

Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | 2014 – 2015



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The Year at a Glance: 2014 – 2015

Visitation

Wellington Park is the third most visited attraction in the State after Salamanca Market and MONA according to the Tasmania Visitor Survey. The Survey recorded 267799 visitors aged 14yrs or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between July 2014 and June 2015. This is a 14.9% increase on the corresponding period in the previous year.

On 18 November 2014 the President of China, Xi Jinping and his wife, Madame Peng Liyuan visited the pinnacle area of Wellington Park during their brief visit to Tasmania.

Zone Boundary Change

The Trust received a formal request from the Mt Wellington Cableway Company to extend the boundary of the Pinnacle Specific Area (PSA) into the Natural Zone to the east of the observation shelter. The Trust considered that extending the boundary of the PSA would meet the objectives of the Management Plan to promote tourism and recreational opportunities whilst meeting conservation objectives, as well providing opportunities for development of the range of visitor facilities allowed in the PSA. The change to the Management Plan has been carried out in accordance with the process in the Act, including public exhibition, receipt of representations, consideration of the merits of representations, and review of the Trust's consideration of the merits of the representations by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The process had not been concluded at the end of the 2014-15 financial year.

Visitor and User Improvements

Projects to benefit Park users included:

- a new system of grading the tracks and fire trails in the Park has been introduced based on the International Mountain Bicycling Association grading system for riders and a modified version of the Australian Walking Track Grading System for walkers
- conversion of Old Farm Track from shared use to single use, mountain bike only including minor re-routing of the track and new signage
- construction of a site for a food and drink van at The Springs (the van started operating in August 2015)
- repair and realignment of the upper section of the Collins Bonnet Track and sections of the Thark Ridge Route
- refurbishment of the toilet at The Springs
- expert assessment of the level of disabled access to popular parts of the Park and recommendations for improvement
- clearing encroaching vegetation along the Thark Ridge Route, Collins Bonnet Track, Myrtle Forest Track, and Collins Cap Track
- revising and reprinting the popular walking track brochure.

Planning Initiatives

- The Trust is assessing the feasibility of linking existing mountain bike tracks in the Park to allow for at least one major 50 km cross country/all mountain day ride. It is hoped the track would be of sufficient quality to be given “epic” status by the International Mountain Bicycling Association. The links would open up at least 7 other ride options of varying length. Once the feasibility of the proposed routes has been confirmed, the Trust will prepare a business case for the “epic” ride.
- Preparation of a master plan for the Fern Tree Park Visitor Node area in collaboration with Hobart City Council. Preparation of master plans for all major Park entry areas is recommended in the Management Plan and Hobart City Council needs to upgrade and replace facilities and infrastructure in Fern Tree Park. The master plan will cover the Fern Tree Park, Fern Tree Bower and Silver Falls areas. Consultants have completed a draft of the master plan. The draft is being finalised for public exhibition later this year.
- Hobart City Council has received an expression of interest from Hunter Developments/CIRCA Morris Nunn Architects for an ‘eco resort’ type development at The Springs which would include accommodation, restaurant, reception, conference facilities, administration area and a visitor centre. Council has provided Hunter Developments with a period of exclusivity to 31 December 2015 to allow it to develop its proposal prior to seeking ‘landowner consent’ from Council.

Operations

The following works were carried out by Park Management Agencies during the financial year:

- drainage and resurfacing of parts of Montrose and Chapel Trails
- works to prevent unauthorised vehicles getting round the gate on Priest Fire Trail
- replacement of the gate at the western end of the East West Trail
- repair of a leaking TasWater pipes
- replacement of the safety rail along a section of the Pipeline Track
- installation of chicanes in preparation of conversion of Pillinger Drive Track and the upper portion of Middle Track from walking only to shared use
- drainage and other repairs to Jefferys Track, mostly outside the Park but a key access route
- removal of the external barbeque at Junction Cabin which had been vandalised
- re-routing of a short section of the Cathedral Rock Track
- on-going weed management by Council crews, Taswater, TasNetworks, bushcare groups and a Green Army team. Glenorchy City Council successfully applied for a Green Army project and the team, coordinated by Conservation Volunteers Australia, tackled large infestations of Spanish heath and pines in the Merton area.

Regulations Awareness Program

There were 9 dog-related offences detected in 2014-15 compared with 7 in 2013-14, 16 in 2012-13, and 25 in 2011-12, showing a continued general improvement in users’ awareness of and compliance with dog regulations.

There were 9 recorded instances of mountain bike riding on walking only tracks in 2014-15, up from 3 in 2013-14, all in the Hobart City Council management area.

The Trust continued its support of the Hobart City Council Bush Adventures Program in developing activities that educate and inform children and young people and their families about Park values and deliver relevant regulatory messages.

The Trust Ranger uses blogs and other web based forums to reach out and respond to users. This allows efficient and effective dissemination of educative and regulatory messages across the spectrum of Park users.

The Trust Ranger assisted Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy Council staff in trialling concealed cameras to detect unauthorised vehicle use on closed roads in their management zones. No pre-planned ‘stings’ were undertaken during the 2014-15 financial year.

A large number of informal and conditional cautions were issued in response to first time dog and mountain bike related offences.

Fifteen offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use were detected in the Glenorchy City Council and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas (down from 29 in 2013-14 and 40 in 2012-13). None were detected in the Hobart City Council management area.

Instances of vandalism were mainly confined to damaging and defacing Park signs and damaging gates and fences to allow access by trail bikes, quad bikes and four wheel drive vehicles.

Fire Management

There were no major fires in the Park during 2014-15. There was an attempt at arson in the Glenorchy Council section of the Park with the person apprehended, and one car dumped and torched, also in the Glenorchy area, however neither fire spread beyond the ignition area.

The Wellington Park Maintenance Coordinating Committee met in December 2014 and May 2015 to coordinate bushfire management and other works in the Park. It includes representatives of the Park's management agencies as well as TasNetworks, TasWater, the Wellington Park Bushcare Group, and the Tasmania Fire Service.

Weed Management

Weed control in the Park is undertaken by the Park Management agencies assisted by a number of community Landcare groups. These include groups focussed on the Fern Tree and Kangaroo Valley areas, and the Wellington Park Bushcare Group a Park-wide group focusing on remote weed populations and also assisting with walking track clearing and repair (see cover photos).

Glenorchy City Council successfully applied for a Green Army project in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park area of the Park. The Green Army team was coordinated by Conservation Volunteers Australia and successfully tackled large infestations of Spanish heath and pines in the Merton area.

Community Involvement

Activities included:

- Further development of an engagement framework for communications with the Aboriginal community. This project seeks to ensure ongoing long-term and meaningful engagement with Aboriginal communities and groups, including the investigation of the cultural and spiritual significance of Wellington Park and its natural features.
- Ongoing community involvement in the Regulations Awareness Program and educational activities, including promotional events, interpretation walks and school presentations.
- Planning support and assistance to the Fern Tree and Wellington Park Bushcare Groups.
- Continued support for the Hobart City Council Bush Adventures Program, with interpretation being developed and run for children, teens and adults throughout the Park.
- Continued support for the Heritage Volunteer Network. This comprises community members with a keen and active interest in the history and heritage of Wellington Park, but with a focus on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.
- Continued response to requests from members of the public and researchers for information in relation to the history and heritage of Wellington Park and environs.

Administration of Wellington Park

A Complex Reserve

Wellington Park, at 18,250 hectares, is one of the largest areas of reserved land outside of the Tasmanian World Heritage Area and offers certain challenges to its land managers due to its popularity with locals and visitors, diverse ecosystems, heritage values, drinking water catchments and proximity to rural and urban areas. The Park has unique natural and cultural qualities, and includes the icons of kunanyi / Mount Wellington, forming the backdrop to Tasmania's capital city, and Sleeping Beauty, visible from the Huon Valley.

Wellington Park comprises fourteen separate parcels of land with classifications and ownership including Crown land (managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service), freehold land (held by the two city councils of Hobart and Glenorchy) and Crown land vested in Hobart City Council for water supply purposes (see Appendix 1).

The Park was originally proclaimed under purpose-made legislation due to internal complexities in land tenure and mixed ownership, and the desire to provide for a co-operative management approach. These matters have historically presented major hurdles in attempting any form of broad or 'whole of Park' management, and it is testimony to the role of the Trust, and the commitment and goodwill of the various landowners and Trust member agencies, that significant progress has been made.

Wellington Park Act 1993

The *Wellington Park Act 1993* (the Act) is purpose-made to deal with the complexities of land tenure within the Park. The Act allows for the establishment and constitution of the Trust, and for the preparation of a statutory management plan.

During 2014-15, the Act was administered by the Honourable Matthew Groom, Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, located within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

The purposes for which the Park is set aside are indicated in Part 2, s 5 of the Act as follows:

- (a) the provision of recreational and tourism uses and opportunities consistent with the purposes specified in paragraphs (b) to (e);
- (b) the preservation or protection of the flora and fauna contained in or on the land;
- (c) the preservation or protection of the natural beauty of the land or of any features of the land of natural beauty or scenic interest;
- (d) the preservation or protection of any features of the land being features of historical, Aboriginal, archaeological, scientific, architectural, or geomorphological interest;
- (e) the protection of the water catchment values of the land.

Wellington Park Management Trust

The Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust) is an independent Management Authority for Wellington Park, established pursuant to the Act. It has functioned in this capacity since November 1993. Its primary role is to provide a co-operative and effective management and planning structure for this unique and diverse peri-urban reserve.

The objectives and functions of the Trust as set out in Part 3, s 11 of the Act are:

- (a) to provide for the management and maintenance of Wellington Park in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which it is set aside;
- (b) to give effect to any management plan in force for Wellington Park;
- (c) to prepare plans with a view to their submission to the Governor for approval as management plans for Wellington Park and to keep under review the provisions of management plans;
- (d) to ensure that any development undertaken in Wellington Park is consistent with the purposes for which it is set aside and with any management plan;
- (e) when required to do so by the Minister, to advise on any development proposed for Wellington Park;
- (f) to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, research and other activities that appear to it to be desirable in connection with the administration of the Act;
- (g) to be the managing authority for Wellington Park;
- (h) to perform such other functions as are imposed on it under this or any other Act.

Vision and Mission

The Trust's Vision for the Park (originally adopted in 2006) seeks to provide a consistent and values-based approach to the management of the Park. The Vision was revised as part of the review of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005*, and incorporated into the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* as:

For Wellington Park to be a special place, accessible and enjoyed by all for its prominent landscape, natural and cultural diversity, and community value.

The Vision highlights the Trust's desire that the Park be accessible to all of the community.

Mission

To preserve the natural, cultural, recreational, tourism and drinking water qualities of Wellington Park for their own value and for the safe enjoyment of all people.

This will be achieved through outstanding management, sympathetic development and a co-operative relationship with our communities.

Trust Membership

The membership of the Trust is specified in section 10 of the Act and comprises an independent Chairperson together with: the Director-General of Lands (or nominee); the Directors of both the Parks and Wildlife Service and Tourism Tasmania (or their nominees); two representatives from the Hobart City Council; and one representative each from Glenorchy City Council and TasWater. The Trust therefore includes the two Councils that own land in the Park, the government agencies responsible for administering the Act and managing Crown land in the Park, and the water supply authority with catchments and infrastructure in the Park. Tourism Tasmania is represented on the Trust due to the significant role the Park has as a major tourist destination and its potential for future sustainable development.

The Chairperson for the Trust is an independent appointment made by the responsible Minister in accordance with the Act. The current Chairperson is Dr Christine Mucha. Dr Mucha's tenure expired on 30 May 2015, but has been extended for 6 months. The full membership and attendance schedule of Trust members throughout the year are provided in Appendices 2 and 3.

There was one change in the membership of the Trust during 2014-15. Alderman Bill Harvey, one of the Hobart Council representatives and the Deputy Chairperson, was not re-elected to Hobart City Council in the local government elections in October 2014. Alderman Harvey had been a member of the Trust since 2008, and Deputy Chairperson since 2013. The Trust sincerely thanks Mr Harvey for his contributions and leadership over that time.

Hobart City Council nominated Alderman Damon Thomas to replace Alderman Harvey and he was appointed for a 3 year period from 21 January 2015. As there is no requirement in the Wellington Park Act 1993 for a deputy to the Chairperson to be appointed, the Trust has decided not to have a Deputy Chairperson at this time.

Two new deputy members were appointed; Alderman Stuart Slade as the deputy for Alderman Haydyn Neilsen (Glenorchy City Council nominee) to replace Mr Greg French who retired and Alderman Eva Ruzicka as deputy for Alderman Thomas (Hobart City Council nominee)

The Trust met 3 times during 2014-15. At its February 2015 meeting the Trust resolved to make edited versions of Trust meeting minutes available on the Wellington Park website following confirmation.

Wellington Park Office

The Trust is supported by the Wellington Park Office (WPO) located in the Hobart Council Centre. The WPO plays an important role in preparing planning strategies and protocols, facilitating regional projects, co-ordinating the management actions carried out by Trust member agencies, and ensuring a regional and co-operative approach to land management within the Park.

During 2014-15 staff in the WPO consisted of:

Mr Axel von Krusenstierna – Manager (FTE 1)

Mr Ben Masterman – Ranger (FTE 0.6)

The Trust has also engaged a heritage consultant, Ms Anne McConnell, to co-ordinate the Trust's Cultural Heritage Management Program.

Until the end of 2014 the Ranger was housed and supported by the Parks and Wildlife Service, resulting in significant cost savings for the Trust. This changed at the request of the Parks and Wildlife Service who now provide an annual financial contribution to the Trust in lieu of its

previous in-kind support. The Trust Ranger continues to work closely with, and receives operational support from, the Parks and Wildlife Service. The Ranger works a roster that includes alternate weekends.

The Trust also employs various consultants, project-based staff and research assistants as required.

Human Resources Policies and Work Health and Safety

As the Trust's Manager and Ranger are now employed directly by the Trust (previously they were employed by Hobart City Council) the Trust has developed a suite of human resources policies and, as a Person in Control of a Business or Undertaking (PCBU), approved a Work Health and Safety (WHS) policy. The Trust is developing its own suite of WHS procedures, but in the interim has adopted relevant Parks and Wildlife Service procedures as these cover the Ranger's activities.

The Manager has completed a WHS training course. WHS issues with Trust staff are dealt with as they arise and discussed in general at fortnightly supervision meetings between the Manager and Ranger, and at approximately bi monthly office team meetings. A WHS report is now a standing item on the agenda of each Trust meeting and will be included on monthly office activity reports to the Trust which started in August 2015.

During 2014-15 there were no accidents requiring medical treatment and no time lost to injuries. The only WHS incidents were a slip on ice and two very minor vehicle accidents, all involving the Ranger. One of the vehicle incidents was the fault of another driver; the other occurred when the Trust vehicle lost traction on a recently graded fire trail and brushed against the embankment on the side of the trail. None of these incidents resulted in any injuries. In response the Ranger was provided with 'boot chains' for use on icy paths and roads and the scratches and small dents in the Trust vehicle were repaired.

Park Management Agencies

The Park Management Agencies are Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service and TasWater. The first 3 are responsible for on-ground works within their respective areas in the Park as shown in Appendix 1. TasWater has a statutory responsibility for bulk water supply to the greater metropolitan area and, whilst continuing to maintain infrastructure within the Park, contributes significantly as a land manager to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water catchments.

Section 27(1) of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* stipulates:

“It is the duty of all owners or occupiers of land in Wellington Park to exercise their functions and powers and to use and manage the land in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which it is set aside and with any management plan.”

The Trust, via the Management Plan, ensures that all works undertaken within the Park are consistent with the purposes for which the Park is set aside.

As well as undertaking on-ground management of their areas of the Park, the Park Management Agencies contribute technical and management expertise to the overall management of the Park. In particular, the Parks and Wildlife Service offer substantial conservation knowledge and experience and Hobart City Council provide general administrative and technical support, and office space. The Trust also receives substantial operational and administrative support from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and technical support for the Trust’s geographical information system. The WPO is also assisted by the Office of the Secretary (DPIPWE) for matters relating to the Department and Ministerial liaison. The Trust remains extremely grateful for this level of support.

Partnership Agreements

The Trust has established partnership agreements with key member agencies to ensure the ongoing management of the Park and the WPO. The agreements take the form of five-year Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), which formalise administrative, strategic and financial contributions to the Trust as well as the Trust’s assistance to the agencies including strategic planning, heritage management, a regulations awareness program and co-

ordination of management throughout the Park. The MoUs demonstrate the strong commitment of member agencies to the implementation of the Management Plan and also provide for the employment of project-based officers to develop planning policy and to initiate implementation of related actions.

Administrative contributions from the agencies also assist with the development and maintenance of a marketing and promotional framework, incorporating the Trust’s website, information sheets, and various public activities.

During 2014-15 the MoUs with Glenorchy City Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service and TasWater were renewed. The MoU with Hobart City Council has expired, however Council has continued its financial and administrative support for the Trust on an annual basis while a new MoU is being finalised.

The Trust is developing a MoU with TasNetworks to provide for mutual cooperation in the management of TasNetworks assets within the Park.

Park Management Committees

The Trust may, under section 12 of the Act, establish committees for the purpose of advising it on the management and planning of Wellington Park, or on other such matters affecting the performance of its functions.

The Trust relies upon a Management Advisory Committee to consider matters affecting policy and cooperative management in the Park, and to otherwise act as a working group overseeing the preparation of strategies resulting from the Wellington Park Management Plan. The committee consists of technical officers and planners from member agencies, and is an invaluable conduit for the views and aspirations of the various Park landholders. This Committee did not function during 2014-15 but will be reconstituted in 2015/16.

Other issue-specific working groups and steering committees are formed on a needs basis by the Manager. During 2014-15 these included the: Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee; Signage Manual Working Group; Historic Huts and Tracks Project Steering Committee; ‘Epic’ Mountain Bike Track Steering Committee; Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan Steering Committee and Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group.

Trust Representation on other Committees

The Trust, via the Manager or other staff, was represented on the following external committees: Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Association Inc, Southern Fire Management Area Committee and the steering committee for the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan. The Manager is currently the chairman of the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee.

Financial Resources

The State Government's financial contribution to the Trust is supplied via the administering department however, despite additional project funding, the recurrent contribution has remained at the same level since the 1998-99 financial year. This declining support has the potential to impact upon the Trust's ability to carry out its strategic planning and co-ordination roles. The shortfall is made up via interest received on held cash, and administrative components of various grants.

The Trust's Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with TasWater, Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, and the Parks and Wildlife Service provide substantial administrative, strategic and financial contributions to the Trust to assist in the co-ordination of management throughout the Park. The Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator and Ranger positions are funded via these agreements. Hobart City Council, in particular, supplies considerable administrative, technical and operational support as well as hosting the Trust office. DPIPWE provides spatial information for use by the Trust. The Trust remains extremely grateful for this level of support, and is increasingly reliant upon the delivery of such assistance from member agencies.

The Trust also has the capacity to receive fees and income from the sale of publications, and manage financial contributions from member bodies via deposits into a special interest bearing trust account. Various management planning strategies have been funded in this joint manner, whilst other contributions from member agencies are made on an issue-specific basis.

The Trust's financial statement for the 2014-15 financial year and the Auditor's report are attached as Appendix 4 as required by the Audit Act 2008.

The Trust is grateful for the high degree of co-operation and resourcing from the respective land owning and managing agencies noted above. The Trust also thanks the State Government for its on-going support and provision of grant funding over the recent year, and the Australian Government for its contribution to the Wellington to Wilderness Multi-day Recreation Track feasibility study and subsequent assessment of the feasibility of a long distance mountain bike track around kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

Community Contributions and Consultation

The Trust has worked hard to maintain its profile as an active and efficient management agency for Wellington Park. It is crucial that the community understand the Trust's role as the strategic planning and approval body, and its relationship to its member and landowning agencies.

The Trust recognises the enormous amount of good will, energy and resources that are contributed by both the community and management agencies to ensure that the Park is protected and maintained as a special place for everyone.

There are many community individuals and groups who directly contribute to the ongoing planning and management of the Park. In particular, the Trust acknowledges the on-ground efforts of the various Bushcare and Landcare groups voluntarily undertaking land management activities in the Park, and the volunteers who assist in maintenance of the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

The Trust has also established and facilitates a number of internal reference committees and working groups to implement its participatory planning approach, and also is represented on relevant external community committees.

Use and Development in the Park

Wellington Park Management Plan 2013

The Management Plan is the principal planning document for Wellington Park, and ensures a strong unified vision for stakeholders, and a set of realistic and achievable objectives for the Park's long-term management.

Following a comprehensive review of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005* and assessment of a draft revised plan using the process set out in the Act, *the Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*, came into effect on 1 January 2014 (refer Annual Report 2013-14).

The Management Plan provides that commercial uses and developments may be considered in The Springs and Pinnacle Specific Areas in relation to.

- Tourist Operations e.g. visitor centre, interpretation centre, viewing shelter and ancillary uses to the provision of these including limited associated retail;
- Food Services e.g. cafe, restaurant and take-away food premises; and
- Transport Depot and Distribution e.g. bus terminal, council depot, other Potential Transport Modes (including shuttle buses; cable cars and aerial ropeways; and funicular rail and cable rail systems).

Proposed Change to the Boundary of the Pinnacle Specific Area

On 18 June 2014 the Trust received a formal request from the Mt Wellington Cableway Company (MWCC) to extend the boundary of the Pinnacle Specific Area (PSA) into the Natural Zone to the east of the observation shelter. The boundary extension would add about 1.1 hectares to the PSA. This represents an approximately 13% increase in the area of the PSA.

The Trust considered the request and recognised that an extension of the Pinnacle Specific Area immediately in front of the observation shelter would provide more scope for appropriate siting of the range of commercial developments allowable in the Pinnacle Specific Area.

The Trust realised that including the area within the PSA would meet the objectives of the Management Plan relating to promotion of tourism and recreational

opportunities, whilst either retaining the status or improving the conservation objectives.

The addition to the PSA would allow new developments to be clustered close to existing developments, thereby avoiding the spread of impacts, and located below the skyline where it would be easier to reduce visual impacts.

On 7 July 2014 the Trust resolved to initiate the process to revise the Management Plan to extend the boundary of the PSA. This process is set out in the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and commenced on 4 August 2014 with public exhibition of a draft Amending Plan and an invitation for representations.

The period for public representations on the draft Amending Plan finished on 3 September 2014 with 551 representations received as well as two responses from government agencies (Tourism Tasmania and Heritage Tasmania) stating they would not be making formal representations.

The Act requires the Trust to consider the merits of representations received and prepare a report on its assessment for review by the Tasmanian Planning Commission within 30 days of the end of the period for receipt of representations. Due to the time required to process and prepare a report on the large number of representations, an extension of the period allowed for preparation of the Trust's report to the Planning Commission until 24 October was granted by the Minister.

The Trust's report was sent to the Tasmanian Planning Commission on 22 October 2014 along with copies of all the representations received.

At its meeting on 2 February 2015 the Commission resolved to hold a hearing on the representations received on the draft Amending Plan as allowed for in section 24C of the *Wellington Park Act*. A directions hearing was held on 6 March 2015 and the actual hearings on 20 and 27 April 2015.

Five representors were heard at the hearings, including the Hobart City Council. The Trust was represented by the Chairperson and Manager.

On 24 June 2015 the Commission sent the Trust the report of its review of the Trust's report on the representations

received on the draft Amending Plan. The Commission's report was made public the following week. The Commission's review was restricted to a consideration of the adequacy of the Trust's consideration of the merits of the representations.

The Commission's report noted some instances where it considered the Trust's report was "inadequate" as it had, in the Commission's opinion, failed to adequately summarise all the issues raised in the representations and had failed to give an opinion on the merits of some of the issues raised. The Trust is considering the Commission's report as well as the representations received to decide if it will submit an altered or unaltered Amending Plan to the Governor for approval.

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)

The interrelationship between the Wellington Park Act 1993 and LUPAA was first formalised in 2003. This included a requirement that any application for a LUPAA permit in the Park must be accompanied by the written permission of the Trust to lodge the application (s 52A). In December 2013 Parliament approved an amendment of s 52A to remove the requirement for any application for a LUPAA permit to have the written permission of the Trust. This change was incorporated into the Management Plan. The process for approving uses and developments in the Park is explained in Chapter 8 and illustrated in Appendix 3A of the Management Plan. Only one development proposal, a site for a mobile food vendor at the Springs, was assessed under LUPAA during 2014-15.

Major Planning Initiatives 2014 – 2015

Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan

The Trust, in collaboration with Hobart City Council, is preparing a master plan for the entry point to the Park at Fern Tree. The impetus for this project was twofold. Firstly, Hobart City Council, in its role as the asset manager and also responding to community interest, has identified a need to renew the playground equipment, toilets, furniture and fencing in Fern Tree Park. In addition, the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* has an objective to prepare master plans for key Wellington Park entry points and visitor nodes, including Fern Tree Park and Fern Tree Bower.

Fern Tree Park is one of three key entrances to Wellington Park and has long been an important recreational area for the people of Hobart and particularly the Fern Tree Community. On occasions when Pinnacle Road is closed due to snow, Fern Tree is Wellington Park's major entrance point and at all times of the year its access to the track network attracts visitors from greater Hobart, interstate and overseas. It is also the main Park entry accessible by public transport.

While the main focus of the project is Fern Tree Park, the master plan will include the extent of the Silver Falls Loop and the key sites within this area – including Fern Tree Bower, Silver Falls, Fern Glade entrance car park, Pipeline Track and all of the physical, cultural and recreational connections between them.

Consultants have been engaged to prepare the master plan and have completed a draft which is currently being refined before going on public exhibition for community comment. The master plan will address the site's issues and challenges and propose design solutions that will enable the Park to be accessed and enjoyed by its various user groups while maintaining Wellington Park's values. It will guide future development for the next ten years.

'Epic' Mountain Bike Track

The Wellington to Wilderness Concept Multi-day Recreation Track feasibility study completed in November 2013 found that a 30 km to 40 km mountain bike track around kunanyi / Mount Wellington would be economically viable, particularly if it was of sufficient quality to have "epic ride" status conferred on it by the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

The Trust received government approval to use the remaining portion of the grant for the Wellington to Wilderness Concept Multi-day Recreation Track feasibility study to further investigate the feasibility of an 'Epic' mountain bike track around kunanyi / Mount Wellington. The Trust formed a working group including representatives of the Park Management Agencies, Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania and others with track building expertise, to advise on the proposed track. The objective is to determine if there is a viable route for the track and, if there is, prepare a business case for it.

To assist the working group determine a viable route, the Trust engaged consultants Solve Spatial to model potential routes for the track using a GIS model that can plot a

route that maintains the grade and other criteria set for the track but avoids constraints such as boggy ground and steep slopes. Following the modelling, consultant Mtn. Trails assessed the technical feasibility of the various route options for the various sections of the track and recommended what they consider to be the best route in terms of construction cost, environmental impact and attraction for users. The consultant estimates the total cost at around \$3.5 million. The report has been sent to Park Management Agencies for comment prior to preparing a final business case.

Springs Specific Area

The Management Plan considers that: "The Springs remains the most appropriate location for a visitor centre and should be the focal point for visitor services and facilities; this approach reflects the current policy position of the Hobart City Council, which seeks to develop visitor facilities and services at The Springs before considering major developments elsewhere in the Park." Hobart City Council has recently reaffirmed this policy position.

The Trust continued to work with the Hobart City Council (as the land owner and management agency) to improve facilities at The Springs. The Trust and Council had previously provided the permits for the development of a visitor centre, restaurant, modular education room and public facilities at The Springs, however the developer decided not to proceed with the project.

In September 2014 Hobart City Council initiated an expressions of interest process for commercial developments at The Springs that are consistent with the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*. Proposals had to be lodged by the end of January 2015. The only proposal received was from Hunter Developments/CIRCA Morris Nunn Architects for an 'eco resort' type development which would include a restaurant, reception, conference facilities, administration area, public toilets, and 54 single room units and six split level units. The previously approved visitor centre was also included.

In March 2015, Council provided Hunter Developments with a period of exclusivity to 30 June 2015 to allow it to develop its proposal prior to seeking 'owner consent' from Council. Council has recently extended the period of exclusivity to 31 December 2015.

The Trust has advised Council that it will consider any development proposals within the Springs Specific Area that are in accordance with *Wellington Park Management*

Plan 2013 and has offered to assist Council staff with any issues related to compliance with the Management Plan and other Park management strategies.

Hobart City Council, with the support of the Trust, has already carried out a range of measures to improve visitor facilities at The Springs. These include refurbishment of the existing toilets, new gas-fired barbecues, and space for a mobile food and drink outlet. A business started operating on 1 August as part of Council's Mobile Food Vendor Program. Should the proposal by Circa Morris Nunn Architects not proceed, Council will consider further improvements including an access toilet and new seating.

The Trust, with the support of Hobart City Council, resolved to revise the master plan for The Springs to incorporate changes in the Management Plan and ensure development of facilities at The Springs complements developments at other visitor nodes such as Fern Tree Park and the pinnacle. A draft scoping document for this was prepared as a basis for preparation of a consultants brief, however preparation of the revised master plan has been postponed at the request of Hobart City Council until it considers the development proposal by Hunter Developments/CIRCA Morris Nunn Architects.

Project Approvals

The Management Plan provides for a list of Exempt uses and developments (those that do not require approval from the relevant planning authority), and applies a performance-based approach to other proposals that must meet the requirements and standards contained in the Management Plan. Apart from routine, general maintenance or emergency works, all proposals for use and development, including those listed in the Plan as Exempt, require the submission of a Park Activity Assessment (PAA) to the Trust to ensure that any associated impacts on Park values are addressed.

A permit is required under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2009* for all uses and developments that are in contravention of the Regulations e.g. disturbing vegetation or soil within the Park. This applies irrespective of whether a use or development may be Exempt from requiring a LUPAA permit or a PAA.

The Trust approved the following PAAs within the Park over the year:

- conversion of Old Farm Track from shared use to single use, mountain bike only
- construction of a site for a food and drink van at The Springs
- repair and realignment of upper section of the Collins Bonnet Track
- refurbishment of the toilet at The Springs
- repairs to Montrose Trail
- works to prevent unauthorised vehicles getting round the gate on Priest Fire Trail
- repair of a leaking TasWater pipe
- replacement of old railing along a section of the Pipeline Track
- Instalment of chicanes in preparation of conversion of Pillinger Drive Track and the upper portion of Middle Track from walking only to shared use
- Drainage improvements and resurfacing of parts of Chapel Trail.

The Trust did not refuse any applications for use and development in the Park received in 2014-15.

Permits for minor works provided during 2014-15 included crane access to replace the mast on the Bureau of Meteorology weather station at the Pinnacle.

Providing for Visitors

Wellington Park is the third most visited attraction in the State after Salamanca Market and MONA according to the Tasmania Visitor Survey. The Survey recorded 267799 visitors aged 14 yrs or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between July 2014 and June 2015. This is a 14.9% increase on the corresponding period in the previous year. This survey does not include the many residents of Hobart and other communities near the Park who also use it for a bush walk, bike ride, picnic, walking the dog, admiring the view or any of the other attractions the Park offers.

Track Grading

The revision of the Wellington Park Signage Manual in 2014 introduced a new system of grading tracks for walkers and riders so they will be aware of the conditions they will experience on the track. The new grading system uses the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) grading system for riders and a modified version of the Australian Walking Track Grading System (AWTGS) for walkers. The IMBA and AWTGS systems are used on the Greater Hobart Trails website so it is hoped that adoption of this system will provide consistent guidance for Park users.

During 2014-15 a working group convened by the Trust Ranger, and including representatives of the management agencies and bushwalking and mountain bike clubs, have been working to grade all the tracks and fire trails in the Park using the new system. Once finalised, signs will be progressively altered to include the new grading.

Disabled Access

A disability access assessment of popular areas of the Park was commissioned by Hobart City Council with the support of the Trust. The assessment included the Pinnacle area and lookouts, the Chalet, the Springs and the Pipeline Track. The recommendations of the report are currently being considered by Hobart City Council with the aim of making the more important visitor areas, the Pinnacle and Springs, more accessible as well as the track to Sphinx Rock. Access improvements at the Chalet were

not considered feasible and access to the Pipeline Track at Fern Tree is being further considered as part of the Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan.

Commercial Visitor Services

As at 30 June 2015, there were 81 businesses licensed to conduct commercial operations in the Park, 2 more than the previous financial year. Services offered include guided bushwalks, mountain bike tours, rock climbing and abseiling.

Commercial operations within the Park are facilitated via the Parks and Wildlife Service, providing a 'one-stop' Commercial Visitor Service (CVS) for the licensing of commercial activities on lands managed by the Trust, PWS and Forestry Tasmania. The Trust's guidelines ensure however that the Trust can apply its own assessment criteria and procedures whilst remaining part of the broader arrangement.

The CVS provides for three distinct licence classes: Class A (general commercial activities that involve transport and limited guided day walking tours only); Class B (activities requiring additional conditions or more specific land access than those specified in class A e.g. mountain bike and rock climbing tours); and Transport Licences (base level transit operations). The Transport licence class is further divided into two sub-classes: Tourism Transport Services (where the operator offers an interpretive experience and is aimed at the tourism market); and Base Transport Services (where transport only is provided e.g. charter groups).

Further, the CVS requires all commercial operators (except Base Transport Services) to have appropriate tourism industry accreditation when offering tourism services. The intent is to ensure high quality management and delivery of tourism services within the Park, and is supported by the Tourism Industry Council, Tasmania.

During the financial year the Trust assisted the CVS in a major revision of the licence template.



Trowunna Tours

Members of the Aboriginal community have started operating Aboriginal Cultural Heritage tours of the Park under the name Trowunna Tours. The tour visits the octopus tree, the Pinnacle area and The Springs. The new enterprise was officially launched by a special ceremony at The Springs with the Premier, the Honourable William Hodgeman, the guest of honour.

Pinnacle Road Snow Management

Visitor access to the summit of kunanyi / Mount Wellington may be restricted when snow and or ice makes Pinnacle Road impassable or dangerous. Management of Pinnacle Road during snow periods is undertaken by the Hobart City Council, in accordance with the Trust's Pinnacle Road Snow Management Strategy (originally adopted in 2002 and reviewed annually). The Council provides outstanding support for road and traffic management issues during road closures, and is itself supported by Tasmania Police.

The Snow Management Strategy aims to provide a workable compromise between the needs of management agencies to have the Road open as quickly and as safely as possible, and the desires of the community to access snow play areas. A key focus is the improvement of available information regarding road conditions and the reasoning behind management decisions, and the need to ensure visitors can plan ahead and be prepared for extreme conditions. Information is available from: the Council's website; the Pinnacle Road Information Line; the electronic message sign (on Huon Road); and media announcements. Hobart Council has established a

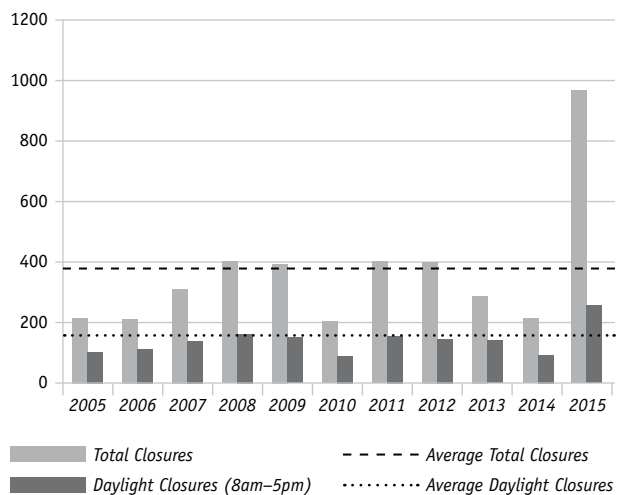
dedicated information page on its website which provides up-to-date information on the location of road closures and the distance from the closure to snow. The page also provides real-time images from two cameras positioned in the Pinnacle area.

For the year 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015, there were 47 days (31 in 2013-14) when Pinnacle Road was closed for a period of greater than one hour, including 16 occasions (5 in 2013-14) when it was closed for an entire day. Closures amounted to a total of 195 daylight hours (8am–5pm) (121 in 2013-14) or 412 hrs (291 in 2013-14) if including overnight periods. These closures were due to snow and or ice, however, in July 2014 Pinnacle Road was closed for 20 hours as a precaution due to a large rock which slid about 300 m down the mountain and came to rest just below Pinnacle Track.

A summary of road closure data from 2005 to 2015 is provided in the following graph.

In 2015 Hobart Council introduced a policy of pre-emptive road closures. This involved closing Pinnacle Road in the evening if there was a likelihood of snow falling, or ice forming, overnight. This new policy is reflected in the large increase in total closures for 2015 over previous years and daytime closures being only 30% of total closures in 2015 whereas they were 46% in 2014.

Closures (by year): 2005–2015



Recreation

Bush Walking

The use, development and promotion of the walking track network within the Park are one of the fundamental management priorities for the Trust. The Trust, in conjunction with its Park Management Agencies and community-based walking track working group, has continued the implementation of the Walking Track Strategy, endorsed by the Trust in June 2003.

The Trust has reprinted (with minor updates and corrections) its popular bushwalking information brochure. This is available on the Wellington Park website, and the Trust's information stands in Service Tasmania, the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre, and the Ferntree Tavern.

A number of tracks in the western part of the Park; Thark Ridge Route, Collins Bonnet Track, Myrtle Forest Track, and Collins Cap Track were cleared by the Wellington Park Bushcare Group and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Myrtle Forest Trail has been temporarily closed as it is badly overgrown and there are issues with the section of the Trail that crosses private property now that the landowner is living on site. It is hoped that the issues will be resolved and the track cleared and re-opened.

In June 2015 enthusiastic bushwalker Michael Hawkins put forward a proposal to upgrade the Organ Pipes and Pinnacle Tracks to allow "family access". At his invitation the Governor, Lord Mayor, President of the Legislative Assembly and members of the Hobart Walking Club, amongst others, inspected the section of the Organ Pipes Track near the Chalet to discuss the proposal. The Trust Chairperson, Manager and Glenorchy Council member, Alderman Haydyn Nielsen, also attended.

Bike Riding

The Trust has continued the implementation of the Wellington Park Bike Strategy (2000, revised 2005). The Strategy provides the basis for the Trust to manage the multiple forms of bike riding available within the Park. The Strategy incorporates the opportunities provided by the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park, including: downhill; cross-country; jumps; north shore; and other technical styles. The constant improvement in bike technology provides a challenge for the Trust to explore new opportunities for riding within the Park.

The Trust has facilitated and subsequently endorsed the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan (2011) (GHMBMP). The aim of the plan is to create a regional network of bike trails and infrastructure in the south of the State. The Trust participates in a working group overseeing the implementation of the master plan, and is represented by the Ranger at the Implementation Committee's quarterly meetings. The Trust also currently assists management agencies in developing responses to the master plan's recommendations. The Ranger also attends and reports to the Glenorchy City Council's bi-monthly Tracks, Trails and Cycleways Committee.

Following an assessment of the environmental and social impacts of the proposed conversion by Hobart City Council, the Trust approved the conversion of Old Farm Track from shared to single use (mountain bike only). Works for the conversion were carried out by Hobart City Council in May and June 2015. This conversion was a recommendation of the GHMBMP.

A scoping analysis for assessment of the environmental and cultural impacts associated with expanding mountain bike riding opportunities in Wellington Park in accordance with the GHMBMP had been prepared as the first step in implementing the Trust's recommendation for further consideration of "environmental and cultural impacts and issues, public safety, and proposed mitigation strategies" as part of its implementation of the GHMBMP within the Park. The scoping analysis makes recommendations for an approach to, and scope of, such assessment. The analysis pays particular attention to physical impacts and impacts on the current use (including function and enjoyment for users), which are seen as special areas of concern given the values of the walking track network.

As part of the assessment there will be a trial conversion of the Pillinger Drive Track and the upper portion of Middle Track from walkers only to shared use (walkers and bike riders). The trial will be used to gauge the impacts of riders on the trail and its use by walkers.

Horse Riding

The Trust continues to provide opportunities for horse riding within the Park, however access is by permit only. This approach resolves the need for specialised horse access gates, which may provide openings for other unwanted access e.g. trail bikes. The Trust has delegated the management of the permit system to the Parks and Wildlife Service, as per the recreational vehicle permit

system. Short-term permits are available for one-off use, whilst long term permits may be obtained for regular users. Riding opportunities and a code of conduct are contained in the Trust's Horse Riding Information Sheet, endorsed by the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association. During the year a total of five long term horse riding permits were issued.

Four Wheel Driving

The Park offers opportunities for four wheel driving access by permit. The all-day journey along the East West Trail offers a unique experience in a wild area, with spectacular views and technical challenges, and is advertised on many local and interstate recreation brochures.

The Park's recreational vehicle permit system is managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service under delegated authority. Trails are closed during wet periods and winter months to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the trail surface. This reporting period the East West Trail was open to recreational vehicles from October 2014 to June 2015. Over the year, 41 permits were issued for a total of 109 vehicles. Nine permits were for interstate vehicle groups, with the remainder being issued to Tasmanian users. Additionally, four vehicle permits were issued to people with special needs requiring access to the Myrtle Forest picnic area shelter.

Rock Climbing

Rock climbing continued to occur in many locations within the Park, most notably on the Organ Pipes on the eastern face of kunanyi / Mountain Wellington and to a lesser extent at the Lost World on Mount Arthur. Climbing is usually undertaken on an individual basis, however loose affiliations remain from the Climber's Club of Tasmania and licences have been issued to allow commercial climbing and abseiling tours within the Park.

Interpretation

The Trust continues to encourage interpretive activities through Hobart City Council's Bush Adventures Program. The Ranger also provided a number of educative/interpretative presentation for a variety of school groups both in classrooms and within the Park. Importantly, these events provided opportunities for local children to engage with the Park and to form an appreciation of the area for the future.

Looking to the future, the Ranger will continue to develop interesting activities and opportunities in the Hobart and Glenorchy management areas to raise community awareness of Wellington Park's unique values.

Marketing and Promotion

Park activity and information sheets are distributed in the field upon request or in response to offences and can also be downloaded from the Wellington Park website. The Ranger is updating the Trust's suite of brochures and information sheets in consultation with community stakeholders.

The popular bush walking information brochure was revised and reprinted. This brochure is provided free to visitors and covers the most popular walks on the eastern slopes of kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

The Trust has continued to maintain two customised information display stands, located at the Hobart Service Tasmania shop and Ferntree Tavern. Maps and information sheets are also distributed by the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre in Davey Street.

Regulations Awareness Program

The *Wellington Park Regulations 2009* (the Regulations) are provided for under section 79 of the Act, to support effective implementation of the Management Plan and to govern on-ground activities within the Park. The Regulations take precedence over any Council by-laws and regulations that might otherwise apply in the Park.

The Trust employs a Ranger to oversee the Regulations Awareness Program (RAP) throughout the Park. The Ranger works with Authorised Officers (appointed under the Act) and other field staff from Trust member agencies to promote the co-operative relationship between the Trust and its on-ground management agencies.

The RAP, now in its thirteenth year, engages agency staff, other authorities and the community in the protection and promotion of the Park's values. The Trust has continued to encourage community involvement in management of the Park, and has maintained strong connections to various community groups and Park users. Ongoing support from Trust member agencies, Tasmania Police and the community, has been integral in raising community awareness of Park values and the Regulations.

The Ranger prepares and delivers a range of activities promoting awareness of the Park's values, and compliance with the Regulations. The program is devised with guidance and assistance from representatives of management agencies with responsibilities in the Park, and in accordance with the directions and priorities of the RAP Communications Plan. Ongoing awareness-raising activities include: on-ground education and presentations at schools; disseminating regulatory and educational messages to all users including agency field staff, advocacy groups, community user groups and clubs; maintenance of the Wellington Park website and updating promotional brochures; preparing media articles and radio interviews; attendance at community events; organising Park promotional and educational opportunities; Authorised Officer training and co-ordination; and responding to public enquiries.

Reaching out to young people as fledgling users of the Park is an important focus of the RAP. The Trust continues its support of the Hobart City Council Bush Adventures Program in developing activities that educate and inform children and young people and their families about Park values and deliver relevant regulatory messages. The

Ranger has prepared a RAP presentation aimed at Year 10-12 level school and college students, as well as simplified modules for younger aged school audiences for use both in the classroom and in the field. It is hoped that by promoting awareness of Park values and encouraging respect for the regulations, we may assist young people in becoming responsible Park users. The rationale behind targeting years 10-12 particularly is that at this age young people are 'spreading their wings', developing recreational interests such as mountain biking, and forming groups or joining clubs, and acquiring motor vehicles and licences that allow them the freedom to travel and explore and pursue their interests further afield. It is hoped that by preparing them with good information, issues and impacts can be prevented or minimised: for example by reaching out to this audience and explaining values and associated threats it is hoped they will direct their energies into endorsed TrackCare or BushCare activities rather than building their own informal mountain bike tracks in the Park.

User groups increasingly use the internet and social media to communicate and coordinate activities; this presents both opportunity and risk. The Trust accordingly uses blogs and other web based forums to reach out and respond to users. This allows efficient and effective dissemination of educative and regulatory messages across the spectrum of Park users.

During the 2014-15 financial year the Ranger spent approximately 628 hours in the field patrolling across the length and breadth of the Park on foot, by vehicle and by mountain bike, with focal points identified by reporting from users, agency field staff, Authorised Officers and Park neighbours. The Ranger assisted Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy Council staff in trialling hidden cameras to identify unauthorised vehicles on fire trails in their management zones. No pre-planned 'stings' were undertaken during the 2014-15 financial year.

Follow-up enforcement activity included:

- maintenance of the enforcement database
- investigation of reported offences
- communication with Hobart and Glenorchy police to assist in the tracking down of offenders where only partial identification has been obtained
- distribution of caution letters with information sheets and maps
- training of additional Authorised Officers from Glenorchy City Council (one field officer and two Environmental Officers) and Hobart City Council (three Animal Management Officers)
- refresher training presentations to agency field staff and Authorised Officers
- maintenance of communication with Park neighbours to assist with identifying and prosecuting offences.

A large number of informal and conditional cautions were issued in response to first time dog and mountain bike related offences. Offenders who have breached a regulation but satisfied the Ranger that discretion may be exercised are now issued with a Conditional Caution (in effect, a 'cancelled' Prescribed Infringement Notice). No financial penalty is imposed, however the offender's identity and contact details are recorded on the enforcement database and any further related offence within two years will result in a full Prescribed Infringement Notice being issued. This has proven an effective compliance strategy as no repeat offence has been detected following this approach in the past twelve months.

Authorised Officer guidelines are being revised following the identification of a need for direction in respect of intercepting mountain bikers found riding illegally on walking-only tracks. The guidelines will be revised in line with advice received from Tasmania Police, including, for example, the use of traffic management and signage techniques deployed by officers involved in vehicle intercepts.

Dog-related offence data from previous years indicated a need for improved information and communication with dog walkers in some areas, for example Myrtle Forest, where additional signage has been installed with the assistance of the Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy Council Animal Management Officers. The Ranger responded to issues raised in the Lenah Valley area by arranging better coordination and communication

with Hobart Council Animal Management Officers, which involved training and appointing three staff members as Authorised Officers. There were 9 dog-related offences detected in 2014-15 compared with 7 in 2013-14, 16 in 2012-13, and 25 in 2011-12, showing a continued general improvement in users' awareness of and compliance with dog regulations.

There were 9 recorded instances of mountain bike riding on walking only tracks in 2014-15, up from 3 in 2013-14, all in the Hobart City Council management area. This increase may be due to frustration on the part of the riding community with perceived delays in the provision of further riding opportunities in Wellington Park. The discovery of two short, illegally built, informal mountain biking tracks may be seen as further evidence of this perception. The Ranger will continue to inform the community via interaction with users in the Park, RAP presentations and media communications, and ongoing monitoring will occur at known and potential hotspots. Maintaining monitoring of tracks and communication with riders will continue to be vital to improving compliance in this area.

Fifteen offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use were detected in the Glenorchy and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas (down from 29 in 2013-14 and 40 in 2012-13). This observed reduction may be due to increased monitoring and assistance from Tasmania Police, who have been quick to respond to calls from the Ranger.

Vandalism of gates and fences to allow access to trail bikes, quad bikes and four wheel drive vehicles, continues to be an issue in the Glenorchy area. The Ranger maintains efficient and effective communication with management agencies and the police, all of whom continue to respond swiftly to incidents as resourcing allows. Glenorchy City Council has responded by revising and expanding its hidden camera monitoring strategy, with additional cameras and new locations being rolled out from mid 2015. Council has also provided for the installation of dashboard cameras in its environment officers' vehicle and has also kindly donated one for use in the Trust vehicle.

Instances of vandalism detected included damaging and defacing Park signs and gates at several entry points, cutting of fencing around the Glenorchy tip, and graffiti. All such activity is immediately reported to the relevant management agency for cleaning, repair or replacement.

Permits Issued

The Trust may authorise permits for activities prohibited under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2009*. Commonly issued permits cover the taking of flora and fauna for scientific research, taking of water for private use, and for recreational access provided for in the Management Plan.

In accordance with the Management Plan, the Trust has delegated the issue of permits for four wheel drive vehicles and horse riding on permitted trails within the Park to the Parks and Wildlife Service. Glenorchy City Council has delegated authority to issue vehicle access permits to the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

Over the year, the Trust issued; 8 permits for scientific research; 2 permits to light fires, 1 permit for camping, 1 permit for horse riding, 15 permits for commercial filming activities, 7 for non recreational vehicle access and 41 for recreational vehicle access.

The Trust has provided the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) with a standing permit for non-emergency access to the Park based on an agreed protocol. Under the permit the TFS can drive on fire trails in the Park at any time for training exercises and familiarisation after checking first with the relevant Park Management Agency. A similar agreement has been offered to the State Emergency Service and is awaiting their signature.

Managing Park Values

The Trust has continued to implement various operational procedures for agencies undertaking works within the Park. These include the Vehicle Hygiene Protocol (to minimise the introduction and spread of weeds and plant pathogens throughout the Park) and the Agency and Contractors Induction Kit (aimed at the Manager/Supervisor level, and those people with project management responsibilities).

These procedures are included in management agency standard operating procedures and project briefs for external contractors.

Cultural Heritage Management

General Coordination

Given the coordinating role of the Trust, engagement with the Park Management Agencies and the community in relation to cultural heritage values knowledge and management has continued to be a core component of the heritage program.

Key coordinating activities in 2014-15 have included site data upgrading, review of the statutory provisions for cultural heritage in the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* and the provision of historic heritage advice and support to the Park Management Agencies:

- An important heritage management role of the Trust is to maintain and distribute heritage site data to relevant management agencies. A major upgrade of historic site data commenced in early 2014, and was substantially progressed in 2014-15 through the integration of a considerable amount of new site information into the Trust's site data collection. The major upgrade includes reducing the four data sets which are currently managed to two data sets, and this includes making a transition from paper based records to digital data only. To this end, all existing paper based site records were scanned during the year. Once the two data sets are updated, a new updated, considerably more reliable Historic Heritage GIS layer will be generated. As part of the coordinating data management role, copies of recent Wellington Park heritage reports were provided to the Park Management Agencies, and to the State library (LINC) to facilitate public access.

- In late 2014, issues regarding the protective provisions of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* in relation to cultural heritage were noted. The key issue is the minimal protection provided for historic heritage in relation to the *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993*. This issue has been reviewed in consultation with planners and heritage staff of the Park Management Agencies, and recommendations made for resolving this issue.
- The Trust continued to provide practical historic heritage advice and support to the Park Management Agencies in 2014-15, essentially through meetings, discussions, field inspections and review reports. To improve management and communications, the way in which the advice is given was modified in 2014-15, with the preferred liaison regarding heritage matters now being primarily via the Park Management Agency's heritage officers.

The Cultural Heritage Coordinator has continued to provide heritage advice to the Trust in relation to a number of use and development matters, including in relation to Park Activity Assessments. Matters on which such heritage advice has been provided in 2014-15 include:

- The introduction and management of bicycle use on recreational tracks in the Park, potential environmental impacts, and understanding and mitigating these (through a Scoping Analysis)
- Works on the Mountain Water Supply System pipeline track (to upgrade access and for repair)
- Hobart Council upgrading of visitor facilities at The Springs
- Parks and Wildlife Service upgrading of the Collins Bonnet Track.

Aboriginal Heritage

The Trust has continued to work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) where opportunities have arisen.¹

The Trust is also pursuing development of a framework for Aboriginal heritage management for the Park. This initiative aims to provide a more pro-active and participatory approach to the management of Aboriginal values. It recognises the importance of the Trust's

¹ The Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) recently changed their focus and now no longer deal with Aboriginal heritage protection. The responsibility for this has been taken over by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

obligation to preserve and protect features of Aboriginal interest within the Park. It was hoped 2014-15 would see the implementation of stage 2 of the development of the framework which entails substantive Aboriginal community and Aboriginal heritage organisation consultation. For various reasons only part of the initial phase of stage 2, Aboriginal heritage organisation consultation, was undertaken.

Heritage advice was also provided to the Trust in relation to a proposal for a commercial Aboriginal cultural heritage tour on kunanyi / Mount Wellington by Trowunna Tours. The Cultural Heritage Coordinator also participated in a familiarisation tour with the operators on behalf of the Trust.

Historic Heritage

The key historic heritage project undertaken in 2014-15 was an historic heritage inventory and assessment of the Fern Tree Park and Fern Tree Bower area. The primary objective of the project, which also provided management advice, was to support the master planning for this area. The project also contributed towards realising the 2005 *Historic Heritage Inventory & Audit* recommendation to progressively document and assess the historic heritage of high use and high heritage sensitivity areas within Wellington Park.

A new historic item found near the Ice House Track, a military style water bottle probably dating to around WWI, was added to the Trust's small heritage object collection. It is hoped that the Trust will find an opportunity to exhibit these objects in the future.



As part of the its coordinating role:

- The Trust has continued to facilitate the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group to ensure a co-ordinated and strategic approach to the management of the System. Membership of the group currently includes representatives from the Trust, Hobart City Council, TasWater and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania.
- The Trust has continued to liaise with the 'Heritage Volunteer Network', an informal group of Hobartians with a keen and active interest in the history and heritage of kunanyi / Mount Wellington. The group was established in May 2014. In 2014-15 the group provided useful information on heritage places in the Park to the Trust. The Trust has worked with the group to ensure the group has a responsible heritage practice approach.
- The Trust provided advice to the Nomenclature Board in relation to the naming of several historic tracks within the Park that are still in use.
- In conjunction with Hobart City Council heritage staff, the Trust provided heritage advice to the Cascades Strategic Land Review.
- The Trust continued to provide practical historic heritage advice and support to the Park Management Agencies. Areas in which advice has been provided in 2014-15 includes - structural issues with Kara Hut site (HCC), removal of the BBQ at Junction Cabin (HCC), hut access track management (HCC), inspection and preliminary recording of The Temple site (GCC), and the Montrose Trail headstones (GCC).
- The Trust's Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator responded to a small number of information and management related queries from the community and other members of the public about historic heritage in the Park or adjacent, and to aspects of the Park's history.

In addition, in-house historic heritage management advice has also been provided in relation to the following matters:

- The proposed introduction of bicycles to the Old Farm Track, Middle Track and Fern Tree Park – Pillinger Drive Connector
- The preparation of the Fern Tree Visitor Node Master Plan.

Fire Management

General fire management activities are carried out by Park Management Agencies in accordance with the *Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy (2006) (FMS)*. The FMS aims to protect life and property, and ensure the sustainability of natural systems and the Park's natural and cultural values. The Strategy is now due for a major revision which will commence later in the year. In preparation for the review a draft burn schedule has been prepared and circulated for comment. The schedule includes 3 new burn areas and modification to some of the burn areas in the existing strategy.

Park Management Agencies have carried out maintenance work on the fire trails within the Park including repair of eroded sections, drainage improvements and clearing of encroaching vegetation, however sections of some key trails, particularly Big Bend Trail and the East West Trail, remain substandard and require further upgrading when funds become available.

Access to fire trails in the Park is controlled by locked gates. A security key system allows the emergency services and management agencies access to the gates. The Trust also has locks on some private gates on vehicle trails leading into the Park. In some cases private landowners are provided with keys to these locks but the locks are configured so the key will only open the lock(s) the landowner needs for access. Damage to gates has been an on-going problem with the gate at the western end of the East West Trail needing replacement and the one on Priest Fire Trail at the Park boundary requiring repair.

During the year the Manager represented the Trust at a number of TFS field days in communities surrounding the Park including Lachlan, Leslie Vale, Lenah Valley and South Hobart.

The Manager convenes bi-annual meetings of the Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee (MCC) attended by representatives of the Tasmanian Fire Service, Park Management Agencies, TasNetworks and the Wellington Park Bushcare Group. The MCC provides a forum for information sharing, and allows agencies to plan co-operatively for fire management and operational issues. A summary of the minutes of each MCC meeting is placed on the Trust's website to inform the community of completed and proposed fire management works in the Park.

The Trust continued to share digital geographic data with DPIPW under a data sharing agreement between the agencies first signed in 2010 and recently renewed. Under this agreement the Trust has access to geographic data from the LIST and provides the Department with data relevant to the Park which is then available for use by the Tasmanian Fire Service and other emergency services. Sensitive data relating to Wellington Park is held in a special emergency services section of the LIST and is not accessible by the general public. The data transfer takes place annually in October.

The portion of the Park east of Jefferys Track is in the Hobart Fire Management Area which includes Hobart, Glenorchy, Clarence and part of Kingborough, Huon Valley and Derwent Valley Councils. The remainder of the Park is in the Southern Fire Management Area which covers most of southern Tasmania. The Manager represents the Trust on both committees and is currently the chairman of the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee.

No major planned burns were carried out during 2014-15 though the Trust is working with Park Management Agencies and the new Fuel Reduction Unit in the Tasmania Fire Service to plan and implement fuel reduction burns in and adjoining the Park.

The Trust has a policy of closing the Park during periods of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger in the Hobart area. The policy is implemented by closing Pinnacle Road as required and placing signs on the major entry points to the Park during the fire permit period warning visitors not to enter the Park on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger. There were no Park closures triggered by this policy in during the 2104-15 financial year.

Water Quality and Catchments

Management of the Park's vital drinking water catchments remained a priority for the Trust in the 2014-15 period. The catchments utilised for drinking water supply include:

- North West Bay River
- Northern Catchments (Knights Creek, Limekiln Gully, Merton Weir on Humphreys Rivulet)
- Southern Catchments (Pipeline Track offtakes)
- Rocky Creek (supplying Crabtree)
- Stevensons Creek (supplying Mountain River).

During the reporting period both the Limekiln Gully and Knights Creek dams were offline due to water quality issues related to local geology.

During the 2014-15 financial year the Park supplied approximately 19% of greater Hobart's drinking water, and provided all of the water supplied to Fern Tree, Crabtree and Mountain River. The Trust has worked closely with TasWater to strategically manage the catchments for the long-term benefit of the community.

The Wellington Park Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy, endorsed by the Trust in 2003 and revised in 2009, continues to guide strategic and on-ground actions undertaken by TasWater and other relevant agencies. The strategy provides strategic and on-ground recommendations to ensure the future best practice management of the drinking water catchments, and to ensure that supplies of high quality drinking water harvested from Wellington Park can be sustained for the long-term benefit of the community.

As part of the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan, TasWater worked with the Trust to clarify Drinking Water Catchment and Restricted Area zoning and how these interface with existing and proposed recreational use.

On-ground actions undertaken by TasWater throughout the year included:

- monitoring of landslip zones on the Pipeline Track
- Repair of leaking pipes (bottom of the 'siphon', Middle Track, Pipeline Track)
- water asset maintenance
- further removal of pampas grass around the Knights Creek Reservoir
- continued delivery of education programs; catchment condition inspections; and water quality monitoring.

The Regulations Awareness Program has continued to play a vital role in educating the public and other Wellington Park users about which activities are permissible in the various drinking water catchment areas. The RAP is strongly supported by TasWater.

Weed Management

All management agencies have continued in their efforts to reduce the incursion and spread of weeds through the Park. Large-scale weeding works are approved by the Trust via the Park Activity Assessment procedure, which includes a requirement for the approval of herbicide use, particularly within the Drinking Water Catchment Zone.

The main focus for weed control continues to be the Glenorchy Council management area, with substantial improvements being made in the last year, particularly the treatment of infestations of Spanish heath in the Merton area and on Goat Hills, and removal of scattered *Pinus radiata* saplings. Weed management in the Glenorchy Council management area was greatly assisted by Council successfully applying for a Green Army project to assist with weed removal and habitat restoration in the in the area covered by the *Mountain Bike Park Vegetation Action Plan 2013*. The Green Army team was coordinated by Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Weed control is also undertaken by a number of community Landcare groups, including groups located at Fern Tree and Kangaroo Valley, and the Wellington Park Bushcare Group a Park-wide group focusing on remote weed populations and also assisting with walking track clearing and repair (see cover photos).

The Wellington Park Bushcare Group continued their long running projects to eradicate gorse in the part of the Park near Inglewood Road and Spanish heath on Goat Hills and the Merton area. Initial removal of mature gorse, blackberry and cotoneaster in the Inglewood Road area has been completed and the focus has shifted to controlling seedlings in the treated areas.

Weed control was carried out alongside fire trails by the Parks and Wildlife Service, Hobart City Council and Glenorchy City Council, with the intent of preventing weed invasion through the Park and ensuring safe access during fire events.

The Trust continued to implement the actions contained in the Vehicle Hygiene Protocol, aimed at reducing the spread of weeds and other plant pathogens throughout the Park. The protocol provides practical guidance and procedures for management agencies and other Park users.

The Trust has revised and reprinted its “good bushland neighbour” leaflet which encourages neighbours to manage weeds and the bushfire hazard on their properties. The leaflet has been distributed at Tasmania Fire Service field days and through bushcare and landcare groups.

Other Activities

World Parks Congress

In November 2014 the Trust Manager attended the World Parks Congress in Sydney.

New Trust Vehicle

In January 2015 the Trust purchased a 4WD dual cab utility. The vehicle has been fitted out for use by the Park Ranger, who previously had to use a Parks and Wildlife Service vehicle for patrols in the Park. The vehicle is also used for commuting and Trust business by the Manager.

Park Boundary Change

The Trust has had discussions with Glenorchy City Council and Mineral Resources Tasmania to resolve a boundary issue where the Tolosa Quarry has encroached on the Park. It is also proposed to change the boundary to exclude the gun club range below Limekiln Gully Dam which is currently partly in the Park.

Right to Information

During 2014-15 the Trust received and processed 2 requests under the *Right to Information Act 2009*. Both requests were from the Residents Opposed to a Cable Car group.

Trademarking the Trust Logo

An application to trademark the Trust's logo has been completed with assistance of the Crown Solicitor. This will provide greater protection from unauthorised use of the logo.

Appendix 2

Membership of the Wellington Park Management Trust

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

MEMBER	DEPUTY
Chairperson Dr. Christine Mucha <i>(tenure expired on 30 May 2015 but has been extended for 6 months)</i>	Alderman Bill Harvey <i>(until October 2014)</i>
Director-General of Lands Dr. John Whittington	No deputy nominated
Glenorchy City Council Alderman Haydyn Nielsen <i>(Nominee of Glenorchy City Council)</i>	Mr. Greg French Manager Environment and Development Services <i>(until December 2014)</i>
	Alderman Stuart Slade <i>(from 21 January 2015)</i>
Hobart City Council Alderman Bill Harvey <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council until October 2014))</i>	None nominated
Alderman Damon Thomas <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council from 21 January 2015)</i>	Alderman Eva Ruzicka <i>(from 21 January 2015)</i>
Alderman Phillip Cocker <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	None nominated
TasWater Mr. Cam Crawford General Manager, Strategy and Stakeholder Management	Mr. Lance Stapleton Executive Manager Service Delivery
Director Parks and Wildlife Service Mr. Ashley Rushton Regional Manager South <i>(Nominee of Director Parks and Wildlife Service)</i>	Mr. Mark Pharaoh Parks and Reserves Manager, Southern Region
Director Tourism Tasmania Ms. Rita Warrenner Regional Tourism Coordinator – South + Product and Planning <i>(Nominee of Director Tourism Tasmania)</i>	Ms. Gill Parssey Manager, Tourism Product and Planning

Note: Members and deputies may be appointed for a period not exceeding 3 years. A member's appointment may terminate if they no longer occupy the position under which they were appointed or they resign.

Appendix 3

Trust Meeting Attendance Record

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

<i>MEMBER</i>	<i>Meetings Attended</i>	<i>Scheduled Meetings During Membership</i>
Chairperson		
Dr. Christine Mucha	3	3
Director-General of Lands		
Dr. John Whittington	3	3
Glenorchy City Council		
Alderman Haydyn Nielsen	1	3
Mr. Greg French (Deputy to December 2014)	1	2
Hobart City Council		
Alderman Bill Harvey (to October 2014)	2	2
Alderman Damon Thomas (from January 2015)	1	1
Alderman Philip Cocker	3	3
Alderman Eva Ruzicka (Deputy from January 2015)	0	1
Southern Water		
Mr. Cam Crawford	1	3
Mr. Lance Stapleton (Deputy)	1	3
Director Parks and Wildlife Service		
Mr. Ashley Rushton	3	3
Mr. Mark Pharaoh (Deputy)	0	3
Director Tourism Tasmania		
Ms. Rita Warrener	2	3
Ms. Gill Parssey (Deputy)	1	3

Clause 3 of Schedule 3 of the Act entitles members who are not State Service officers or employees to remuneration and allowances as determined by the Governor. During 2014-15 the Chairperson was paid an annual honorarium and Council Aldermen were paid a sitting fee based upon attendance.

Appendix 4

Financial Report 2014 – 2015



Level 8, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000
 Postal Address: GPO Box 851, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001
 Phone: 03 6173 0900 | Fax: 03 6173 0999
 Email: admin@audit.tas.gov.au
 Web: www.audit.tas.gov.au

21 September 2015]

Dr Christine Mucha
 Chairperson
 Wellington Park Management Trust
 GPO Box 503
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Dr Mucha

Wellington Park Management Trust – Final Management Letter - Audit of Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

The audit of the financial report for Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust) has now been completed. I have issued my audit report on the financial report, a copy of which is enclosed. The audit was completed with no issues outstanding.

You will appreciate that my normal audit procedures are designed primarily to enable me to form an opinion on the financial report as a whole and therefore do not necessarily bring to light at each audit all the weaknesses in internal control or accounting practice which a special investigation might do.

I have prepared this letter solely for the use of the Trust. As you know, this report forms part of a continuing dialogue between the Trust and the Auditor-General and, therefore, it is not intended to include every matter, whether large or small, that has come to my attention. For this reason I believe that it would be inappropriate for this letter to be made available to third parties and, if such a third party were to obtain a copy without my prior written consent, I would not accept any responsibility for any reliance that they might place on it.

Auditor-General's Report

The contents and structure of the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament will change as Chapters on individual entities will be replaced by analysis at sector levels. Where this impacts on the Authority, relevant commentary will be then forwarded to you for formal comment.

...1 of 2

To provide independent assurance to the Parliament and Community on the performance and accountability of the Tasmanian Public sector.
 Professionalism | Respect | Camaraderie | Continuous Improvement | Customer Focus

Strive | Lead | Excel | To Make a Difference

Review of the Annual Report

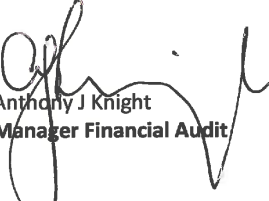
Please will you forward to me a copy of the final draft of the Trust's annual report for review by my staff prior to its publication. This review will be conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 720 *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Report* to identify any material inconsistencies between the financial report and other information disclosed in the annual report.

Appreciation is expressed for the assistance and co-operation provided to my staff during the course of the audit.

Please note that a copy of this letter together with the audit report will be provided to the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, The Hon M G Groom MP in accordance with section 19(2) of the *Audit Act 2008*.

If you have any queries regarding the audit or any other matters, please contact Mr Damian Cook on 6173 0900.

Yours sincerely



Anthony J Knight
Manager Financial Audit

Encl.

Copy for:
Mr Axel Von Krusenstierna, Manager

...2 of 2

To provide independent assurance to the Parliament and Community on the performance and accountability of the Tasmanian Public sector.
Professionalism | Respect | Camaraderie | Continuous Improvement | Customer Focus

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Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30th June 2015

	Note	2014/15 \$	2013/14 \$
REVENUE			
Grants - Commonwealth Government	6	-	-
Grants - State Government	6	130,000	110,000
Grants - Other	6	144,763	146,514
Interest		8,045	12,023
Fines		50	510
Other		6,012	8,994
Total Revenue		288,870	278,041
EXPENSES			
Park Administration			
Advertising		2,723	2,253
Audit Fees		3,070	5,990
Chairman Honorarium		8,000	8,000
Contractors and Consultants		6,288	-
Depreciation		2,144	126
Employee Costs		112,327	69,344
Fringe Benefits Tax		4,471	5,828
Miscellaneous		6,023	15,422
Sitting Fees		1,460	1,382
Stationery		3,947	3,115
Vehicle Expenses		6,264	5,439
Cultural Heritage Officer		18,645	23,445
Fire Management		-	29,720
Draft Amendment Plan PSA		10,000	-
Regulations Awareness		57,855	53,484
Mount Wellington DVD		-	127
		243,217	223,675
Management Strategies			
Management Plan Review		-	35
Fern Tree Master Plan		22,375	2,365
Multi-Day Walk		9,121	62,628
		31,496	65,028
Park Management			
Interpretation		-	5,080
Mount Wellington Book		-	(670)
Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund Project		950	107,000
		950	111,410
Total Expenses		275,663	400,113
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		13,207	(122,072)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Comprehensive Result		13,207	(122,072)

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes In Equity As At 30th June 2015

	Note	2014/15 \$	2013/14 \$
Balance at beginning of period		300,427	422,499
Comprehensive Result		13,207	(122,072)
Balance at end of period		313,634	300,427

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position As At 30th June 2015

	Note	2014/15 \$	2013/14 \$
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash	7	316,987	312,671
Stock on Hand		6,930	6,930
Receivables		288	842
		<u>324,205</u>	<u>320,443</u>
Non-Current			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		33,909	476
Less Accumulated Depreciation		2,461	317
		<u>31,448</u>	<u>159</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		355,653	320,602
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Employee Benefits		14,331	3,682
Payables		22,965	9,518
		<u>37,296</u>	<u>13,200</u>
Non-Current			
Employee Benefits		4,723	6,975
		<u>4,723</u>	<u>6,975</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		42,019	20,175
NET ASSETS		313,634	300,427
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		313,634	300,427
TOTAL EQUITY		313,634	300,427

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30th June 2015

	Note	2014/15 \$	2013/14 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Grants - Commonwealth Government		-	-
Grants - State Government		132,000	110,000
Grants - Other		152,539	154,695
Interest		8,165	12,598
Other		8,950	26,580
		301,654	303,873
Payments			
Employee and Contracted Services Costs		233,233	311,951
Other		30,672	163,104
		263,905	475,055
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	4	37,749	(171,182)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from:			
Sales of Plant and Equipment		-	-
		-	-
Payments for :			
Equipment purchases	3f	33,433	-
		33,433	-
NET CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(33,433)	-
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings		-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
NET CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		-	-
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		4,316	(171,182)
Opening Cash Balance		312,671	483,853
Closing Cash Balance		316,987	312,671

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust) is to deliver coordinated and effective management for Wellington Park to preserve the area's unique conservation and water catchment values while promoting appropriate tourism and recreation opportunities.

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Trust was established by the Wellington Park Act 1993 as a Statutory Authority to facilitate and provide a cooperative land management structure for Wellington Park, one of the State's largest distinct areas of Reserved Land and a primary icon in terms of tourism.

The Park was proclaimed under specific legislation due to its complexities in land tenure and ownership. At present, Wellington Park comprises twelve separate parcels of land with classifications and ownership ranging from Crown land, freehold land (held by the two city councils of Hobart and Glenorchy) and land vested in these councils for water supply purposes. TasWater also has a statutory responsibility for bulk water supply to the Greater Hobart area and maintains infrastructure within the Park associated with this role. Electricity and telecommunications suppliers also maintain infrastructure within the Park associated with their role.

The Trust has resolved that it does not control either the constructed or natural assets within the Park, and accordingly has not recognised a value for those assets in its financial statements.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

The financial report is a general purpose financial report and has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board. Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as the Australian Accounting Standards include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS.

The Trust has analysed its purpose, objectives, and operating philosophy and determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective. Consequently, where appropriate, the Trust has elected to apply options and exemptions within Accounting Standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

The financial report has been prepared on the accrual basis under the convention of historical cost accounting and does not take into account changing money values.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

b) Revenue

Revenue is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Trust, and the revenue can be reliably measured. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues. In 2014/15 Other Revenue consisted of Book Sales, Filming Fees and Fines.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to either a decrease in an asset or an increase in a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

d) Cash

Cash consists of funds held in an account at the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation.

e) Stock

Stock on hand at the reporting date is comprised of a number of publications which are held with an expectation of generating future sales. Stock is valued at cost.

f) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment is valued at cost and consists of a recently purchased vehicle as well as office equipment. The vehicle has been estimated to have a useful life of seven and a half year years in line with ATO Commissioners cap for vehicle of the type and the office equipment a useful life of six years. All Plant and equipment is estimated to have no residual value at the end of its useful life. Useful lives are reviewed annually, and depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method.

g) Employee Benefits

The provision for employee benefits represents the amount which the Trust has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees' services provided up to the reporting date in respect of salaries, annual leave and long service leave. The provision has been calculated at nominal amounts based on current salary rates. Under current employment contracts there is no entitlement to payment of unused personal leave upon termination and so no provision has been made in this regard.

h) Comparative Figures

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to achieve consistency in disclosure with current financial year amounts and other disclosures.

i) Taxation

The Trust is subject to both Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST). Its current payroll is below the annual threshold for Payroll Tax liability and is exempt from all other taxes.

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

j) Change in Accounting Policies

The Trust has adopted the following new and revised Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board which are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period:

Standard name	Effective date for entity	Requirements	Impact
AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments	Part A - Conceptual Framework 20 December 2013; Part B - Materiality 1 January 2014; Part C - Financial Instruments 1 January 2015	(a) as a consequence of the issue of Accounting Framework AASB CF 2013-1 Amendments to the Conceptual Framework and editorial corrections, as set out in Part A of this Standard (b) to delete reference to AASB 1031 Materiality in Accounting Standards and to make editorial corrections as set out in Part B of this Standard; and (c) as a consequence of the issuance of IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – Hedge Accounting and amendments to EFRS 7 and IASB in November 2013 as set out in Part C of this Standard.	No material impact.
AASB 2012-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	1 July 2014	Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132] Effective 1 January 2014 This standard adds application guidance to AASB 132 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria of AASB 132, including clarifying the meaning of “currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off” and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement.	No material impact on the reported financial position and performance of the Trust.

k) New accounting standards for application in future periods

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The Trust has decided against early adoption of these Standards. The following table summarises those future requirements, and their impact on the Trust:

Standard name	Effective date for entity	Requirements	Impact
2014 – 4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation [AASB 116 & AASB 138] -T	1 July 2016	The objective of this standard is to make Amendments to; (a) AASB 116 Property, Plant and Assets. And (b) AASB 138 Intangible Assets As a consequence of the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation (Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 38) by the International Accounting Standards Board in May 2014.	No material impact anticipated.
2014-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014 – Application of AASB 9 (December 2009) and AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 9 {2009 & 2010}] -	1 July 2015	The objective of this Standard is to make amendments to: (a) AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2009). And (b) AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2010) As a consequence of the issuance of AASB 9 Financial Instruments in December 2014.	No material impact anticipated.
AASB 2015-6 Extending Related Party Disclosures	1 July 2016	The objective of this Standard is to extend the scope of AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures to include not-for-profit public sector entities. This Standard also makes related amendments to AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements and AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting, and an editorial correction to AASB 124.	As this Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016 it will be reconsidered in 2016.

4. RECONCILIATION OF 'NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES' TO SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR

	2014/15 \$	2013/14 \$
Surplus / (Deficit)	13,207	(122,072)
Add back Depreciation	2,144	126
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	554	3,332
(Increase) / Decrease in Stock	0	(770)
Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits	8,399	(52,337)
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	13,445	539
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	37,749	(171,182)
Deduct Capital Purchase of Vehicle	(33,433)	0
Net Increase / (Decrease) in cash held	4,316	(171,182)

In 2013/14 the Trust spent a significant portion of the Grant money it had received for the Multi Day Walk and Urban Renewal & Heritage Projects which resulted in a reported Deficit. By comparison 2014/15 expenditure of similar Grant money was much reduced resulting in a reported Surplus.

The purchase of the Trust's own vehicle in 2014/15 has resulted in an increase in Depreciation. Payables include the Trust's FBT liability and amount to be paid to HCC to adjust cash balance.

5. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TRUST MEMBER AGENCIES

In 2014/15 Trust member agency, the Parks and Wildlife Service, replaced in-kind support with a financial contribution of \$20,000 and this amount has been recorded as a grant.

The financial statements do not include the costs incurred by other Trust member agencies, notably the Hobart City Council, in providing administrative support to the Trust. Such costs include provision of office space, landline phone costs, computer supply and maintenance, local postage, photocopying, and general administration such as accounting and human resource support.

6. GRANTS

	2014/15 \$	2013/14 \$
Grants - Commonwealth Government		
Multi-Day Walk	-	-
	-	-
Grants - State Government		
Park Administration	130,000	110,000
	130,000	110,000
Grants - Other		
Fire Management Officer	20,655	19,131
Regulations Awareness Officer	74,626	64,504
Website Development	3,802	6,726
Cultural Heritage Officer	26,870	25,130
Interpretation	6,810	6,023
Springs Master Plan	-	15,000
Fern Tree Master Plan	12,000	10,000
	144,763	146,514

The Grants – Other figure of \$144,763 comprises the following contributions: \$58,143 from TasWater, \$55,354 from the Hobart City Council and \$31,266 from the Glenorchy City Council. These figures and those in the above table are exclusive of applicable GST.

7. RESTRICTED ASSETS

The Trust has received a number of conditional grants. At 30 June 2015, the Trust is required to expend \$137,979 of its cash balance in the manner specified by the terms of these grants. Of this balance \$76,000 relates to the Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund the grant for which was originally received in 2009/10 and \$15,000 to the Springs Master Plan for which funding was initially provided in 2013/14.

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Financial Risk Management

The Trust's financial instruments consist of deposit with the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation, accounts receivable and payable. Financial risk is managed by ensuring that investments are carried out in accordance with the Trust's 'Investment Policy Statement' endorsed in May 2010.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Trust if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amount of recognised financial assets as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position. The Trust does not have any material credit risk exposure.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the Trust is exposed to is interest rate risk. A portion of cash held is subject to variable interest rates. Remaining financial assets and all financial liabilities are non-interest bearing. The Trust's exposure to interest rate risk in relation to cash held at bank is considered to be minimal.

An increase in variable rates of 100 basis points at the reporting date would result in a profit and an increase to equity of \$3,169 (2014 \$3,126). A decrease in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would result in a loss and a decrease to equity of \$3,169 (2014 \$3,126). This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2014.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Trust manages liquidity risk by monitoring cash flows. Exposure to liquidity risk is considered to be minimal.

b) Net Fair Value

No events have occurred subsequent to balance date that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial report.

9. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

No events have occurred subsequent to balance date that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial report.

10. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

There were no material contingent assets or contingent liabilities at year-end.

11. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

a) Responsible Persons

Names of persons holding positions of responsibility at any time during the year are:

Trust Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
Dr Christine Mucha		Independent Chairperson	01-Jun-13	31-May-15 Tenure extended for 6 months
Dr John Whittington	DPIPWE	Member	01-Jul-11	NA currently Director of Lands
Ald Haydyn Nielsen	GCC	Member	01-Jan-13	31-Dec-15
Ald Bill Harvey	HCC	Member and Deputy Chairperson	01-Jan-13	Not re-elected to HCC in October 2014 election. Replaced by Ald Thomas
Ald Damon Thomas	HCC	Member	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17
Ald Philip Cocker	HCC	Member	01-Jan-13	31-Dec-15
Mr Cameron Crawford	TasWater	Member	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15 (left TasWater, will be replaced by Mr Lance Stapleton)
Mr Ashley Rushton	PWS	Member	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17
Ms Rita Warrenner (vacant)	Tourism Tas DPIPWE	Member Deputy	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17
Mr Greg French	GCC	Deputy	01-Jan-13	30-Dec-14, replaced by Ald Slade
Ald Stuart Slade	GCC	Deputy	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17
Mr Lance Stapleton	TasWater	Deputy	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17
Mr Mark Pharaoh	PWS	Deputy	01-Jan-13	31-Dec-15
Ms Gill Parssey	Tourism Tas	Deputy	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17
Ald Eva Ruzicka	HCC	Deputy	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17
Manager: Axel von Krusenstierna				24/2/2014 - current

b) Key Management Personnel Compensation

The totals of remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Trust during the year are as follows.

	2013/14 \$	2012/13 \$
Short-term employee benefits	100,583	51,469
Post-employment benefits	9,546	9,978
Chair and Trust Members Sitting fees	9,460	9,382
	119,589	70,829

Short-term employee benefits represent amounts paid, payable or provided by the Trust to Key Management Personnel while in the employ of the Trust.

Amounts are calculated on an accruals basis.

In 2013/14 there was a significant decrease in the amount of Employee Benefits for which the Trust had previously provided. The majority of this change was associated with the resignation, during the year, of the person who was previously employed in the role of Manager - Wellington Park Management Trust.

No equivalent adjustment to the Employee Benefits provision was required in 2014/15.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trust had transactions during the year that would be considered a related party transaction in our Trust member's organisations being TasWater, the Parks and Wildlife Service, the Glenorchy City Council and the Hobart City Council. The related party transactions were as both a customer and a supplier. All transactions with the member organisations have been conducted on normal trading terms and no member organisation has been provided a financial advantage in relation to those transactions.

Certification

The accompanying financial statements of the Wellington Park Management Trust are in agreement with the relevant accounts, and records have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2015 and the financial position as at the end of the year.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Dr Christine Mucha

Chairperson

Date: 18 September 2015



Vision

For Wellington Park to be a special place, accessible and enjoyed by all for its prominent landscape, natural and cultural diversity, and community value.

Mission

To preserve the natural, cultural, recreational, tourism and drinking water qualities of Wellington Park for their own value and for the safe enjoyment of all people.

This will be achieved through outstanding management, sympathetic development and a co-operative relationship with our communities.

Cover photography: Peter Franklin

Wellington Park Bushcare Group volunteers clearing a new alignment for the Thark Ridge Route.