

The Department Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



April 2022

Volunteer Expressions of Interest are currently being called for the Volunteer Caretaker Program at Cape Bruny, Tasmania

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) is calling for Expressions of Interest for Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Volunteer Caretakers, working in pairs, to be stationed at the Cape Bruny Light Station for 6-week placements, between 26 May 2022 and 08 June 2023.

This popular volunteer activity provides an opportunity for volunteers to live within heritage accommodation in a unique location, while taking in the beauty of South Bruny National Park and supporting PWS in their management of this spectacular, and historic, site.

Volunteer activities

- *Living on site at spectacular Cape Bruny*
- *Opening and closing the site for visitors – open all days of the year*
- *When required, providing information in relation to local services and reserves to visitors*
- *Minor site and vegetable garden maintenance*
- *Reporting any issues with the working order, cleanliness of the site, buildings, and infrastructure to PWS staff*
- *Cleaning the public toilets at Cape Bruny as required*
- *Working collaboratively with the PWS team*

Volunteering with NRE Tas

We recognise the value of volunteerism within environmental and conservation programs to not only support community health and wellbeing outcomes, but to deliver significant value that protects and promotes Tasmania's unique landscapes, flora and fauna.

We seek to develop and support volunteer programs that deliver unique opportunities for individuals to get involved, care for the environment, learn new skills, connect with nature, and meet like-minded people for a shared experience.

NRE Tas volunteers are a valued part of our organisation, working alongside our staff, passionate about Tasmania, providing their time, skills, and knowledge freely and willingly. **Our volunteers complement our existing resources, but do not replace paid positions.**

About Cape Bruny

Bruny Island was home to the Nuenonne clan of the South East nation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and the South Bruny National Park contains a number of important Aboriginal sites, including living places, quarries and artefact scatters.

On 15 January 1802, members of the Baudin expedition met with a group of some 60 Aboriginal men, women, and children in Great Taylors Bay. The clan made frequent voyages between Bruny Island and the mainland and on occasions to the Tasman Peninsula directly across Storm Bay. They built huts, recorded at Adventure Bay in 1792 by Tobin who was Bligh's third lieutenant on the "Providence".

The first European to visit the region was Abel Tasman, who sailed along the shore in 1642, and the safe anchorage of Adventure Bay was later used by Tobias Furneaux, James Cook and William Bligh. French Admiral Bruni D'Entrecasteaux anchored in the bay in 1792 and gave his name to both the island and the channel that separates Bruny Island from the mainland.

The historic Cape Bruny Lighthouse was built in 1836. At 114m tall, it towers over the spectacular dolerite cliffs of Cape Bruny and offers panoramic views of the rugged South Bruny coastline.

The lighthouse was commissioned by Governor George Arthur, following a series of shipwrecks off the southern Tasmanian coast. When first lit in 1838, it was the third lighthouse in the state, and only the fourth in Australia.

Cape Bruny Lighthouse station is the second oldest lighthouse in Australia, being last operational in 1996. and now replaced by a solar powered light nearby.

Climate statistics for Cape Bruny can be viewed [at http://www.bom.gov.au/places/tas/south-bruny/](http://www.bom.gov.au/places/tas/south-bruny/)

NRE Tas will provide:

- *Accommodation in a heritage listed building with kitchen, laundry, shower, and toilet facilities.*
- *All PPE relevant for the volunteer activities, including first aid and COVID-19 cleaning materials*
- *One return trip to Bruny Island by ferry.*
- *Basic living consumables (e.g., dishwashing liquid)*
- *Tools and equipment for minor maintenance work*
- *Site information and relevant visitor resources*
- *Volunteer caretaker vest, hat, and badge.*

Volunteers are asked to provide:

- *Food*
- *Sturdy work boots and clothing for variable weather conditions and work tasks*
- *All linen including tea-towels, bath towels, bedding materials (including a mattress protector)*
- *Own transport*
- *Internet data service (if required) as connectivity within the lighthouse residence is limited*

Additional information about the role

Mobile phone coverage at Cape Bruny can be unreliable, however there is a landline phone at the quarters.

While you are welcome to have visitors join you during the day at Cape Bruny, overnight visitors are not permitted stay in Parks accommodation unless pre-approved by the PWS.

Training

Information to support all volunteer activities, will be provided by NRE Tas employees prior to participation in the program. An on-site induction will take place on the first day of each placement, which will be delivered by the out-going caretakers, and PWS staff.

To support your understanding of becoming a NRE Tas volunteer, all applicants are encouraged to read and become familiar with the *NRE Tas Volunteer Induction and Participation Manual* available at the website below.

Advice for applicants regarding COVID-19

NRE Tas volunteer programs are conducted in accordance with the Tasmanian Government's COVID-19 Safe Workplaces Framework. Applicants are also encouraged to review the COVID-19 volunteer information, available on the <https://nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/volunteering> prior to submitting an EOI.

In accordance with current COVID-19 Public Health Advice, individuals most at-risk are encouraged to consider their personal circumstances and complete a COVID-19 Action Plan in consultation with their medical practitioner.

All PWS staff and volunteers are required to be vaccinated. The definition of 'vaccinated' mirrors the up-to-date definition used by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). ATAGI defines a person as vaccinated when they are 'up-to-date' by having a booster immunisation three months (and no longer than six months) after their last primary vaccination dose. For clarity, the last primary vaccination dose is currently the second dose, so a booster is a third dose.

Successful applicants will be asked to declare their vaccination status when they register as a volunteer.

Changes to COVID-19 Public Health Advice may result in suspension of the volunteer program at short notice. Volunteers should also ensure they are familiar with the current quarantine and border control restrictions, prior to submitting an expression of interest.

Medical disclosures

PWS volunteer caretaker roles require a reasonable level of physical fitness. Volunteers are encouraged to consider the location of Cape Bruny, noting that immediate access to health services may not be readily available.

Volunteers should ensure all personal medications are available wherever needed, with relevant health information disclosed to the Department to ensure we can support your safe participation.

Information will only be requested from successful applicants and handled in accordance with relevant privacy legislation.

How to apply

We appoint new and existing volunteers based on merit, interest, and availability.

NRE Tas volunteer roles are not paid positions, and therefore an EOI submission should not be written in the same way as a job application.

The department is interested in finding out more about you, what motivates you to volunteer, why you are interested in participating in the program and any skills or experience you might have that you think would add value to volunteering role on offer.

This volunteer role is not well suited to solo applicants, and applications are encouraged from teams of two, or small family groups.

Please provide a short submission, being an email or letter addressing the volunteer criteria below (1-2 paragraphs per criteria):

- V1 Your interest in the volunteering opportunity – why you would like to participate?
- V2 Your ability to be part of the team, working alongside and supporting other volunteers and staff.
- V3 Your experience working, living, or volunteering in a remote location
- V4 Reasonable physical fitness, being the capacity to walk around a National Park setting, and perform minor cleaning and maintenance
- V5 Confirmation of your availability to attend the placement – see caretaker schedule below.

Please submit your availability and preferences (in order) for the following caretaker placements

- Thursday 26 May 2022 – Thursday 7 July 2022
- Thursday 7 July 2022 – Thursday 18 August 2022
- Thursday 18 August 2022 – Thursday 29 September 2022
- Thursday 29 September 2022 – Thursday 10 November 2022
- Thursday 10 November 2022 – Thursday 22 December 2022
- Thursday 22 December 2022 – Thursday 2 February 2023
- Thursday 2 February 2023 – Thursday 16 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023 – Thursday 27 April 2023
- Thursday 27 April 2023 – Thursday 8 June 2023

Please submit your application to:

Katrina Cullen – PWS Regional Volunteer Facilitator (South) - at VolunteerSouth@parks.tas.gov.au

Closing date: Friday 7th of May 2022