Volunteer Newsletter
August 2023

Welcome to the second 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".

In this issue

- How to Guides
- NRE Tas Volunteer Morning Teas
- Volunteers in action – Fishcare and the Parks and Wildlife Service
- Meet the NRE Tas Volunteer team – the Parks and Wildlife Service (South)
- Wildcare
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Key Contacts

How to Guides

We have been busy over the last few months creating 'how to guides' to assist our volunteers in using My Impact (Volunteer Management Software). To locate the volunteer 'how to guides' follow the instructions below, contact your Volunteer Coordinator/Facilitator or email volunteering@nre.tas.gov.au.

- MyImpact App (on your handheld device) – Go to 'Menu' (top left hand side of the screen) and select 'Files' from the list.
- MyImpact on your PC – Locate the 'Files' section in the lower right hand corner of the screen and select 'See all file'.

NRE Tas Volunteer Morning Teas

15 – 21 May 2023 was National Volunteer Week and NRE Tas hosted three morning teas in Devonport, Launceston and Hobart. All morning teas were a great success!

The Hobart morning tea was held at the Conservatory at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) and approximately 50 volunteers who assist at the RTBG, Parks and Wildlife Service and Fishcare attended. NRE Tas Chief Operations Officer, Vanessa Pinto welcomed, acknowledged and thanked all the volunteers for their time, dedication and support in assisting the Department in delivering a Sustainable Tasmania.

NRE Tas Volunteer morning tea at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Jenna presenting a certificate of appreciation to Walter Van Praag (Friends of Lillico volunteer) at the Devonport morning tea. Walter has been a volunteer with the group for over 15 years!

Thank you to all those volunteers who attended the morning teas across the State. It is a time to reflect on the amazing support you provide to NRE Tas. It also demonstrates our 'How We Work' principle "we work together" to achieve a Sustainable Tasmania. We look forward to welcoming you to similar events next year. If you have any feedback about the events, please feel free to share it with us via email volunteering@nre.tas.gov.au.

Volunteers in action

Fishcare – Update from Tom Marr

Agfest

The fishing hub at Agfest gets bigger and bigger every year! Fishcare delivered an exceptionally interactive site that saw punters young and old flock to the site. The scalefish review section promoted numerous engaging conversations between fishers, fisheries managers and fisheries scientists. The filleting and cooking demo's left some fishers in utter disbelief as they sampled Gurnard for the first time and kicked themselves for releasing so many over the years. The interactive reef display put kids right in the shoes (or flippers) of a recreational diver and enabled them to put our gauges to the test as they measured abalone, scallops and rock lobsters. Thank you to all the volunteers who were involved in this event!

Catch of the day! Sandy Flathead is always a crowd favourite.

Easter

Despite the ordinary weather this Easter (particularly in the East and South of the state), Fishcare was busy and Tasmanian rec-fishers were making the most of a few days off. Easter seems to be the last big hoorah for most Tasmanian recreational fishers before they go dormant over the Winter months. Fishcare volunteers, in conjunction with the rec-fish team, conducted several pre-easter patrols to ensure that infrastructure in their local area was up to scratch ahead of the Easter holidays. Easter Saturday saw Mike Dent and Gary Mondon attend the Tomahawk Community Easter Event where they were inundated with kids wanting to try their luck at the magnet fishing pool. We have been informed that many fish were caught, many smiles were had, the guys even managed to wrangle a few Easter eggs from their happy customers.

Swimcart Beach putting on an absolute show for the 61st Tasmanian Surf Angling Champs.

The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS)

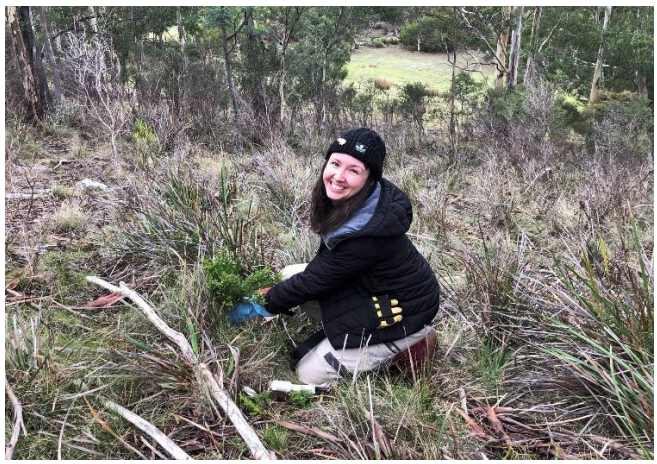
Jenna Huisman (Regional Volunteer Facilitator Northwest) recently visited Peter Dumson at Eliza Purton nursing home to present him with a certificate of appreciation for his volunteer work with Friends of Lillico Penguins CARes Group (Conservation Area Reserve).

Peter volunteered for NRE Tas for over a decade. He used to guide weekly walks from mid September to mid March. During the peak season he would sometimes volunteer until late at night in unpleasant conditions (wind, rain, cold). Friends of Lillico Penguins say that Peter really engaged with the visitors, he loved talking to people about the penguins and asking about their trips. Thank you Peter!

Jenna visiting volunteer Peter Dumson at Eliza Burton Nursing Home

Meet the NRE Tas volunteer team

Emmalene (Emm) Maher has recently started work with NRE Tas as the Regional Volunteer Facilitator (South) for the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). We caught up with Emm to find out what she gets up to outside of work.



I've had a varied career; from working as a florist, to factories and wildlife sanctuaries, then tovolunteer facilitation, but I have always best enjoyed the jobs where I can get my hands dirty. Point me to the muddiest patch of weeds and I'll spend all day in there! I'm also fluent in the art of making bad jokes and love nothing more than spending a day laughing in good company!

Favourite past-time: I tend to swap up my pastimes fairly regularly as I love to try my hand at new hobbies. I always enjoy learning the new skills that come with a pastime, even if I don't turn out to be very good at them, I still enjoy the journey!
Ultimately though, I love to get out in nature and go for a bushwalk at any opportunity I can, but especially if there's snow! After a lovely walk, if I can curl up under the blanket with a good book, then I would consider that a day very well spent!

Favourite Tasmanian holiday destination: There's hardly a spot in Tassie that I wouldn't want to holiday in! We're very lucky to have some incredible spots on our island, but if you were to twist my arm, I would say Falmouth, as it has a very special spot in my heart. My partner of 11 years and I got married on the beach there and we like to go back and visit whenever we can – there's also a very good toasted sandwich café there, but that may beside the point!

What drives or inspires you: Nature and coming together with likeminded people to help conserve it. Working alongside volunteers gives me a great sense of gratitude and I hope to achieve even a small amount of what some lifelong volunteers have selflessly achieved.

Why you like working for NRE Tas:

I'm fortunate enough to have joined the NRE Tas team a few months back and so far, it's been incredible to meet so many people with a shared passion for the environment and protecting our wild places. I'm looking forward to continuing to work alongside staff and volunteers to make positive impacts.

Wildcare

Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund Grants

Wildcare Tasmania is a community of volunteers and donors caring for Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage. Wildcare has over 60 volunteer groups that members can join.

Twice yearly, Wildcare invites grant applications for projects that relate to the care and conservation of Tasmania's wild places and wildlife. Round 2 of 2023 grants open on Monday 4 September 2023 and close at midnight on Thursday 28 September 2023. To apply and find out more please visit Wildcare Tasmania's website.

Volunteering opportunities

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

Fishcare

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

Parks and Wildlife Service

- Volunteer Caretakers to be stationed at Waterfall Valley Hut.
- Volunteer Campground Hosts to be stationed at Schouten Island.

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

Key contacts	Area	Email
Jenna Huisman	PWS North West Region	jenna.huisman@parks.tas.gov.au
Emmalene Maher	PWS Southern Region	emmalene.maher@parks.tas.gov.au
Travis Preece	Fishcare - North	travis.preece@nre.tas.gov.au
Tom Marr	Fishcare - North	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 as we work together in delivering a 'Sustainable Tasmania'.

NRE Tas

Email:
volunteering@nre.tas.gov.au

www.nre.tas.gov.au