

# Tasmanian National Parks Association

## President's Report 2014 – 2015

### Key Issues for the TNPA over the past 12 months

- The principal focus of the TNPA over the past 12 months was the State government's announcement in late 2014 of Expressions of Interest for commercial tourism developments in Tasmanian National Parks, including in the TWWHA, followed by the release of the Draft Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 2014 (TWWHAMP) in early 2015.

These two are of course inextricably linked, much of the Draft Plan having been drawn up with the intention of enabling tourism ventures that would not be permitted under the present 1999 TWWHAMP.

The fact that the call for EOI's for tourism developments took place ahead of the release of the Draft WHHAMP makes the State government's agenda very clear: that the TWWHA is 'open for business' and protection of values is secondary to this.

- World Heritage Commission response to the Draft TWWHAMP

In late May 2015 the World Heritage Commission released its Provisional Agenda on the State of World Heritage Properties. This report (ratified at the Commission's meeting in Bonn in late June/early July) was highly critical of the Draft TWWHAMP and issued a list of actions that the State government needs to carry out in relation to the Draft Plan. One of these actions was to invite a Monitoring Mission to Tasmania and this visit is to happen later this month.

- Three (or more accurately) Two Capes Track

The State Government recently announced that the Track would be open just before Christmas 2015. Three Capes has been, and continues to be, a major issue for the TNPA since it was first announced in 2007, not least because it sets a precedent for further privatisation of our Parks.

### Main Activities of the TNPA Over the Past Year

#### Actions to inform and engage the public on the Draft TWWHAMP:

- Through TNPA website: information to assist people to make submissions on the Draft Plan
- Production and distribution of postcards for mailing to State and Federal Environment Ministers
- Production and distribution of bumper stickers
- Cinema advertising
- The TNPA contributed to public meetings on the Draft TWWHAMP in both Hobart and Launceston

- Held a public slide night featuring inspiring photographic images of the TWWHA, preceded by speakers expert on the values of the TWWHA – natural, cultural and geoheritage.

### Submissions during 2015

- The TNPA made a detailed submission on the Draft TWWHAMP
- In May the TNPA made a submission to the House of Representatives Enquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations

### Communication with government and Parks managers

The TNPA continues to engage with politicians and government officials on matters relating to National Parks and reserved areas.

### Collaborative management

- The alliance of Tasmanian environmental NGO's

A meeting of representatives from ENGO's was initiated by TNPA's Robert Campbell in the second half of 2014. This completely informal alliance has continued to meet since then, with Nick Sawyer being TNPA's representative for most of that time. The group is currently focused on its forthcoming meeting with the World Heritage Monitoring Mission.

- National Parks Australia Council (NPAC)

Nick Sawyer has been and continues to be the key TNPA person communicating with this umbrella body for Australian National Parks Associations.

The NPAC recently held its AGM and meetings in Hobart and this was hosted by the TNPA and organised by Nick Sawyer. I wish to acknowledge the time and work that Nick put into this very successful event.

### Public Engagement and Education

- Answering and following up issues brought to our attention by TNPA members and the public.
- The Autumn Walks programme of free bushwalks for the public, this year organised by Rob Hill.
- Publication of the biannual journal *TNPA News*, issues #20 and #21.
- Information stalls held at Salamanca Market and, more recently, at the Sustainable Living Festival. The TNPA now has its own marquee, featuring banners with superb photographic images donated by wilderness photographers Chris Bell and Rob Blakers.

### **The TNPA Committee**

This has been my first year in the role of TNPA President and as one 'wearing L plates' I have been highly reliant on the support and assistance given to me by my fellow management committee members – I thank you all for this. I also thank you for your passion for our wild

places, for your time, your energy, your dedication and your tenacity in the face of all the ongoing threats to the 'places we love'.

I would like to thank, in particular:

Chris Bell, who has been a key part of the TNPA since its birth and whose passion for Tasmania is an inspiration. During 2015 Chris has contributed some of his outstanding photographic images for the purpose of inspiring the public to a greater appreciation of our National Parks and World Heritage.

Robert Campbell, who despite his extensive work commitments has managed to keep up his invaluable support and work for the TNPA Committee, mostly from a distance.

Karen Dedenczuk, TNPA Secretary for the first half of the year before it became necessary for her to move interstate.

Patsy Jones, who has been TNPA Treasurer for so many years and who, along with what she does in this exacting role, carries out so many other essential but generally thankless tasks.

Anne McConnell, who is now stepping down from the TNPA Committee after many years of involvement at this level. Anne has tremendous energy and commitment as well as high levels of knowledge and skill and has contributed, and continues to contribute, in so many ways.

Nick Sawyer, who also has contributed in countless ways, including, as mentioned earlier, being the primary TNPA representative in the alliance of Tasmanian ENGO's, the NPAC contact for TNPA and organiser of the recent NPAC AGM and meetings in Hobart. Nick has been a great source of advice, practical help and encouragement for me as TNPA President.

Jane Wilson, who put her hand up for the Secretary role in mid2015. Apart from filling this role with great proficiency Jane has contributed her time, energy and ideas to the TNPA in other ways, including, most recently, undertaking to run a very successful two-day stall for the TNPA at the Sustainable Living Festival, which she did almost single-handedly.

### **Other thank-you's**

I would also like to thank the following people for their key roles:

Paul Smith, who has attended and contributed to TNPA Committee meetings over many years and has assisted the TNPA in many ways, including being TNPA's representative at meetings of Environment Tasmania.

Amy Lin, TNPA Secretariat. The TNPA would not be able to function without our Secretariat, looking after phone, website, Facebook page etc – as well as many other tasks often asked of her at very short notice. We are very fortunate to have Amy in this role.

I would also like to thank all those other people, whom I won't name now, who have assisted the TNPA during the past 12 months.

Catharine Errey  
Nov 2015