

## DPIPWE Volunteer News Update - January 2021

Right across Tasmania, Volunteer Caretakers and Campsite hosts are currently supporting the visitor experience in Tasmanian National Parks and Reserves.

DPIPWE are fortunate to be supported by volunteer caretakers and campsite hosts at Friendly Beaches and Lagoons, Schouten Island, Deal Island, Mt Field, Maatsuyker Island, Melaleuca and Waterfall Valley, just to name just a few!

### Why become a Volunteer Caretaker?

Volunteers often come to us having undertaken similar volunteer roles in National Parks across Australia - and often, across the globe!

Becoming a Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Caretaker, is an opportunity to get off the beaten track and live in stunning Tasmanian locations and facilities that are often not available to the general public, including light houses and historical sites.

Volunteer Caretakers leave their normal day-to-day life behind to seek out opportunities to become immersed in the natural and cultural history of special places.

Our Caretakers, not only provide valuable assistance to the PWS, but put the 'care" into Caretaker, by providing information and a very warm welcome to visitors.

### The Lighthouse keepers



*Jo, PWS Caretaker, clearing the scrub at Cape Bruny*

*Photo: Tim Brown, PWS Volunteer*

PWS Caretaker roles are highly sought after, and while most are fully subscribed this season, a recent unforeseen circumstance saw Tim and Jo Brown step in at the last moment to assist the PWS on Bruny Island.



*Tim, PWS Caretaker enjoying Christmas Dinner at Cape Bruny  
Photo: Tim Brown, PWS Volunteer*

*"When we were asked, at short notice, to fill in as Caretakers at the Cape Bruny Light Station over the Christmas and New Year Holidays, we were so excited. We had previously volunteered at Cape Bruny a year or so before, so returning for Christmas was extra special. It was great to see Jen, Brett and Scott again, the local Parks and Wildlife staff.*

*Our days were filled with weather readings for the Bureau of Meteorology at 9am and 3pm, walking around the park picking up litter, cutting back the overgrown bushes and keeping the newly completed toilet block clean and presentable.*

*We loved the interaction with visitors, passing on the knowledge we had acquired about the site and its history.*

*One of the visitors was a relative of the convicts who survived the sinking of the George III. The George III sank after striking the reef in the D'Entrecasteaux channel, a tragedy which was the final catalyst in the decision to erect the lighthouse in its current position. Another visitor was a climber who suffered injuries in 1998 whilst climbing the Totem Pole in the nearby Tasman National Park, who has since returned to conquer the climb along with many other adventures.*



*Cape Bruny Lighthouse  
Photo: Tim Brown, PWS Volunteer*

*We had one group of young visitors who were too tired to help their friend who was in a wheelchair up to the lighthouse, so a complete stranger offered and pushed her to the top of the hill, no mean feat.*

*These interactions coupled with fascinating stories and acts of kindness, made our stint at Cape Bruny, so special.*

*Once we had finished for the day and shut the gates, we enjoyed other lovely moments, such as having a full roast turkey Christmas dinner on the 25<sup>th</sup>, sitting on the picnic bench outside the museum. Sitting eating our roast in the lovely Tassie evening sun, is a memory we will treasure for years to come. Followed a few days later watching the sun setting over the ocean from the top of the lighthouse on the 31<sup>st</sup>, Happy Days."*

**DPIPWE is fortunate to be supported by big hearted and skilled volunteers.**

**Thank you to all our Caretakers and Campsite Hosts**

**who have already provided assistance this season and to all those currently out there supporting the visitor experience.**

If you are interested in DPIPWE volunteering opportunities, refer to the 'Get Involved' page and join our volunteer mailing list to be kept informed of upcoming opportunities and news. You can join our mailing list by emailing [volunteering@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:volunteering@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)