



# *WILD TIMES*

Edition 39 December 2010



**CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS WILDCARE**



**WEST COAST CLEANUP**



**WILDCARE GRANTS SUCCESSES FOR 2010**



**WOODVINE, MARKS POINT, TAMAR ISLAND, AND MORE...**



# Editorial

Yes, another year gone and another busy summer for Wildcare in full swing. If you're not out there working on one of our many projects this season then I suppose the next best thing is reading some of our 2010 success stories.

In this edition of Wildtimes I've made some effort to change the focus from our fantastically successful island branches (Friends of Deal, Maatsuyker, Tasman, Maria and Bass Strait Islands) to some of our lesser known and new branches.

You'll meet Wildcare Injured and Orphaned Bush Babies South and Wildcare Coastal Custodians, as well as get an update on projects at Marks Point Bruny Island, Woodvine near Sorell and the great work of Threatened Plants Tasmania.

Meet Col Rowe and Pat Scott, two of our more 'seasoned' remote area volunteers and (finally!) the last in Will Forsyth's series on Parks staff he's worked with over many years as a volunteer.

On a more serious note I've listed our grants successes for 2010. It's a good long list and perhaps more than any other



*A Wildcare Summer – Coastal Custodians on Tasmania's west coast.*

summarises what has been a very busy but wonderfully satisfying 2010. See you out there ...

Craig Saunders

## WILDCARE Gift Fund Donations

*The following generous donations to the WILDCARE Gift Fund have been received since our last edition:*

### Donations of between \$100 and \$1,000

Phil Wyatt, Chris Arthur, Ingrid McGaughey, Martyn and Margaret Ricks

### Donations up to \$100

Andrew Smith, Tracey Simpson, Helen Smyth, Melissa Findlay, Kathleen Brodench, Holly Mason-White, Shauna Swanson, Bruce Jackson, D Bennison.

## Wildtimes Publication Schedule

| EDITION # | COPY DEADLINE   | PUBLICATION      |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| 40        | 1 April 2011    | 1 May 2011       |
| 41        | 1 August 2011   | 1 September 2011 |
| 42        | 1 December 2011 | 1 January 2012   |

*Submissions to Wildtimes Editor at [wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au)*

### ON THE FRONT COVER:

Our cover photo 'captures' gun volunteers Col Rowe and Pat Scott about to board a light aircraft for their latest volunteer adventure at Melaleuca.



## Col Rowe and Pat Scott - 'Gun' Volunteers

*Many Wildcare volunteers, especially those working on our remote area projects will know Col Rowe and Pat Scott. I caught up with them recently at the Par Avion terminal at Cambridge airport as they headed off for another stint at Melaleuca, and had a chat with them about their volunteering life ...*

Col is a Gormanston boy, living on the wild west coast for his first 18 years. In his own words he 'roamed the north west coast' for a while after leaving home before settling down in Burnie and working at the APPM mill for 29 years.

After retiring Col had plenty of time for bushwalking and this led him to some track building work on the Penguin to Cradle Trail with the North West Bushwalking Club, and later with Wildcare Inc.

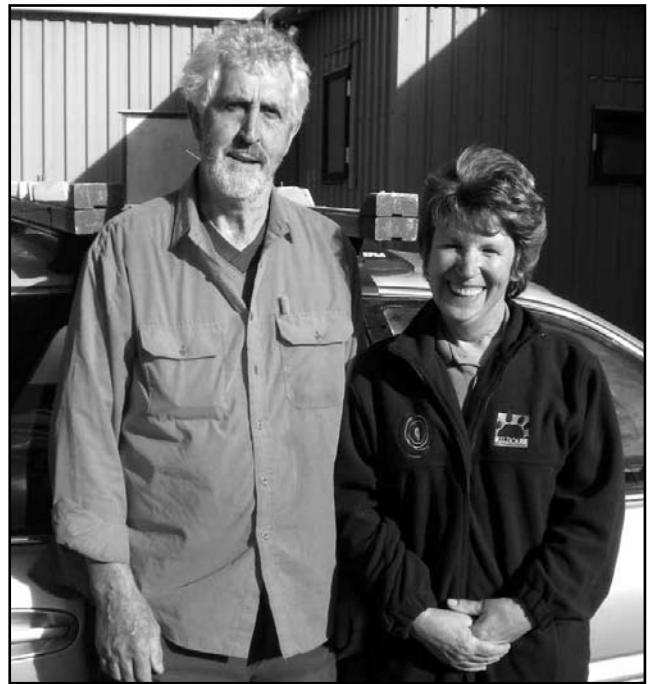
With Wildcare Col has participated in just about every remote area project on the books over the last 5 or 6 years.

These have included Orange-bellied Parrot Project at both Melaleuca and Birchs Inlet, building works at Melaleuca, weeding on Maatsuyker Island, on the Bass Strait Islands and the west coast with SPRATS and the Overland Track hut warden program at Waterfall Valley. He's a hard man to catch at home (now Derby) over the summer!

Pat is also a country girl, living her first 22 years on King Island. She lived for many years at Longford and later Burnie where she ran into Col on bushwalking club trips.

The rest, as they say, is history ...

This summer they're starting the 'season' with OBP work at Melaleuca, then more OBPs at Birchs Inlet, followed by weeding with SPRATS in the new year, and 2 weeks as hut wardens at Waterfall Valley in March



Col (aged 69) is a grandfather with 8 grandchildren but Pat beats that with 5 grandchildren and one great grandchild!

But don't think that means they are slowing down. I laughed to hear Col describe how last year while returning from an OBP stint at Melaleuca he and Pat arrived at New River Lagoon to find both dinghies on the other side of the crossing.

Pat was all for returning to Melaleuca, but in his own style Col said, "Bugger that, I'm not going back over the Ironbounds, I'll swim across." And he did .....

Craig Saunders



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# Tamar Island Wetlands Farewells long-standing Volunteer

After joining the volunteers at Tamar Island Wetlands some ten years ago soon after the Wetland Centre was officially opened in November 2000, Helen Jack and her husband Doug, are moving south to Kettering.

They wanted to settle in Kettering to be near their children and grandchildren, not to mention nearer to a marina so they could moor their sailing boat close by.

Helen was among the earliest group of volunteers at Tamar Island, along with Margaret Fenton (still volunteering) and Julie Nermut who left about two years ago.

Helen found her experiences at the Wetland Centre rich and rewarding. She loved to learn about the fauna of the wetlands, particularly the birds and frogs.

She said "It was always a pleasure to point out the Green and Golden Frogs to visitors in spring when they were sunning themselves in the channel beside the boardwalk".

She also has fond memories of the snake-handling course volunteers undertook in the early days and the times Lorraine McDonald (now de Weys), a wildlife career, brought her orphaned charges to the Centre to entertain school groups and show them how she fed and care for her charges.

More recently she had interest in talking to visitors about the introduced pest fish, Gambusia, and how the eradication program was progressing.

Chris Colley, Manager of the Northern Region presented Helen with a gift in appreciation for her volunteering and support for the Parks and Wildlife Service over the past 10 years.

Alison Moore, Business Enterprise Coordinator for the Centre thanked Helen for her efforts over the years and noted that she was "much loved by other volunteers and visitors and will be much missed by all".

Helen spoke of continuing her volunteering down south, "Maybe with Landcare or with another Wildcare branch," she said. "When one door closes another opens somewhere - I just have to look for that open door".



*Long serving Tamar Island Wetland volunteers Audrey Crisp, Helen Jack and Margaret Fenton*

Our photo shows Audrey Crisp (who has provided over 4,000 hours in 6 years), Helen Jack (over 3,500 hours in 10 years) and Margaret Fenton (over 3,300 hours in 10 years) at the farewell for Helen.

The function was held at the Tamar Island Wetland Centre in October 2010.

John Duggin

Tamar Island Wetlands

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# What's happening at Woodvine?

Woodvine Nature Reserve is situated in south-east Tasmania, 45 kilometres east of Hobart, and 10 kilometres from Sorell. The 377 hectare property was donated to the state government by Mr. Herbert Ernest 'Ernie' Shaw in 1989 who wanted to protect the native plants and animals of the area. The Woodvine Nature Reserve was subsequently proclaimed on 25 June 2001. Ernie Shaw died on 5 August 2005.

In contrast with the neighbouring land, the reserve retains an extensive cover of native vegetation that is important for the conservation of rare and threatened species of plants and animals at both the local and regional level. Over one hundred and eighty species have been recorded in Woodvine Nature Reserve, ten of which are endemic to Tasmania.

In 1862 the farm was established by Daniel Long and Elizabeth Tustin (married in 1861). The property was handed down to Mr. Shaw in 1977. The farm was used for grazing and orchards were also evident.

Today the cleared lands are heavily infested with the invasive weed Spanish Heath (*Erica lusciana*). Mapping of the distribution and density of Spanish Heath has been undertaken and priority areas have been noted for future control and management. The complex of farm buildings and associated historic artefacts provide important information and the site was listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register on 5 July 2006.

After a public meeting in early 2009 the Friends of Woodvine Reserve was formed and regularly working bees are held to preserve and restore some of the structures on the Reserve. In late 2009 a group of Wildcarte volunteers, active in other Reserves and offshore islands took on the task of attempting



*The Woodvine team take a break*

to control the spread of the Spanish Heath on the Reserve. Through the Weed Management Plan the priority was to keep the Spanish heath away from the existing tracks and contain the larger patches in controllable areas.

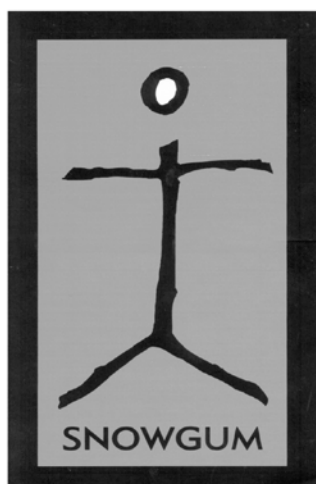
At monthly meetings the group has completed the task of clearing the track adjacent to a large infestation to a wash down station near a fenceline. This area is cleared of Spanish Heath to about 10 metres from the track.

At the present time work continues on cut and paste weeding of a large area on the western hill above the heritage farm buildings. This will help in controlling the spread of seed from the hillside to the cleared areas around the buildings. This area should be completed by March next year. The group meets on the first Monday of the month. For more information contact David Reynolds at [reynoldsfamily@netspace.net.au](mailto:reynoldsfamily@netspace.net.au)

David Reynolds

Friends of Woodvine Nature Reserve

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# Clarence City Council Supports Wildcare

Two Wildcare branches were recently successful in obtaining grants through the Clarence City Council Community Grants Program. These groups, Wildcare Deslacs and Wildcare Injured and Orphaned Bush Babies South are ones we don't hear much about since they are not working in the World Heritage Area or on an exotic offshore island. So just what are they up to? ...

Wildcare Deslacs was formed around 3 years ago with the aim of maintaining natural, cultural and recreational values of the Cape Deslacs and Clifton Beach areas on the South Arm Peninsula about 25 kilometres east of Hobart.

The group was almost immediately successful winning a grant from Landcare Australia and set about building



Peter Rice Maintains Plants on Dunes at Clifton Beach

relationships within the community. Group founding president Peter Rice explained that their success was built on a regular newsletter he distributed to local residents.

Along the way the group has also planted trees, repaired sand dune fencing, maintained beach access tracks and tackled invasive weeds.

The more recent \$3,156 grant from Clarence City Council will enable Wildcare Deslacs to fund a Management Plan for public land at Clifton Beach.

If you're interested in getting involved contact Peter Rice on 0400 949 302



Wildcare Deslacs Building Fences at Clifton Beach



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# Clarence City Council Supports Wildcare

Wildcare Injured and Orphaned Bush Babies South (shall we call them WIOBBS for short?) is also a fairly new branch for Wildcare and worthy of a brief introduction.

I rang group convenor Kimbra Cresswell for a chat recently but all I could do was make an appointment for the next afternoon. Kimbra was busy juggling the needs of her own (human) children with those of her many bush babies at the time. This dedication seemed typical of the members of the group I was privileged to speak with.

Kimbra has been caring for injured and orphaned wildlife for many years. As a child she looked after joeys brought home by grandparents and for the last nine years caring has been almost a full time occupation on the family property near Richmond in Southern Tasmania. Kimbra not only tends her bush babies but also mentors other carers, runs Adult Education courses and presents displays at local community events.

WIOBBS received \$995 from Clarence City Council for the purchase of an Intensive Care Unit for wildlife requiring high levels of care.

The Intensive Care Unit will provide a controlled environment for newcomers to the 'bush hospital', helping them get through



*Ann Smith and WIOBBS Intensive Care Unit*

that critical first 24 hours. I can add that Kimbra (with the help of Wildcare group facilitator Jodie Epper) has just been successful in obtaining a further \$3,300 from NRM South to assist with the purchase of a shipping container and other equipment that will be converted into a native wildlife Bush Hospital.

I also spoke with WIOBBS carer Ann Smith who presented me with the following story proving the usefulness of the new ICU.

Craig Saunders

## Buddy's Story

Late one Tuesday night in September 2010 Shane and I were driving down to my mother's when we came across three pademelons in the middle of the road that had, no doubt, been hit by a car. They were on the corner of Carlton Beach Rd and Rotuli St in Dodges Ferry.

Shane got out and pulled them off the road and noticed one had movement in its belly. Without hesitation he wrapped the pink baby in his tee shirt and brought it back to me. I put it down my jumper so it would hear my heart beat and be warm. On the drive home we frantically rang around to get help but we could only act on instinct.

We took it home and found a polar fleece beany, some towels, a box, and a wheat heat-pack. I set my alarm for every hour to check on the pademelon and re-heated the heat pack, but by about 2am it felt as if the baby had lost body heat, so I put her inside my PJ's onto my chest and stayed up with her until the morning. By then she felt quite warm.

Next morning mum took the pademelon to work with her in Sorell and contacted the Tasmanian Animal Hospital, who then in turn contacted Ann Smith in Dodges Ferry, who is a member of Wildcare and has more than 10 years experience, as we were comforted to find out..

Since this turn of events the pademelon has been named Buddy, and Ann, Katie and Kerry Ford have continued to share on-going care of this cute little girl.

When Buddy was found she was classified as what is called a 'pinkie' with a low survival rate. The arrival in good time of the Veterario Intensive Care Unit combined with Ann's knowledge both led to the survival and growth of the now 500gm cutie.

As Buddy continues to grow and become stronger she will be taught to become independent and eventually be released back into the bush. (Last advice was Buddy weighed in at 581 gms in late November and was starting to 'party' every evening after dark! )

By Katie and Kerry Ford



*Buddy in the WIOBBS Intensive Care Unit*

# Eagle Pens for Ravenhill

Ravenhill is a Land for Wildlife property 10kms from Devonport owned by wildlife carers, Alastair and Julia Ross, who are members of Wildcare branch Central North Wildlife Care & Rescue CAREs.

The 90 acre forest has two small disused quarries, which give lots of thermal lift over the verdant Don Valley flood plain, and is a favoured hunting ground for all types of raptors including wedgetailed eagles and the occasional peregrine or sea eagle.

Watching the woodland birds react to raptors is like watching a WWII movie. Plovers and ravens set off the alarm calls, and the plucky lads of 'Plover' Squadron scramble like a flight of Spitfires, taking off in low formation and heading for the skies to do battle!

Eagles are often seen with a pair of ravens, each keeping 'point' on the eagle's wingtip, escorting the birds across the property, - a bit like a Lancaster bomber and its escorts.

Amazingly, as one pair peels off after reaching their territorial boundary, another pair will take up station! Hunting strategies include one eagle coming in at tree height, trying to spook something out into the open, whilst the other flies high on the thermal, keeping look out and ready to give chase.

Raptors get into trouble through collisions with fences, cars, power lines and wind turbines, as well as being shot or trapped in pigeon lofts.

As the injured birds have often been on the ground for several days, care starts with a rapid pick-up, assessment and treatment at the local vet.

They are moved initially into a restrictive box to recover from shock and prevent excessive movement and then into a slatted aviary which allows the birds to adjust to their new surroundings.

Once their condition picks up, birds are released into the netted aviary which stimulates their natural instincts and encourages them to exercise and build up condition in preparation for release, - a process which can take many months. One eagle in care following electrocution burns, was regularly visited by three of the local wild eagles, who sat in the trees around the aviary, snacking on free range chooks and keeping a very close eye on the 'new boy'.

Many injured raptors have come through the Ravenhill facilities. After an inspiring visit to Craig Webb's Raptor Refuge, Alastair began plans for a purpose built enclosure which would allow injured eagles to stay closer to their territories on the NW coast and avoid the stressful journey south and putting pressure on the Kettering refuge.

Funding was received from the Tasmanian Landcare Association in partnership with WILDCARE and volunteers are building the 20 m long x 4.2m high x 4.2m wide aviary from timber, with a corrugated steel roof and salmon netting. There were initial delays due to some shocking weather, but the new facility is proceeding nicely and will be ready in early 2011 in time for






*Alastair Ross and Work in Progress*

this season's juveniles who often get into trouble from lack of experience.

For further information about Ravenhill ring Alastair Ross on 0409 978064

Alastair Ross  
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## Enough of this Stuffing Around

The headline for this article wasn't designed just to get your attention. It's a real live story!

Since Wildcare and this magazine Wildtimes were born back in 1997 distribution of the magazine has always been a bit of a chore.

A dedicated group of volunteers usually meet for the morning at the Parks head office in Macquarie Street Hobart and proceed to stick labels on envelopes, stuff in the magazines and stick down the envelopes.

This last task has become much more palatable with the introduction of peel and stick envelopes!

But our membership drive of the last year has taken membership to around 4,000 and with the prospect of even more to come we decided to look for alternatives.

And we found them in the form of Print Mail Logistics (PML) Ltd in Hobart who has the capacity to do all this stuffing for us automatically, for a price of course.



*David and Christine Harris 'Stuffing around' with Wildtimes 38*

So, dear reader, sit back and enjoy this edition in the knowledge that it is the first one to be automatically stuffed!

Craig Saunders

## Coningham Heads South - help is just a phonecall away

It was rumoured earlier this year that Parks and Wildlife staff at Hastings (home of the caves and thermal springs) were having trouble getting rid of the invasive weed Spanish Heath (*Erica lusitanica*) in their local patch.

Luckily Huonville volunteer facilitator Pip Gowen overheard Hastings staff talking about the problem and the little light globe (low energy type of course) lit up.

A few well placed emails later and the Coningham Gun Spanish Heath Removal Team (CGSHRT) often masquerading as volunteers from Wildcare's own Friends of Coningham Nature Recreation Area swung into action.

More accurately, they accepted an invitation from Pip for an outing to the far south to do a little of what they do best (kill Spanish Heath) on someone else's patch.

Throw in a free morning tea provided at the Hastings café and free swim and cave tour and you've got a recipe for success.

The day was blustery, wet and cold but that didn't deter the team from Coningham, led by pocket rocket weeder Jean Taylor.

To the local's amazement the job was all done by lunchtime. Coningham regular Mike Bowden was overheard to quip, "Get us a real job next time!"

If you'd like to join Jean and the team at their regular worksite, at Coningham overlooking the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, give her a call on 6267 4870.

Craig Saunders, Pip Gowen



*Mike Bowden warms up at Hastings*



*Coningham Crew Finish the Job*



# The Money Pages

2010 has been a big year in the Wildcare treasury.

To give you just some idea of the comings and goings I have produced these tables showing grants we have received from outside organisations and grants we have made internally through our own Internal Grants Program.

From outside Wildcare Inc we have received 26 separate grants totalling \$219,150.24.

These grants came from all levels of government: local, state and commonwealth, and from independent bodies such as all three of Tasmania's NRM organisations and the Tasmanian Landcare Association.

Much of our success this year, especially for branches who are new to the grant application process, is attributable to our dedicated group facilitator Jodie Epper.

Jodie started part time with Wildcare back in March 2010 with the aim of assisting our branches prepare grant applications,

especially for the Tasmanian Landcare Association's Tas Landcaring Grants Program. But over the last 10 months or so Jodie has achieved this and much more. Well done Jodie!

The success of our Internal Grants Program this year is due to our increased membership numbers and the interest we are earning from the Wildcare Gift Fund.

All those extra \$25 have allowed us to allocate \$24,467.33 to 15 separate projects.

These are projects that might not have gone ahead but for the simple act of joining Wildcare.

So thankyou to all Wildcare members.

And once again, a special thankyou to Bob Tyson for stepping into the treasurer's job while I was overseas.

Craig Saunders  
Treasurer, Wildcare Inc

## Wildcare Inc - Internal Grants Program 2010

| Wildcare Branch or member          | Project Title                                      | Amount             |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Friends of Mt Field                | Hut and Track Maintenance at Mt Field              | \$1,141.00         |
| Friends of Bass Strait Islands     | Chainsaw Training                                  | \$1,500.00         |
| Friends of Melaleuca               | Repairs to Charles King Memorial Hut               | \$2,000.00         |
| Friends of Tasman Island           | Weatherproofing of Tasman Island Buildings         | \$1,668.83         |
| Friends of Bass Strait Islands     | Boxthorn Control on Bass Strait Islands            | \$2,000.00         |
| Friends of Freycinet               | Gorse eradication on Schouten Island               | \$1,994.00         |
| Friends of Tasman Island           | Tasman Island Booklet                              | \$2,000.00         |
| Friends of Cradle Mt Lake St Clair | Policemans Hut Upgrade                             | \$2,000.00         |
| Friends of Maatsuyker Island       | Maatsuyker Island Booklet                          | \$2,000.00         |
| Jaimie Cleeland                    | Shearwater and Penguin Research on Wedge Island    | \$2,000.00         |
| Rivers Wildcare                    | Andrew and Franklin Rivers Blackberry Control      | \$2,000.00         |
| *Alastair Ross                     | Eagle rehabilitation pen                           | \$1,498.50         |
| *Friends of Maria Island           | General Support of Maria Island Volunteer programs | \$1,300.00         |
| *Tamar Island Wetlands             | Water Quality Measurement in Wetlands              | \$195.00           |
| *Friends of Bass Strait Islands    | Chainsaw Training                                  | \$1,170.00         |
|                                    | <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>\$24,467.33</b> |

\* Subject to Board Decision in December



## Wildcare Grants Success 2010

| Grant Organisation   | Wildcare Branch                                 | Project Title  | Amount              |
|--|---|--|---------------------|
| NRM Cradle Coast   | Whale Rescue First Response Teams               | First Response Whale Rescue for King Island Volunteers   | \$8,208.20          |
| NRM North  | Friends of Bass Strait Islands                  | Boxthorn Control On Furneaux Outer Islands   | \$4,029.14          |
| Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (DFHCSIA) | SPRATS  | EPIRBs and Radios  | \$3,300.00          |
| DFHCSIA  | Friends of Bay of Fires                         | Tools, PPE and training course   | \$4,998.00          |
| DFHCSIA  | Friends of Maria Island                         | Tools, PPE and training course   | \$1,520.00          |
| DFHCSIA  | Friends of Mt Field                             | Safety harness, tools and fuel reimbursements  | \$1,000.57          |
| DFHCSIA  | Threatened Plants Tasmania                      | Training, radios and fuel reimbursement  | \$4,294.00          |
| DFHCSIA  | Friends of Maatsuyker Island                    | various tools  | \$3,979.00          |
| Tasmanian Community Fund   | Friends of Maatsuyker Island                    | Guttering repairs to Maatsuyker Island Lightstation  | \$7,524.00          |
| Dept of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts                              | Wildcare Inc                                    | Administration Expenses  | \$4,500.00          |
| Tasmanian Landcare Association   | Friends of Central North Wildlife Carers        | Construction of an aviary for the care and rehabilitation of injured Wedge-tailed and White-bellied Sea eagles in North West Tasmania. | \$4,547.93          |
| Tasmanian Landcare Association   | Friends of Maria Island                         | Sweeping the Broom – Continuing the Control of Canary Broom on Maria Island (Stage 3)  | \$19,905.00         |
| Tasmanian Landcare Association   | Friends of Coningham NRA                        | Protect habitat in Coningham NRA by controlling threatening processes.   | \$15,694.00         |
| NRM South  | Friends of Maatsuyker Island                    | Maintenance of rehabilitation of migratory seabird habitat on Maatsuyker Island - Volunteer Transport                                  | \$2,200.00          |
| Aust Govt NRM Team   | SPRATS  | Eradication of Ecosystem Transforming Weeds from Tasmania's Wilderness Coastline   | \$90,200.00         |
| Clarence City Council  | Wildcare Deslacs                                | Preparation of Management Plan for Clifton Beach area  | \$3,156.00          |
| Clarence City Council  | Wildcare Injured and Orphaned Bush Babies South | Provision of ICU kits  | \$995.00            |
| Dept of Premier and Cabinet  | Coastal Custodians                              | SW Tasmania Beach Cleanup  | \$5,000.00          |
| NRM South  | Friends of Freycinet                            | Improving the Habitat of Schouten Island   | \$3,300.00          |
| NRM South  | Friends of Maria Island                         | Coastal Region Weed Control - Maria Island National Park   | \$1,210.50          |
| NRM South  | Wildcare Injured and Orphaned Bush Babies South | Rehabilitating Wildlife in the Southern NRM Region (Provision of Bush Hospital)  | \$3,300.00          |
| NRM South  | Friends of Tasman Island                        | Cleanup and rubbish removal from Tasman Island   | \$2,750.00          |
| NRM South  | Threatened Plants Tasmania                      | Creating a Pamphlet Template for TPT Activities  | \$550.00            |
| Tasmanian Landcare Association   | Friends of Bass Strait Islands                  | Boxthorn Control on Roydon Island  | \$13,079.00         |
| Tasmanian Community Fund   | Friends of Melaleuca Wildcare                   | Re-roofing Charles King Memorial Hut Melaleuca   | \$6,059.90          |
| Tasmanian Community Fund   | Friends of Deal Island                          | Upgrade Deal Island Water Supply.  | \$3,850.00          |
|  |   | <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$219,150.24</b> |



# Park staff I've Worked With...

*(The last in a series of informal chats Will Forsyth has about Parks and Wildlife staff he has met and worked with over his many years as a volunteer with Wildcare Inc. You could say he's left the best till last but that might be inappropriate editorial licence ...)*

This guy I'm going to tell you about is approaching middle age and fairly active in lots of ways. In particular he rides a bike from where he lives in the Huon Valley to work.

He and his partner grow trees on their property, have done for many years. Prior to that he operated adventure programs: bushwalking, kayaking etc. Employed staff in these programs.

Prior to all this he originated from Launceston initially. Went to school there. Then to Uni where he earned a Degree in Engineering.

The RAAF featured in his life for a while. Learned to fly an aircraft. So you can see he is a fairly active person.

An opportunity arose to join Parks. Looking after Wildcare and other volunteers.

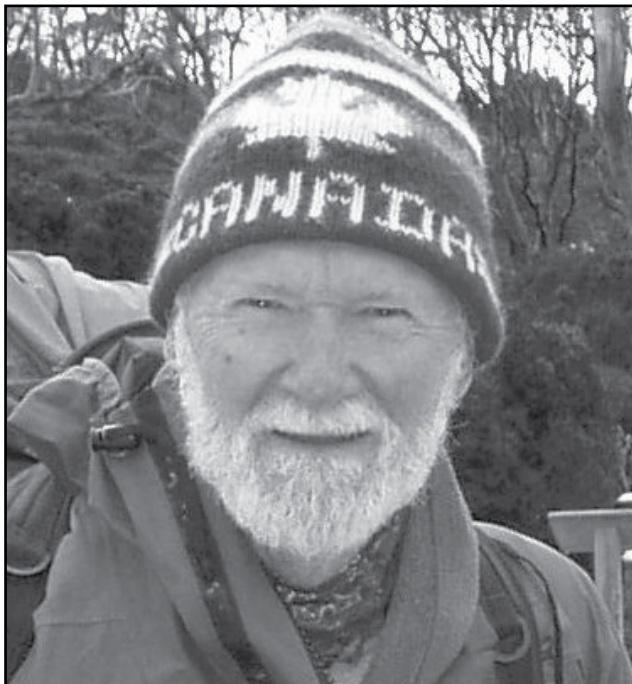
Spending a lot of his time in the Melaleuca area. Lots of volunteers experienced the OBP program here. Some went down there on working bees.

It was on a couple of these that I gradually learnt more about him. One time was marking the gravel airstrip, putting in a cement base for the new wind sock.

One particular time he and I walked to Cox Bight to cut and paste some blackberries that had established themselves.

We also had a look around in the area for evidence of the tin mining activities that started off there before being established at Melaleuca.

Weather wise it was a fine and pleasant day. So much so that



Will Forsyth

on the way back to Melaleuca we sat on the side of the track in the sun, and talked about our lives.

It was during this time that I was made aware of all the past doings that I have already related. We were half way along New Harbour Range. Great view down to Cox Bight and up to Mt Rugby.

Time to move on. We returned to the Rangers Quarters and the camping ground in time for the evening meal.

From then we met up due to various happenings. My home near oatlands was a stopping off point for several bike trips to Launceston.

Sometimes overnight, other times just call in to stock up on calories.

Over the past couple of years we have worked closely on matters associated with Wildcare. He carries a heavy load but handles it without trouble.

Oh, I forgot to mention he is also an accomplished musician. Plays a mean French horn with the Huon Valley Concert Band.

The guy I'm talking about is Craig Saunders.

Will Forsyth



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# Threatened Plants Tasmania Springs into Action

This spring Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT) has had a very busy field trip schedule, with enthusiastic volunteers monitoring and surveying threatened flora in areas throughout the state including the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area and Wynyard in the north-west, the Midlands around Campbelltown and Conara, our regular sites at Milford and Pontville near Hobart, and our first trip to Bruny Island.

Our expert supervisors from the Threatened Species Section of DPIPW, particularly Richard Schahinger, have guided us in gathering data on various threatened orchids, tiny wetland ephemeral species, and grassland species as varied as *Vittadinia australasica*, a grassland daisy found (in Tasmania) only in the Arthur Pieman area, not to mention *Velleia paradoxa* and *Pultenaea prostrata*, threatened species both under management on the Campbelltown Golf Course. Although not usually a focus of our group, we have also undertaken some weed control in particularly sensitive areas.

A major focus this year is the Tasmanian Midlands, since we are currently funded by a Caring for Country Community Action Grant to provide support for improving habitat conditions and conservation of threatened plant species in that area. Volunteer labour input for this project is crucial, and, with the help of DPIPW, we have recently undertaken surveys on private land covered by conservation covenants or vegetation management agreements under the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002.

This has resulted in the discovery of numerous new locations for some threatened species, and has also identified sites for seed collection which will proceed very soon. Collected site data will be deposited in DPIPW's Natural Values Atlas, and results from existing monitoring sites will assist in the ongoing management of these areas.

TPT has also received support this year from the Tasmanian Landcare Association, Cradle Coast NRM, NRM South, and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. With the help of this support we have been able to upgrade our field trip safety standards through the use of UHF units in the field and the provision of first aid kits. A significant number of volunteers has also benefited from training in First Aid (through classes held in both the North-west and the South of the state), as well as training in GPS and UHF radio use. We have also been able to make a small contribution to volunteers' petrol costs. We are now aiming to produce an informative TPT brochure, and are working on a new TPT web site.

A new experience for us this year was running a stand at the Australian Plant Society show in Hobart. We really appreciated this opportunity and had an excellent response, with the result



*Belinda Colson (Cradle Coast NRM), Christine Howells, Rod Holden and Richard Schahinger (DPIPWE) discover *Stylidium beagleholei* in the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area.*

that quite a few new members signed up, some of whom have already joined us in the field.

We are very grateful to all of you who have participated in our activities, and we have enjoyed the occasional company of rangers from the Parks and Wildlife Service. We hope to catch up with even more of you out there on a trip soon.

We are also keen to hear from any other community groups or individuals who may have threatened plants species under their care. More information on threatened species can be accessed at <http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/> under "Native Plants and Animals".

And for more information on any of our activities, contact our president Phil Collier at [threatenedplantstas@gmail.com](mailto:threatenedplantstas@gmail.com), or Ph. 0438 002 615

Viv Muller

Threatened Plants Tasmania



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# West Coast Cleanup 2010

It is nice to be staring at the stars and grey silhouettes of the precipitous islands in the moonlight as we make our way slowly westward along the South Coast of Tasmania.

The boat is gently rolling in the long three metre swell and the wind has dropped to below 5 knots making for ideal steaming conditions.

The last two days have been pretty hectic as usual with four media appointments, provisioning the boats for the team of 15 and some last minute crew shuffles. Its all worth it now.

We are on our way back to the 'pristine' beaches of Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area where the magnificent, broad sand dune backed beaches will be devoid of human footprints but strewn with rubbish from all corners of the globe.

This west facing coastline is similar to that of South West of Western Australia receiving long ranged swells from the Southern Ocean as the roaring 40's march uninterrupted from the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

The similarities with WA end there though with no roads, vineyards or crowds in the raw ocean surf of this remote natural wonderland.

The boat roll changes as we steam past the steep granite walls of South West Cape, where the short sharp backwash confuses the swell.

This is were we usually see the first signs of sea sickness, thankfully all the volunteers are tucked up snugly in bed as its now 4 am in the morning and they have been asleep for hours.

We make anchorage at Spain Bay inside the massive natural harbour that is Port Davey. With the other boats picking up and re-setting their cray-pots we will be cleaning this beach ourselves today which is a daunting prospect with a rookie crew and a beach that consistently yields around 3000 items, most of them small pieces of brightly coloured plastic and rope.

Still we have 6 of the cleanup crew eager to get ashore and we are also joined in the beach comb by the 2 sea kayakers we are delivering here for their annual two week wilderness sabbatical.

It takes about 4 hours to make our way to slowly make our way to the far eastern corner of the beach where the geography conspires to concentrate the majority of the rubbish.

The first timers are spellbound by the scenery, with wide eyes and distant gazes; it's a subdued green and grey prehistoric landscape that few people will ever see.

Their eyes should be scouring the sand around them picking up the bright blues, reds, greens, whites and geometric patterns which are the hidden amongst the shingle beaches, sand and up under the overhanging vegetation along the length of the beach.

Over the week their eyes will become adept at picking up the colours and patterns but for now 3 trip veteran Dayna and I walk at the back of the group picking up the easily overlooked items.



*Sorting West Coast Marine Debris*

Its feels good to finish one of the hardest beaches on the first day and this year it's not hailing as we work this year which is a definite bonus.

As the three boats converge on the new anchorage for the night I am on the flybridge watching in the gentle evening light as a pod of dolphins ride the bow of the Cheiftan G and surf the dingy's bow as we gather all the crew on the Velocity for the first nightly rubbish count and dinner.

The nightly count is the least favourite task for the team, it usually only takes an hour but it requires a sustained group effort to recognise, collect and count the similar items and fit them into the 65 predefined item categories on the tally sheet.

Of if they do this job well, they don't snore and don't get seasick then they will always be on the first call list for the next trip.

Good Friday was a belter rubbish wise with 3521 items collected for the day including one of the red CSIRO drift cards for modelling ocean currents.

After a big feed of Wursthauus lamb with roasted vegies the crew relax into the night with a few groovy tunes, cool Cascades and some Gillespies ginger beers. Smiles and laughs abound as the hoola-hoops are out and with the gentle roll we are quickly in hysterics watching slightly wobbly participants strut their stuff.

It's another early start for the team as we gather some of the crew off the working crayboats at around 5.30am for the trip north to the Grand Midden.



The wind has backed NE and swell still holding at around 2.5 to 3 metres so we have to try landing in the sheltered SE corner of the beach alongside the rip bowl that will be the first surf for the crew at the end of the day.

Getting into this beach is a lot easier and drier than trying to get back off as all the crew will discover at the end of the day.

Thankfully we are making progress in our endeavours as Grand Midden is a lot cleaner than our visit 2 years before when we collected over 5000 items off only half of the 2 km long beach.

The cameras are working overtime as we pick up the detritus from along the high tide mark and amongst the large dune blowouts. If only the debris was as inert and biodegradable as the large abalone and warrener shells in the expansive middens we could have just surfed the fun 2-4 foot beach breaks constantly distracting the surfing members of the cleanup team.

Still the team work like trojans and we manage a few late arvo waves before the early evening count. Former world Junior Champion Dara Penfold, and Junior Tasmanian Champ Hamish Renwick dominate the lineup scoring most of the set waves but Coxy scored wave of the day with a nice dredging tube into the channel. Total rubbish haul for the day is 16 fertilizer bags for a total of around 3400 items.

Sunburned and satisfied we are thankful dinner is easy tonight as we have cryo-vacced and frozen a number of meals and tonight its curry night.

The early mornings hauling up the craypots are starting to take their toll so it's an early night for the all female crew of the Miss Carmen and teenage crew of the Cheiftan G.

It's Groundhog Day for the next four days as we walk, clean, surf and recreate at Shipwreck Bay, Button Bay, North Point Bay and Rocky Bay.

The wave quality steadily increases as does the camaraderie within the crew as we share the bounties of the coast. Smiles are emblazoned on the faces of all involved as they should be in paradise. The weather that brings the rubbish ashore is on its way. The wind will swing to the NW and strengthen before swinging through the West to strong SW.

We have timed our run well on these western beaches but now its time to follow the albatross as they head SW with a tailwind down and around South West Cape.

We make it to Ketcham under a steel grey sky and take a stroll along the base of the precipitous coastline in a light drizzle. This neat little south facing anchorage is the cleanest beach we have seen in a few days and we collect less than 100 items.

With some words of thanks and encouragement as well as info on a rubbish stash from a team of bushwalkers we head west to one of the best anchorages on the South Coast. The legend of Beercan Bay lives on.



*Rare Tropical Fruit Discovered on the West Coast*

A twilight stroll with Jules, Hania and Sam yields an astounding 599 aluminium cans and pieces in the midst of the SW wilderness. The trip would not be possible without the Crayfishermen Dave Wyatt, Kent Way, Nick Harris and Dean Hulton who donate their boats time and invaluable experience.

A big thanks to our volunteer crew and our sponsors Patagonia, Wildcare, Pennicott Wilderness Adventures, The Wursthau, Gillespies Ginger Beer and Cascade.

Without your generous assistance we couldn't continue our annual pilgrimage to the Heart of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area.

The newly formed Wildcare Coastal Custodians will be running the 2011 cleanup next year. We have received a \$5,000 sundry grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

This combined with our existing sponsors will ensure the cleanup continues for another couple of years.

Please check out our website at <http://wha-marinedebris.blogspot.com/> and stay tuned for some Sea Star cleanups and fundraising events in the new year.

Please respect our planet.

Matt Dell

Wildcare Coastal Custodians

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# Policemans Hut Brought to Order

Policemans Hut is a small accommodation hut located on Parks and Wildlife Service land just outside the northern boundary of the Cradle Mt – Lake St Clair National Park next to the Cradle Mountain Campground.

As the name suggests the hut was first used as an overnighiter for Tasmania Police based at Liawenee and visiting the Cradle Mt area for official duties.

As the roads (and police vehicles) improved the hut fell into disuse until Wildcare offered it a new life!

Coordinator of the Overland Track Hut Warden Program (and currently Wildcare Co-Chair) Will Forsyth was looking for accommodation for hut wardens who often drove long distances from home to Cradle Mt and perhaps didn't then have time to complete the long walk into Waterfall Valley.

The Policemans Hut fitted the bill perfectly.

Or at least nearly perfectly. The hut needed a bit of TLC to bring it up to the high standards our volunteers deserved. Several years ago the hut was moved to a sheltered location on the edge of the workshop compound and preliminary improvements made.

Recently regular hut wardens Ian and Sue Berry and Ian and Joan Fitzallen joined Will and PWS ranger Peter Dodd for a working bee to get the place up to 5 star standard.

Over a couple of days the team levelled and stabilised the floor, removed the old chimney and covered the hole in the roof with new iron, connected (cold) water, installed a fridge and a new lock on the door.



*Policemans Hut Work Team (male half), from left, Ian Berry, Will Forsyth, Ian Fitzallen and Peter Dodd*

They even managed to scavenge an old picnic table for the 'beer garden' next to the hut.

To complement this great work the Wildcare Board chipped in with a \$2,000 grant from our Internal Grants Program (see this year's summary in this edition).

With the money the group will purchase paint, storage bins, exhaust fan, cupboards and a fridge.

Regular hut wardens Mark and Therese Tischler plan to have these installed before the start of this summer's season.

So, well done to Will and the crew.

Future hut wardens can now have a more relaxed (and safe) drive to Cradle knowing they have accommodation for the night before an early start next morning up the hill to Waterfall Valley.

Craig Saunders




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# Book Review

## - Tasmanian plant names unravelled

Mark Wapstra, Annie Wapstra, Hans Wapstra

Fullers Bookshop 2010

Mark, Annie and Hans Wapstra have produced a great book. In 470 beautifully designed pages they have included around 900 quality colour photos of Tasmanian plants (both native naturalised) and enough information to keep you going through most of next year!

This is a book about plant names. It's neither a field guide nor a technical description of Tasmanian plants but if you've got any interest in the subject at all, it would be a wonderful companion to either.

The book presents the plants in alphabetical order of family names, further subdivided alphabetically into genus then species. So to find your favourites easily you'll have to know their family name (my favourite *Banksia marginata* is a member of the *Proteaceae* family) or of course you can use the comprehensive index.

In case you thought you knew it all, or even worse just assumed it was obvious where our plant names came from, then just consider these examples derived from the name franklin. *Cardamine franklinensis* is named after Mt Franklin in the ACT, *Epacris franklinii* after the Franklin River in Tasmania, *Lagarostrobos franklinii* after Tasmanian governor Sir John Franklin and *Acradenia franklinii* in honour of his wife Lady Jane Franklin.

Sprinkled through the book are short biographies of 38 of our more notable botanists including Joseph Banks, Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardière, Ronald Gunn and Leonard Rodway. Added to this are other notes of special interest such as "triggerplants – quicker than the eye can see" and "Just where did the name dogwood come from?"

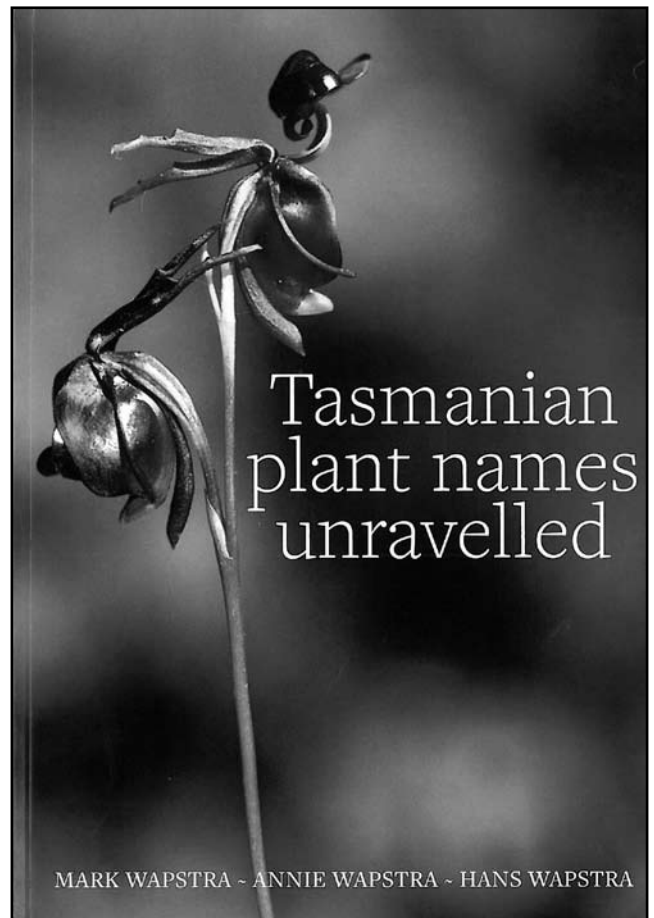
Throughout the book the Wapstra family have kept in mind advice offered by William T. Stearn in his Stearn's Dictionary of Plant names for Gardeners:

*"To write a book on plant names without making a few mistakes and perpetuating some time-honoured errors is, of course, well-nigh impossible, since the compilation of even mediocre work on plant names calls for a good working knowledge of several languages, notably Latin, Greek, German, French and Dutch, an understanding of linguistics, an extensive acquaintance of botanical literature, access to original sources in a well-stocked botanical library, a critical approach and the expenditure of much time."*

Congratulations Mark, Annie and Hans, this book demonstrates all this, and more ...

Tasmanian plant names unravelled is available from Fullers Bookshops in Hobart and Launceston for \$75 (rrp).

Craig Saunders



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# Help Protect Our Grass Trees

The Friends of Marks Point Wildcare group was formed in 2008 with the aim of maintaining the natural values of this area of North Bruny Island.

The group wanted to provide information to local residents about the root fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* which had been accidentally introduced to the coastal reserve and put in place measures to stop its spread.

We received a grant from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Community Coastcare Program to support these activities.

Since that time, in conjunction with the Parks and Wildlife Service, we have installed a vehicle barrier, boot cleaning stations and temporary signage.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey has been conducted and weeds removed on a regular basis.

The area was declared a Conservation Area in February 2010 which has paved the way for permanent information signs to be developed.

These are currently being printed ready for installation in the coming weeks.

Since the vehicle barrier and boot cleaning stations have been installed and information

distributed to local residents there has been less negative impact on natural values within the Conservation Area.

While the root fungus continues to affect grass trees and other species the protective measures are helping to contain its spread.

The project has gained support from local residents who see 'The Point' as an important part of the local landscape.

Janine Combes  
Friends of Marks Point



Marks Point – Help Protect Our Grass Trees

## Wildtimes by Email? Yes, Please!

With Wildcare membership now racing past 4,000 you can imagine that production and distribution costs of our magazine Wildtimes are becoming rather significant. In fact for 2010 the magazine accounts for roughly 20% of our total administration budget.

In order to keep these costs down we are asking all members to consider whether they really need to receive a paper copy or whether they can make do with our on-line version. And this is no ordinary on line version! Have a look at our special Uniflip presentation of the latest newsletter at <http://www.wildcaretas.org.au/pages/newsletter.php>

If you'd like to swap to the on-line delivery you'll need to log in on our website as a member (the default username is your email address and the default password is your current membership number). Click on 'Manage Contact and Membership Details' then scroll down to the 2 questions: 'Do you want to receive Wildtimes by email?' and 'Do you want to receive Wildtimes by mail?'



Alternatively send me a quick email at [wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au](mailto:wildtimes@wildcaretas.org.au) and I'll do it for you.

Changing to on-line delivery of Wildtimes will not only save the paper and distribution costs, but free up more funds for spending on other worthwhile Wildcare projects.

Craig Saunders



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|---------------------------|----------|
| Circle size               | S M L XL |
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| How many?                 |          |
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| Rugby top (Green/white) |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Circle size             | S M L XL |
| Item cost               | \$45.00  |
| How many?               |          |
| Total cost this item    | \$       |



| Beanie (charcoal)    |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Circle size          | One Size Fits All |
| Item cost            | \$12.00           |
| How many?            |                   |
| Total cost this item | \$                |



| Polo shirt (Green)   |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Circle size          | S M L XL |
| Item cost            | \$30.00  |
| How many?            |          |
| Total cost this item | \$       |



| Cap (Green)          |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Circle size          | One Size Fits All |
| Item cost            | \$12.00           |
| How many?            |                   |
| Total cost this item | \$                |



| T shirt (Green)      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Circle size          | S M L XL |
| Item cost            | \$25.00  |
| How many?            |          |
| Total cost this item | \$       |



| Broad-rimmed hat (Green) |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Circle size              | S M L XL |
| Item cost                | \$16.00  |
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Wildcare Coastal Custodians on Tassie's West Coast. See their story on page 14



David and Trauti Reynolds 'stuffing around' with Wildtimes. Not for much longer, see why on page 9



Buddy the pademelon needing ICU. Follow his story on page 7



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