

# Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | 2015 – 2016



Wellington Park  
Management Trust

[www.wellingtonpark.org.au](http://www.wellingtonpark.org.au)

**Hon Matthew Groom MP**  
**Minister for Environment Parks and Heritage**

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Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of section 75 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*, I am pleased to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Wellington Park Management Trust for the year ending 30 June 2016.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Christine Mucha**  
Chairperson

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# The Year at a Glance: 2015 – 2016

## 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 280491 visitors aged 14yrs or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between July 2015 and June 2016. This is a 4.7% increase on the corresponding period in the previous year.

## Zone Boundary Change

In June 2014 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 at the summit. The Trust considered that extending the boundary of the PSA would meet the objectives of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* 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 was 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 alteration to the Management Plan was approved by Her Excellency The Governor on 26 October 2015 and was effective on 11 November 2015.

The boundary extension has added about 1.1 hectares to the Pinnacle Specific Area, about a 13% increase in its area.

## Visitor and User Improvements

Works to benefit Park users included:

- A new system of grading the tracks and fire trails in the Park based on the International Mountain Bicycling Association grading system for riders and a modified version of the Australian Walking Track Grading System for walkers.
- Trial conversion of Pillinger Drive Track and the upper section of Middle Track between Reservoir Trail and Radfords Track from single use (walkers only) to shared use (walkers and bike riders). The upper section of Middle Track is now officially a shared use track, the trial conversion of Pillinger Drive Track is continuing.
- A major facelift to the Wellington Park website which is now optimised for viewing on smart phones and tablets.
- Licensing of a mobile food van to operate at The Springs.
- More commercial tour operators licensed to operate in the Park.
- Rerouting of Betts Vale Track around a large fallen tree that could not be safely removed.
- Rerouting and hardening of the Collins Bonnet Track from the East West Trail to the summit of Collins Bonnet to avoid wet areas.
- Various other walking track improvements including replacement of old bridges and clearing encroaching vegetation.
- Revising and reprinting the popular Wellington Park walking track brochure.

## Planning Initiatives

The Trust is currently finalising a 5 year Strategic Plan. This Plan sets out the Trust's organisational goals along with 5 strategies for achieving them and the Key Desired Outcomes and the management objectives of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*.

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 a feasible route has been confirmed, the Trust will prepare a business case for the 'epic' ride.

A draft master plan for the Fern Tree Visitor Node area has been prepared in collaboration with Hobart City Council. The master plan will cover the Fern Tree Park, Fern Tree Bower and Silver Falls areas. The draft is being finalised for public exhibition later this year.

## Heritage Protection

A major upgrade of historic site data, commenced in early 2014, was completed including integration of new heritage data into the site data system and integration of all heritage data into a single digital system.

A review of the heritage Standards for Use and Development in the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* was initiated with the aim of redrafting the existing provisions to bring them more closely into line with the current interim planning scheme heritage provisions, and to improve the effectiveness of the Management Plan in relation to cultural heritage protection.

The Trust Manager and Cultural Heritage Coordinator discussed the treatment of Aboriginal values in the Park with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and also provided a familiarisation visit to Wellington Park in late April for interested Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania staff.

## Pinnacle Road Closures

Hobart City Council introduced a more proactive strategy for closing Pinnacle Road when conditions are unsafe for users. Closures are now triggered by overnight temperature forecasts provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

## Regulations Awareness Program

There were 16 dog-related offences detected in 2015-16 compared with 9 in 2014-15, 7 in 2013-14, 16 in 2012-13, and 25 in 2011-12. There were 19 recorded instances of mountain bike riding on walking only tracks in 2015-16, up from 9 in 2014-15 and 3 in 2013-14, all in the Hobart City Council management area. This increase is likely due to more targeted patrolling of hotspots as well as detection by motion sensor cameras during unrelated usage monitoring.

There have been complaints from walkers about dangerous rider behaviour on some shared use tracks. The Ranger is engaging with the rider community to inform them of the Trust's expectation regarding the use of shared use tracks as well as patrolling known and potential hotspots.

The Ranger assisted Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy City Council staff install, maintain and review hidden motion sensor cameras targeting unauthorised vehicle use (trail bikes and 4 wheel drives) in their management areas. The Trust has also purchased 2 cameras for general monitoring. No pre-planned 'stings' were undertaken during the 2015-16 financial year.

Twenty four informal and conditional cautions were issued in response to minor or first time offences. 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.

Sixty offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use were detected in the Glenorchy and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas (up from 15 in 2014-15 and 29 in 2013-14 and 40 in 2012-13). The significant increase is due largely to the use of motion sensor cameras, which identify offences that would otherwise go undetected.

More than 100 used tyres were dumped off the side of Pinnacle Road by persons unknown. Other 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*

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There were no major fires in the Park during 2015-16. A fire started from a dumped and torched car on Goat Hills was quickly contained and only burnt a small area.

Two planned burns totalling approximately 110 hectares were carried out in the Hobart City Council area of the Park in autumn. The burns were organised by the Tasmania Fire Service Fuel Reduction Unit and carried out with the assistance of local TFS brigades and Hobart City Council's fire crew.

The Trust is working with the Tasmania Fire Service Fuel Reduction Unit and the Park Management Agencies to plan strategic fuel reduction within the Park.

The Wellington Park Maintenance Coordinating Committee met in December 2015 and May 2016 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.

Hobart City Council installed a 23,000 litre water storage tank at The Springs to provide a water supply for fire fighting along Pinnacle Road.

## *Weed Management*

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Weed control in the Park was undertaken by Hobart and Glenorchy City Council crews and contractors, TasWater, TasNetworks, bushcare groups and a Green Army team and has resulted in a significant reduction in weeds. Glenorchy City Council successfully applied for a second Green Army project and the team, coordinated by Conservation Volunteers Australia, is currently working on weed control and monitoring in the Glenorchy City Council section of the Park.

## *Community Involvement*

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Activities included:

- Ongoing community involvement in the Regulations Awareness Program and educational activities, including promotional events, interpretation walks and school presentations.

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- Planning support and assistance to the Fern Tree and Wellington Park Bushcare Groups.

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- 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.

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- Continued response to requests from members of the public and researchers for information in relation to the natural values, history and heritage of Wellington Park and environs.

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- Educative/interpretative presentations by the Trust Ranger to a variety of school groups both in classrooms and within the Park.

# 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.

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 2015-16, the Act was administered by the Honourable Matthew Groom, Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage.

The purposes for which the Park is set aside are indicated in Part 2, s5 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 reserve.

The objectives and functions of the Trust as set out in Part 3, s11 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

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.

*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

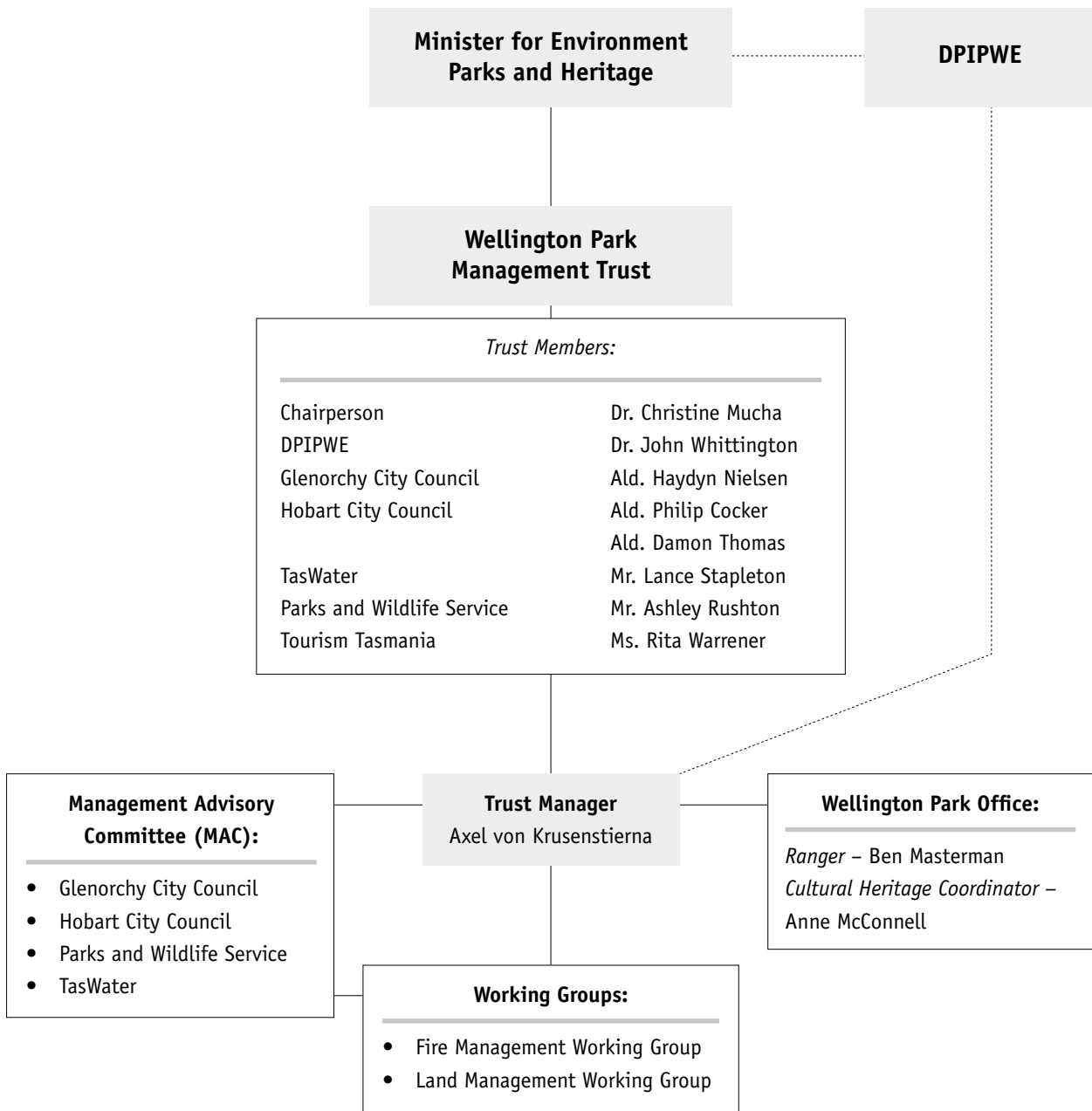
The Trust's mission statement in the Management Plan is:

*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.



## Wellington Park Management Trust Organisational Structure



### SUPPORT

The Wellington Park Office is located at the Hobart Council Centre. The Office receives administrative support from the Council, and strategic and technical support from all member agencies as required.

The Trust Manager is supported by the Management Advisory Committee which includes representatives of the Park's 4 management agencies.

## 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 his nominee); the Directors of both the Parks and Wildlife Service and Tourism Tasmania (or their nominees); two representatives nominated by Hobart City Council; and one nominee 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 of the Trust is an independent appointment made by the responsible Minister in accordance with the Act. The current Chairperson is Dr Christine Mucha. The nominees of the Trust member organisations specified in the Act are appointed by the Minister. Trust membership details and meeting attendance record for the year are provided in Appendices 2 and 3.

During 2015-16 the Trust Chairperson, Alderman Philip Cocker (Hobart City Council nominee) and Alderman Haydyn Nielsen (Glenorchy City Council nominee) were reappointed and Mr Lance Stapleton (previously a deputy member) replaced Mr Cam Crawford as the TasWater nominee.

Two new deputy members were appointed; Mr Eamon Sullivan as the deputy for Mr Lance Stapleton (TasWater nominee) and Alderman Bill Harvey as deputy for Alderman Philip Cocker (Hobart City Council nominee) to replace Alderman Suzy Cooper after she resigned from Council. 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.

## Trust Meetings

Trust meetings are scheduled at the beginning of each year. The Trust may also hold additional meetings to deal with issues that require a quick decision. These meetings are usually held with the use of teleconference facilities. During 2015-16 there were 4 scheduled meetings and one teleconference. Summaries of Trust meeting minutes are made available to the public on the Wellington Park website.

## Governance Policy

The functions of the Trust and the roles and responsibilities of its members are described in the Trust's Governance Policy, first approved in 2015-16 and to be reviewed annually. The Governance Policy also details general governance and meeting processes.

## 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 2015-16 staff in the WPO consisted of:

- Mr Axel von Krusenstierna – Manager (FTE 1)
- Mr Ben Masterman – Ranger (FTE 0.6)

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

The Trust Ranger works closely with, and receives operational support from, the Parks and Wildlife Service. The Trust also employs various consultants, project-based staff and research assistants as required.

## ***Human Resources Policies and Work Health and Safety***

The Trust has developed a suite of human resources policies and, as a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU), approved a Work Health and Safety (WHS) policy and a suite of WHS procedures.

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 a standing item on the agenda of each Trust meeting and is included in monthly office activity reports to the Trust.

During 2015-16 there have been no notifiable or lost time injuries to Trust staff. Reported WHS incidents for the year are summarised on page 27.

## ***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 drinking water supply and, whilst continuing to maintain infrastructure within the Park, contributes significantly as a land manager to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water catchments in the Park.

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 offers substantial conservation knowledge and experience and Hobart City Council provides 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 Wellington Park Office 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 Wellington Park Office. 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.

There are currently MoUs with Glenorchy City Council, Parks and Wildlife Service and TasWater. The MoU with Hobart City Council was renewed during 2015-16.

## ***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 first created a Management Advisory Committee (MAC) in 1994. It continued to function intermittently till 2012. The MAC was re-established in 2015-16 under new Terms of Reference to provide management and other specialist and technical advice to the Trust Manager. The MAC also functions as a steering committee for projects where a specific steering committee has not been approved by the Trust.

The MAC currently includes nominated representatives of Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils and the Parks and Wildlife Service. TasWater and Tourism Tasmania are sent meeting agendas and may attend if there are issues they wish to provide advice on. The MAC meets approximately 3 weeks before each scheduled Trust meeting but may be consulted at other times.

Other issue-specific working groups and steering committees are formed on a needs basis by the Manager. During 2015-16 these included the: Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee; Historic Huts and Tracks Project Steering Committee; 'Epic' Mountain Bike Track Working Group, Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan Steering Committee and the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group. On the advice of the MAC the Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee will be split into two working groups, one focused on bushfire management and the other on general land management.

## ***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 Trust Manager is currently the chairman of the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee.

## ***Financial Resources***

The State Government's recurrent financial contribution to the Trust is supplied via the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and has remained at the same level with no CPI adjustment since the 1998-99 financial year. In the past the Trust has been able to make up the shortfall from interest received on held cash, and administrative components of various grants, however these sources of income are also declining.

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. Glenorchy City Council supplies technical support for the Trust's heritage database, and the 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 receives a small amount of income from fees and the sale of publications. Larger projects are generally funded jointly with one or more Park Management Agencies.

The Trust's financial statement for the 2015-16 financial year and the Independent 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 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 understands 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.

## Strategic Plan

During 2015-16 the Trust commenced preparation of a 5 year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan sets out a number of organisational goals and the strategies the Trust will employ to:

- Meet its responsibility "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" (section 11(1)(a) of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*).
- Achieve the Key Desired Outcomes and the management objectives of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*.

The 5 strategies for achieving the Trust's organisational goals include:

1. Providing for visitors
2. Protecting Park values
3. Skills and resources for implementing the Strategic Plan
4. Partnerships with stakeholders and the community
5. Monitoring progress and review of the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan adopts the 'adaptive management' approach set out in the Management Plan with an annual review and performance indicators.

The Strategic Plan is currently undergoing a final review prior to being implemented.

# Use and Development in the Park

## *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*

The Management Plan is the principal planning document for Wellington Park. It 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).

## **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 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 recognised 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 of, 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.

As required in the Act the Trust considered the merits of the 551 representations received, prepared a report on its assessment and sent it to the Tasmanian Planning Commission for review 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 1993*. 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 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 Trust considered the Commission's report and reviewed the representations received noting the issues raised in the Commission's review. Following its consideration of the Commission's report the Trust decided to submit an unaltered Amending Plan to the Governor for approval. The alteration to the Management Plan was approved by Her Excellency The Governor on 26 October 2015 and was effective on 11 November 2015.

The boundary extension has added about 1.1 hectares to the Pinnacle Specific Area, about a 13% increase in its area.

## ***Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)***

The interrelationship between the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and LUPAA was first formalised in 2003. In December 2013 Parliament approved an amendment to s 52A of LUPAA 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. No development proposals requiring assessment under LUPAA were submitted during 2015-16.

## ***Major Planning Initiatives 2015 – 2016***

### **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, 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. 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 includes 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.

The master plan addresses the site's issues and challenges and proposes 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 development for the next ten years.

Consultants engaged to prepare the master plan have completed a draft which is currently awaiting Council and Trust approval to go on public exhibition for community comment.

### **'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 to advise on the proposed track.

To assist the working group determine a viable route, the Trust engaged consultants to assess the technical feasibility and costs of the various route options for the various sections of the track. Route selection has been difficult due to the need to avoid increasing the risk to water quality in the various drinking water catchments in the Park. The Trust is working closely with TasWater to determine if there is a viable route that would qualify for 'epic ride' status without unacceptable risks to water quality in drinking water catchments.

Hobart City Council has already resolved to proceed with planning one section of the 'epic', a bike only, downhill only track between the Big Bend car park and Junction Cabin, as this route is not affected by drinking water quality concerns.

## 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.”

The Trust continued to work with the Hobart City Council (as the landowner and management agency) to improve facilities at The Springs. This included licensing a mobile food and beverage vendor to operate at The Springs under Council’s Mobile Food Vendor Program. The licence was issued for a year on a trial basis. The vendor has now submitted a proposal for a more permanent facility in a converted shipping container.

In September 2014 Hobart City Council initiated an expressions of interest process for commercial developments at The Springs site that are consistent with the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*. The only proposal received was from Hunter Developments/ CIRCA Morris Nunn Architects for an ‘eco resort’ type development.

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.

## 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 Management 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 *Regulations* 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:

- Replacement of timber bridge and concrete culvert on the Fern Glade Track.
- Replacement of 2 sections of the water pipe supplying the toilets at The Springs.
- Rerouting of Betts Vale Track around a large fallen tree that could not be safely removed.
- Three hazard reduction burns.
- Treatment of introduced conifers by herbicide (larger trees) and cutting (smaller trees) in a restricted area of the Park.
- Installation of a water storage tank for fire fighting at The Springs.

The Trust did not refuse any applications for use and development in the Park received in 2015-16.

Permits for minor works that did not require a PAA included:

- Installation of an aerosol sampler at the Bureau of Meteorology weather station at the pinnacle by the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC.
- Repairs to Junction Cabin including removal of the external barbeque which had been vandalised.

The Trust is currently preparing a number of 5-year permits for Park Management Agencies to allow routine, general maintenance and emergency works to proceed without reference to the Trust.



# 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 280491 visitors aged 14yrs or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between July 2015 and June 2016. This is a 4.7% 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 2015-16 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

Improvements to disabled access to the Park at Fern Tree was considered as part of the Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan. Although improvements can be made to allow better access with assistance, it was decided that full accessibility was not possible due to the constraints of the site.

## Commercial Visitor Services

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.

As at 30 August 2016, the CVS advised that there were 99 businesses licensed to conduct commercial operations in the Park, 18 more than the previous financial year. Services offered include guided bushwalks, mountain bike tours, rock climbing and abseiling.

The CVS requires all commercial operators except Base Transport Services (where transport only is provided) 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.

## Trowunna Tours

During 2015-16 members of the Aboriginal community provided Aboriginal Cultural Heritage tours of the Park under the name Trowunna Tours. The tour visits the octopus tree, the Pinnacle area and The Springs.

## ***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 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.

In 2015 Council introduced a more proactive strategy using improved forecasts of overnight temperature and snowfall forecasts provided by the Bureau of Meteorology to trigger road closures. This has led to a significant increase in overnight closures and means that road closures can no longer be used as a rough estimate of snowfalls.

## ***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 reroute of the Collins Bonnet Track from the East West Trail to the summit to avoid wet areas and clearing of encroaching vegetation along other parts of the track was completed by the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Wellington Park Bushcare Group.

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.

### **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 constant improvement in bike technology provides a challenge for the Trust to explore new opportunities for riding within the Park.

The Trust 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.

Prior to deciding if it will proceed with the conversions of existing walking tracks to shared use recommended in the GHMBMP the Trust considers the possible environmental and cultural impacts and issues, public safety, and the need for impact mitigation strategies. As part of this process the Trust commenced a 6 month trial conversion of the Pillinger Drive Track and the portion of Middle Track between Reservoir Trail and Radfords Track from walkers only to shared use (walkers and bike riders) in December 2015.

During the trial the Trust monitored track usage patterns and environmental impacts and sought the opinion of users via an on line feedback form and an onsite questionnaire carried out by the Trust Ranger. No adverse environmental impacts were detected and user survey responses about continuing shared use showed very strong support for Middle Track and strong support for Pillinger Drive Track. Some comments noted concerns that indicated where improvements can be made in management and maintenance of these and other shared use tracks. The Trust has extended the trial of shared use on Pillinger Drive Track to allow improvements to make it easier for shared use to be made and to monitor the effectiveness of the improvements.

Conversion of walking tracks to shared use has included works by the Park Management Agencies to prepare tracks for shared use including clearing vegetation to improve sight lines, widening narrow sections of track and installing devices such as chicanes to slow riders on steeper sections of track.

The Trust has also introduced an advisory Code of Conduct for bike riders in the Park to help minimise user conflict. The code includes riders slowing to the speed of walkers when passing and alerting other trail users to their presence.

## 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. 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 Horse Riding Information Sheet,

endorsed by the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association. During the year a total of 6 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. During 2015-16 the East West Trail was open to recreational vehicles from October 2015 to June 2016. Over the season, 46 permits were issued for a total of 113 vehicles. Four permits (7 vehicles) were for interstate vehicle groups (2 NSW, 1 VIC, 1 SA), with the remainder being issued to Tasmanian users.

Eleven vehicle permits were issued to people with special needs requiring access to the Myrtle Forest picnic area shelter (10 from Tasmania, one from interstate).

## Rock Climbing

Rock climbing is popular in 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*

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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*

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The Wellington Park website was given a major facelift and is now optimised for viewing on smart phones and tablets.

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 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 and by the operator of the mobile food van at The Springs.

A new edition of the popular Wellington Park Recreation Map was published by TasMap. It included edits and updates provided by the Trust.

# 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 Regulations Awareness Program (RAP), now in its fourteenth 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 Trust employs a Ranger to oversee the Regulations Awareness Program (RAP) throughout the Park. The Ranger works with Authorised Officers (appointed under the *Wellington Park Act 1993*) and other field staff from Trust member agencies to ensure enjoyment of the Park by all users. The Ranger shares data with and receives assistance from Hobart and Glenorchy Police in tracking down and dealing with offenders. All Police officers are Authorised Officers under the Act.

During 2015-16 3 new Authorised Officers from Glenorchy City Council and Hobart City Council were trained and appointed. Authorised Officer guidelines and communication notes continue to be reviewed and revised in line with the Trust's Work Health and Safety policy and procedures, and in light of experience gained from compliance activity in the Park by the Ranger, Authorised Officers and agency field staff.

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 Park Management Agencies with responsibilities in the Park, and in accordance with the directions and priorities of the RAP Communications Plan. 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.

The Ranger has responded to complaints from walkers about dangerous rider behaviour on some shared use tracks by patrolling known and potential hotspots and engaging with the rider community through RAP presentations and media/social media communications to inform them of the Trust's expectation regarding the use of shared use tracks.

Social Media platforms such as FaceBook and Instagram are proving increasingly useful in both disseminating RAP-related messages and gathering a wide range of information. FaceBook group page newsfeeds reach far further than the individual website forum pages of the recent past and allow the Ranger to quickly respond to instances of undesirable images/videos (e.g. dogs at the Pinnacle) and broadcast and promote news and events from agencies and user groups active in the Park.

Reaching out to young people as fledgling users of the Park is an important focus of the RAP. Ranger presentations to school and college groups promoting awareness of Park values and encouraging respect for the regulations should assist young people become responsible Park users and help prevent inadvertent or deliberate infringements of the Regulations.

During the 2015-16 financial year the Ranger spent approximately 530 hours patrolling the Park, predominantly by vehicle and on foot, and occasionally by mountain bike. Given the difficulty of effectively patrolling 18 250 ha of Park, the Ranger focuses on areas and 'hotspots' identified through experience, requests from management agencies, and reports from users, field staff, Authorised Officers and Park neighbours.

The Ranger assisted Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy City Council staff install, maintain and review hidden motion sensor cameras targeting unauthorised vehicle use (trail bikes and 4 wheel drives) in their management areas.

The Trust has also purchased 2 cameras for general monitoring of usage on walking and shared use tracks, as well as informal and illegally constructed mountain bike tracks. Still and video footage allows walking and cycling use to be distinguished as well as direction of travel, which assists with planning and decision making. Footage has been used for counting purposes only, not identification and prosecution.

## *Infringements of the Regulations*

There were 16 dog-related offences detected in 2015-16 compared with 9 in 2014-15, 7 in 2013-14, 16 in 2012-13, and 25 in 2011-12. There were 19 recorded instances of mountain bike riding on walking only tracks in 2015-16, up from 9 in 2014-15 and 3 in 2013-14, all in the Hobart City Council management area. 60 offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use were detected in the Glenorchy and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas (up from 15 in 2014-15 and 29 in 2013-14 and 40 in 2012-13). The increase in detections is likely due to more targeted patrolling of hotspots as well as detection by motion sensor cameras during usage monitoring.

Twenty four informal and conditional cautions were issued in response to minor or first time offences. These cautions are issued at the Ranger's discretion and have proven an effective compliance strategy, with no repeat offence detected in the past twelve months.

No pre-planned 'stings' were undertaken during the 2015-16 financial year.

Reinforced Park entrances have held successfully against illegal 4WD incursions on the East-West trail (Jefferys Track and Montrose Road entrances) and Priest Fire Trail. However illegal access continues to be forced by ATV and motorbikes at these locations and from the Glenorchy landfill where the fence along the Park boundary is repeatedly cut. The Ranger and Authorised Officers have responded by maintaining or increasing the frequency of patrols, reporting damage immediately, and expanding their networks for improving efficiency of communication and information exchange. Agencies have responded by quickly repairing and usually upgrading infrastructure i.e. gates, fences, bollards, signage.

Sporadic vandalism of gates and signs occurred during 2015-16, mostly in the Park and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy City Council management area. Rubbish dumping is not a major problem in the Park but a pile of

more than 100 used tyres was discovered below Pinnacle Road near Shoobridge Bend. The source could not be identified and the tyres were removed by Hobart City Council.

A large illegal campsite near Junction Cabin was reported by bushwalkers and was removed by the Trust Ranger assisted by Hobart City Council. Considerable effort had gone into creating the camp which included solar panels, storage batteries and a television, however the persons responsible could not be identified.

## *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 and for recreational access provided for in the Management Plan. The Trust also issues permits for commercial filming and photography in the Park.

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; 13 permits for scientific research, 13 permits for commercial filming activities, 4 for use of a drone, 3 for non recreational vehicle access, 1 permit for camping and 1 permit to place a sign (for Bentwood Coffee). Six permits for horse riding and 57 for recreational vehicle access where issued by Park Management Agencies with delegated authority. Glenorchy City Council issued 2 permits for vehicle access as part of mountain bike events.

One breach of a condition of a filming permit was reported and a formal caution issued to the permit holder.

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.

# 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 Working in Wellington Park 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

Engagement with the Park Management Agencies and the community in relation to knowledge of cultural heritage values and their management has continued to be a core component of the heritage management program.

Key coordinating activities in 2015-16 have included site data upgrading, review of the existing and proposed planning provisions for cultural heritage management, and the provision of historic heritage advice and support to the Park Management Agencies through meetings, discussions, field inspections and review reports. This included advice on protecting heritage values during a number of fuel reduction burns in area with high historic heritage sensitivity.

A major upgrade of historic site data, commenced in early 2014, was completed in the latter part of 2015-16. This included the integration of a considerable body of new heritage data into the site data system. It also included the integration of the heritage data, formerly in three different forms, into a single digital system. This should significantly improve the management and use of heritage data.

A review of the heritage Standards for Use and Development in the Management Plan was initiated with the aim of redrafting the existing provisions to bring them more closely into line with the current interim planning scheme heritage provisions, and to improve the effectiveness of the Management Plan in relation to cultural heritage protection.

This review has been slowed until the heritage protection approach and nature of the proposed State Planning Provisions (part of the proposed Statewide Planning Scheme) is better established. Consultation was also undertaken with the Tasmanian Planning Commission, the Hobart City Council and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania in relation to this matter; and input provided to the public consultation and review of the Draft State Planning Provisions 2016.

The Trust's Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator also responded to a small number of information and management related queries from organisations and members of the public about cultural heritage of the Park or adjacent, and to aspects of the Park's history. In some cases this engagement has resulted in new heritage data being made available to the Trust (and relevant land management agency). As part of this, there was discussion with staff of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery in relation to Wellington Park and plans for the 50th anniversary of the 1967 bushfires.

The Cultural Heritage Coordinator has continued to provide heritage advice to the Trust in relation to a number of use and development matters including:

- The appropriateness of track and fire trail and other place names in Wellington Park as documented by the Nomenclature Board (and available on the Placenames Tasmania website) was undertaken at the request of the WPMT Manager.
- Management and new signage for a number of the non-public extant huts with heritage value on kunanyi/Mt Wellington with use issues.
- General permit conditions for vegetation clearing in relation to heritage management and conservation.

## Aboriginal Heritage

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

The Trust's initiative to develop a 'Framework for Aboriginal Heritage Management for the Park' was not substantially progressed in 2015-16 due to constraints in being able to undertake the proposed preliminary consultation. The proposed Framework recognises the importance of the Trust's obligation to preserve and protect features of Aboriginal interest within the Park and aims to provide a more pro-active and participatory approach to the management of Aboriginal values. It is proposed to continue the consultation with the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal heritage organisations needed to finalise the framework in 2016-17.

Given the lack of Aboriginal site information for the Park, annual Aboriginal site surveys of recently burned areas has been proposed. Burnt area surveys have been found to be particularly effective in Tasmania for locating Aboriginal sites in areas of native forest where there is a heavy cover of shrub and leaf litter. The new information derived from the surveys will provide a better understanding of the Aboriginal heritage of the Park. This will greatly assist in managing impacts on this heritage and provide better information for the interpretation of the Aboriginal history of the Park. The Trust is developing this proposal through discussions with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, who are seen as a potential partner in undertaking these surveys, and with Land Management Agency heritage staff.

During 2015-16 The Trust Manager and Cultural Heritage Coordinator met with the Director of Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to discuss the treatment of Aboriginal values in the Park and also provided a familiarisation visit to Wellington Park for interested AHT staff.

## Historic Heritage

No major historic heritage assessments were undertaken in 2015-16. Park Management Agencies were provided with historic heritage conservation advice for the following uses and developments:

- Heritage values in the Springs area in relation to a proposed hotel development.
- Excavation of a trench for a water pipe at the Springs.
- Rerouting of Betts Vale Track to bypass a fallen tree.
- The proposed upgrading of the Pinnacle - Organ Pipes Track.
- Resurfacing of sections of the MWSS Pipeline Track.
- The removal of conifers and heritage protection in the Humphries Rivulet catchment.
- The installation of a new water tank next to the snow plough shed at the Springs.

As part of its coordinating role, the Trust has:

- continued to facilitate the heritage advisory group for the Mountain Water Supply System which was created to provide a co-ordinated and strategic approach to the management of the System. Membership of the group in 2015-16 comprised representatives from the Trust, Hobart City Council, TasWater, Heritage Tasmania and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania. As part of this and in response to the recommendations of the MWSS Conservation Management Plan the terms of reference and operation of the group was revised.
- 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.

<sup>1</sup> In the early 2010s the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) changed their focus and no longer deal with Aboriginal heritage protection. The responsibility for this has been taken over by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.



## Fire Management

There were no major fires in the Park during 2015-16. A fire started from a dumped and torched car on Goat Hills was quickly contained and only burnt a small area.

Two planned burns totalling approximately 110 hectares were carried out in the Hobart City Council area of the Park in autumn. The burns were organised by the Tasmania Fire Service Fuel Reduction Unit and carried out with the assistance of local TFS brigades and Hobart City Council's fire crew. A small section of the Park was also burnt in spring 2015 as part of a larger burn on the southern side of McRobies Gully.

General fire management activities are carried out by member 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 undergoing a major revision which should be completed by the end of the year. The revised FMS includes 3 new burn areas and modification to some of the burn areas in the existing strategy.

The Trust is working with the Tasmania Fire Service Fuel Reduction Unit and the Park Management Agencies to plan strategic fuel reduction within the Park. The Trust Manager is currently the Chairperson of the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee

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 repair and locks on other gates needing replacement. A new gate has been installed on fire trail W19 above the Tolosa quarry to help control wood hooking in the area.

During the year the Manager represented the Trust at a community meeting at Fern Tree organised by Tasmania Fire Service.

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 DPIPWE under a data sharing agreement between the agencies first signed in 2010. 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.

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.

The Trust Ranger has completed fire fighter training with the PWS and is now able to assist with any fire fighting operations in the Park. At the request of the PWS the Trust Ranger was deployed to the Strathgordon/Maxwell South fire from 22 to 26 February and gained valuable experience.

## Water Quality and Catchments

Management of the Park's vital drinking water catchments remained a priority for the Trust during 2015-16. 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 off takes)
- 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.

During the 2015-16 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.

In early 2016 TasWater engaged consultants to undertake a water quality risk assessment of its catchments that supply the Fern Tree area and Ridgeway Dam as well as the Humphreys Rivulet catchment. The risk assessment found that water quality controls in both catchments required improvement to meet the current Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The assessment also assessed the impact of a proposed shared use track from Wellington Falls to Devils Throne which was a route option for the proposed 'epic' mountain bike track. The assessment noted a number of potential impacts from the proposed track on water quality in the North West Bay River catchment and concluded that the proposed track would push the catchment further from the target water quality. The Trust has decided not to proceed with this route.

The Trust will work with TasWater to revise the Wellington Park Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy to address the emerging water quality issues in the Park.

The Regulatory Awareness Program (RAP) 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.

## Threatened Species

A survey of the rare Mt Wellington eyebright, *Euphrasia gibbsiae* subsp. *Wellingtonensis*, was carried out by the Threatened Species Section of DPIIWE and Threatened Plants Tasmania (Wildcare Inc.). This species is a small herb known only from kunanyi / Mount Wellington (see photo). Its preferred habitat is the string bogs between the summit and Thark Ridge. About 600 plants of the species were detected during the survey with the total population likely to be in the thousands.



*Euphrasia gibbsiae* subsp. *Wellingtonensis*, photography by Richard Schahinger

## Weed Management

Park 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 has been greatly assisted by Council being granted 2 successive Green Army projects to assist with weed monitoring, removal and habitat restoration. The current Green Army team is 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.

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.

## Feral Animals

Glenorchy City Council has engaged a consultant to assess the feral goat population on Goat Hills in order to determine the best control method. Feral goats have also been detected in the Jefferys Track area in the western part of the Park. This is likely to be a separate population to the one in the Goat Hills area.

There are also feral cats in the Park, though the size and extent of the population is unknown and there is currently no control program.

Lyrebirds (a native bird introduced to Tasmania in the 1930s) have been reported in the area around St Crispins Well on the Pipeline Track and are likely to be more widespread in the Park. They are not currently considered a management issue.

## Other Activities

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### *Park Boundary Change*

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The Trust has had on-going 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 firing range below Limekiln Gully Dam which is currently partly in the Park. In January 2016 the Trust Manager briefed the Tasmanian Planning Commission on the issue during its hearing into the Glenorchy Interim Planning Scheme. This, and a number of other proposed boundary changes are likely to be submitted to Parliament for approval in 2017.

### *Right to Information*

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No requests under the *Right to Information Act 2009* were received during 2015-16. One request received in the previous financial year was completed and the decision report sent in August 2015.

### *Offers of Gifts and Benefits*

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An Offers of Gifts and Benefits Policy was endorsed by the Trust at its meeting on 5 July 2016.

During 2015-16 only one gift was declared by a staff member. This was a bottle of wine given to the Trust Ranger by a school group he had made a presentation to in the Park.

# Work Health and Safety

## *Work Health and Safety (WHS) Policy and Procedures*

Trust adopted an interim WHS Policy at its meeting on 10 April 2014. A revised WHS Policy and reporting procedures were approved by the Trust at its meeting on 19 April 2016. A completed set of WHS procedures were endorsed at the Trust meeting on 13 September 2016 and will be reviewed annually by the Trust.

## *WHS Incidents*

There have been no WHS incidents involving Trust staff that are notifiable under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*.

Other WHS incidents are reported to the Trust monthly and discussed at each Trust Meeting.

The following hazards and incidents were reported during 2015-16.

### **Summary of hazards and incidents between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016**

<i>Incident/Hazard</i>	<i>Number reported</i>
Lost time injury	none
Hazards identified through incident/near hit reports	none
Staff incidents reported	6
Visitor incidents reported	3
Contractor incidents reported	1

During 2015-16 there were no injuries to Trust staff that required treatment. Most staff incidents have involved minor damage to equipment being used by Trust staff.

The visitor and contractor incidents reported are only those that Trust staff became aware of and there is currently no process for the agencies that might have information on these (Police, Ambulance, Park Management Agencies etc.) reporting this to the Trust. The contractor incident involved an injury volunteer fire fighter conducting a planned burn under the direction of the Tasmania Fire Service which required hospital treatment. The visitor incidents involved injuries that were reported in the media or the Trust Ranger became aware of.





# Appendix 2

## Membership of the Wellington Park Management Trust

1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

MEMBER	DEPUTY
<b>Chairperson</b> Dr. Christine Mucha	(Deputy not provided for in the Act)
<b>Director-General of Lands</b> Dr. John Whittington	No deputy nominated
<b>Glenorchy City Council</b> Alderman Haydyn Nielsen <i>(Nominee of Glenorchy City Council)</i>	Alderman Stuart Slade
<b>Hobart City Council</b> Alderman Damon Thomas <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	Alderman Eva Ruzicka
Alderman Phillip Cocker <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	Alderman Suzy Cooper <i>(20 October 2015 to 18 March 2016)</i>  Alderman Bill Harvey <i>(from 1 June 2016)</i>
<b>TasWater</b> Mr. Lance Stapleton <i>(from 20 October 2015)</i> Department Manager, Product Quality	Mr. Lance Stapleton <i>(to 20 October 2015)</i>  Mr. Eamon Sullivan <i>(from 20 October 2015)</i> Manager Asset Planning
<b>Director Parks and Wildlife Service</b> Mr. Ashley Rushton Regional Manager Southern Tasmania <i>(Nominee of Director Parks and Wildlife Service)</i>	Mr. Mark Pharaoh <i>(to 20 October 2015)</i>  Mr. Shane Breen <i>(from 20 October 2015)</i> Parks and Reserves Manager, Southern Region
<b>Director Tourism Tasmania</b> Ms. Rita Warrener 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 2015 – 30 June 2016

The Trust held 4 scheduled meetings between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016, and one additional short meeting by teleconference.

<i>MEMBER</i>	<i>Meetings Attended</i>	<i>Meetings During Membership</i>
<b>Chairperson</b>		
Dr. Christine Mucha	5	5
<b>Director-General of Lands</b>		
Dr. John Whittington	5	5
<b>Glenorchy City Council</b>		
Alderman Haydyn Nielsen	5	5
Alderman Stuart Slade ( <i>Deputy</i> )	0	5
<b>Hobart City Council</b>		
Alderman Damon Thomas	3	5
Alderman Eva Ruzicka ( <i>Deputy to Alderman Thomas</i> )	1	5
Alderman Philip Cocker	3	3
Alderman Suzy Cooper ( <i>Deputy to Alderman Cocker till 18 March 2016</i> )	0	3
Alderman Bill Harvey ( <i>Deputy to Alderman Cocker from 1 June 2016</i> )	0	1
<b>Southern Water</b>		
Mr. Lance Stapleton	5	5
Mr. Eamon Sullivan ( <i>Deputy</i> )	0	4
<b>Director Parks and Wildlife Service</b>		
Mr. Ashley Rushton	3	5
Mr. Mark Pharaoh ( <i>Deputy till 20 October 2015</i> )	1	1
Mr. Shane Breen ( <i>Deputy from 20 October 2015</i> )	1	4
<b>Director Tourism Tasmania</b>		
Ms. Rita Warrener	5	5
Ms. Gill Parssey ( <i>Deputy</i> )	0	5

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. These are specified in each member's Instrument of Appointment. During 2015-16 the Chairperson was paid an annual honorarium and Council Aldermen were paid a sitting fee based upon attendance.

### Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest with any items on the agenda for any of the Trust meeting during were declared by Trust members during 2015/16

# Appendix 4

## Financial Report 2015 – 2016



### Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Tasmanian Parliament

Wellington Park Management Trust

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2016

### Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016 and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the certification by the Chairperson.

### Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the Trust's financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 30 June 2016, and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

### *The Responsibility of the Members of the Trust for the Financial Report*

The Members of the Trust are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Section 21 of *Wellington Park Act 1993*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based upon my audit. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

...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*

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, I considered internal control relevant to the Members' preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

#### **Independence**

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements.

The *Audit Act 2008* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

#### **Tasmanian Audit Office**



Ric De Santi  
**Deputy Auditor-General**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**

Hobart  
 26 September 2016

...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

*Strive | Lead | Excel | To Make a Difference*

## Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30th June 2016

	Note	2015/16 \$	2014/15 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Grants - State Government	6	117,500	130,000
Grants - Other	6	169,107	144,763
Interest		7,055	8,045
Fines		-	50
Other		2,594	6,012
Total Revenue		296,256	288,870
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Park Administration</b>			
Advertising		381	1,328
Audit Fees		4,710	3,070
Chairman Honorarium		8,000	8,000
Contractors and Consultants		6,743	6,288
Hobart City Council Administrative Support	5	28,191	-
Depreciation		4,535	2,144
Employee Costs		116,725	112,327
Fringe Benefits Tax		-	4,471
Miscellaneous		11,504	6,023
Sitting Fees		1,860	1,460
Stationery		2,201	3,947
Vehicle Expenses		8,543	6,264
Cultural Heritage Officer		18,560	18,645
Draft Amending Plan PSA		-	10,000
Regulations Awareness		69,211	57,855
Website Maintenance		1,986	1,395
		283,150	243,217
<b>Management Strategies</b>			
Fern Tree Master Plan		-	22,375
Multi-Day Walk		12,739	9,121
Website Development		7,750	-
Epic Track		2,120	-
		22,609	31,496
<b>Park Management</b>			
Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund Project		-	950
		-	950
Total Expenses		305,759	275,663
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>		<b>(9,503)</b>	13,207
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>		-	-
<b>Comprehensive Result</b>		<b>(9,503)</b>	13,207

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

## Statement of Changes In Equity As At 30th June 2016

	Note	2015/16 \$	2014/15 \$
Balance at beginning of period		313,634	300,427
Comprehensive Result		(9,503)	13,207
Balance at end of period		<b>304,131</b>	<b>313,634</b>

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

## Statement of Financial Position As At 30th June 2016

	Note	2015/16 \$	2014/15 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Cash	7	304,616	316,987
Stock on Hand		6,930	6,930
Receivables		1,431	288
		<u>312,977</u>	<u>324,205</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		33,433	33,909
Less Accumulated Depreciation		6,520	2,461
		<u>26,913</u>	<u>31,448</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>339,890</b>	<b>355,653</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Employee Benefits		18,365	14,331
Payables		12,719	22,965
		<u>31,084</u>	<u>37,296</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>			
Employee Benefits		4,675	4,723
		<u>4,675</u>	<u>4,723</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>35,759</b>	<b>42,019</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>304,131</b>	<b>313,634</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		304,131	313,634
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>304,131</b>	<b>313,634</b>

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

## Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30th June 2016

	Note	2015/16 \$	2014/15 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Grants - State Government	6	118,250	132,000
Grants - Other		149,936	152,539
Interest		7,126	8,165
Other		4,422	8,950
		279,734	301,654
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee and Contracted Services Costs		264,405	233,233
Other		27,700	30,672
		292,105	263,905
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(12,371)</b>	<b>37,749</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments for :</b>			
Equipment purchases		-	33,433
		-	33,433
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(33,433)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		<b>(12,371)</b>	<b>4,316</b>
Opening Cash Balance		316,987	312,671
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>		<b>304,616</b>	<b>316,987</b>

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 2016

### 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 (AASB). 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 2015/16 Other Revenue consisted of Book and DVD Sales, Filming Fees and income from granting of Operating Licences.

#### 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 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 the Australian Taxation Office Commissioner's 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 Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). No FBT events were experienced by the Trust in the year.

The Trust's 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:

*AASB 2015-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality* (effective 1 July 2015). The completion of AASB project to remove Australian guidance on materiality from Australian Accounting Standards with the issue of the final amending standard to affect the withdrawal AASB 1031 *Materiality*. Guidance on materiality is now located in AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

**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 following summarises those future requirements, and their impact on the Trust:

*AASB 9 Financial Instruments* and the relevant amending standards (effective from 1 January 2018). The Standard is one of a series of amendments that are expected to replace AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*. The main impact of the Standard is to change the requirements for the classification, measurement and disclosures associated with financial assets. No material impact is anticipated.

*AASB 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation* (effective from 1 January 2016).

This amendment introduces a rebuttable presumption that the use of revenue-based amortisation methods for intangible assets is inappropriate. In addition to this, there is limited opportunity for presumption to be overcome and clarifies that revenue-based depreciation for property, plant and equipment cannot be used. No material impact is anticipated.

*AASB 2015-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101* (effective from 1 January 2016)

The amendments to AASB 101 do not require any significant change to current practice, but should facilitate improved reporting, including emphasis on only including material disclosures, clarity on the aggregation and disaggregation of line items, the presentation of subtotals, the ordering of notes and the identification of significant accounting policies.

*AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Sector Entities* (effective from 1 January 2016)

The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* to include not-for-profit sector entities. As this Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016 it will be reconsidered in 2016.

*AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures for Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* (effective from 1 January 2016)

The amendment provides relief to not-for-profit public sector entities from certain disclosures about the fair value measurement of property, plant and equipment held for their current service potential rather than to generate net cash inflows that is categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. No material impact is anticipated.

*AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 2014-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15* (effective from 1 January 2017)

Under the new standard, a single model that applies to contracts with customers and two approaches to recognising revenue at a point in time or over time is proposed. The model features a contract-based five-step analysis of transactions to determine whether, how much and when revenue is recognised.

The new standard will apply to contracts of not-for-profit entities that are exchange contracts. AASB 1004 *Contributions* will continue to apply to non-exchange transactions until the *Income from Transactions of Not-for-Profit Entities* project is completed. No material impact is anticipated.

*AASB 16 Leases* (effective from 1 January 2019)

AASB 16 introduces a single lessee accounting model and requires a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. A lessee is required to recognise a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying leased asset and a lease liability representing its obligations to make lease payments. No material impact is anticipated.



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

	2015/16 \$	2014/15 \$
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(9,503)</b>	<b>13,207</b>
Add back Depreciation	4,535	2,144
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	(1,142)	554
(Increase) / Decrease in Stock	0	0
Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits	3,984	8,399
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	(10,245)	13,445
<b>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(12,371)</b>	<b>37,749</b>

In 2015/16 the Trust has recorded a Deficit due to expenditure of Grant money which had been received in prior years – in particular the expensing of funds associated with the Multi Day Walk Project.

There has been an increase in Depreciation which is because 2015/16 contains a full year of Depreciation for the Trust's vehicle which was purchased part way through 2014/15. The decrease in Payables reflects a reduction from 2014/15 to 2015/16 in the amount to be paid to the Hobart City Council (HCC) to adjust the Trust's cash balance.

**5. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TRUST MEMBER AGENCIES**

In 2015/16 Trust member agency, the Hobart City Council, commenced charging the Trust for the Administrative & Technical support provided to the Trust. This support which had previously been provided at no charge includes provision of office space, landline phone costs, computer supply and maintenance, local postage, photocopying, and general administration.

The charge for these support services was \$28,191 for which the Hobart City Council provided an equal and offsetting financial contribution. Both the cost and grant have been recorded in the 2015/16 Financial Statements.

**6. GRANTS**

	2015/16 \$	2014/15 \$
<b>Grants - State Government</b>		
Park Administration	117,500	130,000
	<u>117,500</u>	<u>130,000</u>
<b>Grants - Other</b>		
Fire Management Officer	20,831	20,655
Regulations Awareness Officer	75,296	74,626
Website Development	3,836	3,802
Cultural Heritage Officer	27,112	26,870
Interpretation	6,871	6,810
Fern Tree Master Plan	4,850	12,000
Epic Mountain Bike Track	2,120	-
Administration/Technical Support	28,191	-
	<u>169,107</u>	<u>144,763</u>

The Grants – State Government figure of \$117,500 includes \$7,500 from Trust member agency, the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).

The Grants – Other figure of \$169,107 comprises the following contributions: \$78,904 from the Hobart City Council, \$58,666 from TasWater and \$31,537 from the Glenorchy City Council (GCC). 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 2016, the Trust is required to expend \$127,335 of its cash balance in the manner specified by the terms of these grants. These amounts being made up of:

<b>Restricted Cash</b>	
Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund	76,000
Springs Master Plan	15,000
Multi-Day Walk	4,157
Website Development	4,628
Fern Tree Master Plan	4,850
Sustainable Transport System	15,000
Visitor Research	7,720
	<u>127,355</u>

## 8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

### a) Financial Risk Management

The Trust's financial instruments consist of a 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 \$3,046 (2015 \$3,169). A decrease in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would result in a loss and a decrease to equity of \$3,046 (2015 \$3,169). This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2015.

#### 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

The Trust considers that the carrying amount of its financial assets and liabilities approximate their fair value.

## 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 2017 (reappointed on 20-Oct-15)
Dr John Whittington	DPIPWE	Member	01-Jul-11	NA currently Director of Lands
Ald Haydyn Nielsen	GCC	Member	01-Jan-13	31-Dec-18 (reappointed on 01-Jan-2016)
Ald Damon Thomas	HCC	Member	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17
Ald Philip Cocker	HCC	Member	01-Jan-13	31-Dec-18 (reappointed on 01-Jan-2016)
Mr Cameron Crawford	TasWater	Member	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15 (left TasWater, replaced by Mr Lance Stapleton)
Mr Lance Stapleton	TasWater	Member	20-Oct-15	19-Oct-18
Mr Ashley Rushton	PWS	Member	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17
Ms Rita Warrener	Tourism Tas	Member	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17
Trust Deputy Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
(vacant)	DPIPWE	Deputy		
Ald Stuart Slade	GCC	Deputy	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17
Mr Eamon Sullivan	TasWater	Deputy	20-Oct-15	19-Oct-18
Mr Mark Pharaoh	PWS	Deputy	01-Jan-13	31-Dec-15 (replaced by Mr Shane Breen)
Mr Shane Breen	PWS	Deputy	20-Oct-15	30-Jun-17
Ms Gill Parssey	Tourism Tas	Deputy	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17
Ald Eva Ruzicka	HCC	Deputy to Ald Thomas	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17
Ald Bill Harvey	HCC	Deputy to Ald Cocker	01-Jun-16	31-Dec-18
<b>Manager:</b> 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.

	2015/16 \$	2014/15 \$
Short-term employee benefits	104,557	100,583
Post-employment benefits	9,933	9,546
Chair and Trust Members Sitting fees	9,860	9,460
	<b>124,350</b>	<b>119,589</b>

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.

## 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

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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 2016 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: 12 August 2016*







## 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 by Dylan Oswin**  
*Disappearing Tarn, Wellington Park*

