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THE TASMANIAN  
CONSERVATIONIST

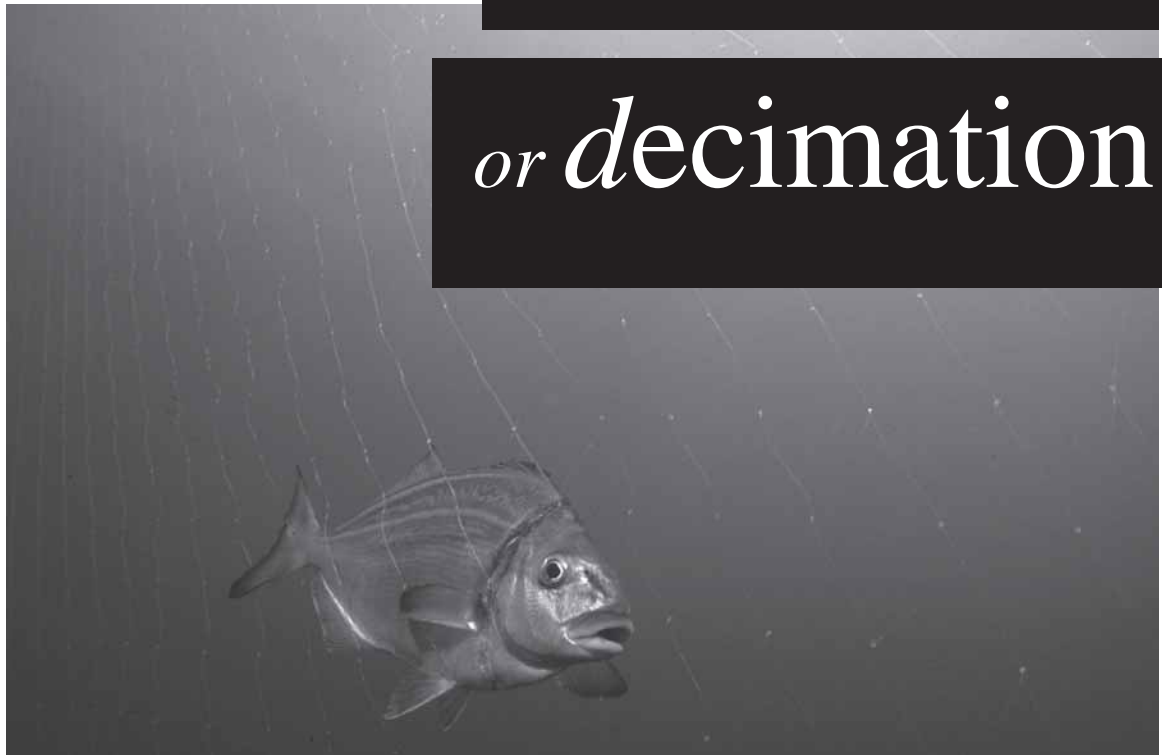
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# Gillnet fishing

*recreation*

*or decimation*



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Contributions: We encourage our readers to submit articles of interest for publication. Articles should preferably be short (up to 600 words) and well illustrated. Please forward copy on computer disk or by email if possible. Guidelines for contributors are available from the TCT office. We reserve the right to edit contributions.

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**Front cover:**

Bastard trumpeter caught in gillnet.  
Photo courtesy of Jon Bryan  
Cover story: 'Recreational Gillnets an Environmental Disaster'.  
See page 4.

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## North-West Branch

### Tasmanian Conservation Trust

Meetings of the North-West Branch of the TCT are held on the first Wednesday of each month.

The venue for the meeting is the  
**Penguin Railway Station at 5pm**

All members of the North-West Branch are invited to attend to discuss conservation issues in the area.

## Editing

### Proofreading

Specialising in conservation issues.  
Reports, management plans,  
newsletters and books.

*Janice Bird*

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# Director's report

## *Australian Government cuts TCT funding*

The Australian Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, decided in May to provide the Tasmanian Conservation Trust with no additional funding in the 2008–09 round of the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations Program (GVEHO). **We have written to the Minister asking that he reconsider this decision and provide us with the funding at the level requested and I encourage TCT members and other supports to do likewise.**

The TCT and many other similar groups depend on the GVEHO funding to cover basic administration costs. This is justified because it enables us to engage with governments at all levels.

The organisations that we believe are closest to the TCT in terms of breadth of issues covered and extent of engagement with government, namely the conservation councils of WA, SA, QLD, NSW and Victoria, were all granted \$87,000 per year for three years. Environment Tasmania has received \$55,000 per year for three years.

A ministerial advisor has provided us with an oral explanation that the sole reason for the TCT receiving no additional funding and Environment Tasmania receiving \$55,000 for three years was that the latter had a higher number and variety of member groups. This, he said, meant that Environment Tasmania better satisfied the requirements of a 'State or territory environment organisations which are acknowledged as a state or territory umbrella body', as stated in the GVEHO guide.

There is no reference in the GVEHO guidelines to only one group per state being recognised as an 'umbrella body'; the TCT has been performing this role for many decades and continues to do so. We do not begrudge Environment Tasmania or other groups the funding they received and have not asked (nor will we ask) for their funding to be cut. We simply think that we also deserve funding to support the important work we do.

In the absence of a 'one umbrella body per state' rule we find it inexplicable and unjustifiable that the TCT was judged to be worthy of so much less funding than Environment Tasmania and mainland conservation councils. The difference in the number of groups that are members of our respective organisations is very slight and could not alone be used to justify such a decision.

Perhaps more importantly, in respect of the definition of a state umbrella body, the minister's decision clearly did not take account of myriad groups the TCT 'represents' who are not members. Almost every day we work with other groups on issues of shared concern, some who contact us seeking assistance and others with whom we have an established relationship. We assist in a range of ways, yet for a variety of reasons most choose not to formally affiliate with the TCT.

In terms of the breadth of issues covered, the TCT has no peer in Tasmania. Not only does it work on all the

GVEHO environmental priorities, but it addresses each in great detail, has a solid track record and is committed to engaging constructively with governments at all levels, industry groups, regional NRM bodies and community groups.

The TCT is a member of numerous 'high level' State and Australian Government advisory bodies and committees. Providing a constructive environmental viewpoint to these forums is resource-consuming but 'unsung' work, largely unobserved and unreported. In the vast majority of instances, fees are not paid for preparation and attendance, or even to cover travel costs.

The TCT is regarded as the primary point of contact by many smaller community environmental organisations, NRM regional groups and local governments for an ever-expanding range of mainly 'brown issues'. It is also invited onto numerous community and NRM project steering committees (largely to assist the implementation of Caring For Our Country funded projects) and none of these provide income or sitting fees.

Apart from its role in government engagement, advocacy and community support, the TCT has a history of supporting strategically important on-ground projects, both our own and those we administer for other groups. Hosting projects such as these is extremely rewarding and important, but generally the administration fee component is very modest and the TCT's attendance at project steering committees is not financially supported.

Without the requested additional administrative funds it is not possible for the TCT to continue to work in many of these areas and staff will be forced to scale back to concentrate on priority areas. There simply is not another organisation to fill this gap, with the background, knowledge and skills that the TCT has developed over decades of constant work in these areas. One of the consequences of the TCT not receiving additional GVEHO funding will be that the Australian Government will have no Tasmanian organisation to consult on many vital areas of environmental policy and management.

While our funding is being reduced, the amount of work has correspondingly increased, due in part to the Rudd government's new national policies and programs with which the TCT is keen to be engaged.

We have written to the minister asking that he reconsider this decision and provide us with funding at the level requested. We urge all TCT members to write to him, too. Please contact me if you require more information. Letters should be sent to:

The Hon Peter Garrett AM, MP  
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

**Peter McGlone**  
**Acting Director**

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# Tasmanian Scalefish Review

## *Timely review but real solutions are lacking*

The Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) has just released a new version of the rules that are used to manage the Tasmanian scalefish fishery, for public comment. The proposed rules do little more than make a few cosmetic changes to the management system that has overseen the decline of important fish species in Tasmanian waters.

There are many good things about the way Tasmania manages its wild fisheries. There is real consultation and management decisions are usually based on scientific advice and objective evidence. In the world of fisheries this kind of approach has been the exception rather than the rule. It is more normal for short-term economics and political or economic considerations to overwhelm concerns about the marine environment or even long-term sustainability.

Unfortunately, one only has to visit the DPIW website and look at the information on scalefish to see that there are real problems in this particular fishery. Key species such as striped trumpeter, bastard trumpeter and banded morwong have been in decline for many years. Useful assessment is not even available for many other species. It is time for drastic measures, but the latest iteration of the review just seems to fiddle around the edges.

The decline of bastard trumpeter has been one of the most disturbing symptoms of poor fisheries management in Tasmania. When I first started diving in the 1970s and '80s, this species was one of the most common and obvious on rocky reefs along the south-east and east coast of Tasmania. It was normal to encounter small schools of between 10 and 20 trumpeter on almost any rocky reef one happen to dive on. These days it is unusual to even see individual bastard trumpeter. A species which was once a popular target for fishers has pretty much disappeared over the last 25 years. No one knows what the ecological consequences of this decline might have been, or will be.

Bastard trumpeter are very vulnerable to net fishing. A conservative assessment of net fishing activity indicates that over 300km of recreational gillnets target Tasmania's east coast. That means that if all the nets that are actually used on the east coast were strung together they would extend from the north-east tip to south of Tasman Island.

The extent of this net fishing could be expected to put pressure on any species of reef fish, but bastard trumpeter have an additional vulnerability because they reproduce somewhere out in the open ocean. It is unclear exactly where this occurs but it is certain that only juveniles are found regularly in Tasmanian coastal waters. All this means that a very large portion of the stock of bastard trumpeter has been caught before having the chance to reproduce. It is therefore not surprising to see an enormous decline.

The solution is obvious: recreational gillnetting should be banned. Tasmania is the only state on Australia's east

coast which still permits recreational gillnetting, due to widespread acceptance that this is not a sustainable or acceptable form of recreational fishing. At the very least, net-free areas or no-take marine protected areas are needed to offer some protection to juveniles.

Striped trumpeter are also under pressure. The availability of technologies such as colour sounders and GPS means that it is easier to find and catch these fish successfully on offshore reefs. Again, stocks have declined markedly and solutions are obvious. Protected areas along with meaningful catch and size limits should allow this species to recover and protect an important fishery.

Unfortunately, the review ignores such obvious solutions. Small increases in legal size still do not protect sexually mature fish. The proposed reductions in possession limits are likely to have no meaningful effect. And there is still no move towards a ban on recreational use of commercial gear such as gillnets and set lines, despite the fact that these are used by a minority of fishers and that this gear removes fish that could be better used by other sectors of the fishery or would be more useful to the marine ecosystem. The cost/benefit analysis that forms part of the scalefish review states that already there are not enough fish to sustain the wants and needs of all sectors. So far, the outcome of this review indicates that things are only going to get worse.

The Scalefish Management Plan Review identifies many of the key problems associated with the fishery but ignores obvious solutions. The only reasonable explanation for this is that the Tasmanian Government is more interested in placating those interest groups that refuse to acknowledge declining stocks than in looking after the marine environment or ensuring a sustainable scalefish fishery.

Tasmania's marine environment deserves better. Scalefish stocks need to be managed so that there is a greater chance of recovery and biodiversity needs to be better protected.

**Jon Bryan**  
**TCT Marine Campaigner**

### *The Tasmanian Conservationist* **via email**

The newsletter is now available in PDF format for members who would prefer an electronic version.

Please send us an email at  
tct.administration@gmail.com including your name  
and home address and the email address you would  
like to use, and we will send your newsletter  
via email.

# Recreational gillnets an environmental disaster

The Tasmanian recreational gillnet fishery is the most destructive and unsustainable fishery in our state waters. Tasmania probably has the most permissive recreational net fishing regulations of any state in the developed world. In Australia, recreational net fishing is not permitted in any other state waters on the eastern seaboard.

Using government figures, approximately 80 percent of Tasmanian recreational net fishers target the east coast (Lyle & Smith, 1998) and 6685 graball net licences were issued during the 1997/98 season; 2683 of these licence holders were licensed to hold a second net (Lyle & Jordan, 1999).

Simple arithmetic  $[(6685 + 2683) \times 0.80 \times 50\text{m} / 1000\text{m}]$  indicates that more than 370km of graball net were being



Photo Jon Bryan

used on Tasmania's east coast when the data was collected. This is approximately the same as the straight line distance from Banks Strait in the north-east to South East Cape. It is hard to see how this level of fishing pressure can be sustainable.

Fishing is almost certainly having major impacts on Tasmania's coastal ecology. The best evidence for this has come from research that has been carried out to assess the effectiveness of the marine reserve at Maria Island. After just a few years of protection, numbers of fish longer than 33cm have increased markedly (a rise of over 240 percent in six years). In addition, bastard trumpeter, a species that is particularly vulnerable to net fishing, is relatively common inside the reserve but practically absent outside (Edgar & Barrett, 1999).

There do not appear to be any practical mechanisms to manage this fishery on an ecologically sustainable basis. Collecting adequate information from the fishery is a major practical problem, given the number of fishers and the likely accuracy of reporting. Lack of basic scientific knowledge about target species simply adds to the difficulty of ensuring that ecological impacts of this fishery are sustainable.

And of course fish are not the only victims. Dolphins, penguins and other animals can easily become entangled and killed in nets. For example, more than 20 fairy penguins were killed by one gillnet in just one night of fishing near a penguin colony at Rocky Cape.

Bycatch of undersized fish, and protected species such as marine mammals and sea birds, will always be a major problem for this fishery, whatever management regime is adopted. Concerns about bycatch alone are enough to justify the Tasmanian Conservation Trust's position that recreational graball nets should be phased out as soon as possible. Tasmania should follow the lead of the other eastern states and ban recreational graball nets from state waters.

Less than 10 percent of sea fishers in Tasmania use gillnets. It would appear that, as well as the environment, the majority of other sea fishers are also losing out, as most reef-dwelling scalefish caught by recreational fishers seem to be caught by nets.

**Jon Bryan**

**TCT Marine Campaigner**

## References

- Edgar, GJ & Barrett, NS, 1999. Effects of the declaration of marine reserves on Tasmanian reef fishes, invertebrates and plants, *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 242: 107-144.
- Lyle JM & Jordan AR, 1999, Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery Assessment – 1998, Tasmanian Aquaculture & Fisheries Institute, University of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Lyle JM & Smith JT, 1998, Pilot survey of licensed recreational sea fishing in Tasmania. Marine Resources Division, Marine Research Laboratories – Tarooma, Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Hobart.

## And another problem...

Set lines are a commercial type of fishing gear which includes drop lines and long lines. These are basically long fishing lines with multiple hooks attached so that they are very efficient fish-catching and killing devices.

The problem with recreational fishers using this type of gear is that large numbers of fish can be caught and killed in excess of possession or size limits in a short space of time. Recreational fishing in Tasmania is supposed to be managed so that fishers are able to catch enough fish for food for themselves and their immediate family. Use of commercial gear such as gillnets and set lines undermines this approach.

The cost/benefit analysis that forms part of the ongoing scalefish review states that already there are not enough fish to sustain the wants and needs of all sectors, and key target species are clearly in decline. It therefore seems strange that DPIW continues to allow recreational fishers to use commercial fishing gear.

Access to this fishing gear by recreational fishers makes it much easier for illegal unlicensed commercial fishing to occur. The Tasmanian Government should immediately ban recreational use of commercial-type gear such as gillnets and set lines.

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# Boxthorn control *for* biodiversity *in the* Furneaux Islands

A team of volunteer weeders visited 10 of the Furneaux islands from 18 to 29 May on the first trip for the TCT project, Furneaux Boxthorn Control and Maintenance on Twelve Islands, funded by Caring for Our Country Coastcare (see *The Tasmanian Conservationist*, December 2008).

The aim of the project is to keep boxthorn under control and to restore and maintain habitat on the smaller islands near Flinders, in particular for breeding seabirds and native vegetation. Boxthorn takes over the native vegetation, and burrow-nesting seabirds such as shearwaters, penguins and



*Volunteers Jean Jackson and Russell Bauer tackle the boxthorn on Chalky Island. Photo: Karen Ziegler*

diving petrels have to negotiate the spiky thickets and are often trapped by the thorns. The project is focused on revisiting previous boxthorn control works that occurred intermittently between 2001 and 2005.

The project coordinator is Karen Ziegler; seven volunteers from around the state participated, covered under Wildcare insurance: Mark Alexander, Russell Bauer, Scott Bell, Vicki Campbell, Kat Hopkins, Dave James and me, Jean Jackson. The local NRM officer, Mick Sherriff, helped us for a couple of days, too.

Once the hurdle of paperwork was cleared, the gods smiled upon us during the working bee. The weather was mild, the work was done safely and a great time was had by the crew. We owe much of the success of the trip to our skipper, Mike Nichols, who safely ferried us to the islands in the *Bass Pyramid* in addition to donating fish caught during the day. The support and appreciation of many of the Flinders Islanders was rewarding and gifts of game meat and fresh garden vegetables as well as loans of camping equipment made us feel very welcome.

We camped at Emita on Flinders Island and did day trips to the islands with skipper Mike. Some of us were experienced boxthorn weeders, others were new to it. I was certainly feeling some trepidation about dealing with the spiky mongrels. As it turned out, all the islands we visited had had boxthorn removal work done before (under previous Envirofund projects) so we were following up rather than facing untouched thickets (as can be found on some of the islands that will be visited later during this project). We started with Chalky Island, which turned out to be the biggest challenge with 3½ days' work. There was a large area containing scattered small plants around a huge dead boxthorn skeleton, and a bouldery corner with several reasonably large plants and heaps of small ones. Small boxthorns can be difficult to see unless they've stuck their head above the native vegetation, as colours are similar to some native species, but we developed an eye for the different leaf shape and arrangement which enabled us to spot small plants. The toughness of boxthorn is impressive, with plants even growing from rocky cracks right near sea level.

The treatment method was simple although sometimes a challenge: identify all the stems by a bit of gardening around the base, cut low down with the appropriate tool (secateurs for seedlings, loppers or chainsaw for large ones), then immediately spray with dyed glyphosate (1:1 with water) from a spray bottle. Plants were then lifted or rolled off the soil to prevent resprouting. Thick gloves, long sleeves and safety glasses were a must. There was much satisfaction in finding plants and killing them, but it was also great to search an island and find only four! One spot that kept us busy had lots of obscure small seedlings near older plants. A handy flotsam pole enabled it to be marked for future checking.

After blitzing Chalky Island we moved on to Mile, Little Chalky, Wybalenna and Rabbit, South, Middle and North Pasco, and Sentinel islands. We also stopped to look at Royden Island where the local Landcare group has been working. Time and weather didn't allow us to get to Isabella Island so that will be done another time. One windy day was spent around Emita Beach, removing small boxthorns scattered all through the bush above the beach. In the past apparently it was boxthorn forest! This has shown the amazing effectiveness of simple measures and persistence for boxthorn control, and hopefully is inspiring control on private property.

- To summarise key points learnt on this trip:
- It is impressive what a small team of motivated people can do in a relatively short time.

- The success of boxthorn removal with the repeated control work is clear, some islands being almost boxthorn-free now.
- The native vegetation like *Tetragonia* takes over rapidly after boxthorn removal.
- The need to keep a lid on boxthorn with ongoing regular visits is also clear, as some of the plants killed this time already had many fruit, and invasion will continue from nearby seed sources via birds such as starlings.

And rewards for the workers? Sea cruises to the islands in fantastic weather, shy and black-browed albatrosses soaring around the boat, diving petrels flying out of the sea, dolphins surfing the bow wave, exploring islands with spectacular coasts, rock formations, eagles' nests and subtle colours, refreshing swims in glassy clear water, gifts of fresh food from local residents, and great company and meals around the camp fire at night.

Many thanks go to Karen Ziegler in overcoming hurdles to get the trip off the ground, to all the volunteers, charter boat operator Mike Nichols for transport to the islands and lots of other help, and the locals who went well out of



*Boxthorn removal on North Pascoe island, with Flinders NRM officer Mick Sherrif in the background. Photo: Karen Ziegler*

their way to assist. Watch the Wildcare website ([www.wildcaretas.org.au](http://www.wildcaretas.org.au)) for notice of the next trip (possibly November or May next year: trips are timed for when most sea birds are away)

**Jean Jackson**

### *Some additional observations from Karen Ziegler, project coordinator*

We are making a positive difference. Follow-up overall is taking about half the time taken for the primary work and can be expected to continue to decrease as regeneration is dealt with and follow-up only has to deal with seedlings.

This trip confirms that timely follow-up is very important. Two years after primary control or control of large plants is the maximum interval before regeneration becomes well established. Chalky Island involved much more work than if follow-up could have occurred at the ideal time, when it was theoretically scheduled for 2007.

The large boxthorns that were roosting habitat for starlings continue to be roosting habitat even after killing. Plants need to be burnt to remove the habitat. Starlings are one of the vectors of the seed and the roosting sites in dead boxthorn are central to significant seedling recruitment in the vicinity, where otherwise seedlings tend

to occur in and around rocky outcrops. In contrast, on Wybalena Island, the location where the monster boxthorn was burnt in 2004 due to it being filled with starling droppings, there were only four seedlings found.

The revegetation with native species of areas where boxthorn has been removed is rapid, especially by *Tetragonia* and *Rhagodia*. A maintenance program should be effective if undertaken once every four years. There are still seedlings coming up around Emita Beach in areas where all mature seed-bearing plants were removed at least four years ago – therefore seed life in soil is certainly greater than four years.

We have funds for another two trips. And we need to work toward regular follow-up trips in the future. It continues to be a privilege to be involved in this work in one of my favourite places on this earth. ■

#### *Vale*

*Margaret and Neil Wilkinson*

Members were saddened by the recent deaths of Margaret (7 April 2009) and Neil (24 March 2009). Both had been esteemed members of the North West Branch of the TCT. Margaret was Branch Chairman during the years 1985–1992, and also served a term as President of the Trust. Margaret spearheaded the protest by the NW Branch against the Yaxley development at Don Heads, citing the loss of prime farming land. This development was supported by Devonport City Council, but it was eventually stopped through the TCT's campaigning. Margaret's passion and drive was an inspiration to us all. She and Neil will be sadly missed.

#### *Vale*

*Dr Anne Matz*

The death of Dr Anne Matz at the age of 100 on 25 April 2009 in Hobart was indeed sad news for family and friends. During her teaching career, Anne was a marvellous mentor to thousands of students. A linguist and speaker of six languages, she retired in 1969 as Deputy Head of Hobart High School. Anne was also a long-time member of the TCT and a generous donor. The Committee and staff wish to express appreciation for her support over the years and offer condolences to her family and many friends.

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# Tasmanian Weed Alert Network

*The TCT has received \$86,471 from the Tasmanian Community Fund for the project Re-establishing the Tasmanian Weed Alert Network. The project will be run in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Water Weed Management Section, the Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Weed Society and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.*

## Project summary

The goal of this project is to establish the Tasmanian Weed Alert Network (TWAN) as a self-sustaining network that assists to prevent the establishment of new weeds in Tasmania. Preventative early action to control new weed incursions is a high priority in national, statewide, regional and municipal or local weed strategies. These include the Australian Weeds Strategy, Tasmanian Weed Plan, Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy, the three Tasmanian Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategies and the respective regional weed management strategies. Tasmania Together Goals and Benchmarks (2007) identifies a target of zero new pests (including weeds) established in Tasmania by 2010, 2015 and 2020. Weed prevention is



*Solanum triflorum (cut leafed nightshade). A weed alert species found only in the Seven Mile Beach area.*

*Photo: Matt Baker, Tasmanian Herbarium.*

much more cost-effective than managing existing or established weed problems and also prevents or limits damage to environmental or agricultural assets. In order to do this effectively Tasmania needs to have the capacity to quickly detect and respond rapidly to new weed threats. Rozefelds et al (1999) in *The Weed Invasion in Tasmania Since 1970* said that, between 1970 and 1999, 159 new plant taxa were recorded as naturalised in Tasmania, bringing the total to over 740 weed species. Baker (2005), in *Contributions to a Catalogue of Alien Plants in Tasmania* found 34 plant species were recorded as newly naturalised between 1999 and 2005.

While management of weeds on public land is the core responsibility of government, weed species including weed alert species may be found on all tenures including private land and this is not a core State Government responsibility. The most effective way to manage weed alert species is through a partnership between the community, industry and government to ensure an integrated and effective approach is taken.

A previous attempt was made to establish a weed alert network (between 1999 and 2001) and, while it functioned

well for those years, it was not self-sufficient after external funding ceased. The Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) has made an assessment of this past project and the TCT used findings from the assessment in preparation of this application. In an effort to make the project self-sufficient we have made considerable effort to obtain the involvement of key weed management stakeholders from government, farming and community interests and seek their commitment to maintain key aspects of the program. Another key change is our intention to use the internet as a central tool of the TWAN.

The TWAN will add to what the partner organisations currently do to maximise surveillance, detection and response activities. There are many people around the state (agronomists, horticulturalists, land carers, land owners, contractors, park rangers, etc) performing a weed alert function in an informal way. These people are the basis of the network. With coordination, training, support and access to weed information, they will be a formidable team in the fight against new weed incursions.

It is our goal to establish the TWAN as a self-sustaining network that assists to prevent the establishment of new weeds in Tasmania through:

- recruiting 60–70 volunteer weed spotters as TWAN members, with the aim of ensuring maximum coverage of the state and priority weed pathways
- providing TWAN members with training to ensure an adequate level of weed identification proficiency and knowledge of recording and reporting protocols
- developing a shared commitment to an agreed priority list of weed alert species from both the stakeholder groups and TWAN weed-spotter members
- developing agreed and up-to-date technical information on all priority weed alert species and reporting forms and protocols
- providing this information to all TWAN members via a new website and update as reports are made.

DPIW will be able to use the information and reports from TWAN to refine and maximise the effectiveness of its response processes in dealing with emerging weed threats.

**Peter McGlone**

*We are currently looking for a project officer and hope to have someone starting in the position in July.*

*Interested people should contact me.*

*Just in case members think this compensates for the loss of Australian Government funding (see 'Australian Government cuts TCT funding', page 3): the TCT receives only a small administrative payment out of this project budget. Most of the funding goes (appropriately) into the project officer's wages and to cover expenses such as travel and running field days and training.*

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# Review *of the biodiversity provisions of the Forest Practices Code*

In 2007 the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) commissioned an independent review of the biodiversity provisions of the Forest Practices Code (FPC) and an independent panel of experts (the Panel) was appointed to carry out the review, chaired by Dr Mick Brown. The Panel's final report, 'Review of the biodiversity provisions of the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code' (the Report), has been completed and was made publicly available on the FPA website on 9 April 2009. We understand that the Board of the FPA and the Forest Practices Advisory Council will meet to discuss the report in June. Depending on the result of these meetings we understand that a full review of the FPC may be instigated and this would involve a formal public consultation phase toward the end of this year.

In summary, the terms of reference for the review were to review and report on:

- the role of the forest practices system in the overall approach to the maintenance of biodiversity in the state
  - the relevance and scope of the forest practices system in relation to biodiversity conservation and to evaluate the ability of existing provisions to meet conservation objectives at the local, catchment and regional scales
  - monitoring (implementation and effectiveness) that underpins the biodiversity provisions of the *Forest Practices Code*
  - current research relating to the distribution, ecology and impacts of forest practices on forest fauna and flora and future funding priorities for new information
- and
- operation of the forest practices system in relation to the management of biodiversity.

The Report's introduction (page 10) emphasises the review was 'to review and to provide advice on the *science* behind the biodiversity provisions of the Tasmanian *Forest Practices Code*' (our emphasis) and 'The panel was not asked and did not have the expertise to consider the social and economic values of these forests'. The full review of the FPC will consider the social and economic impacts of proposed changes as well as the science as presented in the Report.

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT) prepared a submission on the Report and provided this to the FPA on 2 June. The TCT's submission supported the Report's recommendations and urged the FPA to institute a formal review of the FPC with the aim of incorporating the recommendations.

Although there are a few issues that the Panel omitted from its review, several recommendations that could be clarified or strengthened and a need to prioritise the recommendations, the TCT believes the Report's recommendations should be implemented without delay. Many of the recommended changes are long overdue and, if implemented, would significantly improve the conservation of forest biodiversity through the Tasmanian Forest Practices System (FPS).

There may be attempts by the forest industry and the State Government to delay the FPC review and every effort must be made to prevent unnecessary delays. The TCT's submission on the Report is available on the TCT website.

## **Key recommendations from the Report**

### *Legislation and policy*

- FPA establish state-level principles and objectives for off-reserve management of forest biodiversity.
- Legislation and policy changes to allow for inclusion of measurable objectives in the FPC.
- State Government to ensure a more integrated and coordinated approach to conservation of biodiversity across all relevant agencies.

### *Forest Practices Code in state biodiversity conservation context*

- Biodiversity conservation should be included as a specific objective in the FPA and include objectives, sub-objectives and measurable outcomes in the FPC.
- The FPS should increase its capacity to plan and manage strategically to provide more effective landscape-level guidance for planners.
- Four scales of planning should be considered: 1. statewide; 2. bioregional; 3. Planning Context Unit (e.g. CFEV major drainage basins); 4. coupe context unit.
- The concept of adaptive management should be formally recognised in the Forest Practices Act and FPC so changes can readily be made.
- The FPA should actively review and upgrade a systematic program of effectiveness monitoring for biodiversity conservation.
- Gene conservation issues such as the current management to ameliorate exotic gene flow from *E. nitens* to *E. ovata* should be included in the FPC.

### *Native forest retention*

- The state should immediately review the implementation of its Permanent Native Forest Estate Policy because clearance levels are approaching thresholds.
- Forest areas should be maintained so that a 50 percent loss since 1750 on a bioregional basis is not approached. In areas where this is being approached or has already been exceeded, maintain all viable forest areas. 'The panel stresses that this threshold should not be viewed as an acceptable target but as a biodiversity "fail safe" for those areas where significant forest loss has already occurred.' (Page 15).
- The FPC should explicitly recognise the importance of maintaining old-growth attributes in the forest and of maintaining structural diversity across the landscape.
- To maintain structural diversity in the forests, no more than 15 percent of the native forest area of any CFEV catchment should be harvested by CBS methods in any 10-year period.

*Continued on page 15*

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# Planning System Changes

On 1 July, the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) will morph into the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC): a hybrid of the existing RPDC and the Land Use Planning Branch of the Department of Justice. This new governance model was one of three put to Cabinet by the Review of the Tasmanian Planning System steering committee following its recent review of the planning system. It was the preferred model in that the steering committee believed it achieved all four objectives that it believed needed to be achieved:

- (a) improve coordination and promotion of State Agency interests in planning
- (b) provide a single authoritative voice on the State Government's planning agenda
- (c) provide a critical mass of planning expertise to deliver the recommendations of the Review and other aspects of government policy

and

- (d) ensure independent decision-making on development applications and major projects.

The RPDC is one of four current State Government agencies/units performing functions under the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania (RMPS). The RMPS was, at the time it was implemented, the best practice model for a planning system in Australia – and in many respects it remains so. The planning system was designed to provide clear separation between policy making and implementation and is based upon the sound principle of ensuring sustainable development of our natural and physical assets. This aim is then supported by various objectives which are embodied in the suite of legislation that comprises the RMPS. The RPDC is empowered through one of these acts.

The Land Use Planning Branch of the Department of Justice (LUPB) is not a statutory body under the RMPS, unlike the RPDC. As outlined in the recent steering committee report, the LUPB 'provides advice to the Minister and other agencies, local government, and the broader community on the planning system and the legislative framework that underpins it. Currently the LUPB is engaged in establishing the regional planning initiatives across the State, drafting provisions for model planning schemes as an adjunct to the PD1 Common Key Elements Template, participating in national COAG and Planning Officials Group programs, reviewing State Policies, and reviewing and improving the planning system.' In essence the LUPB was created to provide a critical coordination role in policy development relating to the planning system across State Government, as this is currently outside the scope of the RPDC as an independent statutory authority.

Combining these two bodies into one will bring the policy-making and implementation functions under the same roof. The government has argued that the independence in statutory decision-making will be maintained through various legislative mechanisms: essentially ensuring that new agency-appointed commissioners do not sit on any decision-making panels.

However, there is no doubt that there is already the perception within some sectors of the community that the separation of powers has been compromised and therefore there is real potential that public confidence in the planning system – an essential element in successful governance – will be weakened.

From a planning profession point of view there are varying opinions on the new TPC. It is recognised that the separation of powers is not always essential in achieving good planning outcomes – as evidenced by governance models in other states – however, the new model does represent a significant departure from philosophies underpinning the planning system.

It is also recognised that the new model is likely to achieve the first two objectives of those listed by the steering committee: improved coordination and promotion of State Agency interests in planning; and a single authoritative voice on the State Government's planning agenda. Although it is also possible that this could have been achieved under the current model if the various State Governments over the past 15 years had taken the role of the planning system seriously (i.e. not just as an impediment to development) and provided appropriate resources to support it.

In nearly all other states the policy-forming functions of government are represented as a department. In Victoria it is the Department of Planning and Community Development, in NSW the Department of Planning, and in Queensland the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, while the NT, with a population half that of Tasmania, has the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. In Tasmania it has simply been the very small LUPB (at its maximum it had approximately nine staff members). As a result the planning system lacked a high bureaucratic profile, which resulted in poor communication across government agencies and difficulties for the public and the profession in engaging with various processes.

As indicated above, yes, the new model will assist in addressing this problem. It will not however, in my mind, address the issue of resourcing and therefore the third objective: providing a critical mass of planning expertise to deliver the recommendations of the review and other aspects of government policy. In my opinion it would only deliver this objective if one of the following was true, and I believe neither are:

- the professional staff within either the RPDC or the LUPB are not currently working to capacity
- or
- if staff were already working at capacity, the overall workload of the TPC is less than the current workload of the RPDC and LUPB combined.

The LUPB currently has six professional staff (with permanent vacancies that cannot be filled due to the government's vacancy control policy). Two of these staff members are presently entirely occupied with work relating to the Regional Planning Initiative. The others are working

at capacity with the usual LUPB responsibilities. The RPDC staff are also at capacity with their existing statutory responsibilities. One only needs to look at the number of applications and reporting functions that they are currently dealing with.

As for the workload of the new TPC being less, this is clearly far from reality, particularly given the prospect of the resource-intensive Projects of Regional Significance (PoRS) process that will be administered by the TPC – the merits of which I will leave for another time. Not only will the PoRS process require professional staff to assist the proposed Development Assessment Panels (DAPs), it will also take up the precious time of what is currently the most scarce of resources: appropriately qualified and experienced professionals for decision-making panels, be it delegates or commissioner or members of the proposed DAPs.

Rather than more policy and strategy development by the TPC, there is real potential for staff working on strategic functions to be reallocated to statutory functions when timelines are under pressure, which is likely to be a significant amount of time. We may very well be back in the situation when the planning system is focused on development control and therefore reactive rather than proactive.

Increasing funding, and therefore resources overall to policy development and strategy, remains a critical point. While, due to the current global financial crisis, it is unrealistic to have expectations of increased funding – indeed it is likely that the government will take the

opportunity with the combining of the RPDC and LUPB to reduce overall funding to planning (as reported in the media recently) – there are some statistics which will be interesting to keep in mind once we are in better economic circumstances: all up, Tasmania allocates approximately \$4 per capita toward the development of planning policy and strategy (ballpark figure, given changes in yearly budget allocations). In comparison, NSW dedicated \$14 per capita, Victoria \$28, WA \$53 and the NT a whopping \$147 per capita (again, all approximate figures). In terms of personnel, both NSW and Victoria have approximately one public servant per 20,000 people to assist in developing planning policy and strategy, while in Tasmania it is more like one per 80,000.

In the end, appropriately resourcing the planning system will minimise long-term costs to the community and allow it to function as it should and not just as a development control mechanism.

**Emma Riley**  
**State President, Tasmanian Division**  
**Planning Institute of Australia**

### **Wanted: guest-written feature articles**

Emma Riley's is the first of our guest-written features. Further contributions are invited. If you would like to submit an article for the guest-writer feature, please contact me first.

**Peter McGlone**

## **Experts Share Knowledge of Living with Little Penguins**

At a forum in Hobart in April, experts from Tasmania and interstate discussed new management guidelines prepared by the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) about coexisting with little penguins in an urban environment.

Through the three stages of the Derwent Estuary Little Penguin project, a lot has been learned about improving breeding conditions for the species. In this third stage, one of the aims has been to transfer this knowledge to other penguin managers across Tasmania. The new guidelines produced by the DEP, 'Co-existing with Little Penguins in the Derwent Estuary', have been prepared to do just that. They have been designed to assist planners, land managers, Bushcare officers and Coastcare organisations and were launched at the forum. The guidelines can be found on the DEP website <http://www.derwentestuary.org.au/index.php?id=33>.

Expert speakers at the forum included Andre Chiardia from Phillip Island Nature Parks in Victoria, who provided an overview of the plight of little penguins worldwide, including on Phillip Island, that are suffering similar problems to Derwent penguins due to urbanisation.

Other speakers focused on issues closer to home, showcasing projects in NSW and parts of Tasmania that have reduced the decline of local little penguin populations living close to cities and towns. Regular monitoring of the population, combined with habitat restoration and provision of breeding burrows, are key activities to ensure the success of many urban-dwelling penguins. It was also important to keep local residents in the loop about their

penguin neighbours. Knowing how vulnerable the birds are helped engender a respect for them in the form of changed dog-walking habits or by becoming actively involved in improving penguin habitat by weeding, planting or burrow-building.

To continue our DEP Little Penguin project, an application for Stage 4, 'Community engagement for the protection and expansion of Little Penguins in the Derwent', has been submitted to the Australian Government Caring for Our Country grant program. If successful, funding will be used for further improvements to the habitat of little penguins and the installation of more artificial burrows, as well as continued community education.

The Derwent Estuary Little Penguin Project is a collaborative effort between state and local governments, industry, business and the community, to ensure the survival of little penguins in the Derwent. The project is funded by the Australian Government and coordinated by the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP).

Additional support has been provided by the Biodiversity Conservation Branch in the Department of Primary Industries and Water, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, the Tarooma Environment Network, the Parks and Wildlife Service, Birds Tasmania, the Understorey Network, Hobart City Council and Kingborough Council.

**Ursula Taylor**  
**Derwent Estuary Program Communications**  
**Phone: 03 6236 5582 Monday, Thursday, Friday**  
**[www.derwentestuary.org.au](http://www.derwentestuary.org.au)**

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# Feratox *not the alternative to 1080*

Representatives of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania and the Wilderness Society attended the Department of Primary Industries and Water's annual 'Alternatives to 1080 Workshop' on 6 May in Launceston. This is a key opportunity for researchers to report to stakeholders on progress during the previous year on the full range of alternatives being explored by the program. We were alarmed that many of the forestry and farming representatives appear to be pinning their hopes for browsing animal control on a new toxin, Feratox.

Feratox is an encapsulated form of cyanide developed to target brush-tail possums in New Zealand and is being examined as one of the possible alternatives to 1080 poison for use in Tasmania to control brush-tailed possum and wallabies.

We believed the Alternatives to 1080 Program was established to find methods to control browsing animals without resort to poisons and, where possible, without lethal means. This was clearly the spirit if not in the letter of the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA) between the Tasmanian and Australian Governments that created the program. It was public opposition to poisoning of native wildlife that created the political pressure necessary to get Premier Paul Lennon and Prime Minister John Howard to agree to create the program. Now it seems like the State Government may simply replace 1080 with another poison, Feratox.

We believe the Tasmanian public wants an end to poisoning of native animals and will not support replacing 1080 with another poison, even if it has some advantages. The TCT believes we can and must phase out the use of poisons for control of native animals.

Although cyanide kills more quickly than 1080, many of the problems remain – it is still a lethal method, there is still suffering before death and there are still issues with killing non-target species as well. There are numerous non-target native mammals that could access the bait and could die, such as forester kangaroos, potoroos, bettongs and ringtail possums. Pouch young will not be killed by Feratox and will be left to starve or freeze.

The other fear we have is that, while 1080 use for crop protection in particular has been declining, in part because of more stringent government controls and cost recovery requirements, moving to a new supposedly more acceptable poison may lead to relaxing of controls and poison being more easily available. Then we would be back where we were 10 years ago, with poisoning on a massive scale on farm land.

Poisoning wildlife can be the lazy option that does not encourage land managers to work smarter with non-lethal alternatives. The State Government must continue to ensure that while poisons are used they are truly the option of last resort.

Feratox is yet to be thoroughly tested in the field in Tasmania and until this is done we cannot assess whether it is environmentally preferable to 1080, especially in terms of reduced non-target impacts.

The groups who attended the workshop were impressed with the progress being made toward improving non-lethal control of browsing animals, such as resistant seedling varieties, repellents, seedling stockings to protect plantations and improved fencing guidelines to protect crops and pasture. See opposite page for the CRC (Cooperative Research Centre) forestry report summary, 'TCFA research into alternatives to the use of 1080: Manipulating seedling palatability for non-lethal browsing management'.

Many farmers have found fencing to be an effective answer to browsing animals and Forestry Tasmania and private forestry companies operating on State Forests are also surviving without the option of 1080.

The Alternatives to 1080 Program has published an excellent fencing guide, *Wallaby Proof Fencing: A planning guide for Tasmanian Primary Producers*. It also addresses fencing of wombats, which can open gaps in fences to allow wallabies in, and some other browsing animals. See opposite for a summary and how to obtain copies.

It is important to note that fencing is probably not going to be a significant control method for most plantation situations and will have limited application in broad-acre grazing operations. While there are many promising alternatives for protecting plantations, control in broad-acre grazing situations will require continued research and therefore ongoing commitment and funding from the State Government.

The TCT has written to the State Government urging continued support for non-lethal methods of control of browsing animals by supporting fencing programs for farmers and by funding continued research to provide the farming and grazing industries with effective and low-cost alternatives. We understand that the CRC for Forestry has ongoing funding to continue to research solutions for the forest industry.

**Peter McGlone**

## New members on our books

We have TCT membership forms that need to be distributed to the four corners of Tasmania.

Can you help by dropping some off at your local library, cafe, bookshop or the notice board at your local shop?

Call Trish on 6234 3552

**Technical report 195**  
**TCFA research into alternatives to the**  
**use of 1080**

***Manipulating seedling palatability for non-lethal***  
***browsing management***

**Summary** (*reproduced in full, with permission, from the above document*)

Browsing by marsupial herbivores is a major problem in plantation forestry. This has traditionally been controlled through a reduction in herbivore numbers achieved by lethal means. The mammal browsing group at the University of Tasmania and the CRC for Forestry has been researching non-lethal alternatives for over a decade and found that the most effective methods involved manipulating seedling palatability prior to planting and in the field. Specifically, the use of naturally resistant seedling stock, chemical repellent, modification of nursery fertiliser regime and use of natural vegetation on coupes have all proven successful in deterring feeding. Additionally, since 2007, the use of mesh stockings to protect plantation seedlings has become quite popular within the forestry industry, but data to confirm their effectiveness in reducing browsing is lacking.

This study combined extensive browsing research to operationally test the most effective combination of non-lethal methods listed above. Treatment combinations were planted in eight field sites across Tasmania. Experimental seedlings were planted in replicated blocks spread in a single row around the perimeter of operational coupes. Seedlings were monitored regularly for browsing damage, with seedling height and characteristics of the surrounding vegetation being assessed periodically.

We found that the most effective treatments at reducing the severity of browsing damage in the short term were seedling stockings and a combination of chemical repellent (Sen-Tree) and low nursery fertiliser.

Stockings and repellent were then tested in further trials to demonstrate the effectiveness of these treatments across a range of sites and during winter, as opposed to spring plantings. Here we used six field sites and followed the same basic design as the initial trial. Stockings and repellent were tested in isolation, in combination, and with versus without field application of repellent. We found that the combination of stockings and repellent was the most effective, and resulted in a significant delay in browsing and a reduction in browse severity over 24 weeks, compared with control seedlings.

These results have important and immediate implications for tree growers. Stockings and/or repellent can be applied to seedlings in the nursery to significantly delay the onset of browsing and reduce its severity when planted in the field. In areas with low browsing intensity, this could be enough to reduce browsing in itself; in other areas the browsing delay could be enough to allow alternative controls to be implemented.

The long-term effectiveness of stockings needs to be determined (e.g. effects on seedling growth and form) and the issue of continued repellent re-application needs to be addressed.

*Contact the TCT for copies of the complete report.*

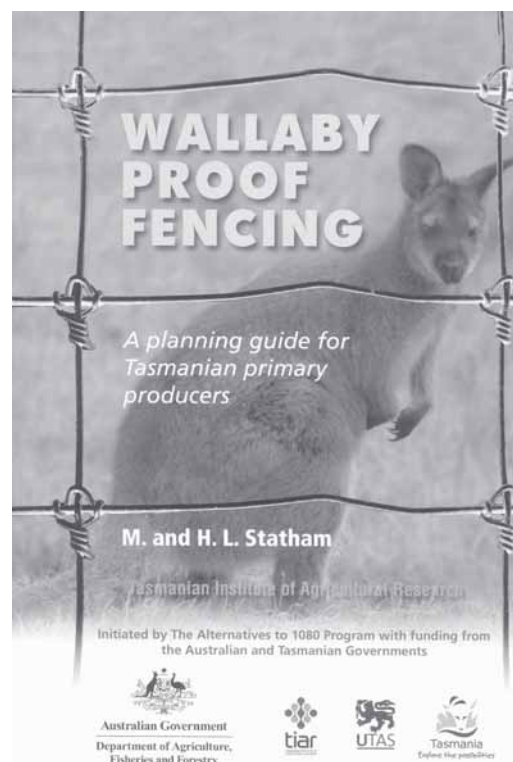
***Wallaby Proof Fencing***  
***A planning guide for Tasmanian primary***  
***producers***

M and HL Statham

Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, 2009

This guide can be downloaded from the DPIW website at: <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-7RE7LM?open>. It can be downloaded as a single PDF but please note it is a very large file and may take some time to download. You may prefer to download it chapter by chapter or just the chapters of interest to you. A link is provided to the very useful 'fencing calculator' tool.

Limited hard copies are available by ringing DPIW's general wildlife enquiries phone number: 03 6233 6556.



**Summary of the guide:**

- Animal species involved: Bennett's wallaby, Tasmanian pademelon, brushtail possum, common wombat, forester kangaroo and some non-native species
- Planning and preparation (fence location, neighbours, site preparation and animal control)
- Materials and construction (electric plain wire fence, mesh fence, electric mesh, fence posts, post spacing, droppers, additional wires, fence straining, and problem areas)
- Maintenance
- Fencing for other species (brushtail possum, forester kangaroo, rabbit, deer)
- Integrated control (shooting, poisoning with 1080)
- Individual producer case studies
- Costing sheet and further information.

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# *Bay of Fires* National Park proposal

Like most observers of the State Government, the TCT was completely surprised by Premier David Bartlett's statement in the State of the State Address on 3 March, 'I am pleased to announce today the intention of this Government to establish the Bay of Fires National Park'. From what we can gather this was the Premier's idea alone. The Premier's address makes it clear that the national park proposal was inspired by the Lonely Planet Guide's acknowledgement of the Bay of Fires as its must-see destination of 2009. It appears the Premier wants to take advantage of the benefit national park status brings for promoting the area as a tourist attraction, but failed to consider any other issues.

The initial response from the Tasmanian Aboriginal community was surprise as they had not been consulted. Then, on 25 May, in a front page article in the *Mercury*, 'Bay of Fires battle', the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's

Michael Mansell said the Bay of Fires 'region should be given back to its original owners because of its cultural significance'. He said the 'area had rich Aboriginal heritage and the late Premier Jim Bacon had promised its return'. If the Premier 'reneges on that promise, we don't exclude taking over the land' he said, referring to the use of protest camps to symbolically take back land.

In the context of these statements the TCT believed the launch the following day by Environment Tasmania, and other groups of their Bay of Fires national park proposal was poorly timed, to say the least. The following letter to the Premier outlines the TCT's position on the proposal. It has been copied to the groups listed above as well as the Break O'Day Council and Minister David Llewellyn. The TCT now believes the national park proposal is doomed unless the Premier changes his approach.

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5 June 2009

Dear Premier,

## **Consultation with Aboriginal Community over Bay of Fires National Park Proposal**

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust strongly encourages you to put on hold the State Government's proposal for a Bay of Fires national park and re-start negotiations with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to determine if they want a national park and, if so, under what conditions. The Government should also ask the Aboriginal community if they want part or all of the Bay of Fires area transferred to their ownership and, if so, what management arrangements they would consider.

The Government and other supporters of a Bay of Fires national park appear to have taken for granted that the Aboriginal community will support it. It is unacceptable for the government and some in the community to assume that Aboriginal concerns can be assessed and incorporated, *by the State Government*, into the management of a national park when some Aboriginal groups had not been asked if they wanted a national park. While we understand *some* sections of the Aboriginal community support a national park for the Bay of Fires, *all* Aboriginal groups should have been consulted before the government formed a firm policy and certainly before making public pronouncements.

Recent media comments from Aboriginal groups – notably comments in the *Mercury* by Michael Mansell representing the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre – show they want the issue of land transfers to be dealt with as a priority and the current approach being taken by the government to the creation of a national park may stimulate protest action and community conflict. If this eventuates then the TCT cannot see how the government could possibly proceed with a national park.

Our understanding from media reports is that, while the TAC are interested in discussing land transfers, they do not appear opposed to the idea of a national park. If the

government is able to address their interests in a fair and consultative manner, a national park may still be possible.

Changing the name of the area to a national park without first addressing more substantial issues such as the concerns of the Aboriginal community and other interest groups, land management requirements and visitor services, would be a retrograde step that the TCT cannot support. The government seems to be placing too much importance on changing the name of the existing reserves in the Bay of Fires area to a National Park, perhaps to take advantage of the benefit this brings for promoting the area as a tourist attraction.

The TCT supports a Bay of Fires national park as one option for the area but only if the Aboriginal community is involved from the outset and its needs (including land transfers) are addressed where possible, and only if substantial additional resources are provided for improving management of the area.

There are many threats to the natural and cultural values of the Bay of Fires, including uncontrolled off-road vehicle use, poorly planned camping areas, coastal shacks, fires, weeds, dogs and tourism developments. Prior to considering a national park the government must work out which 'traditional practices' will be banned and which will be allowed. With other national parks these decisions were not made before their declaration and pre-existing problems have never been satisfactorily dealt with. The government should commence consultation with recreational users, Break O'Day Council, local and state conservation groups and Aboriginal groups regarding these management issues.

The TCT welcomes considerable involvement of the Aboriginal community in management of the Bay of Fires area and believes that the government should offer financial support to assist with their participation in managing the area.

We remain hopeful the government can negotiate a deal where all parties get what they want and can collaborate in the management and protection of the Bay of Fires.

Yours sincerely, Peter McGlone, Acting Director

# TCT's 40th anniversary retrospective visits north

The TCT's 40th anniversary retrospective exhibition went on display at the Launceston Environment Centre last month. The exhibition was launched in Hobart last September (see *The Tasmanian Conservationist*, September 2008) and is a pictorial history featuring some of the major campaigns undertaken by the TCT since its inception in 1967. The driving force behind the Launceston display and Master of Ceremonies on the night was TCT Councillor Neville Gray, who said it was essential to involve TCT members throughout the state. 'It is important that members are able to see and appreciate the diversity of the work undertaken by the Trust if we are to retain and grow our membership', he added.

The exhibition was officially opened by media personality and gardening expert Peter Cundall, who treated everybody present to an entertaining mix of indignation and frustration at the short-sighted and greed-motivated exploitation of Tasmania's natural resources. He recounted how he had visited Queenstown not long after he arrived in Tasmania in 1955 and had viewed the devastation of the surrounding hills created by the Mount Lyell mine.

Long-time member Peter Fleming also spoke at the opening, detailing his long involvement in the TCT's northern branch. He recalled how, at one point, the frustration he felt at the Trust's more moderate approach to issues had seen him focus his energies towards the Wilderness Society's forestry campaigns. TCT Acting



Speakers at the TCT's 40th retrospective exhibition held at the Launceston Environment Centre. (Left to right) Guest speakers Peter Cundall and Peter Fleming, TCT Councillor Neville Grey and Peter McGlone, Acting Director.

Director Peter McGlone also spoke; he outlined some of the current priority activities (review of the Forest Practices Code, private land conservation and 1080 poisoning of wildlife) as well as commenting on the different approach the TCT takes to conservation issues.

It is anticipated that the exhibition will go on display in Burnie/Devonport later this year.

**John Forsyth**

*Continued from page 9*

## Water

- The FPA should develop water-specific planning tools to maintain a proportion of unharvested headwater catchments and to maintain the special and temporal integrity of river headwater networks.

## Threatened species and other priority species

- The FPC emphasises the importance of ensuring that species currently not threatened do not become threatened through forestry actions.
- The FPA should ensure there are clear links between biodiversity conservation measures and processes and the requirements of the threatened species recovery plans and listing statements.
- The FPA should encourage the development of strategic-level planning tools and processes relevant to threatened species.
- Relevant authorities should progress programs to integrate threatened species into landscape-level planning, using multi-species approaches where appropriate.
- A formal, regular and transparent process should be adopted for review and update of forest and non-forest species which potentially could become threatened.

## Coupe size

- The FPC encourages the move away from reliance on large and extensive clearfell burn and sow (CBS) harvesting systems in native forests and that maximum CBS coupe size should generally not exceed 60 hectares.

**Peter McGlone**

A DVD cover for a documentary titled 'TASMANIA: Your Roadkill State'. The cover features a black and white image of a Tasmanian devil in a diamond-shaped road sign. Below the sign, there is text: 'Tasmania's wildlife road toll is shocking - at least 293,000 animals are killed by cars every year. But there is something we can do to prevent these deaths...'. The bottom right corner of the cover has the logo 'imagineocean productions'. The background of the cover is dark with some light spots, possibly representing a night scene or a road at night.

imagineocean productions in association with the TCT has produced a documentary on the catastrophic roadkill count in Tasmania. But research is available to help combat this shocking loss of native wildlife. Find out about the latest findings while helping save the endangered Tasmanian devil. The DVD is available for \$5, plus postage, and is well worth the price. Contact the TCT office on 6234 3552 or email [tct.administration@gmail.com](mailto:tct.administration@gmail.com)

If undelivered return to:  
 Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc  
 2nd Floor, 191-193 Liverpool Street, Hobart, TAS 7000

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<b>Membership categories</b>	<b>1 yr</b>	<b>2 yrs</b>	<b>3 yrs</b>
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