment."

Robert Campbell*
President TNPA

**Robert Campbell stood down as President at the 2006 AGM, held on 25 September.*

TNPA has input into PWS Planning Review

In mid-2006 the Tasmanian PWS undertook a review of its overall reserve planning, and the TNPA was invited to have input. TNPA Committee members Margie Jenkin, Greg Buckman and Anne McConnell met in May with Gary Wilmot, the planner carrying out the review, for a briefing prior to formulating the TNPA's input. Gary briefed us on the aims of the review and gave us some background on current planning-related mechanisms and also discussed at a general level some of the future planning directions being considered.

TNPA supports the PWS's review of this key component of its management and looks forward to an improved and more strategic approach to PWS planning. We also indicated our support for the key elements currently in the strategic planning and management framework developed by the PWS over the last 10-15 years, in particular the Reserve Standards Framework, the Reserves Activity Assessment process and the concept of a Sustainable Use Framework. We also view the Information Management System as an important and integral part of the framework. We warn however against the strategic framework becoming too complex.

Key issues we provided input on were the need and potential form for overarching generic plans, and the current management zoning:

Pros and Cons of Different Generic Plan Approaches

As the review has been driven largely by the need to determine what types of planning should be undertaken for the numerous reserves other than national parks that as yet do not have management plans, the TNPA submission focused on this issue. The TNPA accepts that there is a need for, or advantage to having, a level of generic or overarching planning, at least for reserves other than national parks, as few of these currently have management plans of any type.

As most national parks now have approved management plans we do not feel that there is a need for an overarching or generic plan for Tasmania's national parks at this stage. We feel that such a move at this stage would be an unnecessary complication and make redundant much good work, time and effort by the PWS staff and lead to confusion and concern in the community about why changes are being made so soon after a number of plans have just been finished, and why the PWS is moving from more detailed park-specific plans to a more general and less meaningful planning approach.

While there are advantages to a single generic plan for all Tasmanian reserves that are managed by the PWS, TNPA has concerns that, because of the variety of reserve types that would be included, such a plan may end up being very complex, large and difficult to apply to any particular reserve type. We also feel such bundling runs a serious risk of catering for the lowest common denominator or resulting in confusion and blending of different reserve status in the minds of the reader, hence possibly having the effect of making national parks seem less important or making reserve types with lower conservation priority seem more important.

We also have serious concerns about how the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, already an overarching plan, will fit into a single generic/overarching plan model, and believe that this plan should remain the single and key plan for the WHA.

We suggest that a workable approach might be to retain the existing WHA and national park management plans (and possibly also those for conservation areas), but prepare an overarching plan for each other category of reserve given that the reserve classifications have been reviewed and rationalised on two occasions in the 1990s. Another alternative approach we put forward was to prepare overarching plans for major environments (eg, alpine, montane, lowland, coastal, grassland, forested, etc areas or by bioregion).

More than One Way to Zone Our Reserves

TNPA strongly supports the use of zoning (ie, a spatial approach) as a key tool in management planning as it is relatively easy to understand and use, however we believe that the current PWS approach (which is a traditional approach) has some major problems, hence we also commented on what we saw as the deficiencies of the present zoning (the LMZS) – primarily the difficulty in understanding how the management zones relate to the values which are being managed for. In our view what is missing is a 'values layer', which should be the primary layer that informs the creation of the 'management layer'. Because in the current scheme the zone terminology is very 'human use' oriented, which is often detrimental to the values, we suggest that the 'management layer' zone names should be changed to more put emphasis on values management/management priority rather than on human use.

We see the key advantage in such an approach being that the PWS would be able to more easily justify their management intentions in any area, and as a consequence 1) would be better able to identify management needs and to cost and apply for funding for them; 2) would be able to recognise and defend areas

from inappropriate development; and 3) would generate much greater transparency in management, hence better public understanding and public support.

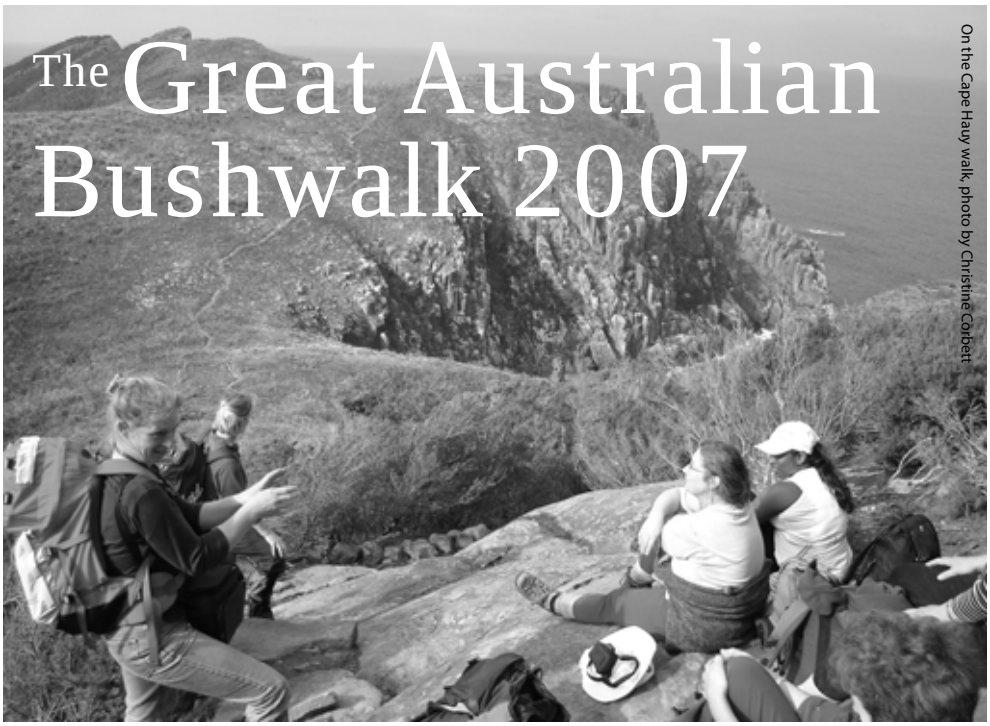
Other Key Comments

Other comments that we made included:

- The 'Sustainable Use Framework' that is being produced should be refocused away from the emphasis on 'use' and become instead a 'Sustainable Management Strategy'.
- TNPA's concern with new elements being introduced into the planning framework without it being clear exactly how they fit – of particular concern is the Visitor Experience Statement (one was recently produced for the Cradle Mountain Visitors Services zone) which has the potential to become a convenient backdoor for allowing inappropriate and undesirable tourism-driven development. We question the need for Visitor Experience Statements since sound consultation during the preparation of Site Plans should include an understanding of visitor expectation and has the advantage of being set in a management context and integrated with other management needs and uses.
- It is important that management plans are detailed (but clear) documents that contain all the information necessary to guide and justify the proposed management with minimal ambiguity. Because there may be those who do not want this level of detail, we support the preparation of plan summaries.
- Public consultation in the development of management plans is an essential and critical aspect of management planning that the PWS does relatively well at present, and this should continue and be extended to all other levels of management plan that are prepared for PWS-managed places.
- In the past many management plans have suffered from having a number of prescriptions and actions for the management of various values and for various uses. To help staff understand their responsibilities, reduce unrealistic expectations of the PWS, help the public understand how the PWS really will manage any park (ie, what to actually expect to see happen on the ground), and to help in assessing management performance—the way in which actions are presented needs to be overhauled, including removing generic action statements, and costing and prioritising actions.

Anne McConnell

The Great Australian Bushwalk 2007



On the Cape Hauy walk, photo by Christine Corbett

Approximately 120 walkers joined eight guided walks across Tasmania on Sunday 10 September for the Great Australian Bushwalk (GAB). The national event was co-ordinated locally by the TNPA. Across the country over 2,500 walkers joined more than 110 walks, ranging from short family sojourns to full day hikes.

In Tasmania walks were held in the Tasman, Hartz Mountains, Bruny Island and Southwest National Parks, and in the Mt Victoria Forest Reserve, Waterworks Reserve and Wellington Park.

This was the third year the event has been held nationwide to celebrate precious places. The event promotes bushwalking and the reserve system across Australia while engaging communities in caring for our parks.

Highlights for the Tassie walkers included ancient myrtle forest, alpine herbfields and mountain views, coastal heathlands, a Southern right whale and calf in Fortescue Bay, echidnas, swift parrots, flowering coastal wattle and wild south coast beaches.

Many thanks to the Tasmanian walk leaders and their assistants – in particular to Christine Corbett, Michael Dempsey, Lesley Nicklason, Catharine Errey, Matt Conolan, Rob Hill, Rebecca Johnson, Greg Buckman and Jayne Balmer – and to the National Co-ordinator from the NSW NPA, Chris Waugh.

Also our thanks to Wildcare for supporting the event locally, and to the national sponsors Paddy Pallin, Anaconda and Sea to Summit.

The GAB will be held across the nation in September 2007. If you'd like to be involved on the organising committee or to lead a walk please contact the TNPA on admin@tnpa.asn.au.

Cradle Mountain and Lake Dove, photo by Robert Campbell.

TNPA Critiques the Cradle Mountain Visitor Experience Statement 2006

In late May this year the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service released the Draft *Cradle Mountain Visitor Experience Statement 2006* (VES) for public comment. Below is an edited version of the TNPA's submission.

Overall Experience

The TNPA believes the 'Overall Experience' statement should convey a more powerful impression of the natural values of the Cradle Mountain region and provide a lasting impression such a visit should leave the visitor with. For example:

"Visitors to Cradle Mountain will be provided with an opportunity to become immersed in an inspiring natural setting and experience the unique natural values of the World Heritage Area first hand – to see, to hear, to feel and to interact with a unique alpine and sub-alpine environment and experience its challenging and changeable weather and its outstanding iconic vistas – an experience that leaves the visitor with an enhanced appreciation of the natural world (its diversity, tranquility, power and beauty) and the need for its ongoing conservation and preservation."

Following from this statement, the following dot points need to be added:

- Gives the visitor an opportunity to become immersed in a natural setting, where planned entertainments disappear in favour of a place where the visitor becomes an active observer of, if not a willing participant in, nature.
- Leaves the visitor with an enhanced appreciation of the natural world and the need for its ongoing conservation and preservation.

Dove Lake

This section is too focused on the "iconic

view of the Mountain across Dove Lake". As such it limits the VES for the whole precinct to the experience of visitors who basically do not leave the carpark (or indeed their cars!). The TNPA believes that the Dove Lake precinct needs to be seen as comprising visitor experiences much greater than this single view and, at the least, needs to include the experiences and views from all points reached as part of short day trips from the Dove Lake carpark. It is this wider and integrated whole which needs protecting.

Given this, the TNPA rejects the need for a shelter to be built within the Dove Lake precinct. Such a shelter would be an unnecessary impediment of the naturalness of the precinct and intrude on the view field of the precinct from surrounding vantage points. It would also further erode the natural values of the Dove Lake precinct and screen the visitor from experiencing the natural environment. As visitors are expecting to enjoy a wilderness experience, this experience should not be reduced for the few that desire to experience the wilderness while in comfort. A shelter has not been needed in the past and is still not needed.

Indeed, such a development contradicts the vision outlined in the *Cradle Valley Tourism Development Plan* released a few years back which described a transition between "humanised" landscapes outside the WHA to a landscape where natural values are dominant within the park (see later Additional Comments). In particular, the visitor should undergo a transition from the comfort provided by the accommodation facilities at the entrance to the park to the wild and natural landscape at Dove Lake.

The pandering to the "comfort brigade" is highlighted by the concept of providing a TV in the shelter so that visitors can judge what the view is like. This undermines the whole concept of providing "a natural visitor experience" and the associated concept that national parks should allow the visitor to become immersed within and experience a natural wilderness setting. Instead it offers little more than an extension of the city and its modern life-style transported onto a scenic background. As Edward Abbey once bluntly wrote *What's wrong with parks is that they have been too much given over to the clientele of `industrial tourism', people who visit from their cars and whose three standard questions are: `Where's the john? How long will it take to see this place? And 'Where's the Coke machine'?*

It has been acknowledged in the past that the road through to Dove Lake from Ronny Creek was a mistake, and perhaps should not have proceeded. The TNPA believes that this is an opportunity to set past mistakes straight, and to rehabilitate major areas of the Dove Lake carpark, and the road leading into the area. The proposed shelter will greatly impose on the existing natural setting, and will increase the environmental, social and aesthetic impacts on the area. The road was an encroachment upon this stunning area; let us not encroach further again. What will be next?

It is somewhat ironic that the only explicit comment in the draft VES on the views expressed by people attending the workshop held on 6th May is that "aesthetic considerations are not given sufficient weight in the decision making process", and that greater consideration needed to be given to the issue of whether "proposals adversely impact on the naturalness of visitors' experience in the area". And what is the response to the input – to propose placing a new building within one of the most iconic scenic areas of the state!

Waldheim

Whilst the TNPA acknowledges the European history of the Waldheim precinct, we should not lose sight of the Aboriginal use of the area before European settlement. Both need to be presented. Furthermore, the TNPA is keen to see a major focus on the major contribution played by Gustav Weindorfer to the formulation of the concepts of nature conservation in the region. His statement:

This must be a National Park for the people for all times. It is magnificent and people must know about it and enjoy it.

was a clarion call that still rings loud today in reminding us all of the importance of the national park concept.

The TNPA also supports the removal of those elements (as stated) that detract from the Waldheim experience at present. We also believe that the proposal to use an existing building as a bus shelter makes sense as opposed to building a new structure. It would provide a good base from which to explore the area, and an appropriate shelter here would also negate the need for a similar type of shelter within the Dove Lake precinct. People could do short walks to Waldheim, or to Dove Lake, culminating in the magnificent view – and what a sense of achievement this could create for many people. Transit facilities would also provide the option of transport to and from Dove Lake and Waldheim, again eliminating the need for a shelter at Dove Lake.

"This must be a National Park for the people for all times. It is magnificent and people must know about it and enjoy it"

Ronny Creek

The TNPA agrees that the Ronny Creek area has general significance as the start of the Overland Track and acts as a major introduction to the iconic Cradle Mountain vista. For these reasons the view fields need to be kept or returned to as natural at state as possible.

The TNPA is concerned about the proliferation of shelters being proposed within each precinct. Again an appropriate shelter at either Waldheim or Ronny Creek would negate the need for additional shelters elsewhere. Indeed, as it is only a short walk between Ronny Creek and Waldheim one shelter between these two areas should suffice. However, we believe that any new infrastructure at Ronny Creek needs to be carefully thought through.

Additional Comments

Apart from the comments provided above on specific precincts, the TNPA believes that the VES for individual precincts fails to link with the 'Overall Experience' statement provided at the beginning of the document. It remains unclear how the statements about and proposals for each precinct help achieve the 'Overall Experience.' This needs to be clarified. In order to achieve this integration the TNPA suggests that a cultural landscape assessment be prepared for the entire Dove Lake - Waldheim - Ronny Creek area. This is an historic area and planning and development needs to respect the cultural landscape values, not just individual features in isolation. Such an approach may provide more sensitive guidance to appropriate development and help control the wish-list mentality apparent in the draft VES.

The TNPA also remains concerned at the lack of integration of the VES with the strategic vision articulated within the *Cradle Valley Tourism Development Plan* (CVTDP) released a few years back. This plan outlined a comprehensive framework for tourism and infrastructure development in the Cradle Valley region in order to 1) protect the natural and cultural values of the WHA, and 2) meet the demands of increased visitor numbers. In particular, the vision articulated in the CVTDP described a transition between "humanised" landscapes of the surrounding region and the WHA where natural and cultural values are dominant—"the visitor experience must be one that unfolds as people travel through the area, revealing a complex and many-layered landscape of great natural beauty" (p8). The vision also describes a management process where:

- the experiences available to visitors are compatible with the values of the WHA (the CVTDP articulates that the visitor experience must be one that "educates and uplifts" – "in wilderness is the preservation of the world" – "visitors want to be exposed to the wild and unique values of the WHA" (p8));
- use and resource development reflect and respond to the natural and cultural values of the WHA – "comforts yet extends the visitor by taking them outside their normal experience of city and countryside into nature" (p8);
- use and development is managed to avoid degradation of WHA values.

The TNPA supports the strategic approach outlined in the CVTDP, as it will help to avoid the mistakes due to the *ad hoc* non-integrative approach of the past and provide significant benefits through adoption of a long-term strategic approach, most notably the maintenance and protection of WHA values and significant improvements in the quality of the visitor experience. The emphasis is on management to reduce environmental impacts and any direct adverse impacts on the WHA values and "enhance appreciation of the wilderness setting". In particular, the vision outlined for the arrival at Dove Lake and viewing of Cradle Mountain is for a "strong sense of wilderness and natural values, and where some experiences may safely stretch the comfort zone of some visitors" (p15). This vision should have guided the development of the present VES. However, by advocating a shelter within the Dove Lake precinct the current draft VES is ignoring this earlier vision and is clearly a retrograde step.

Finally, the TNPA is concerned that the draft VES does not refer to the overall management objectives for the TWWHA as stated in the TWWHA Management Plan 1999, or the other relevant Site Plans for the area. The VES needs to be integrated as part of the overall management of the region. Indeed, the TNPA believes that the VES should be part of the overall Site Plan which has much more consultation and scrutiny and does not come after the fact, adding another developmental layer.

Robert Campbell

‘The fox, the devil and the wedge-tailed eagle’

Wildlife Biologist Nick Mooney speaks his mind

IT’S BEEN A WILD RIDE as a once tightly knit Parks & Wildlife Service endured disruptive restructures then split, with ‘Parks’ and ‘Wildlife’ buried in separate departments that now don’t even bear their names – odd for such high-profile organisations. But, it’s been fascinating to see the role chance still plays despite corporate planning and people’s belief in how clever we are.

In 1980 when the huge scale of forestry’s plans became clear we wondered what conservation measures would be necessary. Dr. Eric Guiler had overseen a translocation of some species to Maria Is as a precaution against the worst case scenario but we decided to see if anything in situ could be managed. Wedge-tailed eagles seemed an obvious choice – they were uncommon, needed old growth forest to nest in and were easily disturbed during breeding.

Threatened species legislation hadn’t even been thought of and no protection was obligatory, but there was considerable goodwill and forestry helped with all sorts of experiments, but current legislation, protocols and polarised community attitudes have seen the ante upped spectacularly and I was even in court recently arguing over these protocols. Such is progress.

Devils had always been a favourite of mine and I’d worked to change landowner attitudes, even developing tourism with wild devils and trying to demonstrate their many values. Then the Devil Facial Tumour Disease issue hits, suddenly placing the reality of this wonderful little survivor in the international spotlight, as distinct from the Warner Bros fantasy.

Devils were common so got little attention, always a mistake with a species so fundamental to ecology. There was no systematic monitoring and the disease was only found by chance, ambushing us by already being spread over more than 20% of the state—so much for cost-saving passive monitoring.

Today’s massive focus on the disease even had an element of chance. We had a Premier with enough vision to fear a re-run of the thylacine debacle and, ironically, we were lucky the disease is so visually awful and a cancer at that. I bet if devils were just fading away it would’ve been impossible to get the same public response.

And we have the fox issue, I think the biggest threat to Tasmania’s native mammals since the last Ice Age. We also have Tasmania’s infamous scepticism.

Start with a healthy suspicion of government made worse by some clumsy management; add parochialism, decades of ‘cry wolf’ on thylacines and the wild claims and counter claims of Tasmanian conservation politics. We also have “if they were here I’d see them” attitudes and too much CSI leading to bizarre expectations. It’s been hard to convince Tasmanians of the huge risks to nature, agriculture, wildlife tourism and health (many foxes carry hydatids).

Hopefully the support of the last independent review will help swing this around but the sense of denial rivals those questioning global warming. Public support is crucial as it affects what can be done, from political support for spending, getting permission to go onto properties and 1080 fox baiting, our only real strategic weapon.

So far Tasmania has had the luck of the devil (and its help) in avoiding fox establishment—there have been a number of well recorded fox incursions beginning in 1864—but this luck isn’t holding and most of the increasing fox evidence is coming from areas where devil numbers have crashed. It’s pleasing, if bemusing, to see some farmers who killed devils now protecting them as a buffer against foxes.

I’d hoped to avoid this latest nail-biting episode but it’s real and we have to win; we will only get to give up once. Foxes got here through a breach of security, so Tasmanians must get way ahead with surveillance, prevention and a will and capacity to act.

I’ve been working in nature conservation for 30 years and it’s been fantastic, not least because of people inside and outside the agency determined to keep Tasmania in good shape. Those people are still there. Public awareness grows every day but barely at the pace needed to keep Tasmania special. It’s easy enough in relative terms since so many other places are badly degraded but we must also think in absolute terms; absolutely special is the aim.

This is an edited version of an article first published by the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU).

TNPA Update:

Protection for Southport Lagoon Conservation Area

The TNPA congratulates the state government for the new Southport Lagoon Plan of Management which will better protect the significant natural and cultural values of the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area. Lying approximately 80 km south of Hobart the 4,280 hectare Southport Lagoon Conservation Area possesses a wide diversity of significant natural, cultural and recreational values. However, increasing recreational pressure, particularly from users of four-wheel drive and other recreational vehicles over the years had resulted in much physical damage, both deliberate and unintentional.

On 1st September this year, the Minister for Tourism, Arts and the Environment, Paula Wriedt, announced that the Leprena Track, which had been closed for winter, will not re-open this Spring. In her press release the Minister stated that “The plan was prepared in response to concerns from land managers, the community and recreational users about the increasing impacts of recreational vehicle use on the values of the Conservation Area. I visited the area last month to have a first hand look at the damage that has occurred and quite frankly I was shocked by what I saw. It’s distressing to see the damage which has been done by some individuals who clearly have had no regard for the conservation values of the area and ruin it for others who behave in a responsible manner.”

Alternative access to Southport Lagoon will be provided via the Lagoon Track which will be re-routed to provide four wheel drive access to the northwest section of the lagoon. Work on this track will begin in spring and is expected to take several months to complete depending on the weather.

Note: A copy of the TNPA submission can be found on our website, while further information about the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area and the new management plan can be found on the Parks and Wildlife Service website at:

www.parks.tas.gov.au/publications/techsouthport_lagoon/summary.html

Tasmania's Parks & Reserves Scientists *– an Endangered Species*

You may be forgiven for thinking that the change in departmental names immediately following the last Tasmanian election was a signal that the expert body of reserve area scientists, built over two and a half decades was being reunited with their service agency, the Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS). Sadly you and I were wrong.

The removal of the word 'Environment' from the Department of Primary Industry, Water and the Environment (now DPIW), and its insertion in the former Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, now the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (DTAE), has changed nothing in terms of where government resources sit. Although the scientists who formerly provided technical support for management of the natural and cultural values of Tasmania's reserves are environmental scientists, these former PWS-based scientists have been left behind in what is essentially a department of primary industry – divorced from the government 'environment' portfolio and increasingly separated from the PWS.

From the early 1970s when the PWS was created by the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1970*, the Service slowly built up its body of scientific expertise to identify, assess and monitor the natural and cultural values of Tasmania's reserved land which is primarily reserved for the conservation of important environmental values. With a traditional focus on flora and fauna, scientists with expertise in this area were the first to be appointed, but experts in cultural heritage were appointed soon after, and by the late 1980s the service also included earth science expertise.

A special team of natural and cultural area scientists was also put together to work specifically on matters relating to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. This World Heritage Area team was seen as a successful approach, so much so that it was used in the late 1980s as the model for employing scientific expertise in the newly formed Forest Practices Unit of the then Tasmanian Forestry Commission.

By the early 1990s the PWS had a broadly-based, highly expert group of scientists providing much needed data and advice on the management of the natural and cultural values of Tasmania's national parks and other reserves. This expertise was used in many areas of reserve management and planning and helped the PWS to be a highly professional and effective reserve land manager. As well as providing improved information on the values of the reserves they carried out experimental work into the effects of hazards such as fires, into impacts from activities such as cattle grazing and bushwalking, and investigated new threats to the parks and reserves such as erosion along the Gordon River, the introduction of high altitude phytophthora, and the spread of marram grass on Tasmanian coasts, to name but a few of the science-based projects.

However, since the Bacon government came to power in 1998, there has been what amounts to a systematic dismantling and refocussing of the PWS scientific staff away from reserved land. The first major change came with the re-organisation of Ministerial portfolios and consequently departments soon after 1998. In the creation of the new Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, the PWS scientific staff were neatly eliminated from the PWS and deposited in the new Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment in a newly created 'Resource Management & Conservation' branch. Although physically in the same location, the day to day working links had been severed with this move, and the former PWS scientists answered to a new senior management with different priorities. The cultural heritage specialists suffered a slightly different fate, with all specialists, including the Aboriginal heritage specialists, being transferred to a newly created Tasmanian Heritage Office, the exclusive focus of which was overseeing the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*, in particular the built heritage – which with a few exceptions is not a common component of Tasmanian reserved land. And to make matters worse, the introduction of a user pays model for these scientific support services was considered, in spite of assurances that this would not happen.[1]

Increasingly since this change, the ex-PWS specialist scientific staff in Resource Management & Conservation have been encouraged to work more and more on private property conservation issues. Changes following the last election such as the departmental name changes have also included behind–the–scenes changes. Scientific staff in the Resource Management & Conservation Branch of DPIW are being increasingly directed away from work on reserved land to work on private lands and senior agency staff have been explicit that this is where the priority lies. While it is not unreasonable to direct some conservation science toward private property environmental management issues, it is unreasonable to do this by reducing conservation research and support in Tasmanian reserves to almost nothing. Tasmania's system of reserves exists primarily for conservation purposes, and hence underpins conservation in Tasmania. It makes no sense therefore to ignore these reserves and focus instead on private land conservation, which can only contribute in a relatively minor fashion compared to the comprehensive public reserve system.

> "The government appears not to care – a fact that is reflected in the agency corporate plan which fails to acknowledge the importance of natural resource conservation."

Meanwhile the personal links between scientists and PWS that were forged when both were part of the one organisation are slowly dissolving as field staff change and no formal linkage mechanisms have been put in place. When the initial separation occurred senior staff in DPIWE promised that protocols and formal linkages would be established to ensure the scientific expertise would continue to be used where relevant for the management of reserved land. Staff are still waiting for these to be set in place and the linkages are becoming less clear.[2]

In addition, funding for conservation science has been steadily falling in real terms with funding remaining at about the same level but with these funds being increasingly expected to pay for administrative costs. Staff positions, particularly those of project officers and technical officers, the engine of the scientific work, have not been re-filled in a number of cases when they have become vacant. This is reducing the ability of conservation scientists to provide scientific support and advice. The changes are described at higher levels as "streamlining", but in reality they are a progressive breaking down of government conservation science in Tasmania and a refocussing to lower conservation priority areas. The government appears not to care – a fact that is reflected in the agency corporate plan which fails to acknowledge the importance of natural resource conservation.

It is pertinent to mention here that the changes that have happened have been carried out without seeking advice from the PWS advisory committees, and with no genuine consultation or support from the PWS scientific specialists or more broadly from the PWS staff.

Today, with effectively no procedural links with the PWS in place, conservation specialists in DPIW are able to provide little scientific support to a PWS which today is essentially on-ground field staff and senior level managers. Interestingly in 2003 two cultural heritage positions were returned to the PWS which enabled a return to somewhat more effective cultural heritage management of reserves than was the case after the removal of the cultural heritage staff from the PWS. Inexplicably, what was originally the World Heritage Area Archaeologist position (with the original incumbent) was not returned to the PWS, but stayed with the Tasmanian Heritage Office (but the World Heritage focus has been completely removed) while the Maritime Archaeology position, which has statewide responsibilities did go back to the PWS. The World Heritage specialists in DPIW are still recognised as such, but while they have some input there is little feedback and the integrated research,

[1] The user pays model has not been introduced to date.

[2] Although a Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies has been developed, this is of a general nature and is not considered to establish the clear, necessary linkages required.

planning and management approach so critical to natural resource management has been essentially lost.

The scientific specialists on the outside can only stand by and look on in growing disbelief at this increasing separation of the field staff who manage reserved land (PWS) from essential technical and scientific support. It can only be viewed as highly ill-advised from a natural and cultural heritage conservation perspective. History shows that attempting to manage reserved land without strong scientific support is highly problematic. The 1970 legislation was intended to, and did, resolve long-standing problems of this kind. Today, management of reserved land is much more complex and to go back to the previous situation, which is the direction in which we are now heading, particularly with the dismantling of the 1970 PWS legislation by the present government, is indefensible and inimical to sound management.

> "A number of decisions that involve promotion and additional tourist pressure appear to be being made with little consultation or evaluation of the impacts on the protected natural and cultural values of the reserves."

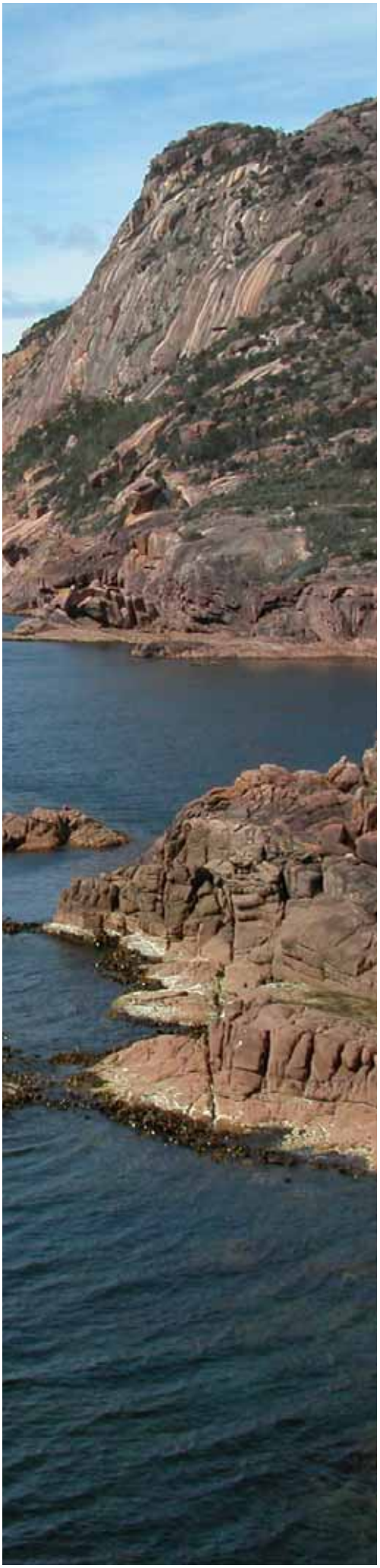
It is indeed a shame that our politicians and high level bureaucrats who have been behind these decisions have not first looked beyond Tasmania's shores to see the negative consequences of separating conservation scientists from the conservation service agency. According to Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, where this type of separation has been attempted elsewhere, such as in Canada and Victoria, "there have been disastrous results for the conservation values of the reserves. In Canada the separation has been reversed and the Victorian national parks continue to be poorly managed for many of their values"[3]. In some areas, such as cultural heritage, out of necessity expertise has been bought back within Parks Victoria.

The situation is particularly worrying given the present government's focus on tourism development of reserved land – especially iconic places where pressures from high levels of visitation and inadequate management already exist – and its apparent lack of interest in, or commitment to, the sustainability of the values being used for tourism. At the same time as government has been reducing the effectiveness of reserved land management it has been encouraging increased use by the tourism sector. A number of decisions that involve promotion and additional tourist pressure appear to be being made with little consultation or evaluation of the impacts on the protected natural and cultural values of the reserves. A prime example is the substantial additional funding in recent years for visitor infrastructure, while comparatively very limited funding was provided for research into the values being used and impacted.

The above could be construed as being a deliberate attempt to dismantle the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an effective reserved-land manager, and put a tourism organisation in its place that is free from the need to worry about what is happening to the natural and cultural values of the reserves. It is difficult to believe any government could treat Tasmania's extraordinary and invaluable reserved land in this fashion, but what other explanation is there?

We can only hope that the government will re-assess the cost-benefits of their recent changes, realise the real costs of their actions on what is an irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage, and move quickly to improve the professionalism of the Tasmanian government's approach to reserved land management by redressing the currently pitiful state of largely non-existent values-oriented scientific and technical expertise for reserved land management in Tasmania.

Anne McConnell



[3] J.B. Kirpatrick 'Science and the Conservation Reserve System'. In, National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council, 2003, With Every Step – Reflections on the Place and Meaning of Tasmania's National Parks & Reserves – An Appreciation through History.

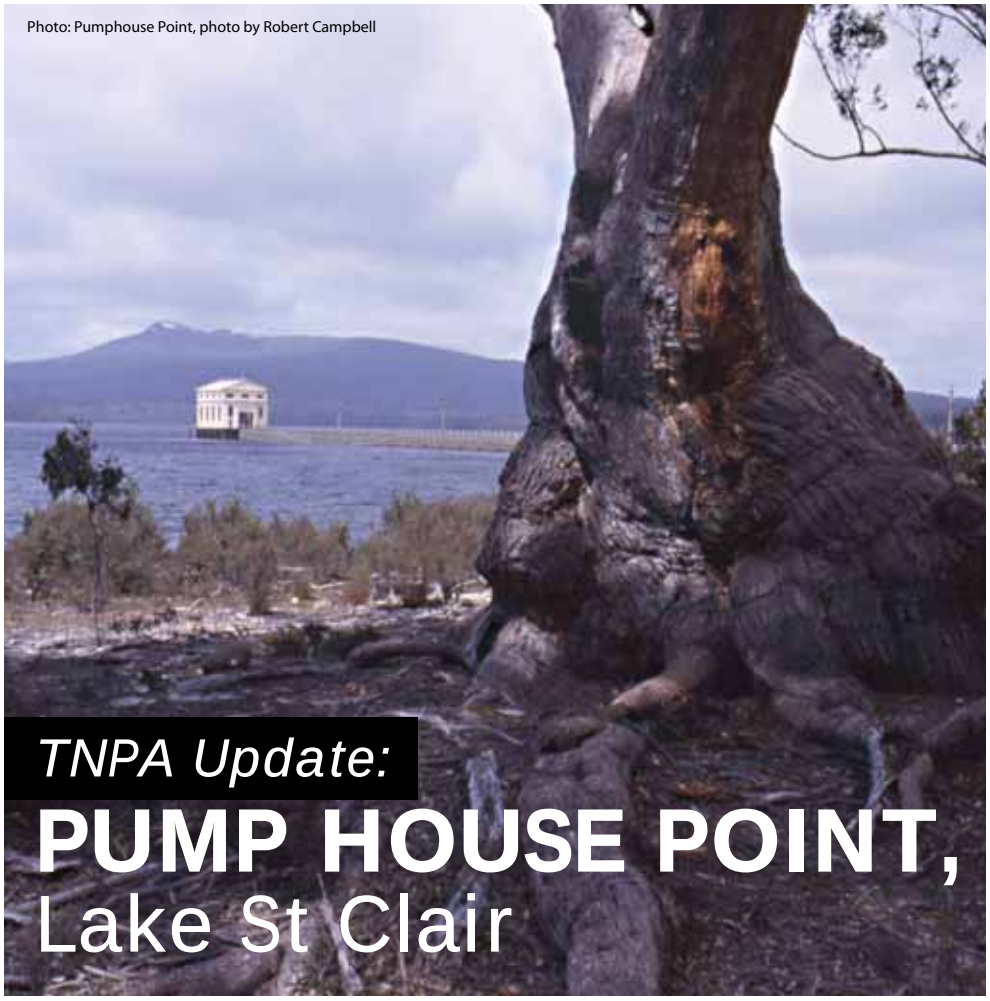


Photo: Pumphouse Point, photo by Robert Campbell

TNPA Update: PUMP HOUSE POINT, Lake St Clair

The TNPA has been informed that Simon Currant's company has recently signed a combined lease/development agreement with the state government over a tourist accommodation facility at Pump House Point on the shores of Lake St Clair within the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, and now has to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment by the end of October this year.

This is the third attempt by a developer to construct a tourist accommodation facility at Pump House Point, with the previous developer, Michael Doherty, withdrawing his proposal in late 2003.

Given the continued attempts to develop this part of Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), the TNPA has consistently argued that such developments should remain outside our reserves. The TNPA has instead argued that the site should be used in a manner that is consistent with the ideals inherent in the formation of national parks. These ideals are based on the dual objectives of nature conservation and appreciation and enjoyment of the natural values and beauty of the area by all people.

Given these objectives, the TNPA believes that the Pump House Point site should be rehabilitated and used to provide for the enjoyment of day visitors to the area. At present the site is open to all to enjoy, and is popular with fishermen and wildlife and bird watchers. Others come to enjoy the naturalness of the area and view the magnificent surrounding vistas. While the Pump House Point site does not hide the occupancy of its previous use, the regrowth on the site is very well established and with time the scars of the past will be erased. Active rehabilitation of the site will greatly assist this process and be consistent with the overarching management objective of the TWWHA.

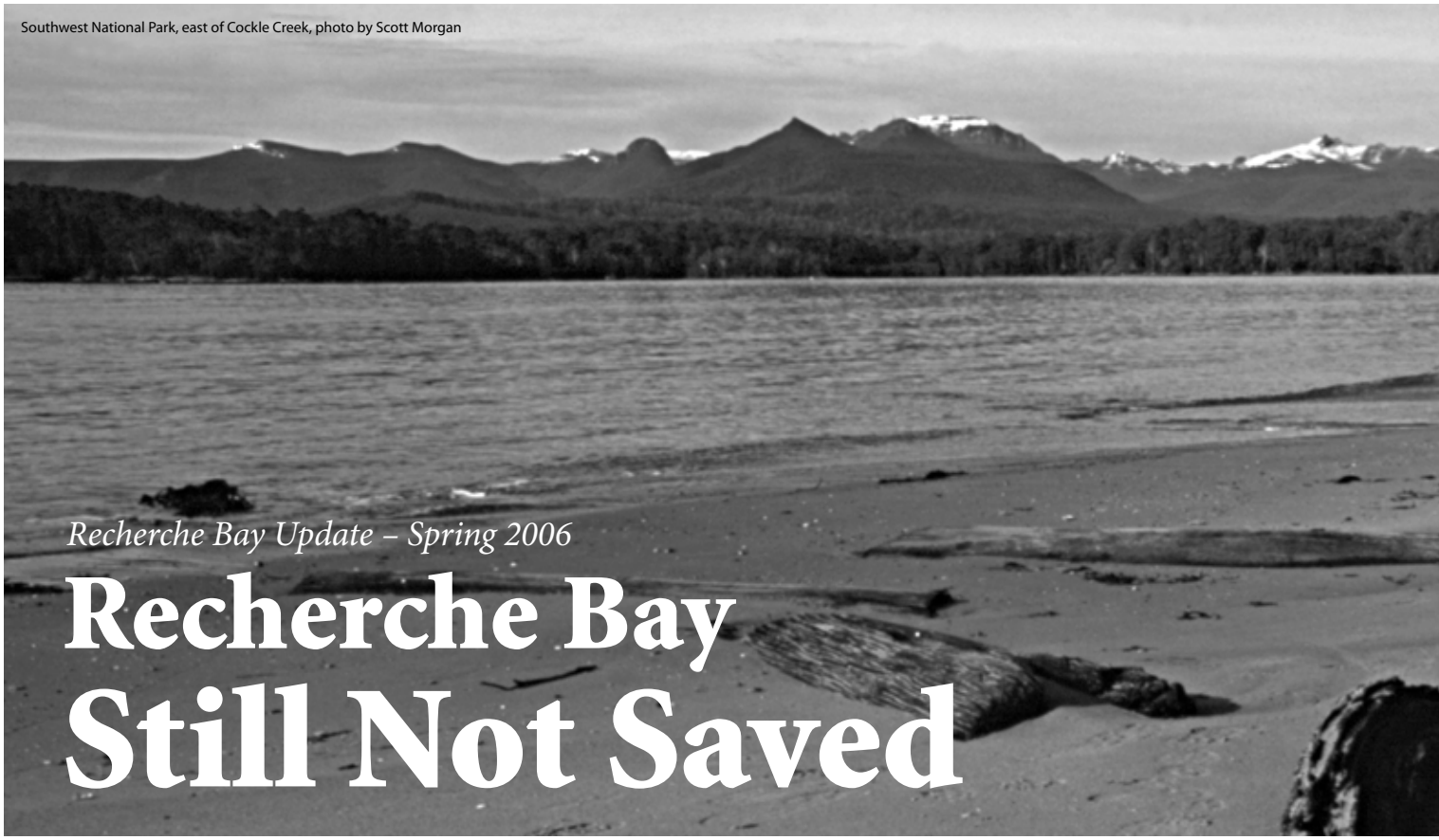
Proposals to build a large accommodation complex at Pump House Point would not only destroy the tranquillity and natural values of the site but to a large extent would duplicate existing facilities at Cynthia Bay. Instead, Pump House Point offers a wonderful opportunity to complement the commercial developments at Cynthia Bay with a much more natural site where people can come and enjoy the values and beauty of the surrounding areas in a tranquil setting.

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

Having reached Pump House Point via the walk, the existing lawns and easy access to the lake would make an ideal site for people to have lunch and to explore and enjoy the natural values of the area. There is also the potential to use the existing buildings for some type of educational/interpretation use, or similar, perhaps focusing on the natural ecology and/or historical uses of the area and the ideals and values of the TWWHA, and the importance and obligations we have to future generations. There is also an opportunity to provide a focus on the prior Aboriginal occupation and use of the surrounding area, helping to overcome a "significant unmet visitor desire for more information about Aboriginal culture and the relationship of Aborigines with particular areas" (p25 *Summary Report – State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area: an evaluation of management effectiveness*.)

The TNPA believes that the above proposal is consistent with both the national park ideals and the types of facilities/attractions needed to enhance the visitor experience at Cynthia Bay, which principally caters for the needs of short-stay, in-transit visitors who come to experience the natural values of Tasmania's national parks and the TWWHA.

Robert Campbell



Southwest National Park, east of Cockle Creek, photo by Scott Morgan

Recherche Bay Update – Spring 2006

Recherche Bay Still Not Saved

The proposed David Marriner and Stage Design Cockle Creek East resort development is still planned to go ahead. In spite of TNPA representations to Stage Design to move the development outside the Southwest National Park and to the then Minister for Parks and Heritage to protect the range of highly significant historic heritage values related to the 18th Century French Expeditions, and although a nomination of the area to the National Heritage List is still being assessed, construction is scheduled to start this summer.

Stage Design have however bowed to pressure to minimise the environmental and visual impacts by preparing new plans for the Visitor & Reception Centre to be sited on the private property block that they have acquired at the end of the public road. It is likely that they may also move the proposed jetty and boat house(s) from further into the park out to this more western location. The cabins however will still be built well within the park as originally proposed.

The TNPA continues to be opposed to this non-essential development within a national park. The development is inappropriate within an area that has been reserved primarily for the conservation of its natural values and we believe it compromises highly significant associative cultural landscape values in relation to the French Expeditions and is undesirable given the equity issues of having an exclusively high-end-of-market resort within a national park. In our view the visitor centre is a token gesture of catering for the public more broadly. We are also concerned to what extent the Visitor Centre is the 'price' for the developer to have access to the national park – a cheap way of the government funding visitor centres - indirect sponsorship perhaps?

TNPA is not opposed to the development *per se*, but believes it should be located outside the national park. This is not unreasonable in our view as there is a significant amount of private property in the Recherche Bay area.

TNPA has been working behind the scenes over the last year to try and have the development moved outside the park and to protect historic heritage values associated with the 1792 and 1793 French expeditions. In relation to the historic heritage values, the TNPA realised in mid-2005 that there had been no assessment of the French expedition heritage values in this area and, given the probability that the area had essentially the same values as the North East Peninsula (found to have national-level values), the TNPA wrote to the Minister for Heritage to request that Cockle Creek East be declared a Heritage Area under the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995, which provides protection for potential heritage values for up to two years while the values are investigated.

TNPA was only recently advised by the new minister that she would not declare the area a Heritage Area. This advice came a year after our request was made – so much for emergency protection for values at risk! The reason given for the refusal of the declaration was that the Tasmanian Heritage Council had recently listed the 'Historical Cultural Heritage Layers of Cockle Creek East' place on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. Although the TNPA had specifically cited associated cultural landscape values as a potential significant value, a review of the Tasmanian Heritage Register listing shows that this value has not been considered and the c.70m strip listing provides only for human-made physical remains.

It would seem, as was the case with the North East Peninsula and as has been apparent at Ralphs Bay, that our state government is determined to have tourism devel-

opment wherever they can in the state and they care little what the cost is to Tasmania's natural and cultural environment. The Federal government also seems not to care particularly either, as the National Heritage List nomination for the Cockle Creek East area has been with the federal government for over a year and the nominator, Greg Hogg, was recently advised that the assessment might not be completed for another 12 months!

It would seem that following due process and negotiation has failed to protect East Cockle Creek in the face of the government's tourism-development-at-any-price approach, and it is now time to become more publicly active. TNPA sees this as a priority issue and will be developing an action plan over the next weeks.

If you are interested in being involved in this campaign please contact the Management Committee at admin@tnpa.asn.au or phone us on 0427 854684 or 03 6239 1494.

Anne McConnell

2006 Buttongrass Ball
Raises Funds for the TNPA

Dedicated to buttongrass and the rest of Tasmania's natural environment, the Hobart Old Time String Band together with dance caller David Wanless and co-organiser Cathie Hutchinson once again ran a highly successful Buttongrass Ball. They generously donated the proceeds to the TNPA to further our work in ensuring the ongoing protection of Tasmania's national parks and reserves.

The Buttongrass Ball is held annually. This ninth Buttongrass Ball, held in June 2006, was dedicated to all Tasmanian's who in the last 30,000 years have walked the buttongrass moorlands, the many musicians and dancers who have helped shape Tasmania's unique culture, and in particular the Cape Barren Islanders and their struggle for survival. To celebrate those to whom the ball was dedicated the band featured tunes sourced from field recordings of earlier Tasmanian musicians, including Leo Donahue, The Dawsons, Eileen McCoy and The Brown Boys of Cape Barren Island. The band was also joined by Merinda Sainty, a young fiddler from a Cape Barren Island family.

The Ball was supported by a wonderful turnout of dancers who spent an energetic and rewarding evening in a hall that was beautifully decorated to match the theme of a Tasmanian Buttongrass Ball thanks mainly to David Wanless and Cathie Hutchinson. The buttongrass theme was reinforced in the decoration by the generous loan of a dozen pots of buttongrass from the Plants of Tasmania nursery and the donation of another pot for a lucky door prize.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Ball, hence the TNPA. And our particular thanks to David and Cathie, the other organisers, and of course Fred Pribac and the Hobart Old Time String Band.

Photo: Anne McConnell

Macquarie Island Working Group

In late August the TNPA held a presentation at the Stanley Burbury Theatre on the Macquarie Island rabbit issue – 'Macquarie Island Under Threat'. Jamie Kirkpatrick, Jenny Scott and Aleks Terauds stunned a small but engaged audience with devastating images of the vast vegetation damage and massive erosion. The impacts of the rabbit explosion are decimating critical habitat for endangered species and compromising World Heritage values (see TNPA News 6).

The state and federal governments have compiled a plan to eradicate rabbits and rodents from the island. The methods proposed have already been successful on South African, French and New Zealand subantarctic islands. But the Macquarie Island plan is yet to be endorsed.

A TNPA working group has formed to ensure the implementation of this plan. Currently the group is meeting once every three weeks and developing opportunities to promote support for rabbit and rodent eradication on Macquarie Island. This is such an urgent issue.

For more information see http://www.tnpa.asn.au/macquarie/index.html. Make a difference – write a letter to the State and Federal Ministers for the Environment on this matter, send the enclosed postcard or come along to a Working Group meeting. Contact admin@tnpa.asn.au for details.

Sandy Bay 2005

Sandy Bay 1990

Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc

Patron: Peter Cundall

New TNPA Management Committee

President: Chris Bell

Vice Presidents: Margie Jenkin, Anne McConnell

Public Officer: Tom Baxter

Treasurer: Greg Buckman

Secretary: *vacant* (Acting Secretary – Anne McConnell)

Other Committee Members: Robert Campbell (& 1 position vacant)

Contact Details

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Email: admin@tnpa.asn.au

Website: www.tnpa.asn.au

Phone: 03 6239 1494 or 0427 854 684

Meetings

General Meetings: third Monday of the month at the Tasmanian Environment Centre (2nd floor, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart), 6.30 pm. All members and supporters welcome.

Have your say...

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TNPA News

TNPA News is published twice a year. It aims to provide informative articles on issues related to national parks and other reserves, as well as updates on TNPA activities and campaigns. The views expressed in TNPA News are not necessarily those of the TNPA Inc. In this issue, many thanks to Robert Campbell, Anne McConnell, Margie Jenkin, Ray Thomas and Scott Morgan.

Original articles in TNPA News may be reproduced, but please acknowledge the author and the source.

Contributions for TNPA News No. 8 are welcomed (deadline mid-March 2007). Please send contributions to admin@tnpa.asn.au (attention: TNPA News editor).

Editor: Sharon Moore **Newsletter production by**: Ricoh Hobart