NRE Tas Volunteer Newsletter
April 2023

Welcome to the first edition of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) volunteering newsletter for 2023. On behalf of NRE Tas we thank you for the support and assistance you provide to us, helping us to deliver a "Sustainable Tasmania".

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Save the date – National Volunteer Week

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) invites you to a morning tea to 'thank you' for your time in supporting the Department in delivering a "Sustainable Tasmania".

To coincide with National Volunteer Week (15 – 21 May 2023) there will be morning teas held in Devonport, Launceston and Hobart. The details are as follows:

- **Devonport** - Wednesday 17th May, 10 – 11am at the Aberdeen room, paranaple convention centre, 137 Rooke Street, Devonport
- **Launceston** – Wednesday 17th May, 10.30 – 11.30am at Meeting Room 7, Launceston Conference Centre, 50 Glen Dhu Street, Launceston
- **Hobart** – Friday 19th May, 10 – 11am at The Pod, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Lower Domain Highway, Hobart

Tea/coffee and a light morning tea will be provided.

RSVP to volunteering@nre.tas.gov.au noting your name and the location you will be attending by **5pm Friday 5th May 2023.** Please let us know if you have any dietary or accessibility requirements.

Volunteers in action

Parks and Wildlife Service

Ranger Assist event – Lake St Clair

The Ranger Assist working bee from 17 – 19 February 2023 at Lake St Clair was a success. Saturday was spent pruning the Mt Rufus walking track. We had all varieties of Tasmanian weather; Friday was very hot and included a pre-dinner dip in Shadow lake. Sunday ended with a very tasty BBQ at St Clair prepared by Ranger Pete. We are very happy with the outcome and work done by the volunteers. We are planning for another event soon – Ranger Frank

"It was a great weekend, with a swim on Friday at Shadow lake. It was a nice group to be a part of, very relaxed and good company. Frank was very good to us, and he and Peter put on a great barbeque lunch, very much appreciated" – Dave (Volunteer)

"We had an awesome time out in the park, picked up a lot of camping/equipment tips & walking notes & think we managed to make a difference to the track" – Sue (Volunteer)

Picture 1: Shadow Lake Sunset

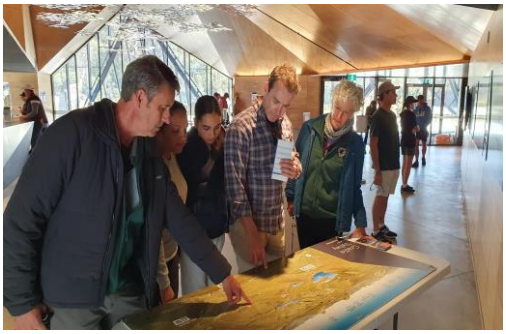
Picture 2: Mt Rufus walking track

Cradle Mountain Volunteers – Visitor Centre

Over the summer months, the Wildcare Cradle Mountain volunteers have been helping out at the Cradle Mountain Visitors Centre. Sharing their knowledge of the walking tracks and surrounding area, members spent their time talking to tourists, handing out bus passes and assisting with general enquiries.

Throughout the year, the volunteers also assist rangers with track work and pruning.

Picture 1: Volunteer Sally assisting at the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre



Picture 2: Volunteers assisting visitors

Meet The NRE Tas volunteer team

Amber and Jenna are the Parks and Wildlife Regional Volunteer Facilitators in the North and Northwest and work with both volunteers and PWS staff to ensure programs and events run safely. The types of volunteering activities range from remote track work to little penguin guiding in the evenings. Along with Field centre staff, they also assist with Caretaker roles that include Cradle Mountain to Deal Island.

We caught up with Jenna to find out what she gets up to outside of work!

Picture 1: Amber and Jenna at the Wildcare Expo in Ulverstone

About me: I have two tween-age daughters that love coming on adventures with me exploring our amazing island. We recently purchased an old property that has a large garden, so a lot of our free time is spent renovating and in the garden. I have been the NW Regional Volunteer Facilitator for five years, but I was previously a Landscaper in Brisbane and Hobart.

Favourite past-time: Music, gardening, having a nice lawn! but I especially love indoor plants. I have over 70 indoor plants.

Favourite Tasmanian holiday destination: Strahan! Beach and bush, what more could you want.

What drives or inspires you: My youngest daughter is a cancer survivor, the strongest person I know, she inspires me. Also hearing stories from volunteers and how much they selflessly achieve definitely drives me to be the best person that I can be.

Work Health and Safety

NRE Tas has recently updated its' the Work Health Safety and Wellbeing (WHS&W) Policy Statement (attached to this email). The NRE Tas WHS & W Policy Statement reinforces the Secretary's and Executive's commitment to ensure Health, Safety & Wellbeing is a priority for all employees, volunteers, contractors, and visitors in our workplaces. It is important that when you are volunteering for NRE Tas that you:

- Take all reasonable care to ensure good health and safety practices are implemented at all times
- Identify and support measures to eliminate or minimise unsafe conditions including reporting all incidents and hazards
- Wear PPE at all time (where required); and
- Assume personal responsibility for your own safety

If you do have an incident or identify a hazard whilst volunteering, you are required to report the issue as reasonably practicable to an NRE Tas employee, or a Volunteer Activity Supervisor (who is required to report it to a NRE Tas employee). The NRE Tas employee responsible for the volunteer activity will then follow all NRE Tas WHS&W procedures, including reporting the incident in SafeT (Incident and Hazard Reporting System) and any requirement to consult or escalate the incident to WorkSafe Tasmania.

Assistance needed!

Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) Program

The Tasmanian OBP Program is committed to the protection, monitoring and management of OBPs in Tasmania.

The Orange-Bellied Parrot program are seeking partnerships with landholders.

We are seeking access to native tree stands where Wildlife Officers can lop branches to be used in aviaries.

Criteria

- No known parrot populations inhabiting the area
- Species of interest: *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Acacia spp.*, *Banksia spp.*, *Exocarpos* (native cherry) and *Casuarina spp.* (she-oaks)

If you meet these criteria, please contact us by email obp.program@nre.tas.gov.au and use the subject heading 'BROWSE PARTNERSHIP'

Volunteering opportunities

NRE Tas is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) across NRE Tas in the following work areas.

Fishcare

Assist with the roll out of community engagement programs for recreational fishers and the wider community.

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Volunteer Buggy Drivers

Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, Tasmania

Assist with trapping Tasmanian devils to assess the health and status of devil populations across Tasmanian.

Further information about these EOI opportunities can be found on the NRE Tas website.

Key contacts

Key contacts	Area	Email
Amber Travica	PWS Northern Region	ambalika.travica@parks.tas.gov.au
Jenna Huisman	PWS North West Region	jenna.huisman@parks.tas.gov.au
Viki Loring	PWS Southern Region	viki.loring@parks.tas.gov.au
Travis Preece	Fishcare	travis.preece@nre.tas.gov.au
Tom Marr	Fishcare	thomas.marr@nre.tas.gov.au
David Mossop	Fishcare – South	david.mossop@nre.tas.gov.au
Sandra Kellett	Environment, Heritage & Land	sandra.kellett@nre.tas.gov.au
Esther Beecroft	Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens	esther.beecroft@rtbg.tas.gov.au

If you have any questions, queries or comments about volunteering for NRE Tas or you would like to contribute to our next NRE Tas Volunteer News please email us at volunteering@nre.tas.gov.au.

Thank you to each and every volunteer for your extraordinary contributions.

NRE Tas

Email:
volunteering@nre.tas.gov.au

www.nre.tas.gov.au