

DPIPWE Volunteer news update



Volunteer, Carly Lambert undertaking a Shy Albatross bonding pair and egg count survey

DPIPWE Volunteers have been back out and about around Tasmania connecting with each other, community and the environment, including:

- Providing education and fishing clinics to school groups as part of our Fishcare Program
- Helping to make this years Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens tomato plant sale the biggest on record, welcoming visitors to enjoy spring time and teddy bear hunts in the Gardens, working as part of our growing and seed bank volunteer groups
- Enhancing the visitor experience through the provision of key information at PWS sites, including the Cape Bruny Lighthouse, the Bruny Island Quarantine Station and Tamar Island Wetlands Centre
- Working as part of the DPIPWE team to assist with whale rescue operations at Macquarie Harbour
- Monitoring threatened species, including the Shy Albatross, Tasmanian Devils and recording the return of Orange-bellied parrots at Melaleuca
- Undertaking field work and surveys as part of our Natural Values Science Program and Sustainable Caves projects.

Thank you!





Fishcare School Clinic



Tony from Tas Loaves and Fishes, Neil, RTBG Volunteer, and Adam, RTBG Horticulturist harvesting produce in the Tasmanian Community Garden, that provides much needed food relief for Tasmanians in need

Volunteer Groups

With almost 50% of Tasmanian land under DPIWPE management, we receive support from over 100 community and environmental volunteer groups, including Wildcare, Landcare, independent sporting clubs, community associations, historical societies and many more.

Our long standing collaborations with these volunteer groups results in extraordinary contributions from Tasmanians caring for special places.

This month we celebrate the contributions from the following groups having returned to volunteering after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions:

- Launceston Mountain Bike Club
- Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail
- Doctors Rocks Penguins (Wildcare)
- Friends of Freycinet (Wildcare)
- Friends of Cradle Mountain (Wildcare)
- Friends of Lillico Penguins (Wildcare)
- Friends of Maria Island (Wildcare)
- Postmans Track Group
- Wynyard Landcare
- Friends of Trevallyn Reserves (Landcare)
- Mt Roland Rivercare



Wynyard Landcare recently planted over 200 native grasses during a working bee at Fossil Bluff.



Friends of Maria Island working at French's Farm

In focus - Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail



*Friends of Penguin Cradle Trail's Eddie Firth and Glen Boyle, forming the track
Photo: Greig Clarke*

ensure contact tracing can be undertaken.

This being our first major working bee since February it was a good opportunity to see how things work in our current COVID situation and it may change in the future. The equipment is from our local PWS / Wildcare tool trailer, we hand sanitize before collecting our PPE (vests, gloves, glasses, helmets) and tools. We have a briefing at the start to explain the day's activity, expectations, safety issues and also work under the PWS WHS management system which ensure that we have specific Job Risk Analysis (JRA) forms applicable to the tasks at hand.

The good part is then we go bush and work on different sections of the Penguin Cradle Trail. The location is dependent on work required, people available and the weather. We currently have permission to put in a new section of track down into Gunns Plains and when completed will remove the need to walk via a private plantation. This photo is of the the new Gunns Plains section.

People have different expectations of working bees but I find them enjoyable, we have laughs, sore muscles, but doing something worthwhile with like minded people in an outdoor environment and when you walk back over your days work, you have a sense of achievement.

Regards, Greig Clarke, Friends of the PCT

Friends of Maria Island (Wildcare)

Back on the Island again!

After many months, the Friends of Maria Island (Wildcare) have returned to Maria Island. A project at French's Farm south of Darlington was planned prior to COVID-19 restrictions. The project included 6 volunteers and 3 Parks and Wildlife staff freshening up the farm house along with a clean up of the barn. Works included, painting the house, repairs to windows and doors and replacing a section of ceiling in the front room, along with weeding around the house. A bonus, was erecting timber steps to the rear verandah. In the barn, stud wall support was put in place along with a clean up of decades of old 'poo' on the timber floors. The PWS put in place a large pole to support the overhanging roof. Large stones, gravel and drain were put in place to take away excess water. After a wet first day the weather turned and we had many sunny days for the project.

Thanks to PWS staff (Pete, Kath, Shane & Darren) and FoMI vollies, David, Alan, Sue, Lorraine, Colleen and Zok for their generous help. Next year sees another visit to finish some small jobs and a final coat of paint on the house.

Regards, David Reynolds, Friends of Maria Island (Wildcare)

Thank you to each and every volunteer for your extraordinary contributions

If you would like to submit a news story or photo ahead of our next update, please send to volunteering@dipwwe.tas.gov.au

We're back!

The Penguin Cradle Trail (PCT) is a 76 kilometre walk for experienced bush walkers, from Penguin to Cradle Mountain. It starts at the coast, takes you through some rural areas and seemingly untouched open woodland and rainforest to Cradle Mountain. The Track follows rugged mountain ranges, a canyon with a wild river running through it, idyllic lakes, waterfalls, ancient conifers and wildflower areas.

Due to COVID-19 a lot has changed and this also applies to our working bees. New procedures and paperwork apply and all volunteers are required to be pre-registered with DPIPWWE. I have been working with Jenna Huisman, our local PWS volunteer Coordinator, and the DPIPWWE Volunteer Team to enable our group to commence structured working bees again. It is great to get back to the bush. Yes, we needed to complete paperwork, required from individuals and our administration to start with, but once completed we have almost removed the need for volunteers to handle folders or pens at the working bee briefings! Attendance records are computerised and forwarded to DPIPWWE, so they can see our contributions, understand which volunteers participated, ensure records for insurance, and in the event of any future outbreak.