

# Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | 2019 – 2020



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

**Hon Roger Jaensch MP**  
**Minister for Environment and Parks**

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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 2020.

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: 2019–2020

## Major Planning Initiatives

During 2019-20 the Trust commenced work on a comprehensive Visitation and Recreation Strategy for Wellington Park. Preparation of the Strategy is the highest priority initiative in the Trust's Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2021, and an important action in the Wellington Park Management Plan 2013. The Strategy will guide the sustainable provision and management of visitor services and facilities. The initial round of data collection and community and stakeholder consultation has been completed. A draft Strategy is scheduled to be released by December 2020 and completed by June 2021.

## Park Closure due to COVID-19

Wellington Park was closed to the public on 27 March by a Direction from the State Controller under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. There were exemptions to allow maintenance and other works to continue during the closure and for Fern Tree residents to access the section of the Pipeline Track between Huon Road at Fern Tree and Clegg Road. In accordance with State Government directives the Park was partially re-opened on 11 May for persons living within 30 km of the Park for exercise only. The Fern Tree Park picnic area remained closed and Pinnacle Road remained closed to public vehicles. The Park fully re-opened on 5 June, however Pinnacle Road remained closed until 7 June due to snow and ice on the road.

## Visitation

The Tasmania Visitor Survey (TVS) recorded 341699 interstate and overseas visitors aged 14 years or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between April 2019 and March 2020 (the survey was suspended at the end of March due to COVID-19 travel restrictions). This was a 4.5% increase on the corresponding period in the previous year. The TVS does not include visitors who arrive on cruise ships or Hobart residents and other Tasmanians who visit the Park.

Overall visitation is difficult to quantify due to the large number of entry points and the fact that the Park directly

adjoins Hobart suburbs and other popular reserves. Analysis of visitation data from various sources for the Visitation and Recreation Strategy shows that visitation to kunanyi / Mount Wellington has grown over the past decade at a rate of around 3% to 4% annually.

The total number of visitors to kunanyi / Mount Wellington arriving by car (and bus) averaged around 410,000 per year for the period 2007 to 2014 and then jumped to an average of 610,000 per annum for the period 2016 to 2019. Peak annual visitation occurred in 2019, with an estimated 633,000 visitors arriving via Pinnacle Road in that year.

In the period 2007 to 2014 approximately 88% of visitors arrived by car and 12% by bus (12 seater or larger). In 2019 the percentage arriving by car as opposed to bus had increased slightly to 92%.

Random on site monitoring over the summer of 2019-20 indicated that about 60% of the cars in the car park at The Pinnacle were hire cars.

When the Park re-opened for exercise only on 11 May after the COVID-19 shut down it was heavily used by Hobart residents. This continued with the full re-opening of the Park on 5 June.

Around 320 mm of rain between 22 and 24 June filled Disappearing Tarn, a depression in a boulder field on the Wellington Falls Track. This feature only holds water for a short period after heavy rain with the water slowly draining away through the boulder field. Visitors publicised the Tarn on social media and this was picked up and publicised in the print, radio and television media. Hobart City Council estimated that roughly 7000 people accessed the Tarn from The Springs over the seven days between 24 June and 1 July. The number of visitors trying to access the Tarn far exceeded the parking capacity at The Springs, particularly on the weekend of 28 and 29 June.

The highest ever visitation to the Park was recorded on the weekend of 8 and 9 August after the first big snow fall of winter.

The Visitation and Recreation Strategy will develop monitoring systems and processes to more accurately capture the full picture of visitation within the Park.

## Infrastructure Planning

Using State Government funding Hobart City Council prepared a mountain bike network plan for the area below the North South Track and Glenorchy City Council started work on a master plan for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park. Both projects include land outside Wellington Park. The Trust has worked closely with the agencies developing the plans to ensure they will be compatible with the Visitation and Recreation Strategy.

The revision of the master plan for the Springs Specific Area was suspended during 2019-20 while Hobart City Council considered the feasibility of constructing visitor entry facilities outside the Park at Halls Saddle.

## Partnership Agreements

The Trust has long-established Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the agencies that own land, or manage assets, in Wellington Park (Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Parks and Wildlife Service and TasWater). The Trust's MoU with TasWater was renewed during 2019-20 and negotiations to renew the MoU with the Parks and Wildlife Service, which ended on 30 June 2019, were carried out during 2019-20.

During 2019-20 the Trust resolved to become a signatory to the Litter and Dumping Management System (LaDMS) MoU between the Environment Protection Authority, Department of Justice and Local and State Government land managers.

The Trust also commenced negotiations to establish a MoU with the University of Tasmania to provide a basis for collaboration on research and learning opportunities for undergraduate and post-graduate students.

## Visitor and Facility 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.

Works to benefit Park users included:

- Completion of the upgrade of the Fern Tree Park Visitor Entry Node including new toilets, new picnic and playground facilities and a formal car parking area at the start of the Fern Glade Track.
- Repair of storm damage to walking and shared use tracks including the lower section of the Zig Zag Track and the Myrtle Forest Track.
- Upgrade of foot bridges on the Betts Vale and Fern Glade Tracks.
- Repair and upgrade of the Cathedral Rock Track including new signage.
- Maintenance and repairs to the tracks in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park by Glenorchy City Council.
- Various other walking track improvements including hardening of wet areas and clearing encroaching vegetation.
- Parking space marking and signage on the loop road at the upper Springs.
- Refurbishment of the toilets at The Pinnacle.
- Replacement of wayfinding signs on the Mount Connection Track.
- Installation of wheel stops in the overflow car park at The Springs.
- Erection of new wayfinding and regulatory signs on the Stumpside Track, Pitfall Track and Drops Track.
- Erection of new wayfinding signs in the Mount Montagu area.
- Revising and reprinting the popular Wellington Park walking track brochure.

In September 2020, there were 137 businesses licensed to conduct commercial operations in the Park, a substantial decrease on the 248 the previous financial year. Some operators have left the industry due to COVID-19 restrictions and others have advised the PWS that they no longer visit the Park. 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.

## *Work Health and Safety*

During 2019-20 there have been no notifiable or lost time injuries to Trust staff. The Trust's Work Health and Safety Policy and Procedures including the risk management register were reviewed and revised procedures, including a COVID-19 Safety Plan, approved by the Trust at its meeting in September 2020.

## *Visitor Risk Management*

The Trust has approved a visitor risk management policy statement and strategy and is currently developing the framework for implementing it in the Park. In the interim the Trust and Park Management Agencies have sought to improve visitor awareness of the hazards they may encounter in the Park and advise them how to prepare for a safe visit to the Park. Visitors have been advised to maintain social distancing while in the Park since it reopened following the COVID-19 closure.

## *Pinnacle Road Closures*

Hobart City Council operates a proactive strategy for closing Pinnacle Road when conditions are unsafe for users due to snow and/or ice. Closures are triggered by overnight temperature forecasts provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. Closures may also be required to manage peak visitation events when the number of vehicles entering the Park exceeds the number of parking spaces. It has been estimated that congestion starts to occur on Pinnacle Road when the number of vehicles entering the Park exceeds 950 per day. Over the past 12 years, this 'threshold' of 950 vehicles per day has been exceeded on 106 days.

## *Events*

During 2019-20 the Park was used for two privately organised trail running events that each attracted over 100 participants, the annual pub to Pinnacle bike race and a round of the Tasmanian gravity enduro mountain bike race series. There have also been a number of smaller mountain bike events in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

The annual Point to Pinnacle fun run had to be diverted away from the Park due to snow at The Pinnacle.

## *Heritage Protection*

The Trust continued, in conjunction with the Park Management Agencies, to develop a policy framework for the management of the extant historic bush huts in Wellington Park which do not receive regular visitation. One hut continues to be temporarily closed due to safety issues, with routine and structural monitoring also continuing at selected huts. These measures are assisting the Trust to manage the huts for safe use while also protecting their heritage values.

The other main heritage conservation project undertaken in 2019-20 was a review of the conservation needs of, and long term management policy for, the Smiths Monument on South Wellington that dates to 1858. Ongoing consultation by the Trust and Hobart City Council with the Hobart Walking Club (who raised the matter), the Freemasons (who erected the monument) and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, who kindly provided materials conservation advice, resulted in agreement on the future conservation management of the monument, which will be put into action in 2020-21.

The Trust continued its heritage coordination role. This included liaison with community groups with a cultural heritage interest (as required); regular liaison with the heritage staff of the Park Management Agencies; provision of heritage inductions (as needed); and the centralised management of cultural heritage data. In 2019-20 two new historic heritage sites were added to the historic heritage inventory.

In 2019-20 the Trust also continued its ongoing heritage conservation initiatives including: the routine structural and general condition monitoring of historic huts; coordination of the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Advisory Group; and 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, who contribute historical and other site information to the Trust. Specific site conservation management in 2019-20 included removal of three geocaches from heritage sensitive locations, and documentation and rehabilitation of vandalism at one historic hut site.

There were 15 enquires about the history and heritage of the Park from the public, and 24 heritage inspections and assessments required for new developments and works that will potentially impact on the Park's heritage

sites and precincts. Most of the new proposed works and development is being undertaken by the Park Management Agencies, predominantly the Hobart City Council.

No specific Aboriginal heritage management work was undertaken by the Trust in 2019-20

## *Regulations Awareness Program*

During 2019-20 11 new Authorised Officers were trained and the Trust established a Regulations Awareness Advisory Group (RAAG) to assist the Trust's Education and Regulations Coordinator with the Regulations Awareness Program. The RAAG meets approximately five times a year.

A total of 607 offences were recorded from offence reports or motion sensor camera footage. This includes 369 instances of a person contravening a no-access sign (Park Closed) during the period the Park was closed to visitors as part of the State Government's COVID-19 control measures. Eight informal cautions were issued, two conditional cautions and three Prescribed Infringement Notices. The remaining offenders could not be identified.

There were 29 dog-related offences detected compared with 18 in 2018-19 and 19 in 2017-18. These included 10 for walking a dog on a track where dog walking is not permitted and 19 for not having a dog on a lead. There were 90 recorded instances of mountain bike riding on walking only tracks compared to 81 in 2018-19 and 42 in 2017-18. Although the increasing trend may reflect the Trust's increasing use of surveillance cameras, these are on-going problems that are being targeted through education using the new Track Users Code, engagement with user groups and enforcement.

There were 118 offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use (motorcycle, quad bike or 4WD) detected compared with 19 during 2018-19. Two offenders received conditional cautions, three received an informal caution and two received a Prescribed Infringement Notice. The remaining offenders could not be identified and/or were unable to be communicated with. Detections were mostly by motion sensor cameras.

The use of hidden motion sensor cameras has improved the Trust's ability to detect offences. Although they may not always provide enough information to identify the persons involved, they allow the Education and Regulations Coordinator to identify and target problem areas.

There were eight instances of vandalism recorded in 2019-20 including three instances of sign defacement, and five instances of damaging or destroying signage, gates or locks.

## *Fire Management*

No bushfires occurred in the Park during 2019-20. Two planned burns were completed; one in the Glenorchy City Council management area (46 ha) and the other in the Hobart City Council management area (57 ha). Fuel breaks within the Park were maintained and Hobart City Council completed clearing a new fuel break along the Park boundary with residential properties at Fern Tree. General fire management activities are carried out by Park Management Agencies in accordance with the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy (2006) currently undergoing a major revision.

Further repairs to fire trails damaged during the severe weather event on 10 May 2018 were carried out during 2019-20. Major repair work on Big Bend Trail was started in March 2020 but was suspended due to wet conditions over winter. Initial repairs of the East West Trail, Ringwood Trail and Collins Cap Trail have been completed with further works planned for 2020-21.

The Wellington Park Bushfire Management Working Group provides a forum for information sharing, and allows agencies to plan co-operatively for fire management and operational issues. 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. Neither of the meetings of the working group scheduled for 2019-20 were held due to the early onset of the bushfire season and later COVID-19 restrictions.

The Trust, in consultation with the Park Management Agencies, revised its Emergency Closure Policy and Procedures for Wellington Park including a revised trigger for precautionary closures due to bushfire danger. Under the new policy the Park is closed when the Fire Danger Rating is Severe (Forest Fire Danger Index of 50) or greater in the Bureau of Meteorology's South East or Upper Derwent forecast areas for at least three hours. During 2019-20 the Park was closed for three days under this policy.

## *Volunteer Participation*

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Volunteer bushcare groups continued to assist the Park Management Agencies with weed control in the Park during 2019-20.

A clean up Australia Day team organised by Hobart City Council worked in the Pinnacle area; 105 volunteers participated and collected 145 kg of rubbish.

The Trust is particularly grateful to the volunteers who have done so much to control weeds and remove rubbish in the Park.

## *Community Involvement*

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Activities included:

- Ongoing community involvement in the Regulations Awareness Program and educational activities, including promotional events, interpretation walks and school presentations.
- 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, and a focus on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.
- 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 about the values of the Park and their management by the Education and Regulations Coordinator to a variety of school and university 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 the City of Hobart 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 for the Park.

During 2019-20, the Act was administered by the Honourable Peter Gutwein, MP, as Minister for the Environment, Parks and Heritage until 28 January 2020 and then by the Honourable Roger Jaensch, MP, as 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 Regulations*

Section 79 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* provides for the making of regulations for the purposes of the Act and prescribes the provisions that the regulations may and may not include. The regulations are remade every 10 years. The current *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* came into force on 27 March 2019.

## 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.

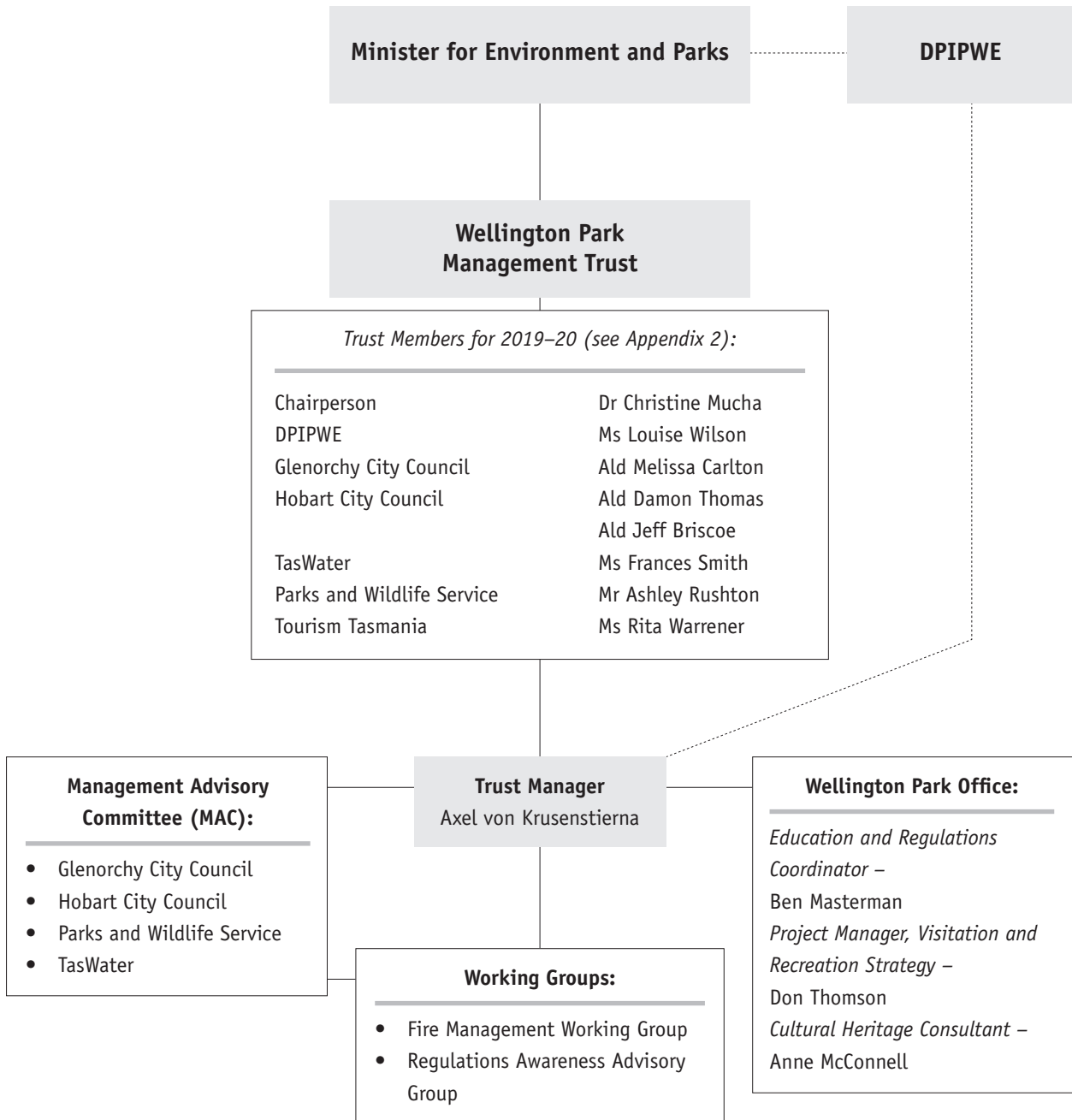
## Mission

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 Hobart City Council, and strategic and technical support from all Trust member agencies as required.

The Trust Manager is supported by the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) which includes representatives of the Park's four 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 nominee); the Director of National Parks and Wildlife and the chief executive officer of 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 State 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 a meeting attendance record for the year are provided in Appendices 2 and 3.

Clause 5 of Schedule 3 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* provides for the appointment of a deputy of each member of the Trust, except the Chairperson. If a member of the Trust is unable for any reason to perform the duties of a member, the member's deputy may perform those duties and, when doing so, is deemed to be a member.

During 2019-20 one of the deputy nominees of Hobart City Council, Alderman Tanya Denison, resigned from Council. Councillor Will Coats was appointed as her replacement on 23 September 2020. The deputy nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, Ms Jen Fry, resigned her position with the Parks and Wildlife Service and was replaced by Ms Alice Holeywell-Jones. The member nominee of TasWater, Mr Lance Stapleton, resigned his position as a member of the Trust and was replaced by Ms Frances Smith. The nominee of the Director-General of Lands, Ms Louise Wilson, and her deputy, Mr Ben Goodsir, were both re-appointed during 2019-20.

## Trust Meetings

The Trust holds five scheduled meetings each year with the dates decided at the beginning of each year. The Trust may also hold additional meetings to deal with issues that require a quick decision. During 2019-20 there were five scheduled meetings and one additional meeting. Appendix 3 summarises the meeting attendance record of each member and deputy member for the six meetings during 2019-20.

Trust meetings, particularly short additional meetings, may be held partly or completely by teleconference or videoconference. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Trust meeting on 8 April 2020 was held entirely by teleconference. Trust meeting minutes are made available to the public on the Wellington Park website following approval by the Trust at the subsequent meeting.

## Governance Policy and Procedures

The functions of the Trust and the roles and responsibilities of its members are described in the Trust's Governance Policy and Procedures, first approved in 2016-17 and reviewed every two years. The Governance Policy also covers general governance and meeting processes.

## Disclosure of Interest

In accordance with the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and the Trust's Governance Policy, Trust members (and deputies) have an ongoing duty to disclose any direct or indirect interest, or related party interests, whether pecuniary or otherwise, they have in a matter being considered, or about to be considered, by the Trust as soon as it arises. Any disclosures of interest are recorded in the minutes of the meeting and, unless the Trust otherwise determines, the member must not be present during any deliberation or decision of the Trust with respect to that matter.

Disclosures of interests in Trust agenda items at Trust meetings during 2019-20 are noted in Appendix 3.

## Risk Management

The Trust approved a Strategic Risk Management Policy and Framework on 21 September 2017. The Risk Management Policy and Framework identifies the organisational risks that could affect the key functions of the Trust. A risk register was also developed to analyse identified risks and determine the controls that will be



implemented to ensure risks are either minimised or there are effective strategies in place to manage them.

During 2019-20 the Trust commenced a major review of the Risk Management Policy focusing on the risk management framework and risk register. This included a facilitated workshop for members and deputy members to examine the risk register and determine the Trust's risk appetite. At its meeting in April 2020 the Trust approved a revised Strategic Risk Management Policy with further review of the risk management framework and risk register required.

## 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.

In June 2019 the Trust engaged Dr Don Thomson to manage preparation of a comprehensive and sustainable Visitation and Recreation Strategy for Wellington Park. Dr Thomson commenced his employment on 2 July 2019.

During 2019-20 staff in the WPO consisted of:

- Mr Axel von Krusenstierna – Manager (FTE 1)
- Mr Ben Masterman – Education and Regulations Coordinator (FTE 0.9)
- Dr Don Thomson – Project Manager, Visitation and Recreation Strategy (FTE 0.6)

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

The Education and Regulations Coordinator works closely with, and receives operational support from, the Parks and Wildlife Service and Park Management Agency Authorised Officers.

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 regular supervision meetings between the Manager and Trust staff, and at office team meetings approximately every two 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 2019-20 there have been no notifiable or lost time injuries to Trust staff. WHS incidents for the year are summarised on page 32.

Human resources policies are reviewed and revised every two years.

## Park Management Agencies

The Park Management Agencies are Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service and TasWater. The first three 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 Wellington Park 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.

The Trust's MoU with TasWater was renewed during 2019-20 and negotiations to renew the MoU with the Parks and Wildlife Service, which ended on 30 June 2019, were carried out during 2019-20.

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

During 2019-20 the Trust resolved to become a signatory to the Litter and Dumping Management System (LaDMS) MoU between the Environment Protection Authority, Department of Justice and Local and State Government land managers.

The Trust also commenced negotiations to establish a MoU with the University of Tasmania to provide a basis for collaboration on research and learning opportunities for undergraduate and post-graduate students. This will improve the Trust's knowledge about the natural values in

the Park and provide access to academic expertise in Park management. The MoU was signed at a small ceremony at The Springs in October 2020.

## *Park Management Committees and Working Groups*

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 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 is sent meeting agendas and may attend if there are issues it wishes to provide advice on. The MAC meets approximately three weeks before each scheduled Trust meeting but may be consulted at other times.

During 2019-20 the Trust established a Regulations Awareness Advisory Group (RAAG) to assist the Trust's Education and Regulations Coordinator with the Regulations Awareness Program. The RAAG meets approximately five times a year.

Other issue-specific working groups and steering committees are formed on a needs basis by the Manager. During 2019-20 these included steering committees to guide the preparation of a Visitation and Recreation Strategy for the Park and a Management Policy Framework for historic bush huts in the Park. These committees include representatives of Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Due to a busy bushfire season and subsequent COVID-19 restrictions, the Bushfire Management Working Group did not meet during 2019-20.

## 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, Hobart Fire Management Area Committee and Southern Fire Management Area Committee. The Trust Manager represented the Trust on the Greater Hobart Recovery Committee formed to coordinate the response to the floods on 10 May 2018 until the committee was wound up in August 2019.

## Financial Resources

The State Government's recurrent financial contribution to the Trust is supplied via the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

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 Education and Regulations Coordinator and consultant Cultural Heritage Coordinator 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 DPIPW 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, fines 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 2019-20 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.

## 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, Trackcare and Landcare groups voluntarily undertaking land management activities in the Park, and the volunteers who assist in maintenance of the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

When required the Trust establishes and facilitates internal reference committees and working groups to implement its participatory planning approach, and is also represented on relevant external community committees.

## Strategic Plan

The Trust continues to implement the program set out in its five year Strategic Plan approved in February 2017. 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*.

# 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 was amended in October 2015 to increase the size of the Pinnacle Specific Area.

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).

## *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 2019-20 the following proposed works in the Park were assessed under LUPAA:

Assessed by Glenorchy City Council;

- New design for drainage remedial works at the Junction of Knights Creek Trail and Chapel Fire Trail.
- Extraction of gravel for use in fire trail maintenance from a disused quarry near Knights Creek Dam and subsequent rehabilitation of the site.

Assessed by Hobart City Council;

- Extension of the Lost Freight Café at The Springs.

All these proposals were approved by the respective Councils and the Trust.

In accordance with section 8.5.5 of the Wellington Park Management Plan the Trust received a referral of a planning permit application for a cableway and associated facilities, infrastructure and work. The Trust provided Council with a response noting that it had not received an application for a permit under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*, for the portion of the proposed development in Wellington Park.

## *Major Planning Initiatives*

### **Fern Tree Park Visitor Entry 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 master plan was endorsed by Hobart City Council on 11 May 2017 and by the Trust at its meeting on 2 August 2017. The Trust provided a permit for the portion of the works to implement the master plan that are within Wellington Park on 6 July 2018. Stage 1 of the works was completed in November 2019. Stage 2 of the works is now complete except for wayfinding, regulatory and interpretation signage.

### **Springs Specific Area Master Plan**

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.” Hobart City Council and the Trust 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. The revision of the master plan was suspended during 2019-20 while Council considered the feasibility of constructing visitor entry facilities outside the Park at Halls Saddle.

## Project Approvals

The Wellington Park Management Plan provides for 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 2019* 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 2019-20:

- New design for drainage remedial works at the Junction of Knights Creek Trail and Chapel Fire Trail.
  - Extraction of gravel for use in fire trail maintenance from a disused quarry near Knights Creek Dam and subsequent rehabilitation of the site.
  - Extension of the Lost Freight Café at The Springs.
  - Repair of damage to Knights Creek Track caused by the storm event in May 2018 including the crossing over Knights Creek.
  - Repair of damage to drainage on Native Cherry Fire Trail caused by the storm event in May 2018.
  - Repairs to Big Bend Trail.
  - Upgrade of two timber bridges on Fern Glade Track.
  - Repair of damage to a creek crossing on the Lenah Valley Fire Trail caused by the storm event in May 2018.
  - Repair and upgrade of the Middle Island Fire Trail.
  - Upgrade of the foot bridge on the Betts Vale Track at O’Gradys Falls.
  - Decommissioning and replacement of the septic tank at The Springs.
  - Repair of damage to the lower section of the Zig Zag Track caused by the storm event in May 2018.
- Permits for minor works that did not require a PAA included:
- Repairs to the Inglewood Fire Trail
  - Tree removal along Pinnacle Road to improve sight lines and sunlight penetration during winter.
  - Maintenance of a private access road to a private property within the Park at Moss Beds.
  - Repainting of gates on Pinnacle Road.
  - Repair and upgrade of the Cathedral Rock Track including new signage.
  - Park space marking and signage on the loop road at the upper Springs.
  - Repair of storm damage to various walking and shared use tracks in the Hobart City Council management area.
  - Refurbishment of the toilets at The Pinnacle.
  - Installation of a temporary toilet block during refurbishment of the toilets at The Pinnacle.
  - Repair of storm damage to Myrtle Forest Track.
  - Repair of a damaged culvert on the Myrtle Forest access road.
  - Replacement of wayfinding signs on the Mount Connection Track.
  - Removal of sediment and other debris from Merton Weir.
  - Repair of storm damage to various fire trails in the Hobart City Council management area.
  - Repair and maintenance of the East West Trail.
  - Installation of a new vehicle gate on the upper section of Montrose Trail.
  - Installation of posts for track counters on the Zig Zag Track and The Pinnacle access track.
  - Temporary signage for trail running events.

- Maintenance of Merton Fire Trail and Priest Fire Trail.
- Decommissioning and removal of a foot bridge on the Circle Track.
- Erection of safety warning signs at the Pinnacle trig station.
- Installation of wheel stops in the overflow car park at The Springs.
- Erection of new wayfinding and regulatory signs on the Stumpsie Track, Pitfall Track and Drops Track.
- Erection of new wayfinding signs in the Mount Montagu area.

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

### **Approval to Issue a Licence**

In accordance with section 32 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*, the Trust approved the issuing by the Hobart City Council of a revised lease for the Lost Freight Café at The Springs.

# 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 341,699 interstate and overseas visitors aged 14 years or older visiting kunanyi / Mount Wellington between April 2019 and March 2020. This is a 4.5% increase on the corresponding period in the previous year. Due to the border restrictions that came into effect in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TVS survey was suspended for the remainder of 2020. The TVS 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.

Overall visitation is difficult to quantify due to the large number of entry points and the fact that the Park directly adjoins Hobart suburbs and other popular reserves. Analysis of visitation data from various sources for the Visitation and Recreation Strategy shows that visitation to kunanyi / Mount Wellington has grown over the past decade at a rate of around 3% to 4% annually.

The total number of visitors to kunanyi / Mount Wellington arriving by car (and bus) averaged around 410,000 per year for the period 2007 to 2014 and then jumped to an average of 610,000 per annum for the period 2016 to 2019. Peak annual visitation occurred in 2019, with an estimated 633,000 visitors arriving via Pinnacle Road in that year. This figure was derived by combining a vehicle occupancy rate, determined from traffic sampling, with the number of vehicles passing the Hobart City Council's vehicle counter on Pinnacle Road at the entrance of the Park.

In the period 2007 to 2014 approximately 88% of visitors arrived by car and 12% by bus (12 seater or larger). In 2019 the percentage arriving by car as opposed to bus had increased slightly to 92%.

Random on site monitoring over the summer of 2019-20 indicated that about 60% of the cars in the car park at The Pinnacle were hire cars.

The Visitation and Recreation Strategy will develop monitoring systems and processes to more accurately capture the full picture of visitation within the Park.

## Park Closure due to COVID-19

Wellington Park was closed to the public on 27 March 2020 by a Direction from the State Controller under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*. There were exemptions to allow maintenance and other works to continue during the closure and for Fern Tree residents to access the section of the Pipeline Track between Huon Road at Fern Tree and Clegg Road. In accordance with State Government directives the Park was partially re-opened on 11 May for persons living within 30 km of the Park for exercise only. The Fern Tree Park picnic area remained closed and Pinnacle Road remained closed to public vehicles. The Park fully re-opened on 5 June, however Pinnacle Road remained closed until 7 June due to snow and ice on the road. Signage regarding physical distancing requirements was placed at major entry points and track heads.

When the Park re-opened on 11 May after the COVID-19 shut down it was heavily used by Hobart residents. This continued with the full re-opening of the Park on 5 June with the highest number of vehicles recorded entering the Park in the last 12 years being on 8 August 2020 (1736 vehicles) and the third highest number on 9 August 2020 (1541 vehicles).

## Disappearing Tarn

Wellington Park experienced a major rainfall event between 22 and 24 June 2020 during which kunanyi / Mount Wellington received around 320 mm of rain. However, as this rain fell over 3 days, there was no significant damage to Park infrastructure. However, this rainfall filled Disappearing Tarn, a depression in a boulder field on the Wellington Falls Track. This feature only holds water for a short period after heavy rain with the water slowly draining away through the boulder field. On this occasion the Tarn filled to capacity. Visitors publicised the Tarn on social media and this was picked up and publicised in the local print, radio and television media. It was also picked up by some interstate and overseas media. Consequently there was unprecedented visitation to the Tarn peaking on the weekend of 28 and 29 June.

Hobart City Council estimated that roughly 7000 people accessed the Tarn from the Springs over the 7 days between 24 June and 1 July. Although this is the main route to the Tarn, visitors will have also walked there by other routes. Subsequent inspections of the area around the Tarn and the track from The Springs found minimal litter or damage to vegetation. Although parts of the track to the Tarn became muddy and slippery there was no substantial damage. The major management problem was parking at The Springs on the weekend of 28 and 29 June when 846 vehicles entered the Park on 27 June and 980 on 28 June. The number of visitors trying to access the Tarn far exceeded the parking capacity at The Springs which resulted in some illegal parking for which HCC issued infringement notices.

Disappearing Tarn filled again after 100.6 mm of rain over 16 and 17 August 2020 but did not attract large crowds of visitors.

## *Visitation and Recreation Strategy (VRS)*

At the beginning of 2019-20 the Trust commenced preparation of a comprehensive Visitation and Recreation Strategy (VRS) for Wellington Park. This is the highest priority initiative in the Trust's Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2021, and an important action in the Wellington Park Management Plan 2013. The Parks and Wildlife Service provided a grant to allow the Trust to employ a project manager for the Strategy. A draft VRS is scheduled to be released by December 2020 and completed by June 2021.

The VRS will guide planning and development to cater for the existing and future needs of Park users and visitors. It will set out a management approach to providing a high quality and satisfying visitor experience that is environmentally and socially sustainable and ensures the protection of Park values into the future.

The VRS will identify the tourism and recreation needs and opportunities that can be sustainably provided in the Park, and provide recommendations and actions to realise these opportunities for the next 10 years.

Development of the VRS is being guided by a steering committee of experienced officers from Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

A 'co-design' approach has been adopted for the VRS, maximising the opportunities for landowners, community, business and government agencies to be engaged in the

development of the Strategy. The planning process will utilise an 'adaptive management' approach, which will see management options and infrastructure changes trialled and evaluated over the next two years. The participatory design of the planning process will maximise community and landowner ownership of the outcomes of the VRS and ensure that priority issues are addressed in a timely manner.

Between July 2019 and June 2020, the VRS process has completed:

- An online survey of visitors and recreational users of Wellington Park (mainly focusing on Tasmanians), open between December 2019 and February 2020, with 850 responses.
- A 'visitor feedback survey' targeting visitors and recreational users within the Park. An online survey was linked through QR codes located on signs at key sites and entry points within the Park over a two month period from January to February 2020. There were 215 responses.
- Co-design workshops with recreational users, currently licensed tourism operators, staff of the land management agencies and one for people with specific interests in social and cultural heritage issues.
- Road traffic sampling to determine vehicle occupancy rates, vehicle source and other data not detectable from road traffic counters.
- A comprehensive trial of the use of motion sensor cameras to monitor usage of key tracks to understand track and trail usage patterns, characteristics of recreational users and other details not detectable from current track counter technology used in the Park.
- Analysis of over a decade of traffic monitoring data, track counter data and a range of other data to understand visitation trends and patterns.
- As the planning process moves into its synthesis and strategic planning phase, it will adopt an 'adaptive management' approach. This will see management options and infrastructure changes trialled and evaluated over time.

## *Visitor Risk Management*

The Trust's Strategic Risk assessment identified preparation of a policy and framework for managing the various risks to visitors in the Park as a high priority. The Wellington



Park Management Plan 2013 also notes the importance of informing visitors of the various safety hazards in the Park. Although the Trust and Park Management Agencies owe a duty of care to visitors to avoid foreseeable risks, the Trust is aware that many visitors come to the Park to be in a rugged natural environment with the challenges it offers.

The Trust has approved a visitor risk management policy statement and strategy and is currently developing the framework for implementing it in the Park. In the interim the Trust and Park Management Agencies have sought to improve visitor awareness of the hazards they may encounter in the Park and advise them how to prepare for a visit to the Park, particularly in winter.

## *Access for People with Disability*

Improvements to access for people with a disability is being considered as part of the Visitation and Recreation Strategy. A temporary accessible toilet has been installed at The Springs. Further disabled access at The Springs is being addressed in the revision of the master plan for the area.

People with a disability can obtain a key to gain vehicle access to the Myrtle Forest Picnic Area from the Parks and Wildlife Service Southern Region Office in Glenorchy, however there were no requests for access during 2019-20.

Hobart City Council has purchased a "TrailRider" purpose-built wheelchair that can handle rough terrain with the assistance of two operators. Hire of the TrailRider is free and it is currently approved for use on the Pipeline and Silver Falls Tracks between Fern Tree Park and Silver Falls.

## *Nature Based Tourism*

Nature based tourism and other commercial operations within the Park are facilitated via the Parks and Wildlife Service, providing a 'one-stop' service 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.

In September 2020, there were 137 businesses licensed to conduct commercial operations in the Park, a substantial decrease on the 248 the previous financial year. Some operators have left the industry due to COVID-19 restrictions and others have advised the PWS

that they no longer visit the Park when their licences were renewed. 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.

All commercial operators, except base transport services (where transport only is provided), are required 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.

In addition to the licences issued by the PWS, the Trust has issued five licences to businesses that only operate in Wellington Park. These include e-bike, abseiling and walking tours, a shuttle bus, trail running events and a small café in a converted shipping container at The Springs. The café operates under the name of Lost Freight and is popular with bushwalkers and bike riders. It also provides Park information to tourists and other Park visitors.

## *Pinnacle Road Shuttle Bus*

A private timetabled bus service started operating between central Hobart and the summit of kunanyi / Mount Wellington on 22 October 2018. A shuttle bus service is supported by the Wellington Park Sustainable Transport System (2009). In June 2019 the operator of the shuttle bus was issued a permit to operate a "snow tour" service on Pinnacle Road when it is closed due to ice and snow. The "snow tour" service is subject to safety restrictions to ensure it operates safely and visitors are not left stranded in severe weather conditions. It was popular and operated without incident during the winter of 2019.

The shuttle bus service has not yet recommenced following the closure of the Park in March and April 2020. The operator has advised the Trust that the service won't recommence until COVID-19 restrictions ease sufficiently to make the service financially viable.

## *Pinnacle Road Access*

Visitor access to the summit of kunanyi / Mount Wellington may be restricted when snow and or ice makes Pinnacle Road impassable or dangerous, or when natural events attract large numbers of visitors. Management of Pinnacle Road is undertaken by the Hobart City Council.

The Council provides outstanding support for road and traffic management issues during road closures, and is itself supported by Tasmania Police. In December 2019 Council, the Tasmania Police, the Trust and Broadcast Australia (operators of the broadcasting facilities at the summit) finalised inter-agency procedures for mountain rescues and Pinnacle Road access including snow closure procedures. These will be reviewed annually.

Improved weather forecasting has allowed more accurate prediction of ice and snow on Pinnacle Road. This has allowed Council to adopt a more proactive road closure strategy. Although this has resulted in an increase in the frequency of closures it has reduced the risk of accidents on Pinnacle Road.

Snowfalls, as well as other natural events such as the filling of Disappearing Tarn, can attract large numbers of local visitors to the Park, particularly on weekends which average 74% more vehicles per day than weekdays. There are 215 defined parking spaces within the Park, mainly at The Springs and The Pinnacle. Traffic movement analysis undertaken as part of the Visitation and Recreation Strategy has found that visitors arriving by car spend an average of 1.18 hours in the Park with evidence that this 'dwell time' is longer on snow days. Based on this it has been estimated that congestion starts to occur on Pinnacle Road when the number of vehicle entering the Park exceeds 950 vehicles per day. Over the past 12 years, this 'threshold' of 950 vehicles per day has been exceeded on 106 days. Managing congestion usually requires temporary closure of Pinnacle Road and sometimes Pillinger Drive.

There is limited opportunity to provide additional parking within the Park without impacting on the natural and cultural values of the Park. Parking availability close to the main Park entry point at Fern Tree is also very limited which causes problems for local residents when Pinnacle Road is closed. Hobart City Council is looking at the feasibility of providing parking outside the Park at Halls Saddle both for visitors to Ridgway Park and the Fern Tree area as well as additional parking for visitors to Wellington Park.

To allow visitors to plan ahead and be prepared for extreme conditions, road status and weather information is available from: the Wellington Park and City of Hobart websites; 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.

## **Recreation**

### **Bush Walking**

The use, development and promotion of the walking track network within Wellington Park is 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. This Strategy will be reviewed and revised following completion of the Visitation and Recreation Strategy.

During 2019-20 Park Management Agencies completed further repairs to the many tracks in the Park that were damaged during the severe weather event on 10 May 2018 during which 236 mm of rain fell on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

The Friends of Wellington Park bushcare group have also undertaken vegetation clearing and track hardening along some of the more remote tracks in the Park including the Mount Connection Track and Thark Ridge Track, and the track to Devils Throne.

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 has reprinted (with 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.

### **Bike Riding**

The Trust has continued the implementation of the Wellington Park Bike Strategy (2000, amended 2018). The Strategy provides the basis for the Trust to manage the multiple forms of bike riding available within the Park. The constant development of bike technology and changes in rider preferences provides a challenge for the

Trust to explore new opportunities for riding within the Park. New tracks and track conversions recommended in the Bike Strategy are subject to an assessment of environmental and cultural impacts and issues, public safety and proposed impact mitigation strategies prior to final approval.

Using State Government funding Hobart City Council prepared a mountain bike network plan for the area below the North South Track. Glenorchy City Council also received Government funding for a master plan for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park. Both projects include land outside the Park. The two projects have assessed existing tracks and proposed a network of potential new tracks aimed at improving network functionality, user safety and providing opportunities for riders with different levels of skill.

Both projects have involved extensive community consultation which has been useful in the development of the Visitation and Recreation Strategy. The Trust has worked closely with the agencies developing the plans to ensure they will be compatible with the Visitation and Recreation Strategy.

To assist with mountain bike network and infrastructure planning the Project Manager for the Visitation and Recreation Strategy and the Education and Regulations Coordinator attended the annual Australian Mountain Bike Summit at Derby.

## 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 2019-20 seven long-term horse riding permits were renewed and one new 12 month permit was issued.

## Four Wheel Driving

The Wellington Park Management Plan allows recreational four wheel drive vehicle access on certain fire trails 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. Due to damage to the East West Trail during the severe storm in May 2018 the opening of the trail for recreational 4WD access was delayed until initial repairs were completed in late January 2020. 24 permits with a total of 54 vehicles were issued from 21 January to the closure of the Park due to COVID-19 restrictions on 27 March. Two of these permits were issued to applicants from NSW with the rest being from the greater Hobart area.

It is anticipated that works to repair and upgrade the East West Trail planned for spring 2020 will allow for a much improved experience and renewed interest over the 2020-21 season.

## Rock Climbing

Rock climbing is popular in the Park, most notably on the Organ Pipes on the eastern face of kunanyi / Mountain Wellington and to a lesser extent at the Lost World on Mount Arthur. Climbing is usually undertaken by individual and small groups. Licences have been issued to allow commercial climbing and abseiling tours within the Park.

## Jefferys Track Upgrade

Jefferys Track is currently a very rough four wheel drive trail but is an important access route to the western part of the Park, particularly for fire management. The Trust has given Huon Valley Council and Derwent Valley Council in principle support for a feasibility study into constructing a sealed road to link the Derwent and Huon River Valleys. The feasibility study received funding from the State Government and started in June 2020.

## Interpretation

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

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

## *Marketing and Promotion*

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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 provided free to visitors and covers the most popular walks on the eastern slopes of kunanyi / Mount Wellington. This brochure is regularly improved and updated.

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 operators of the cafe at The Springs and the Pinnacle Road shuttle bus.

## *Events*

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A number of organised sports events were held in the Park during the year including:

- two trail running events
- the pub to Pinnacle bike race from Longley Hotel to the summit of kunanyi / Mount Wellington
- a round of the Tasmanian gravity enduro mountain bike race series.

There have also been a number of smaller local mountain bike events in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

A late season snowfall meant the annual Point to Pinnacle fun run had to be diverted away from the Park and finished at the Longley Hotel instead of The Pinnacle.

# Regulations Awareness Program

The *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) are provided for under section 79 of the Wellington Park Act 1993 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), administered by the Education and Regulations Coordinator (ERC) and now in its eighteenth year, unites staff from management agencies and other authorities along with members of the community in activities designed to promote and protect the Park's values. The Trust continues to involve the community in management of the Park. Its strong connections to various Park users and community groups, combined with support from authorities and member agencies, continue to be effective in raising community awareness of Park values and the Regulations underpinning them.

The ERC works with Authorised Officers (appointed under the *Wellington Park Act 1993*) and other field staff from Park Management Agencies to promote safe, responsible and sustainable enjoyment of the Park by all users. The ERC shares data with and receives assistance from Hobart, Glenorchy and New Norfolk Police in tracking down and dealing with offenders.

During 2019-20 11 new Authorised Officers were trained. As at 30 June 2020 there were 32 Authorised Officers trained and appointed by the Trust: 23 from Hobart City Council, eight from Glenorchy City Council and one from TasWater. This is in addition to all Police Officers and all Rangers within the meaning of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* who are automatically authorised officers.

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 in the course of undertaking compliance activities in the Park.

The ERC continued to engage with Park users and the wider community to increase awareness of the Park's values and compliance with the Regulations.

RAP activities included:

- delivering field presentations about the Park's values to school and university groups
- providing teaching staff with educational information for use in teaching and learning
- preparing and disseminating regulatory and educational information to Park users including field staff, advocacy groups, user groups and clubs, tour operators and local businesses
- maintenance of the Wellington Park website and updating promotional brochures
- interviews on local ABC radio and TV
- attendance at community events
- responding to stakeholder requests for data and information about Park usage
- assistance at bushcare/trackcare working bees.

The ERC has responded to concerns from walkers about discourteous, inconsiderate or unsafe mountain bike rider behaviour on some shared use tracks with enforcement and education measures including; patrolling the tracks, designing and installing signage, and disseminating messages about appropriate behaviour on shared use tracks via the Wellington Park website, user group websites and Facebook groups.

The Track Users Code, approved in early 2018 and displayed at key entry points, has been incorporated into additional signage at other visitor nodes. Code reminders have been incorporated into replacement signage on shared use tracks and will be added to existing signage at key locations such as track intersections.

The Trust's policy on drone use in the Park allows for the use of drones for Park management, research, commercial and other filming but only when flown by a person with a Remote Pilot Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, and public liability and aviation insurance. Regulatory enforcement combined with education via the Trust website and signage have helped ensure that unauthorised drone use was rarely detected in 2019-20.

Social media (primarily Facebook and Instagram) and fitness apps, such as Strava and TrailForks, continue to be valuable sources of information about how the Park is



being used and a way to communicate with Park users. The ERC uses these online resources along with intelligence gained from local individuals and groups, bike shops and tour operators, to plan and implement responses to issues such as unauthorised track riding or undesirable images/videos (e.g. dogs at the Pinnacle), as well as to broadcast and promote news and events from Park Management Agencies and user groups active in the Park.

Motion-sensing 'trail' cameras continue to be used to help monitor usage of tracks and fire trails in the Park. By reviewing still and video images gathered over a sample period the ERC 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 being used in the Trust's Visitation and Recreation Strategy, and assists the ERC in ongoing planning and implementation of the Regulatory Awareness Program with the help of Park Management Agencies and relevant stakeholders.

Simple infrared counters are installed at numerous locations and monitored seasonally by the ERC and Hobart City Council staff. Glenorchy City Council and the Parks and Wildlife Service also use motion sensor cameras and infrared counters in their management areas, both for surveillance and usage information.

During 2019-20 the ERC spent approximately 570 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 ERC focuses on areas and 'hotspots' identified through experience, requests from Park Management Agencies, and reports from users, field staff, Authorised Officers and Park neighbours.

## *Infringements of the Regulations*

A total of 607 offences were recorded in the Wellington Park Offender Database in 2019-20. This includes 369 instances of a person contravening a no-access sign (Park Closed) during the period the Park was closed to visitors as part of the State Government's COVID-19 control measures. These were captured on motion sensor cameras, however the offenders were not able to be identified.

There were 29 dog-related offences detected in 2019-20 compared with 18 in 2018-19 and 19 in 2017-18. There were 10 instances of walking a dog where not permitted, and 19 instances of failing to keep a dog on a lead. Five offenders received informal cautions; 24 were reported

or observed on surveillance cameras and unable to be identified. The increase is most likely due to increased use of surveillance cameras and an increase in local visitors following the re-opening of the Park after the COVID-19 closure.

There were 90 instances of mountain bike riding other than on bicycle tracks compared with 81 in 2018-19 and 42 in 2017-18. These offences were all captured on motion sensor cameras and the riders were not identifiable. The large number of detections on illegal tracks is largely focussed on an illegal track between the North South Track and the Middle Island Fire Trail which continues to be used in defiance of signage and other education and compliance activities.

There were 118 offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use (motorcycle, quad bike or 4WD) compared to 19 in 2018-19, of these 97 were captured on motion sensor cameras. Two conditional cautions, three informal cautions and two Prescribed Infringement Notices were issued; the remaining offenders could not be identified or communicated with.

There was one instance of a person taking firewood captured on motion sensor camera. This offender was identified and issued a Prescribed Infringement Notice.

## *Vandalism*

There were eight instances of vandalism recorded including three instances of sign defacement and five instances of damaging or destroying signage, gates or locks, mostly in the Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy City Council management areas. All detected instances of vandalism are recorded in a database to guide future management decisions and regulatory activities.

## *Permits Issued*

The Trust may issue permits for activities prohibited under the Wellington Park Regulations. Commonly issued permits cover construction activities, scientific research and recreational access provided for in the Management Plan. The Trust also issues approvals for commercial filming and photography in the Park including the use of remotely piloted aircraft (drones).

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 been delegated authority to issue vehicle access permits to the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

The number of permits issued under the Regulations in 2019-20 compared to the previous year are:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Maintenance and construction works including permanent signs	37	34
Planned burns	3	2
Scientific research	10	13
Commercial filming	32	28
Use of a remote piloted aircraft (drone)	17	20
Recreational vehicle access <sup>1</sup>	24 (for 54 vehicles)	0
Non-recreational vehicle access	5	4
Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park vehicle access <sup>2</sup>	4	0
Horse riding <sup>3</sup>	8	7
Camping	3	1
Placement of a temporary sign	4	5
Restricted area access including restricted use tracks and trails	0	1
Sporting events <sup>4</sup>	5	3
Launch/land aircraft	1	0

<sup>1</sup> Permits issued by the PWS under delegated authority. No permits were issued in 2018-19 due to storm damage to the East West Trail

<sup>2</sup> Permits issued by Glenorchy City Council under delegated authority.

<sup>3</sup> These are annual permits.

<sup>4</sup> Includes events organised by commercial licence holders who don't require a separate permit.

# 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

The Trust has both a coordinating and a compliance oversight role in relation to the cultural heritage of the Park. This applies to both Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage. This work is primarily undertaken by the Trust's Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator, who is engaged on a one-day per week basis.

As well as engaging with the Park Management Agencies and the community in relation to inventorying and understanding the cultural heritage values of the Park generally, the Trust also develops policies for managing cultural heritage and for the centralised management of cultural heritage data. This includes regular liaison with the heritage staff of the Park Management Agencies including an annual review of the heritage program; and occasional coordinating of input and actions between the Trust and the Park Management Agencies, and occasionally community groups, on a needs basis.

The Trust also reviews cultural heritage conservation and other management proposals, and development and works proposals, as part of its regulatory role under the Wellington Park Management Plan, and provides cultural heritage conservation and impact mitigation advice to the Park Management Agencies, developers and Park users in relation to these. In 2019-20 this included provision of four heritage inductions (three for the Hobart City Council and one for the Glenorchy City Council) when Park Management Agency heritage staff were not able to do so; liaison with the Wellington Park History and Heritage Volunteer Network; and coordination of the Mountain Water Supply System (MWSS) Heritage Advisory Group.

In 2019-20 the Trust's cultural heritage focus was on historic heritage, with little Aboriginal heritage management being undertaken except in relation to its regulatory role.

## Data management

Data sheets for two new historic heritage sites were added to the historic heritage inventory in 2019-20. No new Aboriginal heritage sites were identified in Wellington Park in 2019-20.

## Policy/Strategy

Development of a 'Management Policy Framework' for the more remote standing bush huts was the main heritage policy development undertaken in 2019-20. Drafts have been reviewed by the policy working group and members of the informal hut carers' network were consulted. The main policy elements of the framework were endorsed by the Trust at its meeting in June 2020. It is anticipated that the *Draft Extant Historic Bush Huts Management Policy Framework* will go to the Park Management Agencies for comment and finalisation in 2020-21.

Some heritage input was also provided during 2019-20 to assist the preparation of the Wellington Park Visitation and Recreation Strategy.

Policy oversight by the Trust also included review of the State Government's Discussion Paper on Aboriginal Land Returns.

During 2019-20 the Trust approved a scope for a Cultural Heritage Management Strategy for the Park, work on the project is scheduled to commence in 2020-21.

## Research

Two small pieces of heritage research, not related to major projects, were undertaken into the naming of historical features within the Park.

## Heritage Conservation Projects

A small number of heritage conservation projects were coordinated or undertaken by the Trust in 2019-20. A project to monitor the structural and general condition

of a small number of the extant historic huts in the Park which are not actively promoted for use continued. Regular quarterly monitoring has resulted in better hut care by visitors. The monitoring results have led to the structural monitoring frequency being reduced.

The other main heritage conservation project undertaken in 2019-20 was a review of the conservation needs of, and long term management policy for, the Smiths Monument on South Wellington. This involved joint liaison by the Trust and Hobart City Council with the Hobart Walking Club (who raised the matter of the management of Smiths Monument), the Freemasons (who erected the monument in 1858), and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery who kindly provided materials conservation advice. Ongoing consultation with these parties resulted in agreement on the future conservation management of the monument.

In 2019-20 the Trust also liaised with the Archaeology Department, University of New England, in relation to a proposed project looking at Hobart as a landscape of convict work. This liaison was aimed at encouraging inclusion of the highly significant, but as yet unrecorded, early colonial timber industry sites on the lower east slopes of kunanyi / Mount Wellington in the project. The Trust provided the University with a letter of support for the project. The outcome will be known in 2020-21.

Geocaches at three heritage sites in Wellington Park were discontinued by the originator at the Trust's request due to concern about damage to heritage values from ongoing use of the sites for geocaching.

## Heritage Conservation Coordination Projects

The Trust continued its coordinating role in facilitating the Mountain Water Supply System Heritage Advisory Group in 2019-20. The Heritage Advisory Group was created to provide a co-ordinated and strategic approach to the management of this Tasmanian Heritage Register listed site. Its membership includes the Trust, Hobart City Council, TasWater, Heritage Tasmania and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania. The Heritage Advisory Group did not meet in 2019-20, but some coordination was undertaken in relation to the Stage 2 works to the Waterworks Reserve Upper Reservoir being proposed by TasWater.

The Trust also continued to liaise with the Wellington Park Heritage Volunteer Network. The Network is an informal group of Hobartians with an active interest in the history and heritage of kunanyi / Mount Wellington. During

2019-20 members of the Network continued to generously contribute to the Trust new historical and heritage site data, generated through their volunteer research.

## Public Engagement

Fifteen public requests for cultural heritage information were received and responded to. These included three queries about the heritage values of kunanyi / Mount Wellington, two in relation to the proposed cable car; three requests for information on specific sites, one from a consultant; two requests for information on the historic huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington; a request for information on the historic walking tracks in the Park; three requests relating to place names; and one request for the appropriate form of acknowledgement of country for events on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. The most substantive enquiry was from a community group interested in pursuing heritage listing for historic sites on kunanyi / Mount Wellington, including developing National Heritage List nominations.

## Review and Advice

As part of heritage protection and regulatory oversight, the Trust Cultural Heritage Coordinator reviewed and provided advice on 24 matters in 2019-20 including management related works to three heritage places, one commercial development proposal, and 20 Park management works, including one new major recreational infrastructure proposal. The majority of proposals were in the Hobart City Council management area, with only four works proposals (all fire management related) and two management works to heritage places in the Glenorchy City Council management area.

Most of the heritage impact assessment to support the development and works proposals was undertaken by the Trust's Cultural Heritage Coordinator or relevant Park Management Agency Heritage Officer. Four projects however engaged a heritage consultant to assess the heritage impacts. These reports were also reviewed by the Trust Cultural Heritage Coordinator.

A review of the Glenorchy reserves (including Wellington Park) history study by Haygarth (2017) resulted in new historic sites being identified for inclusion in the Wellington Park Historic Heritage database.

## Field Inspections

During 2019-20 six heritage site inspections were undertaken by the Trust's Cultural Heritage Coordinator. Three of the inspections were to support heritage impact assessment and to provide mitigation advice in relation to proposed works (see above), two in the Hobart City Council management area and one in the Glenorchy City Council management area. Two of these inspections also included site survey and full site documentation. The other three site inspections, all in the Hobart City Council management area, were for heritage site management purposes and comprised investigation of: damage from natural processes, new unauthorised site access and marking, and damage from vandalism and subsequent rehabilitation of the site.

## Fire Management

No bushfires occurred in the Park during 2019-20. Two planned burns were completed in the Park, one in the Glenorchy City Council management area (46 ha) and another in the Hobart City Council management area (57 ha). A proposed burn at Long Marsh, which included part of the Park, was approved but could not be completed due to adverse weather conditions. Fuel breaks within the Park were maintained and Hobart City Council completed clearing a new fuel break along the Park boundary with residential properties at Fern Tree.

The Trust works with the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire Risk Unit and the Park Management Agencies to plan strategic fuel reduction within the Park. General fire management activities are carried out by Park Management Agencies in accordance with the *Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy (2006) (FMS)*. The FMS aims to protect life and property, and ensure the sustainability of natural systems and the Park's natural and cultural values. The FMS is undergoing a major revision, however work on the revision has been postponed so it can incorporate the new bushfire risk assessment methodology being developed by the Tasmania Fire Service.

The Trust Manager has participated in the the working groups developing the new state-wide bushfire risk management tool and developing a new template for the Bushfire Risk Management Plans produced by each Fire Management Area Committee.

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.

Further repairs of fire trails damaged during the severe weather event on 10 May 2018 were carried out during 2019-20 including the Middle Island Fire Trail and Inglewood Fire Trail. Major repair work on Big Bend Trail was started in March 2020 but was suspended due to wet conditions over winter. Initial repairs of the East West Trail, Ringwood Trail and Collins Cap Trail have been completed with further works are planned for 2020-21.

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 ongoing problem with the gate at the western end of the East West Trail needing frequent repair. Locks on other gates have been cut or damaged requiring replacement.

The Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy recommends bi-annual meetings of a working group to discuss fire management in the Park with representatives from the Tasmanian Fire Service, Park Management Agencies, TasNetworks and the Friends of Wellington Park bushcare group. The Bushfire Management Working Group provides a forum for information sharing, and allows agencies to plan co-operatively for fire management and operational issues. Neither of the meetings of the working group scheduled for 2019-20 were held. The pre-season meeting was cancelled due to an early start of the fire season and the post-fire season meeting could not be held due to COVID-19 restrictions. Tasmania Fire Service brigades that may have to respond to fires in the Park were provided with information on the condition of fire trails and other relevant information that would normally have been discussed at the working group meetings.

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 *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* allows the Trust to close an area of the Park in the event of a fire, flood, natural disaster or other emergency to ensure the safety of Park visitors by a notice on the Wellington Park website. This provision allows for emergency closure of the Park when it is not possible to quickly install no-access signs on tracks and trails.

The Trust, in consultation with the Park Management Agencies, revised its Emergency Closure Policy and Procedures for the Park including a revised trigger for precautionary closures of the Park due to bushfire danger. Previously the Park was closed on days of Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger in the South East forecast district. Under the new policy the Park is closed when the Fire Danger Rating is Severe (Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) of 50) or greater in the Bureau of Meteorology's South East or Upper Derwent forecast areas for at least three hours. The South East forecast area includes Hobart and the eastern part of the Park. The western part of the Park is in the Upper Derwent forecast area. It is also the area from which major bushfires are most likely to enter the Park. During 2019-20 the Park was closed for three days under this policy.

The policy is implemented by closing Pinnacle Road as required and placing "Park Closed" signs at the major entry points to the Park. The Trust developed two 'flip over' designs for "Park Closed" signs; one free standing and the other retrofitted to existing Park entry signs. These can be quickly installed by Park Management Agency staff and include a QR code that links to the closure notice on the Wellington Park website. The new designs have been included in the Wellington Park Signage Manual.

Closure of minor entry points continues to be via temporary 'wing' signs fixed to the side of Park entry signs during the fire permit period warning visitors not to enter the Park on days of Severe, 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 2019-20. The catchments utilised for drinking water supply include:

- North West Bay River
- Humphreys Rivulet
- Southern Catchments (Pipeline Track off takes)
- Rocky Creek (supplying Crabtree)
- Stevensons Creek (supplying Mountain River).

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.

TasWater is preparing a Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy for all catchments supplying the Hobart area. This Strategy will 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

There has never been a systematic survey of Wellington Park for threatened species, however incidental sightings by Trust and agency staff are reported to the Natural Values Atlas to build up a picture of the distribution of threatened species in the Park. Recently recorded threatened species include: Tasmanian devil, spotted-tail quoll and eastern barred bandicoot.

## Weed Management

Park Management Agencies have continued 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 further progress 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 *Pinus radiata* trees and scattered saplings.

Weed control by Park Management Agencies is assisted 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 Park near Inglewood Road and Spanish heath on Goat Hills and the Merton area.

Weed control is 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. This protocol provides practical guidance and procedures for management agencies, contractors and other Park users.

## ***Feral Animals***

There are small populations of feral goats in the western part of the Park and possibly some in the Goat Hills area, despite a recent cull. Numbers are not known and there are no plans for further control measures 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 and The Springs. Although there is evidence they are spreading through suitable habitat in the Park, they are not currently considered a management issue.

There have been reports of deer in bushland near the Park but no confirmed sightings in the Park.

## ***Rubbish***

Hobart City Council organised a Clean-up Australia Day team to target The Pinnacle area. 105 volunteers participated and collected 145 kg of rubbish. Participants were given a heritage induction to insure heritage sites within the clean up area were not disturbed.

# Other Activities

## *Nomenclature*

The Trust made a number of submissions to the Nomenclature Board for the naming of features in the Park these included:

- Making the previously unofficial names “the pinnacle” and “Drops Track” official names.
- Naming a new shared use track and bike only track Stumpsie Track and Pitfall Track respectively.

The names for the new tracks were chosen by the TrackCare volunteers who helped with their construction. All the name submissions were accepted by the Board.

## *Park Boundary Changes*

There are a number of changes in the Park boundary recommended for investigation in the Wellington Park Management Plan. These include the area around Limekiln Gully Dam where a boundary change to move all of the Tolosa Quarry and the gun club firing range below Limekiln Gully Dam outside the Park is being investigated with Glenorchy City Council. These, 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*

Two applications for assessed disclosure of information under the *Right to Information Act 2009* were received and determined during 2019-20.

## *Offers of Gifts and Benefits*

Offers of gifts and benefits to Trust members and staff are managed through the Trust’s Offers of Gifts and Benefits Policy first approved by the Trust in July 2016 and reviewed annually. Trust staff were presented with a gift of a small lacquer box inlaid with mother of pearl by a study group of officers from the Korean Cultural Heritage Administration after giving them a guided tour of the Park and discussing Park management with them along with Hobart City Council officers. The box is kept in the Trust office.

No other gifts or benefits were declared by Trust members or staff during 2019-20.

# Work Health and Safety (WHS)

## COVID-19 Response

Trust staff worked from home from 25 March to minimise the risk of catching and spreading the COVID-19 virus. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions the Manager started working in the office full time from 1 June and the Education and Regulations Coordinator from 9 June. The Project Manager, Visitation and Recreation Strategy and the Cultural Heritage Coordinator continued to work from home for the remainder of 2019-20, while attending the office when required. No Trust staff contracted, or required testing for, COVID-19.

The Trust has implemented a COVID-19 Safety Plan for staff and provided Park visitors with advice on social distancing requirements.

## Wellington Park Induction Kit

The Trust regularly revises its Working in Wellington Park Induction Kit which is included in all works permits issued in the Park. The induction kit and Field Staff Checklist leaflet aim to inform 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 2019-20:

### Summary of hazards and incidents

<i>Incident/Hazard</i>	<i>Number reported</i>	
	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2018-19</i>
Lost time injury	none	none
Hazards identified through incident/near hit reports	none	none
Staff incidents reported	1	2
Visitor incidents reported	12	6
Contractor incidents reported	none	none

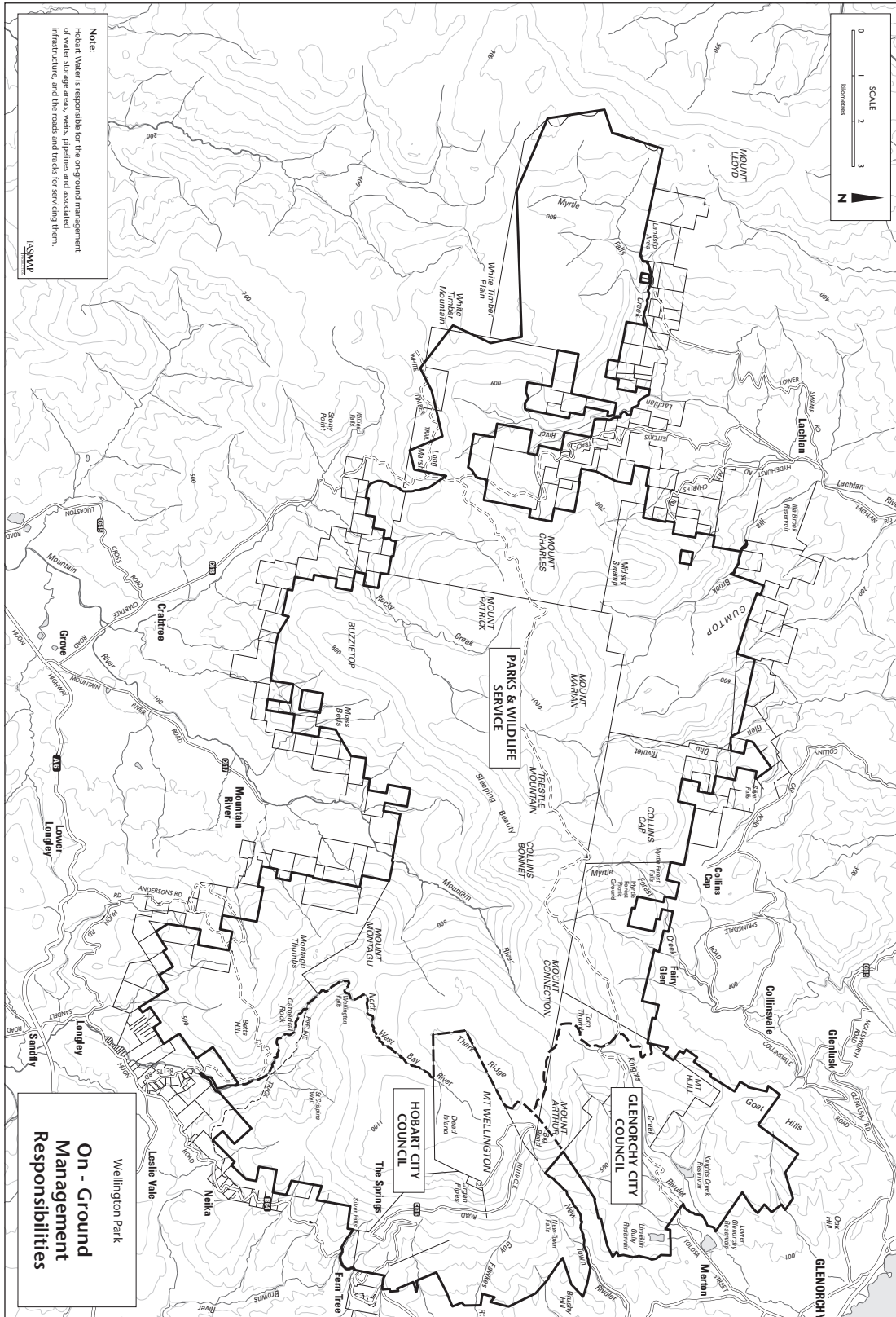
During 2019-20 there were no lost time injuries to Trust staff. The staff incident reported involved accidental damage to a mobile phone.

The increase in visitor incidents is most likely due to improved reporting through an arrangement with Police Search and Rescue to provide details of incidents attended by the Police in the Park. However there are likely to have been visitor incidents that the Trust and Police are not aware of.

To have a fuller picture of WHS incidents in the Park the Trust intends to request other agencies that might have information on WHS incidents (Ambulance, Park Management Agencies etc.) to report them to the Trust.

# Appendix 1

## Wellington Park – On Ground Management Areas





# Appendix 2

## Membership of the Wellington Park Management Trust <sup>a</sup>

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

MEMBER	DEPUTY
<b>Chairperson</b> Dr Christine Mucha	(Deputy not provided for in the Act)
<b>Director-General of Lands</b> Ms Louise Wilson General Manager, Natural and Cultural Heritage, DPIPWE <i>(Nominee of Director General of Lands)</i>	Mr Ben Goodsir Director, Natural Heritage, DPIPWE
<b>Glenorchy City Council</b> Alderman Melissa Carlton OAM <i>(Nominee of Glenorchy City Council)</i>	Mr Ted Ross Director, Infrastructure and Works
<b>Hobart City Council</b> Alderman Damon Thomas <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	Alderman Tanya Denison <i>(to 12 January 2019)</i>
Alderman Jeff Briscoe <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	Councillor Helen Burnet
<b>TasWater</b> Mr Lance Stapleton <i>(to 28 February 2020)</i> Program Manager Technical Solutions	Mr Heath Woolley Manager Community Engagement
Ms Frances Smith <i>(from 30 April 2020)</i> Manager System Performance & Productivity <i>(Nominee of chief executive officer TasWater)</i>	
<b>Director Parks and Wildlife Service</b> Mr Ashley Rushton Regional Manager Southern Tasmania <i>(Nominee of Director of National Parks and Wildlife)</i>	Ms Jennifer Fry <i>(to 23 December 2019)</i> Director Tourism, Experiences & Visitor Services
	Ms Alice Holeywell-Jones <i>(from 30 April 2020)</i> Director Tourism, Experiences & Visitor Services
<b>Director Tourism Tasmania</b> Ms Rita Warrener Policy and Industry Manager <i>(Nominee of chief executive officer, Tourism Tasmania)</i>	Mr Mark Jones Chief Operating Officer

**Notes:** (a) Members and deputies may be appointed by the Minister 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. Members and deputies may be re-appointed.

# Appendix 3

## Trust Meeting Attendance Record

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

The Trust held 5 scheduled meetings between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, (one by teleconference) and one additional short meeting on 21 February 2020.

MEMBER	Meetings Attended During 2019–20	Meetings During Membership
<b>Chairperson</b> Dr Christine Mucha	6	6
<b>Director-General of Lands nominees</b> Ms Louise Wilson	1	6
Mr Ben Goodsir ( <i>deputy</i> )	2	6
<b>Glenorchy City Council</b> Alderman Mellissa Carlton OAM	5	6
Mr Ted Ross ( <i>deputy</i> )	1	6
<b>Hobart City Council</b> Alderman Damon Thomas	5	6
Alderman Tanya Denison ( <i>deputy to Alderman Thomas until 12 January 2020</i> )	1	2
Alderman Jeff Briscoe	4	6
Councillor Helen Burnet ( <i>deputy to Alderman Briscoe</i> )	2	6
<b>TasWater</b> Mr Lance Stapleton ( <i>member until 28 February 2020</i> )	3	4
Ms Frances Smith ( <i>member from 30 April 2020</i> )	1 as observer 1 as member	1
Mr Heath Woolley ( <i>deputy</i> )	0	6
<b>Director of National Parks and Wildlife nominees</b> Mr Ashley Rushton	3	6
Ms Jennifer Fry ( <i>deputy until 23 December 2019</i> )	0	2
Ms Alice Holeywell-Jones ( <i>deputy from 30 April 2020</i> )	0	2
<b>Chief Executive Officer Tourism Tasmania nominees</b> Ms Rita Warrener	6	6
Mr Mark Jones ( <i>deputy</i> )	0	6

Mr Chris Colley (PWS Acting Director Tourism Experience and Visitor Services) attended a Trust meeting as an observer at the invitation of the Chairperson. 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 2019-20 the Chairperson was paid an annual fee and councillors who are members or deputy members were paid a sitting fee for each meeting attended.

### Disclosures of interests and related party interests

The following interests in items on the agendas of Trust meetings during 2019-20 were declared at the commencement of the meetings and noted in the minutes:

Meeting Date	Member	Interest declared
4 September 2019	Ald Carlton	Item 11, Request for Trust 'in principle' support for development of a masterplan for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.
4 September 2019	Ald Thomas Ald Briscoe	Any agenda items that included discussion of the cable car proposal before Hobart City Council.
5 February 2020	Ald Carlton	Item 9, Park Activity Assessment for extraction of gravel from a disused quarry near Knights Creek Dam.
24 June 2020	Ald Carlton	Item 9, Public exhibition of the draft Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Masterplan.

In each case of declared interest the member remained in the meeting but did not participate in the discussion or decision about the item.

# Appendix 4

## Financial Report 2019–2020



### 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 2020, the statement 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 statement of 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 2020 and 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 (including Independence Standards)* (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

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### Responsibilities of the Members of the Trust for the Financial Report

The members of the Trust are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined 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 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 are 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 members of the Trust use 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. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

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# Appendix 4

## Financial Report 2019–2020

- 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.



Leigh Franklin  
**Assistant Auditor-General, Financial Audit Services**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**

**Tasmanian Audit Office**

20 October 2020  
Hobart

...3 of 3

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## Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30th June 2020

	Note	2019/20 \$	2018/19 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Grants - State Government	6	120,000	172,500
Grants - Other	6	174,977	271,381
Interest		2,760	5,413
Fines		188	80
Other		6,192	10,529
Total Revenue		304,117	459,903
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Park Administration</b>			
Advertising		380	350
Audit Fees		5,250	5,040
Chairperson Remuneration	12	13,688	8,000
Contractors and Consultants		10,625	6,142
Hobart City Council Administrative Support	5	30,424	29,799
Depreciation		4,667	4,667
Employee Costs - Management		126,916	120,365
Employee Costs - Education and Regulations		99,630	91,179
Employee Costs - Visitation and Recreation		73,490	-
Workers Compensation Insurance		3,118	2,124
Miscellaneous		14,498	11,919
Sitting Fees		2,550	2,360
Stationery		1,782	2,477
Vehicle Expenses		7,897	10,271
Cultural Heritage Co-Ordinator		22,403	27,132
Website Maintenance		2,540	1,080
		419,858	322,905
<b>Management Strategies</b>			
Springs Master Plan		-	25,796
		-	25,796
Total Expenses		419,858	348,701
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>		<b>(115,741)</b>	<b>111,202</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>		-	-
<b>Comprehensive Result</b>		<b>(115,741)</b>	<b>111,202</b>

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

## Statement of Changes In Equity For Year Ended 30th June 2020

	Note	2019/20 \$	2018/19 \$
Balance at beginning of period		375,955	264,753
Adjustment due to change in accounting policy	3j	(176,000)	-
Restated balance as at 1 July 2019		199,955	-
Comprehensive Result		(115,741)	(111,202)
Balance at end of period		<b>84,214</b>	<b>375,955</b>

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

## Statement of Financial Position As At 30th June 2020

	Note	2019/20 \$	2018/19 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Cash	7	496,321	325,253
Stock on Hand		6,664	6,664
Receivables	4	3,398	107,352
		<u>506,383</u>	<u>439,269</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		34,065	34,065
Less Accumulated Depreciation		24,797	20,130
		<u>9,268</u>	<u>13,935</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>515,651</b>	<b>453,204</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Employee Benefits	8	42,192	40,667
Payables	4	143,656	23,525
Contract Liabilities	4	226,000	-
		<u>411,848</u>	<u>64,192</u>
<b>Non-Current</b>			
Employee Benefits	8	19,589	13,057
		<u>19,589</u>	<u>13,057</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>431,437</b>	<b>77,249</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>84,214</b>	<b>375,955</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		84,214	375,955
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>84,214</b>	<b>375,955</b>

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

## Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30th June 2020

	Note	2019/20 \$	2018/19 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<i>Receipts</i>			
Grants - State Government		120,000	178,750
Grants - Other		321,659	158,720
Interest		2,760	5,413
Other		12,657	22,023
		<u>457,076</u>	<u>364,906</u>
<i>Payments</i>			
Employee and Contracted Services Costs		248,531	299,376
Other		37,477	28,132
		<u>286,008</u>	<u>327,508</u>
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>171,068</b>	<b>37,398</b>
<b>NET CASH (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		-	-
<b>NET CASH (USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		-	-
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		<b>171,068</b>	<b>37,398</b>
Opening Cash Balance		325,253	287,855
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>		<b><u>496,321</u></b>	<b><u>325,253</u></b>

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

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

### 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 the City of Hobart 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

The trust recognises untied grant revenue and grants without performance obligations when received. In cases where funding includes specific performance obligations, a liability is recognised for funds received in advance with income recognised as obligations are fulfilled and which reflect the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration to which the Trust expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues. In 2019/20 Other Revenue consisted of filming fees, fines, permit application 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 consist 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 vehicles of this type and the office equipment a useful life of three years. The estimated residual value of plant and equipment at the end of its useful life is reviewed annually. 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.

Provisions made in respect of employee benefits which fall due wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees rendered the related service, are measured at their nominal values using remuneration rates expected to apply at the time of settlement. Other provisions are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up

to the reporting date. Discount rates used are those attaching to national government guaranteed securities at balance date which most closely match the terms to maturity of the related liabilities. In determining “pre-conditional” long service leave entitlements, the amount of cash outflows required to be made by the Trust in the future have been estimated based on experience of similar not for profit entity trends.

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 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*

The standard introduces a five-step process for revenue recognition, with the core principle of the new standard being for entities to recognise revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration (that is, payment) to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Accounting policy changes have resulted in the timing of revenue recognition, treatment of contracts costs and contracts which contain a financing element.

For the Trust there is a significant effect in the treatment of all grants with sufficiently specific performance obligations, but where the conditions have yet to be fulfilled at year end. The Trust currently presents unexpended grant income in note 7.

The Trust has applied the standard from 1 July 2019 and has used the retrospective approach with cumulative catch-up with an adjustment to accumulated surpluses for the difference in accounting treatment on initial adoption.

The Trust’s assessment is that \$50,000 of grants received and unexpended for the current year be deferred under AASB 15 and progressively recorded as income as performance obligations are fulfilled. A cumulative catch up of \$176,000 of grants received and unexpended relating to prior periods has been adjusted to opening retained earnings as at 1 July 2019.

##### *AASB 16 Leases*

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. The Trust members have assessed the impact of the new standard and concluded that there is no impact because no leases are in place.

##### *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*

AASB 1058 supersedes all the income recognition requirements relating to the Trust, previously in AASB 1004 Contributions. The timing of income recognition under AASB 1058 related to an asset (such as cash or another asset) received depends on whether a transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation, or a contribution by owners. AASB 1058 applies when the Trust receives volunteer services or enters into other transactions in which the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset, and where the asset is principally to enable the Trust to further its objectives. The Trust members have assessed the impact of the new standard and concluded that the impact is minimal because no volunteer services are currently used and there are no transactions at significantly less 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 2017-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Applies from 1 January 2022).

The amendments address an acknowledged inconsistency between the requirements in AASB10, and those in AASB128 (2011) in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The main consequences of the amendments is that a full gain or loss is recognised when a transaction involves assets that do not constitute a business, even if these assets are housed in a subsidiary. The Trust members have assessed the impact of the new standard and concluded that there will be no impact because AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable to the Trusts activities.

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**

	2019/20 \$	2018/19 \$
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(115,741)</b>	<b>111,202</b>
Add back Depreciation	4,667	4,667
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	103,954	(105,652)
Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits	8,057	13,209
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	120,131	13,972
Increase / (Decrease) in Contract Liabilities	50,000	-
<b>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>171,068</b>	<b>37,398</b>

In 2019/20 the Trust has recorded a Deficit due to the expenditure of grant funds received in prior years – in particular the expenditure of funds associated with the Visitation & Recreation Strategy, and also the treatment of grant funds received. In accordance with AASB 15, recognition of revenue associated with \$50,000 of grant funds received and unexpended in 2019/20 has been deferred. The funds will be progressively recorded as revenue as grant conditions are met.

The decrease in Receivables reflects a decrease from 2018/19 to 2019/20 in the amount to be paid by the Hobart City Council (HCC) to adjust the Trust's cash balance. The cash balance transfer is reflected as a payable in 2019/20.

The increase in Payables reflects the amount to be paid by the Trust to Hobart City Council, to adjust the Trust's cash balance, and an amount provided for outstanding superannuation payments to be made to an employee. These figures are offset by a decrease in trade creditors due at 30 June 2020.

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

In 2019/20 Trust member agency, the Hobart City Council, continued charging the Trust for the administrative and technical support provided to the Trust. This support 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 \$30,424 for which the Hobart City Council provided an equal and offsetting financial contribution. Both the cost and grant have been recorded in the 2019/20 Financial Statements.

**6. GRANTS ALLOCATION**

	2019/20 \$	2018/19 \$
<b>Grants - State Government</b>		
Park Administration	120,000	127,500
Management Strategies	-	45,000
	<u>120,000</u>	<u>172,500</u>
<b>Grants - Other</b>		
Fire Management Officer	22,480	22,018
Education and Regulations Co-Ordinator	81,259	79,588
Website Development	4,141	4,055
Cultural Heritage Co-Ordinator	29,259	28,658
Interpretation	7,414	7,263
Administration/Technical Support	30,424	29,799
Big Bend Trail	-	100,000
	<u>174,977</u>	<u>271,381</u>

The Grants – State Government – the annual allocation of \$120,000 was received from State Government for general usage.

The Grants – Other figure of \$174,977 comprises the following contributions: \$77,632 from the Hobart City Council, \$63,311 from TasWater and \$34,034 from the Glenorchy City Council (GCC). These figures and those in the above table are exclusive of applicable GST.

The \$100,000 received in 2018/19 from TasWater for the Big Bend Trail has been deferred until grant conditions are met, as per AASB 15. This amount has been recorded as income in 2018-19 and as such it has been treated as an opening balance adjustment upon adoption of AASB15 from 1 July 2019.



## 7. RESTRICTED ASSETS

The Trust has received a number of conditional grants. At 30 June 2020, the Trust is committed to expend \$239,538 of its cash balance in the manner specified by the terms of these grants. These amounts being made up of:

<b>Restricted Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>
<i>Conditional Grants</i>	
Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund	76,000
Big Bend Trail	150,000
	<u>226,000</u>
<i>Unconditional Grants</i>	
Website Development	13,538
	<u>13,538</u>
<b>Total Restricted Cash</b>	<b><u>239,538</u></b>

\$226,000 of Conditional Grants have been deferred and adjusted to retained earnings, as per AASB 15.

## 8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2019/20	2018/19
	\$	\$
Wages and Salaries	6,372	9,245
Annual Leave	27,496	24,563
Long Service Leave	18,749	15,278
Superannuation	9,165	4,638
	<u>61,782</u>	<u>53,724</u>
Current	42,193	40,667
Non-Current	19,589	13,057
	<u>61,782</u>	<u>53,724</u>

## 9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

### a) Financial Risk Management

The Trust's financial instruments consist of a deposit with the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation, receivables and payables. Financial risk is managed by ensuring that investments are carried out in accordance with the Trust's 'Investment Policy Statement'.

#### 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 \$2,176 (2019 \$3,253). A decrease in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would result in a loss and a decrease to equity of \$2,176 (2019 \$3,253). This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2019.

#### 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.

**10. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE**

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

**11. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

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

**12. 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	DPIPWE	Independent Chairperson	27-Jun-19	30-Jun-21
Ms Louise Wilson		Member	20-Jan-17	31-Dec-22 Reappointed on 9 March 2020
Ald Melissa Carlton	GCC	Member	12-May-18	31-Dec-20
Ald Damon Thomas	HCC	Member	22-Jan-18	31-Dec-20
Ald Jeff Briscoe	HCC	Member	20-Mar-19	31-Dec-21
Mr Lance Stapleton	TasWater	Member	20-Oct-15	Resigned 28-Feb-20
Ms Frances Smith	TasWater	Member	30-Apr-20	31-Dec-22
Mr Ashley Rushton	PWS	Member	07-Sep-17	30-Jun-20
Ms Rita Warrener	Tourism Tas	Member	07-Sep-17	30-Jun-20

Trust Deputy Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Ben Goodsir	DPIPWE	Deputy	20-Jan-17	31-Dec-22 Reappointed on 9 March 2020
Mr Ted Ross	GCC	Deputy	20-Mar-19	31-Dec-21
Mr Heath Woolley	TasWater	Deputy	15-Feb-19	30-Jun-21
Ms Jennifer Fry	PWS	Deputy	07-Sep-17	23-Dec-19
Ms Alice Holeywell-Jones	PWS	Deputy	30-Apr-20	31-Dec-22
Mr Mark Jones	Tourism Tas	Deputy	07-Sep-17	30-Jun-20
Ald Tanya Denison	HCC	Deputy to Ald Thomas	20-Mar-19	12-Jan-20 Nomination for replacement received
Cr Helen Burnet	HCC	Deputy to Ald Briscoe	20-Mar-19	31-Dec-21

Trust Manager:	
Axel von Krusenstierna	24/2/2014 - current

**b) Key Management Personnel Compensation**

	2019/20	2018/19
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	110,179	114,499
Post-employment benefits	15,189	8,536
Chairperson Remuneration	13,688	8,000
Sitting fees	2,550	2,360
	<b>141,606</b>	<b>133,395</b>

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.

The increase in the remuneration of the Trust Chairperson follows from a review of the Trust's Sizing Statement.

### 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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#### **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 2020 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: 19 October 2020*





## 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: Collins Bonnet from the East West Trail*