

Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | 2016 – 2017



www.wellingtonpark.org.au

Hon Elise Archer MP
Minister for Environment and Parks

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of section 75 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and section 27 of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*, I am pleased to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Wellington Park Management Trust for the year ending 30 June 2017.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*.

Yours sincerely



Dr Christine Mucha
Chairperson

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The Year at a Glance: 2016 – 2017

Park Management

During 2016-17 the Trust commenced a strategic review of its operations. The first stage involved the Trust developing a 5 year Strategic Plan aligned with the management objectives of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*. The Strategic Plan sets out the Trust's organisational goals along with 5 strategies for achieving them and the key desired outcomes of the Management Plan. A roadmap for the implementation of the Trust's Strategic Plan has also been prepared. The second stage, currently underway, is a review of the structure and operation of the Wellington Park Office.

The Trust has also developed a Strategic Risk Management Policy and Framework. This identifies the organisational risks that may affect the key functions of the Trust and ensures they are either reduced or there are effective strategies in place to manage them.

The Trust has prepared a Governance Policy to define its functions and the roles and responsibilities of members and staff. An Offers of Gifts and Benefits Policy has also been finalised.

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 327051 interstate and overseas visitors aged 14yrs or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between July 2016 and June 2017. This is a 16.6% increase on the corresponding period in the previous year.

An analysis of existing vehicle and track counter data commissioned by Hobart City Council estimated that at least 445,220 people visited the Hobart City Council management area of the Park in 2015-16. The analysis was largely based on data from a vehicle counter on Pinnacle Road and does not include walkers. The study estimated an average 4.3% growth rate in visitation since 2006-07.

The Trust has now licenced 118 tourism businesses to operate in the Park, 19 more than last financial year.

Major Planning Initiatives

The Trust completed its assessment of 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. The assessment concluded that such a track could not be constructed as it was not possible to find a feasible route that avoided important drinking water catchments.

Hobart City Council is looking at the feasibility of a downhill, mountain bike only, track from the Big Bend car park to Junction Cabin.

A master plan for the Fern Tree Visitor Node area has been completed and approved by both the Trust and Hobart City Council. The master plan covers the Fern Tree Park, Fern Tree Bower and Silver Falls areas.

The Trust and Hobart City Council have agreed to revise the existing master plan for The Springs which is now out of date. The revision of the master plan will be undertaken concurrently with a feasibility study into a Council-funded visitor centre at The Springs.

The Trust completed initial work to define the scope and function of a smart phone and tablet application that will complement the Wellington Park website and provide Park visitors with a range of activity-specific information including interpretation, route-finding information, emergency alerts and access information. The 'app' should facilitate a safer, more informed and enjoyable visitor experience.

Visitor and User Improvements

Construction of new facilities in the Park and maintenance of existing visitor facilities is the responsibility of the various Park Management Agencies (Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils, Parks and Wildlife Service) although proposed works need to be approved by the Trust.

Improvements for Park visitors included:

- Commencement of works by Hobart City Council to rejuvenate the Organ Pipes and Pinnacle Tracks which together comprise one of the 60 Great Short Walks in Tasmania (see cover photo).
- 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) following a trial of shared use on both tracks. This provides an off road link from Fern Tree Park to The Springs for bike riders.
- Improvements by Hobart City Council to visitor facilities at The Springs including new picnic tables, new and upgraded tracks, new interpretation and wayfinding signage.
- Installation of free WiFi in the observation shelter at the pinnacle.
- Licensing of a café in a converted shipping container at The Springs to replace the mobile food van that previously operated at the site.
- More commercial tour operators licensed to operate in the Park.
- Rerouting and hardening the track from Thark Ridge to the Devils Throne by the Friends of Wellington Park.
- Maintenance and repairs to the tracks in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park by Glenorchy City Council.
- A decision to upgrade the illegally constructed “Upper Luge Track” to a formal shared use track.
- Various other walking track improvements including replacement of old bridges and clearing encroaching vegetation.
- Revising and reprinting the popular Wellington Park walking track brochure.

Pinnacle Road Closures

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

Events

As well as the annual Point to Pinnacle fun run, the Park was also used for a round of the Tasmanian gravity enduro mountain bike race.

Heritage Protection

The Trust, in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, undertook the first of an ongoing program of Aboriginal heritage (site) surveys in recently burnt areas of the Park in late 2016. The survey was undertaken by the Trust’s Cultural Heritage Coordinator in liaison with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, who also arranged for community volunteer participation in the three day survey.

Following the completion of the major upgrade of historic site data in 2015-16, a major revision of the historic heritage GIS data was completed in early 2017.

The Trust, in conjunction with the three Park management agencies, is preparing a policy for the management of the extant historic huts in Wellington Park. Routine use and structural monitoring has also been initiated for selected huts.

Regulations Awareness Program

There were 27 dog-related offences detected in 2016-17 compared with 16 in 2015-16, 9 in 2014-15, 7 in 2013-14, 16 in 2012-13, and 25 in 2011-12. The increase is largely due to incidental detection by remote sensor cameras during unrelated usage monitoring.

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. Thirteen offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use (motorcycle or quad bike or 4WD) were detected in the Glenorchy and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas, down from 60 in 2015-16 (most

of which detected by motion sensor cameras), 15 in 2014-15, 29 in 2013-14 and 40 in 2012-13.

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

The use of hidden motion sensor cameras has improved the Trust's ability to detect offences. Although they may not provide enough information to identify the persons involved, they allow the Ranger to identify and target problem areas. No pre-planned 'stings' were undertaken during the 2016-17 financial year.

One Prescribed Infringement Notice was issued in relation to a second mountain bike offence (riding on a walking only track). Nineteen informal cautions, 2 conditional cautions and 3 formal cautions were issued for minor or first time offences. Fourteen offences were detected where no action was taken due to being unable to communicate with the offender.

More than 100 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

There were no major fires in the Park during 2016-17.

Two planned burns totalling approximately 120 hectares were carried out in the Glenorchy 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.

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 including preparation of a Greater Wellington Range Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.

The Wellington Park Bushfire Management Working Group met in December 2016 and May 2017 to coordinate bushfire management and other works in the Park. It includes representatives of the Park Management Agencies as well as TasNetworks, TasWater, the Friends of Wellington Park bushcare group, and the Tasmania Fire Service.

Weed Management

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, worked on weed control and monitoring in the Glenorchy City Council section of the Park.

Community Involvement

Activities included:

- Ongoing community involvement in the Regulations Awareness Program and educational activities, including promotional events, interpretation walks and school presentations.
- Planning support and assistance to the Fern Tree and Friends of Wellington Park bushcare groups.
- Continued support for the Heritage Volunteer Network. This comprises community members with a keen and active interest in the history and heritage of Wellington Park, but with a focus on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.
- Continued response to requests from members of the public and researchers for information in relation to the natural values, history and heritage of Wellington Park and environs.
- 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 2016-17, the Act was administered by the Honourable Matthew Groom, Minister for Environment and Parks.

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 peri-urban 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 who want to enjoy it.

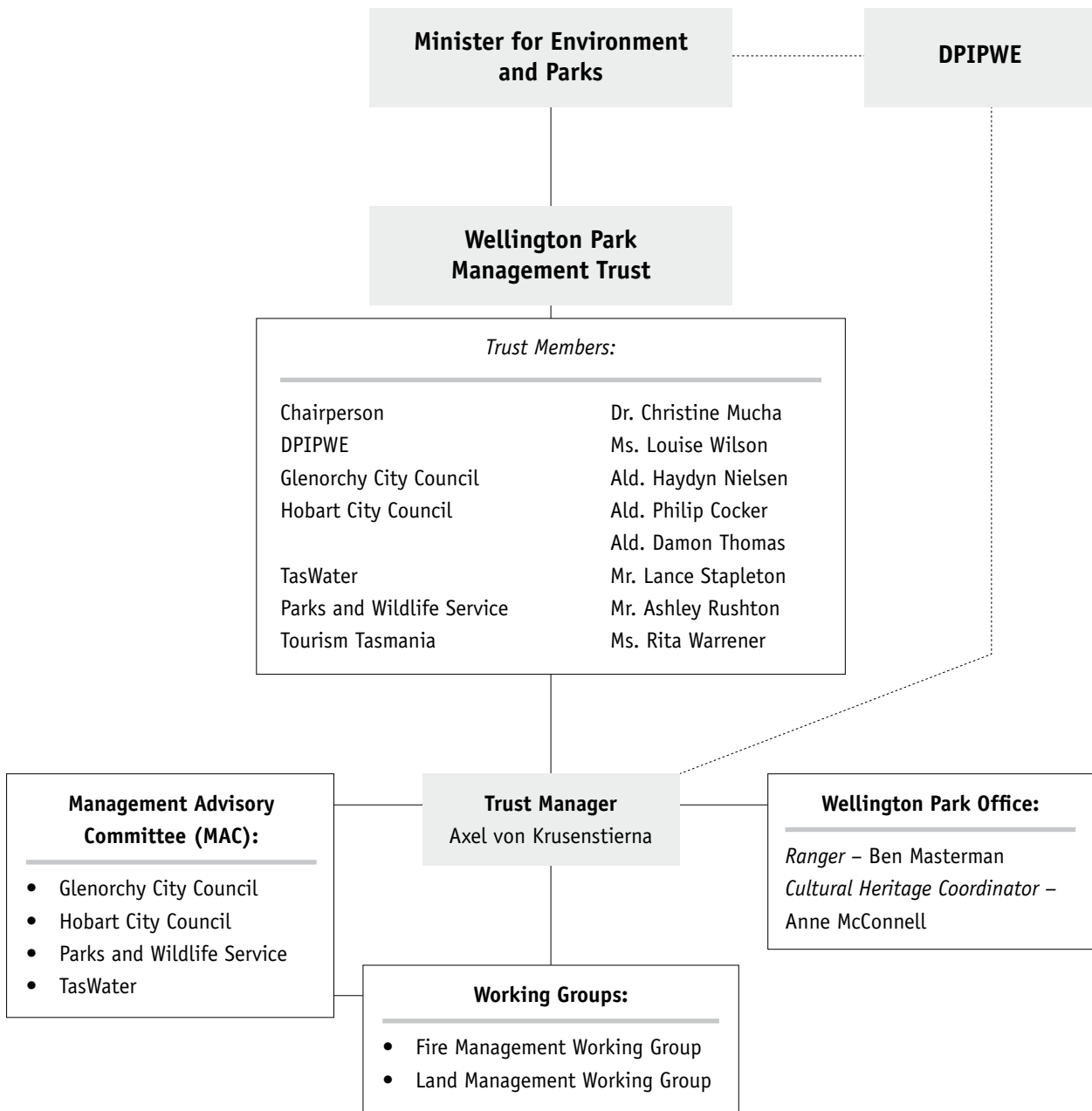
Mission

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 (MAC) 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 2016-17 Ms Louise Wilson (member) and Mr Ben Goodsir (deputy) were appointed as the nominees of the Director-General of Lands. Dr John Whittington had previously been attending meetings as the ex officio member.

The Wellington Park Act 1993 does not provide for the appointment of a deputy to the Chairperson.

Following the suspension of Glenorchy City Council by the Minister for Local Government on 8 February 2017, Council's member and deputy, both councillors, have not attended Trust meetings. Although they are still technically members of the Trust they are not permitted to represent Council while suspended. Council proposed that the Minister appoint a temporary member and deputy to represent Council on the Trust until the status of the council is resolved. These appointments have recently been confirmed.

Trust Meetings

The Trust's meeting schedule is decided 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 partly or completely by teleconference. During 2016-17 there were 5 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 2016-17 and reviewed annually. The Governance Policy also details general governance and meeting processes.

Strategic Risk Management

During 2016-17 the Trust developed a Strategic Risk Management Policy and Framework. This was approved by the Trust on 21 September 2017 along with a risk management register.

The Risk Management Policy and Framework identifies the organisational risks that could affect the key functions of the Trust and ensures they are either reduced or there are effective strategies in place to manage them.

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, Park regulations awareness and compliance, 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 2016-17 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 office team meetings approximately every 2 months. 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 2016-17 there have been no notifiable or lost time injuries to Trust staff. Reported WHS incidents for the year are summarised on page 29.

Record Keeping

The Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office (TAHO) carried out an audit of the Trust's record management procedures and provided the Trust with recommendations for improvement. The Trust is currently preparing a record management policy and procedures incorporating the audit recommendations in conjunction with a switch from a paper-based to electronic record keeping system.

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 Park Management Agencies to ensure the ongoing management of the Park and support for 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.

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 2016-17 these included the: Bushfire Management Working Group; 'Epic' Mountain Bike Track Working Group, Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan Steering Committee and the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group.

Trust Representation on other Committees

The Trust, via the Manager or other staff, was represented on the following external committees: Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Association Inc, Southern Fire Management Area Committee and the steering committee for the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan. The Trust Manager is currently the chairman of the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee and a member of the Greater Wellington Range Bushfire Mitigation Strategy steering 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 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 2016-17 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 was approved by the Trust at its meeting on 21 February 2017.

Strategic Review

In August 2016 the Trust engaged a consultant to undertake a strategic review of the Trust and its operations and recommend improvements. The first stage of the review looked at the Trust's draft Strategic Plan and prepared a roadmap for its implementation. The second stage, currently underway, is reviewing the structure and operation of the Wellington Park Office, particularly its role in implementing the Strategic Plan.

Use and Development in the Park

Wellington Park Management Plan 2013

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

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

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

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

Following a formal request from the Mt Wellington Cableway Company the Trust, on 7 July 2014, resolved to initiate the process set out in the *Wellington Park Act 1993* to revise the Management Plan to extend the boundary of the Pinnacle Specific Area. The alteration to the Plan was approved by Her Excellency The Governor on 26 October 2015 and was effective on 11 November 2015.

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. During 2016-17 a proposed café in the Springs Specific Area was assessed under LUPAA by Hobart City Council. The development was approved by both Council and the Trust.

Major Planning Initiatives 2016 – 2017

Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan

The Trust, in collaboration with Hobart City Council, prepared 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, 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 was endorsed by Hobart City Council on 11 May 2017 and by the Trust at its meeting on 2 August 2017.

Springs Specific Area

The Wellington Park 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 café in a converted shipping container to replace the mobile food van that the business operators previously used at the site. The café is open longer hours and can offer a wider range of refreshments than the mobile van.

Other improvements to visitor facilities at The Springs include; new picnic tables, refurbishment of the toilet and stone shelter, new and upgraded tracks, new interpretation and wayfinding signage. Further improvements are planned including extending the main power supply to the middle Springs and re-opening the perimeter walk around the former exhibition gardens, one of the most important heritage sites at The Springs.

In September 2014 Hobart City Council initiated an expressions of interest process for commercial developments in The Springs Specific Area 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. Council has advised the Trust that the expressions of interest process is now finished and Council is conducting a feasibility study into a Council-funded visitor centre at The Springs. Council and the Trust have also agreed to revise the now out of date master plan for the Springs Specific Area to provide clear guidelines for future development and protection of the heritage and other values of the area.

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 *Wellington Park 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 during 2016-17:

- Repair and upgrading of the Organ Pipes Track.
- Works to install a shipping container converted into a café at The Springs.
- Three hazard reduction burns.
- Repairs and resurfacing of Chapel Fire Trail.
- Visitor information, amenity and safety works at The Springs.
- Upgrading of feeder tracks at The Springs.
- Vegetation clearing and drainage improvements along lower Montrose Trail.
- Realignment and hardening of the track from Thark Ridge to Devils Throne.
- Repairs to Knights Creek Track to allow for vehicle access.
- Installation of a pipeline to fill the fire fighting water tank at The Springs.

The Trust refused an application for a permit to divert water from a watercourse in the Park for private use. The application was for an existing water diversion that had been installed before the formation of the Park without the authority of the landowner, Hobart City Council.

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

- Thinning of vegetation along Pinnacle Road north of The Springs to let in more sunlight to melt ice in winter and at Big Bend to improve sight lines.
- Resurfacing of eroded sections of the Pipeline Track.
- Repair of storm damage to Jacksons Bend Track.
- Construction of a new gate on fire trail W19.
- Resurfacing and reinforcing tracks in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.
- Replacement of a damaged culvert on the Tolosa Fire Trail.
- Drainage works and step replacement on the Circle Track and the track to Lone Cabin.
- Installation of energy absorbing bollards at the cafe lease site at The Springs.
- Repair of a minor landslip on the Pipeline Track at St Crispins Well which was preventing vehicle access.
- Training burn in the fuel break along the Main Fire Trail.
- Replacement of a small bridge on the Lenah Valley Track with stepping stones.
- Vegetation clearing at a trial launch site for hang gliders and paragliders.
- Improvements to Pillinger Drive Track including vegetation clearing, culvert replacement, track widening and installation of chicanes to slow bicycles.
- Vegetation clearing around O'Gradys Falls.
- Installation of free Wi-Fi in the pinnacle observation shelter.
- Replacement of the gate at the junction of Big Bend Trail and Pinnacle Road.
- Maintenance work on the East West Trail.

The Trust has drafted 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 327051 interstate and overseas visitors aged 14yrs or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between July 2016 and June 2017. This is a 16.6% increase on the corresponding period in the previous year and shows that approximately 1 in 4 interstate and overseas visitors to Tasmania also visited Wellington Park. This survey does not include visitors who arrive on cruise ships or 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.

An analysis of existing vehicle and track counter data commissioned by Hobart City Council estimated that at least 445,220 people visited the Hobart City Council management area of the Park in 2015-16. The analysis by Natural Acumen was largely based on data from a vehicle counter on Pinnacle Road and does not include walkers. The study estimated an average 4.3% growth rate in visitation since 2006-07.

The study by Natural Acumen¹ also found that:

- “There is a very large monthly impact on visitation (e.g. in 2015-16 the number of visitors ranged from a low of 11,905 in July to a peak of over 54,265 in January)
- High January and summer levels are also reflected in the typical visitation to Tasmania as a whole, representing the peak holiday and (normally) period. There have also been peaks over the Easter holiday periods
- This peak summer visitation time is reflected in the MetroCount vehicle data which shows high summer visits are followed by autumn with a relatively small drop in winter despite the road closures due to the risks posed by snow and ice
- These seasonal peaks are also shown in data from walkers and mountain bikers (Trakker data) although the winter ‘lows’ are more pronounced

- Visitation numbers are also highly dependent on the day of week. Vehicle data shows that weekends are by far the busiest times and over the weekend there is a distinct ‘Salamanca effect’ when the markets close and interstate and international tourists make their way to the Mountain in early Saturday afternoon
- Peak numbers (the top 10 and 20 per cent of busiest traffic days for the past 3 financial years) occurred over school holidays, during times of festivals (e.g Dark MOFO) and to a lesser extent, when cruise ships were docked and over public holidays.”

Wellington Park ‘app’

The Trust engaged consultants to advise it on the scope and function of a smart phone and tablet application for Wellington Park. The consultants conducted a number of workshops and meetings to refine the concept and how it might be implemented. These included Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils, Tourism Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service. Key areas explored were:

- Stakeholder ideas, expectations and requirements
- Sources of data and integration
- Functionality and technology integration
- Social media/user generated content integration and management.

It is envisaged that the ‘app’ will complement the Wellington Park website and provide Park visitors with a range of activity-specific information including interpretation, route-finding information, emergency alerts and access information, helping to facilitate a safer, more informed and enjoyable visitor experience. There have been discussions with Destination Southern Tasmania on how the proposed ‘app’ would fit in with similar regional and state-wide initiatives.

The Trust is currently exploring a number of funding options for the ‘app’.

¹ M. Poll & A. Wild 2017, *kunanyi / Mount Wellington: Visitation to the Mountain. Report Prepared for City of Hobart by Natural Acumen, Hobart*

Disabled Access

Improvements to disabled access to the Park at Fern Tree are included in the Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan. However, it is not possible to make the entry point and its facilities fully accessible due to the constraints of the site and some disabled persons will require assistance.

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 Sustainable Timber Tasmania. The Trust's guidelines ensure that the Trust can apply its own assessment criteria and procedures whilst remaining part of the broader arrangement.

As at 1 August 2017, the CVS advised that there were 118 businesses licensed to conduct commercial operations in the Park, 19 more than the previous financial year. Most tour operators just take visitors to the summit lookouts but others offer activities such as 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.

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 City 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 road closure 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 precautionary 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 has continued the implementation of the Walking Track Strategy, endorsed by the Trust in June 2003.

Hobart City Council has commenced works to rejuvenate the Organ Pipes and Pinnacle Tracks which together comprise one of the 60 Great Short Walks in Tasmania (see cover photo). These historic tracks have become badly degraded over time and the works aim to upgrade the tracks to make them safer and easier to use while preserving their heritage values.

The Trust has reprinted (with minor updates and corrections) its popular bushwalking information brochure. This is available free on the Wellington Park website, from the Lost Freight café at The Springs and from the Trust's information stands in Service Tasmania, the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre, and the Fern Tree Tavern.

A reroute of the informal track from the Thark Ridge Track to Devils Throne to avoid wet areas was carried out by the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Friends of Wellington Park volunteers. The Friends of Wellington Park have also undertaken vegetation clearing along the Collins Bonnet and Mount Connection Tracks.

The Myrtle Forest Trail has remained 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.

The Trust proposed a number of new names and changes to the names of walking tracks and fire trails in the Park to the Nomenclature Board. The objective of the proposed changes was to name currently unnamed tracks and trails, remove duplicate names and clarify the extent of named sections of tracks and trails. The approved names will appear on the LIST and the next editions of the Wellington Park Recreation Map and the Trust's bush walking information leaflet.

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 could be made in management and maintenance of these and other shared use tracks. The Trust confirmed the shared use status of the upper section of Middle Track, but extended the trial of shared use on Pillinger Drive Track to allow improvements to be made and to monitor the effectiveness of the improvements. The extended trial finished at the end of June 2017 and, after considering the results of the trial, the Trust resolved that the Pillinger Drive Track should stay shared use and further improvements be undertaken.

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 resolved to formalise the "Upper Luge Track". This track runs between the Middle Island Fire Trail and Main Fire Trail and was illegally constructed many years ago. It is popular with both walkers and riders and the Trust considered that it was preferable to upgrade it to a proper shared use track than to continue trying to close it.

The Trust is revising its advisory Code of Conduct for bike riders in the Park into a Track Users Code of Conduct to help minimise user conflict. The revised code will encourage respectful and responsible use of shared use track by walkers and bike riders.

'Epic' Mountain Bike Track

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 a 40 km to 50 km mountain bike track around kunanyi / Mount Wellington. This 'epic' mountain bike track would utilise existing tracks where possible but also require a number of new tracks.

The Trust engaged consultants to assess of the technical feasibility and costs of the various route options for the new sections of the track. The most important new track was between the Big Bend car park and the western end of the Pipeline Track. The main issue was protection of water quality in the North West Bay River catchment, a very important catchment for Hobart's water supply. Following a water quality risk assessment, TasWater advised the Trust that a new track through the North West Bay River Catchment would pose unacceptable risks to water quality.

The track feasibility assessment concluded that a new track between Big Bend car park and the western end of the Pipeline Track could not be constructed as it was not possible to find a feasible route that avoided important drinking water catchments.

Hobart City Council is proceeding with a detailed feasibility study of one section of the 'epic', a bike only, downhill only track between the Big Bend car park and Junction Cabin. The Trust engaged a consultant to find a feasible route for a shared use track between the summit car park and the Big Bend car park with a link to the Panorama Track. Neither of these routes are affected by drinking water quality concerns.

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 7 long-term horse riding permits were issued or renewed.

Four Wheel Driving

The Park offers opportunities for recreational four wheel drive vehicle 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 December 2016 to early June 2017. Over the season, 27 permits were issued for a total of 79 vehicles. Five permits (7 vehicles) were for interstate vehicles (2 NSW, 3 Vic), 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 / Mount 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.

Jefferys Track Upgrade

The Trust provided in principle support for a proposal by Huon Valley Council and Derwent Valley Council to undertake a feasibility study into upgrading Jefferys Track into a sealed road. Jefferys Track is currently a rough 4 wheel drive trail but is an important access route to the western part of the Park.

Interpretation

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

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

Marketing and Promotion

Park activity and information sheets are distributed in the field upon request or in response to offences and can also be downloaded from the Wellington Park website.

The popular bush walking information brochure is regularly 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 continued to maintain two customised information display stands, located at the Hobart Service Tasmania shop and Fern Tree Tavern. Maps and information sheets are also distributed by the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre in Davey Street and by the operator of the cafe at The Springs.

Events

A number of organised vents were held in the Park during the year including the annual Point to Pinnacle fun run and a gravity enduro mountain bike event, round 3 of the annual Tasmanian gravity enduro series.

The annual Mount Wellington Challenge, a bicycle time trial between Longley and the summit of kunanyi / Mount Wellington did not run in 2016-17.

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 local government by-laws and regulations that might otherwise apply in the Park.

The Regulations Awareness Program (RAP), now in its fifteenth 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 Park Management Agencies to ensure enjoyment of the Park by all users. The Ranger shares data with and receives assistance from Hobart, Glenorchy and New Norfolk Police in tracking down and dealing with offenders. All Police officers are Authorised Officers under the Act.

Fifteen new Authorised Officers have been trained and appointed, including 6 from Glenorchy City Council, 8 from Hobart City Council and one from TasWater. 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 communicates routinely with Authorised Officers and field staff to exchange data and intelligence, update compliance procedures and share information about activities in the Park.

The Ranger engages with Park users and the wider community to increase awareness of the Park's values, and compliance with the Regulations. The program is devised with guidance and assistance from representatives of agencies with responsibilities in the Park, and in accordance with the directions and priorities of the RAP

Communications Plan. Awareness-raising activities include: presentations to school and university groups in the Park and sometimes on campus; regulatory and educational messages to all Park users including field staff, advocacy groups, user groups and clubs; commercial tour operators and local businesses (eg bike shops); 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; assistance at bushcare/trackcare working bees, 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. During the extension of the trial of shared use on Pillinger Drive Track a survey and feedback process provided valuable information about user behaviour on shared use tracks. The results of these surveys are being used by the Ranger to develop an awareness raising campaign to reduce potential conflicts between users of shared use tracks.

Social media platforms such as FaceBook and Instagram continue to be valuable tools in communicating with users. 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. Social fitness apps such as Strava and TrailForks allow up-to-the-minute monitoring of track use by bike riders.

To assist with monitoring track use the Ranger regularly uses motion-sensing 'trail' cameras to monitor usage of tracks and fire trails in the Park. By reviewing still and video images gathered over a sample period the Ranger has been able to create a detailed snapshot of track use showing user activity (walking, running, riding), number, direction of travel and frequency. This information is used by the Trust and agencies to assist with strategic and operational management.

Simple infra-red counters are installed at numerous locations and monitored seasonally by Hobart City Council. An additional long-term counter was installed early in 2017 on Pillinger Drive Track and two temporary counters have been installed above and below the lookout on the Wellington Falls Track to gauge visitor numbers in key drinking water catchments. Glenorchy City Council and the Parks and Wildlife Service also use motion sensor cameras and counters in their management areas, both for surveillance and usage data gathering.

During the 2016-17 financial year the Ranger spent approximately 630 hours patrolling the Park, predominantly by vehicle and on foot, and occasionally by mountain bike. Given the difficulty of 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.

Infringements of the Regulations

There were 27 dog-related offences detected in 2016-17 compared with 16 in 2015-16, 9 in 2014-15, 7 in 2013-14, 16 in 2012-13, and 25 in 2011-12. There were 11 recorded instances of mountain bike riding on walking only tracks in 2016-17, down from 19 in 2015-16 but up from 9 in 2014-15 and 3 in 2013-14; all in the Hobart City Council management area. Thirteen offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use (motorcycle or quad bike or 4WD) were detected in the Glenorchy City Council and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas, down from 60 in 2015-16 (most of which were detected by motion sensor cameras), 15 in 2014-15, 29 in 2013-14 and 40 in 2012-13.

Nineteen informal cautions, 2 conditional cautions and 3 formal cautions were issued for 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.

One Prescribed Infringement Notice (PIN-full penalty) was issued in relation to a second mountain bike offence (riding on a walking only track). Fourteen offences were detected where no action was taken due to being unable to communicate with the offender (eg trail camera footage, report from public, seen/heard in distance).

Efforts in 2016 by the Glenorchy City Council to repair and reinforce the fence along the boundary between the Park and Council's landfill have been successful in deterring illegal motorcycle access onto the Chapel Fire Trail. A number of illegal tracks constructed by mountain bike riders were detected and closed off. A check of satellite imagery detected recent clearing along an old track running into the Park near the end of Mount Hull Road. The Parks and Wildlife Service is investigating this incursion into the Park.

Sporadic vandalism of gates and signs occurred during 2016-17, mostly in the Park and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy City Council management areas. Over 100 used tyres were dumped off the side of Pinnacle Road below The Springs by persons unknown. All detected instances of vandalism are recorded to build up a database to guide future regulatory activities.

Permits Issued

The Trust may issue permits for activities prohibited under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2009*. Commonly issued permits cover construction activities, scientific research and 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 issuing of permits for recreational 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.

The number of permits issued under the Wellington Park Regulations in 2016-17 compared to the previous year are:

Activity	2016-17	2015-16
Maintenance and construction works	31	5
Fuel reduction burns	3	3
Scientific research	16	13
Commercial filming	18	13
Use of a remote piloted aircraft (drone)	8	4
Recreational vehicle access ¹	27	57
Non-recreational vehicle access	5	3
Horse riding ²	7	6
Camping	1	1
Placement of a sign	2	1
Restricted area access	1	0

1 Issued by the PWS under delegated authority.

2 These are mostly annual permits.

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 as part of the heritage management program. In 2016-17 there was a shift in focus from heritage site assessment to provision of heritage advice and support to the Park Management Agencies through meetings, discussions, field inspections, archaeological monitoring of works and reviewing development and works proposals.

Following from the major upgrade of historic site data, which was completed in the latter part of 2015-16 and currently comprises some 550 places, a major revision of the Wellington Park historic heritage GIS information was undertaken. The data update was undertaken by the Trust's Cultural Heritage Coordinator, and the GIS updating was undertaken by Glenorchy City Council staff. The completion of the GIS update should significantly improve the capacity for heritage protection at the planning and management level.

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 the cultural heritage and history of the Park. Some members of the public continue to generously contribute new historical and site data to the Trust. The Guidelines for Caring for Cultural Heritage in Wellington Park pamphlet was also updated.

No further work was undertaken on the review of the heritage Standards for Use and Development for the Wellington Park Management Plan to improve the effectiveness of the Management Plan in relation to cultural heritage protection. This was largely due to the uncertainty that has existed over the year with the review and ongoing development of the provisions of the new Statewide Planning Scheme.

Heritage management advice provided to the Trust and the Park Management Agencies in 2016-17 included:

- Place naming matters, in particular in relation to historical naming and social values attached to place names.
- Heritage management in relation to fuel reduction burning.
- Preservation of Wellington Park historic signs.
- A proposal to re-open the Exhibition Gardens perimeter track for visitor use and appreciation.
- Management and development at The Springs (i.e. within The Springs heritage precinct), including the proposed revision of the Springs Master Plan and the works undertaken by the Hobart City Council to improve visitor facilities at The Springs.
- Developing a policy on bridge replacement to guide the maintenance and repair of historic tracks.
- Historic track upgrading, maintenance and conversions to shared use, specifically the trial conversion of the Pillinger Drive Track to shared use, the Organ Pipes Track upgrade, Pipeline Track resurfacing, and the Devils Throne Track re-route.
- Proposals for augmenting the mountain bike track network in the Park, specifically a Pinnacle – Big Bend shared use track, a Big Bend – Junction Cabin gravity mountain bike track, and the Upper Luge Track.
- Fire trail maintenance and upgrading, specifically the Knights Creek Track, the Montrose Fire Trail; and a minor road collapse on the Lenah Valley Fire Trail.

A number of the above matters included field inspection and reporting.

Aboriginal Heritage

The Trust has continued to work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) where opportunities have arisen.²

The main initiative for 2016-17 has been the carrying out of a 3 day survey of recently burnt areas for Aboriginal heritage, primarily Aboriginal archaeological sites. Burnt area surveys have been found to be one of the few effective methods 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 past use and heritage of Wellington Park, which will assist the Trust in protecting the Aboriginal heritage of the Park and in managing Aboriginal values.

This first such survey was undertaken in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. The Trust's Cultural Heritage Coordinator was responsible for designing and carrying out the field survey. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre provided advice on all stages of the survey and also arranged for community volunteer participation for the field survey (5 people participated). The field survey was undertaken in November 2016, and reported in March 2017.

It is hoped that this survey will be the start of an ongoing program of Aboriginal heritage surveys of recently burnt areas in Wellington Park, to be undertaken in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

Historic Heritage

No major historic heritage assessments were undertaken in 2016-17. However, some preliminary actions were taken towards carrying out a volunteer assisted heritage assessment of the Lenah Valley entry area which is a remaining priority area for heritage assessment within Wellington Park. The Pillinger Drive Track, an historic track, was also surveyed and recorded during 2016-17 to provide heritage data for the shared use trial.

Increased visitation of extant historic huts in Wellington Park, combined with ongoing deterioration due to age, requires greater management intervention. To achieve this, the Trust in 2016-17 implemented more frequent and detailed monitoring of selected huts and structural

monitoring at one hut, and commenced development of a policy for the management of these huts in conjunction with the three Park Management Agencies. As part of the development of the policy considerable background research has been undertaken, including consultation with other organisations inside and outside Tasmania. A small number of additional actions were undertaken by the Trust in 2016-17 in relation to the management of these huts, including making contact with original hut members and scanning hut log books in order to have a permanent digital copy of these historic documents.

A public request was made to the Trust and Hobart City Council in early 2017 to better promote the former Exhibition Gardens, an historic site in Wellington Park which is regarded as having high state level significance as well as some national level significance. The request was primarily for the re-opening of the surviving section of the historic perimeter path for public use and the provision of interpretation. The Trust coordinated a review of this request and, following agreement in principle to re-open the perimeter track which is seen as having public benefit, the Trust and Hobart City Council are working towards implementing this action in a way which respects the significant and sensitive nature of this historic site.

The Trust Cultural Heritage Coordinator had significant involvement in the visitor amenity improvement works at The Springs which commenced in June 2017 given that the Springs is a heritage precinct with a wide range of historic heritage values and sensitivities. During 2016-17 this involvement included review of the works proposal, recommending permit modifications and conditions, providing contractor heritage inductions, and undertaking archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance, and the processing of artefacts recovered from the works disturbance. These works and the Trust's heritage oversight continued into 2017-18.

The Trust has continued its coordinating role in the following:

- Facilitation of 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. In 2016-17, as recommended in the *Hobart Mountain Water Supply System Conservation Management Plan 2012*, a major review of the composition and role of the advisory group was carried out. As a result of the review the advisory group has been renamed the Mountain Water Supply System Heritage Advisory Group. The role

² 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.

of the group has remained essentially the same, as has membership of the group, with representatives from the Trust (2), Hobart City Council (2), Taswater (1), Heritage Tasmania (1) and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania (1).

- Liaison with the Wellington Park 'Heritage Volunteer Network', an informal group of Hobartians with an active interest in the history and heritage of kunanyi / Mount Wellington. The group, established in May 2014, continues to generously provide new historical and heritage information to the Trust.

Fire Management

There were no major fires in the Park during 2016-17. A small fire in the Broadcast Australia tower at the pinnacle was quickly extinguished by the Tasmania Fire Service.

Two planned burns totalling approximately 120 hectares were carried out in the Glenorchy City Council area of the Park in early summer and autumn. The burns were organised by the Tasmania Fire Service Fuel Reduction Unit and carried out with the assistance of local TFS brigades. A small section of the Park was also burnt in autumn 2017 as part of a larger burn by Hobart City Council on its land between the Park and Kalang Avenue.

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. 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 FMS is undergoing a major revision which will be completed following the completion of the Greater Wellington Range Bushfire Mitigation Strategy (GWRBMS). The GWRBMS is being prepared by the Tasmania Fire Service and its recommendations will need to be incorporated into the revised Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy. The Trust Manager is on the steering committee for the GWRBMS.

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.

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. Although not a designated fire trail, the Knights Creek Track has been upgraded to allow emergency vehicle access.

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 is an on-going problem with the gate at the western end of the East West Trail needing frequent repair and locks on other gates needing replacement. A new gate has been installed on the Knights Creek Track and other old gates have been replaced (Big Bend Trail, end of Old Farm Road).

During the year the Manager spoke at an opening of an exhibition commemorating the 1967 Black Tuesday fires in the Fern Tree Community Hall.

The Manager convenes bi-annual meetings of the Bushfire Management Working Group attended by representatives of the Tasmanian Fire Service, Park Management Agencies, TasNetworks and the Friends of Wellington Park bushcare group. The working group provides a forum for information sharing, and allows agencies to plan co-operatively for fire management and operational issues.

The Trust continued to share digital geographic data with DPIPW 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 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.

Water Quality and Catchments

Management of the Park's vital drinking water catchments remained a priority for the Trust during 2016-17. 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.

Depending on rainfall Wellington Park may supply up to 20% of greater Hobart's drinking water. The Park is the only source of water for Fern Tree, Crabtree and Mountain River. The Trust has worked closely with TasWater to strategically manage the catchments for the long-term benefit of the community.

The Trust is working 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 resurvey of the population of the threatened twiggy heath, *Epacris virgata*, in the Park was carried out by the Threatened Species Section of DPIPW and the volunteers of Threatened Plants Tasmania (Wildcare Inc.). Wellington Park has one of the few populations of this species in a reserve. The extent of the population has shrunk slightly since the previous survey 10 years ago and it was noted that all plants had been heavily browsed, probably by wallabies. Heavy browsing is probably the main threat to the population in the Park. On the advice of the Threatened Species Section, Glenorchy City Council is considering installing fencing to protect at least part of the population.

Weed Management

Park Management Agencies have continued in their efforts to reduce the incursion and spread of weeds through the Park. Large-scale weed control 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 Upper 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 having had 2 successive Green Army projects to assist with weed monitoring, removal and habitat restoration.

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

The Friends of Wellington Park 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.

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 carried out a cull of feral goats in the Goat Hills area. The cull occurred outside the Park but the goats would have ranged into the Park. There is also a population of feral goats in the western part of the Park but numbers are not known and there are no plans to control them at present.

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) are established in the area around St Crispins Well on the Pipeline Track and have also been seen near Fern Tree. They are not currently considered a management issue.

Other Activities

Park Boundary Change

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. This, and a number of other proposed boundary changes, require the approval of both houses of Parliament and a revision of the Wellington Park Management Plan. The Trust will pursue the boundary changes in conjunction with the next revision of the Wellington Park Management Plan.

Right to Information

No requests under the *Right to Information Act 2009* were received during 2016-17.

Offers of Gifts and Benefits

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

No gifts or benefits were declared by Trust members or staff during 2016-17.

Work Health and Safety

Work Health and Safety (WHS) Policy and Procedures

The Trust adopted an interim WHS Policy at its meeting on 10 April 2014. A completed set of WHS procedures were endorsed at the Trust meeting on 13 September 2016. Following this the Trust requested WorkSafe Tasmania to review the WHS policy and procedures and a revised WHS Policy and Procedures, incorporating recommended improvements from WorkSafe, was approved by the Trust on 21 September 2017. The WHS Policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust.

The Trust has revised its Working In Wellington Park Induction Kit and it is included in all works permits issued in the Park. The Trust also revised its Field Staff Checklist aimed at informing agency staff and contractors about working safely in the Park and protecting Park values.

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 2016-17

Summary of hazards and incidents

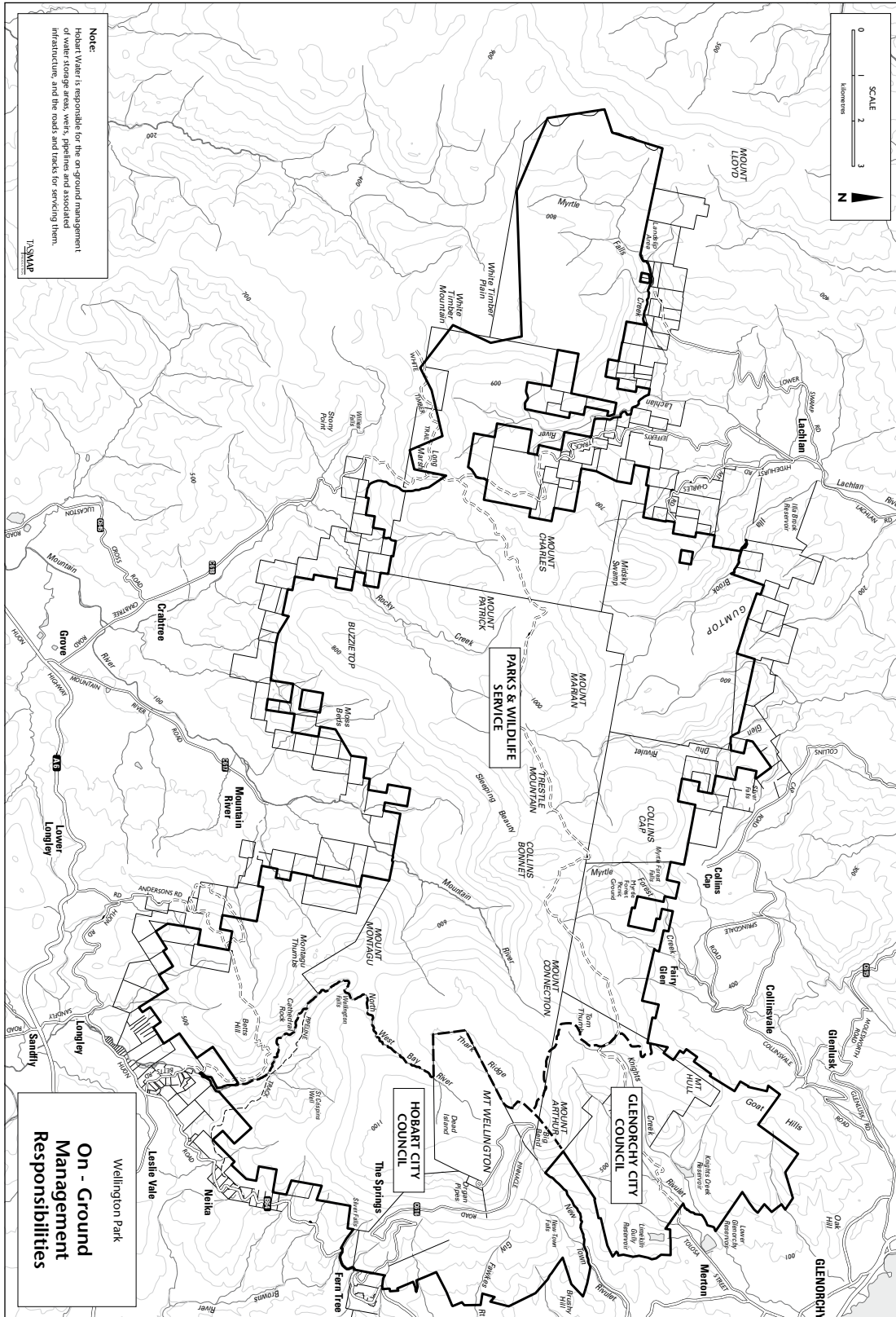
<i>Incident/Hazard</i>	<i>Number reported</i>	
	<i>2016-17</i>	<i>2015-16</i>
Lost time injury	none	none
Hazards identified through incident/near hit reports	none	none
Staff incidents reported	1	6
Visitor incidents reported	5	3
Contractor incidents reported	1	1

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 contractor incident involved a Green Army member suffering an extreme allergic reaction to an insect bite which required an ambulance to attend. The visitor incidents involved injuries that were reported in the media or the Trust Ranger became aware of.

The visitor and contractor incidents reported are only those that Trust staff became aware of as there is currently no process for the agencies that might have information on WHS incidents (Police, Ambulance, Park Management Agencies etc.) reporting them to the Trust.

Appendix 1

Wellington Park – On Ground Management Areas



Appendix 2

Membership of the Wellington Park Management Trust

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

MEMBER	DEPUTY
Chairperson Dr Christine Mucha	(Deputy not provided for in the Act)
Director-General of Lands Dr John Whittington (ex officio)	
Ms Louise Wilson General Manager, Natural and Cultural Heritage, DPIPWE <i>(Nominee of Director General of Lands from 20 January 2017)</i>	Mr Ben Goodsir <i>(from 20 January 2017)</i> Director, Policy and Projects, DPIPWE
Glenorchy City Council Alderman Haydyn Nielsen <i>(Nominee of Glenorchy City Council)</i>	Alderman Stuart Slade
Hobart City Council Alderman Damon Thomas <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	Alderman Eva Ruzicka
Alderman Phillip Cocker <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	Alderman Bill Harvey
TasWater Mr Lance Stapleton <i>Department Manager, System Performance & Productivity (Nominee of CEO TasWater)</i>	Mr Eamon Sullivan <i>Program Manager, Price and Service Plan</i>
Director Parks and Wildlife Service Mr Ashley Rushton Regional Manager Southern Tasmania <i>(Nominee of Director Parks and Wildlife Service)</i>	Mr Shane Breen Southern Regional Operations Manager
Director Tourism Tasmania Ms Rita Warrener Policy and Industry Coordinator <i>(Nominee of Director Tourism Tasmania)</i>	Ms Gill Parssey Manager, Tourism Product and Planning

Notes:

- 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.
- The Glenorchy City Council member and deputy remained members of the Trust following the suspension of the Council by the Minister for Local Government on 8 February 2017. However they have not attended Trust meetings since their suspension.

Appendix 3

Trust Meeting Attendance Record

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

The Trust held 5 scheduled meetings between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017, and one additional short meeting by teleconference.

MEMBER	Meetings Attended	Meetings During Membership
Chairperson		
Dr Christine Mucha	6	6
Director-General of Lands		
Dr John Whittington (<i>Ex officio till 20 January 2017</i>)	1	4
Ms Louise Wilson	2	2
Mr Ben Goodsir (<i>Deputy</i>)	1 (<i>as observer</i>)	2
Glenorchy City Council		
Alderman Haydyn Nielsen	4	4 ^a
Alderman Stuart Slade (<i>Deputy</i>)	0	4 ^a
Hobart City Council		
Alderman Damon Thomas	4	6
Alderman Eva Ruzicka (<i>Deputy to Alderman Thomas</i>)	1	6
Alderman Philip Cocker	4	6
Alderman Bill Harvey (<i>Deputy to Alderman Cocker</i>)	1	6
Southern Water		
Mr Lance Stapleton	6	6
Mr Eamon Sullivan (<i>Deputy</i>)	0	6
Director Parks and Wildlife Service		
Mr Ashley Rushton	4	6
Mr Shane Breen (<i>Deputy</i>)	1 (<i>as observer</i>) 1 (<i>as deputy</i>)	6
Director Tourism Tasmania		
Ms Rita Warrenner	6	6
Ms Gill Parssey (<i>Deputy</i>)	0	6

a) Following the suspension of Glenorchy City Council on 8 February 2017, Aldermen Nielsen and Slade, whilst technically still members of the Trust, have not attended Trust meetings.

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 2016-17 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 2016-17.

Appendix 4

Financial Report 2016 – 2017



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Parliament

Wellington Park Management Trust

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017 and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by the Chairperson.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further 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.

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

...1 of 3

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

Responsibilities 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 the financial reporting requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the members of the Trust are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trust is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament, or the members of the Trust intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members of the Trust.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use by the members' of the Trust of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report.

...2 of 3

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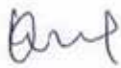
Appendix 4

Financial Report 2016 – 2017

However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the members of the Trust regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Minyan Qiu
Acting Group Leader Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Tasmanian Audit Office

28 September 2017
Hobart

...3 of 3

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Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30th June 2017

	Note	2016/17 \$	2015/16 \$
REVENUE			
GGrants - State Government	6	117,500	117,500
Grants - Other	6	164,243	169,107
Interest		5,461	7,055
Fines		532	
Other		3,217	2,594
Total Revenue		290,953	296,256
EXPENSES			
Park Administration			
Advertising		350	381
Audit Fees		4,740	4,710
Chairman Honorarium		8,000	8,000
Contractors and Consultants		21,150	6,743
Hobart City Council Administrative Support	5	28,557	28,191
Bad & Doubtful Debts		200	
Depreciation		4,456	4,535
Donations		500	
Employee Costs - Management		113,924	116,725
Employee Costs - Regulations Awareness		72,740	69,211
Miscellaneous		8,549	11,504
Sitting Fees		2,360	1,860
Stationery		1,802	2,201
Vehicle Expenses		9,852	8,543
Cultural Heritage Officer		23,646	18,560
Website Maintenance		1,356	1,986
		302,182	283,150
Management Strategies			
Fem Tree Master Plan		6,450	
Multi-Day Walk		1,750	12,739
Website Development			7,750
Epic Track			2,120
		8,200	22,609
Park Management			
Mount Wellington Book		266	
		266	
Total Expenses		310,648	305,759
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		(19,695)	(9,503)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Comprehensive Result		(19,695)	(9,503)

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

Statement of Changes In Equity As At 30th June 2017

	Note	2016/17 \$	2015/16 \$
Balance at beginning of period		304,131	313,634
Comprehensive Result		(19,695)	(9,503)
Balance at end of period		284,436	304,131

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

Statement of Financial Position As At 30th June 2017

	Note	2016/17 \$	2015/16 \$
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash	7	291,324	304,616
Stock on Hand		6,664	6,930
Receivables		3,189	1,431
		301,177	312,977
Non-Current			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		33,433	33,433
Less Accumulated Depreciation		10,976	6,520
		22,457	26,913
TOTAL ASSETS		323,634	339,890
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Employee Benefits Payables		16,972	18,365
		16,814	12,719
		33,786	31,084
Non-Current			
Employee Benefits		5,412	4,675
		5,412	4,675
TOTAL LIABILITIES		39,198	35,759
NET ASSETS		284,436	304,131
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		284,436	304,131
TOTAL EQUITY		284,436	304,131

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

Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30th June 2017

	Note	2016/17 \$	2015/16 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Grants - State Government		118,250	118,250
Grants - Other		144,823	149,936
Interest		5,508	7,126
Other		7,770	4,422
		<u>276,351</u>	<u>279,734</u>
Payments			
Employee and Contracted Services Costs		257,716	264,405
Other		31,927	27,700
		<u>289,643</u>	<u>292,105</u>
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	4	(13,292)	(12,371)
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD			
Opening Cash Balance		304,616	316,987
Closing Cash Balance		<u>291,324</u>	<u>304,616</u>

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 2017

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 Preparation

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 2016/17 Other Revenue consisted of book and DVD sales, fines, 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 comprise 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 are 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 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 are 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 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Sector Entities. The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures to include not-for-profit sector entities. This has resulted in increased disclosures in Notes 11 and 12

AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures for Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities. 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. This standard has no impact because the Trust's property, plant and equipment are measured at cost rather than fair value.

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 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.

All other Australian accounting standards and interpretations with future effective dates are either not applicable to the Trust's activities or have no material impact.

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

	2016/17	2015/16
	\$	\$
Surplus / (Deficit)	(19,695)	9,503
Add back Depreciation	4,456	4,535
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	(1,758)	(1,142)
(Increase) / Decrease in Stock	266	0
Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits	(656)	3,984
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	4,095	(10,245)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	(13,292)	(12,371)

In 2016/17 the Trust has recorded a Deficit due to expenditure of Grant money which had been received in prior years – in particular the expenditure of funds associated with business management consultants for Risk Assessment and a Strategic Review and additional funds from prior years expended on the Fern Tree Park Visitor Node Master Plan.

The increase in Payables reflects an increase in trade creditors due at 30 June 2017.

5. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TRUST MEMBER AGENCIES

In 2016/17 Trust member agency, the Hobart City Council, continued 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 \$28,557 for which the Hobart City Council provided an equal and offsetting financial contribution. Both the cost and grant have been recorded in the 2016/17 Financial Statements.

6. GRANTS

	2016/17	2015/16
	\$	\$
Grants - State Government		
Park Administration	117,500	117,500
	<u>117,500</u>	<u>117,500</u>
Grants - Other		
Fire Management Officer	21,101	20,831
Regulations Awareness Officer	76,274	75,296
Website Development	3,886	3,836
Cultural Heritage Officer	27,464	27,112
Interpretation	6,961	6,871
Fern Tree Master Plan	-	4,850
Epic Mountain Bike Track	-	2,120
Administration/Technical Support	28,557	28,191
	<u>164,243</u>	<u>169,107</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 \$164,243 comprises the following contributions: \$72,869 from the Hobart City Council, \$59,428 from TasWater and \$31,946 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 2017, the Trust is required to expend \$123,285 of its cash balance in the manner specified by the terms of these grants. These amounts being made up of:

Restricted Cash	
Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund	76,000
Springs Master Plan	15,000
Multi-Day Walk	2,407
Website Development	7,158
Sustainable Transport System	15,000
Visitor Research	7,720
	<u>123,285</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 \$2,913 (2016 \$3,046). A decrease in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would result in a loss and a decrease to equity of \$2,913 (2016 \$3,046). This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2016.

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	20-Oct-15	31 May 2017 Tenure extended for 6 months
Ms Louise Wilson	DPIPWE	Member	20 –Jan-17	20 –Jan-20
Dr John Whittington	DPIPWE	Member	Ex officio	now represented by nominee Louise Wilson appointed on 20 –Jan-17
Ald Haydyn Nielsen	GCC	Member	01-Jan-2016	31-Dec-18 (not able to carry out the duties of a member following suspension from GCC on 08-Feb-17)
Ald Damon Thomas	HCC	Member	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17
Ald Philip Cocker	HCC	Member	01-Jan-16	31-Dec-18
Mr Lance Stapleton	TasWater	Member	20-Oct-15	19-Oct-18
Mr Ashley Rushton	PWS	Member	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17(reappointment in progress)
Ms Rita Warrenner	Tourism Tas	Member	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-17(reappointment in progress)
Trust Deputy Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Ben Goodsir	DPIPWE	Deputy	20-Jan-17	20-Jan-20
Ald Stuart Slade	GCC	Deputy	01-Jan-15	31-Dec-17 (not able to carry out the duties of a deputy member following suspension from GCC on 08-Feb-17)
Mr Eamon Sullivan	TasWater	Deputy	20-Oct-15	19-Oct-18
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
Manager: Axel von Krusenstierna				24/2/2014 - current

b) Key Management Personnel Compensation

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

	2016/17 \$	2015/16 \$
Short-term employee benefits	101,669	104,557
Post-employment benefits	9,816	9,933
Chairman Honorarium	8,000	8,000
Sitting fees	2,360	1,860
	121,845	124,350

Short-term employee benefits represent wage related benefits paid, payable or provided by the Trust to the Trust Manager while in the employ of the Trust. Post-employment benefits include superannuation paid or payable by the Trust for the Trust Manager while in the employ of the Trust. Amounts are calculated on an accruals basis.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

a) Transactions with other related parties

The Trust has no material related party transactions with other related parties.

b) Loans and guarantees to/from related parties

The Trust has not entered into any loans or guarantees with related parties.

c) Commitments to/from related parties

The Trust has not entered into any commitments with related parties.

d) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed

Most of the entities and people that are related parties of the Trust live within greater Hobart. Therefore, on a regular basis, ordinary citizen transactions occur between the Trust and its related parties. Some examples are:-

- Permit Application Fees
- Licence fees
- Fines for breaches of Wellington Park Regulations

The Trust has not included these types of transactions in its disclosure where they occur on the same terms and conditions as those available to the general public.

The Trust has made full disclosure in the financial report of information concerning related party transactions in accordance with the Applicable Australian Accounting Standards and/or legislative requirements.

Certification

The accompanying financial statements of the Wellington Park Management Trust are in agreement with the relevant accounts, and records have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2017 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: 14 August 2017

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 Hobart City Council, Rejuvenation of the Organ Pipes Track