

Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | 2012 – 2013



A Holiday Ramble in Tasmania –
Ascending Mount Wellington,
H.N. Robertson, c.1885.
Wood engraving published in
The Illustrated Australian.



Mount Wellington and Scenic Tourism

The Mountain has been a focal point for scenic tourism from Lieutenant-Governor David Collins' 1804 exploration party through to the present day, with visitation exceeding 300,000 people per annum for the panoramic views.

The Mountain has had its share of famous scenic tourists. Early tourists include: James Backhouse and George Washington Walker (well known Quakers), who made the ascent of Mount Wellington by the New Town Way in 1832; Baron von Hugel, who in 1833 made the ascent of Mount Wellington from the south; Charles Darwin, who made two ascents in 1836; and Lady Jane Franklin, (wife of the Governor of Van Diemens Land) who, with a small party of men and women, camped overnight on the Mountain in 1837. The summit has also been the destination of film stars, politicians and mayors, in the early days travelling on foot from Hobart or the Springs.

In the summer of 1904-05, more than 7,000 people walked to the summit of Mount Wellington. Visitation was strongly encouraged through the various 'Tourist Guides'. A variety of encouragements were used, with the 1869 Guide for Excursionists for example promising that 'ascending the mountain is not so difficult as reported – indeed, children are often met on its summit'.

It is not just the views from the summit that have attracted the scenic tourists to Mount Wellington. The forests and ferneries, the Organ Pipes and the tumbled dolerite boulders, the waterfalls and rivulets, the alpine scenery, the wildflowers and the wildlife, the recreation tracks and, for a period, the rustic huts, have drawn locals and tourists alike to the Mountain.

An 1894 medallion, recently obtained by the Trust, is tangible evidence of this history, and of the local and extended connections to the Mountain. The medallion, a token given to a local guide, is believed to be very rare, and is the only known one of its type for Tasmania.



1894 medallion (WPMT Collection)



The Year at a Glance: 2012–2013

Planning Achievements

- Completion and distribution of the draft Wellington Park Management Plan 2012 for public review and comment. The draft Management Plan is the culmination of the review of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005*, and provides the management and policy framework for achieving the Park's use, management and maintenance balance into the future. The Trust received 264 representations on the draft, and has provided a report to the Tasmanian Planning Commission on its proposed responses to the issues raised in the representations.
- Continued facilitation of a feasibility study into a Wellington to Wilderness multi-day recreation track leading from Hobart to the southwest wilderness. The study is undertaken on behalf of the Australian and Tasmanian State Governments, and has investigated the potential for a multiple-use walking and recreation track with links to Maydena and Judbury. The feasibility study included the appointment of TRC Tourism to undertake economic and market analyses to help determine the viability of the concept.
- Completion of the full draft report on the Park's historic recreational tracks and huts. The project will ensure a better understanding of this important and significant heritage, and will achieve improved conservation management and interpretation of the tracks and huts. The analysis indicates that a number of the sites have state level heritage significance, while some tracks (and suite of tracks) and huts have national level significance.
- Commencement of an engagement framework for communications with the Aboriginal community. This project seeks to ensure ongoing long-term and meaningful engagement with Aboriginal communities and groups, including the investigation of the cultural and spiritual significance of Wellington Park and its natural features.
- Implementation of an ongoing school student education programme as part of the Trust's Regulations Awareness Programme. The presentations are aimed at Year 10-12 school and college students, with the intent of promoting awareness of Park values and encouraging respect for the regulations.

Operations

- Management and control of a major wildfire in the north-western (Molesworth) area of the Park in early February 2013. The fire entered the Park in the vicinity of Collins Bonnet, and burnt approx 630ha of the Park. Control of the fire was undertaken as a collaborative approach, led by the Tasmania Fire Service.
- Vegetation clearing and track works along Jefferys Track, East West fire trail, Ringwood fire trail and Collins Cap fire trail in conjunction with operations to contain the February 2013 bushfire.
- Improvement of the public toilet facilities at the Pinnacle, undertaken by the Hobart City Council. The upgrade increases the capacity and quality of the existing facilities.
- Upgrade of 4.4. km of rock climbing access tracks, and the installation of new risk management signs.

Community Involvement

- Ongoing community involvement in the Regulations Awareness Programme and educational activities, including promotional events, interpretation walks and school presentations.
- Involvement of rock climbers in determining improvements to access tracks to the Organ Pipes climbing areas.
- Planning support and assistance to the Wellington Park Bushcare Group.
- Continued support for the Hobart City Council Bush Adventures Programme, with interpretation being developed and run for children, teens and adults throughout the Park.
- Facilitation of the Wellington Park Maintenance Coordinating Committee. The committee meets bi-annually at the start and end of the bushfire season to coordinate bushfire management and other works in the Park.

Introduction

A Complex Reserve

The Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust) is an independent Management Authority for Wellington Park, established pursuant to the *Wellington Park Act 1993* (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.

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 existence in the urban and semi-rural environment. The Park has unique natural and cultural qualities, and includes the icons of Mount Wellington, forming the backdrop to Tasmania's capital city, and Sleeping Beauty, visible from the Huon Valley.

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 landholders and Trust member agencies, that significant progress has been made.

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

TasWater¹ has a statutory responsibility for bulk water supply to the greater metropolitan area and, whilst continuing to maintain infrastructure within the Park, contributes significantly as a land manager to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water catchments. The Parks and Wildlife Service offers substantial conservation knowledge and experience, and administrative support, whilst Tourism Tasmania represents the significant role the Park has as a major tourist destination and its potential for future sustainable development. The Trust also receives substantial operational and administrative support from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

Vision and Mission

The Trust's Vision for the Park (originally adopted in 2006) seeks to provide a consistent and values-based approach to the management of the Park and the Wellington Park Office. The Vision is:

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

As part of the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan 2005, the Trust has proposed to amend the Vision to highlight the desire that the Park be accessible to all of the community. Consequently the new Vision proposed in the draft Management Plan 2012 is:

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.

¹ Southern Water commenced trading as TasWater from 1 July 2013.

Membership

The membership of the Trust is outlined in the Act. The Chairperson for the Trust is an independent appointment made by the responsible Minister in accordance with the Act. Dr Christine Mucha continued in the position, and was reappointed to a further two-year term from 1 June 2013. Alderman Dr Peter Sexton (HCC) was Deputy Chairperson until his retirement from the Trust on 31 December 2012, whereby Alderman Bill Harvey was appointed Deputy Chairperson by the Minister. Ald Sexton has been a member of the Trust since 2005, and the Trust sincerely thanks Ald Sexton for his contributions and leadership over that time.

The membership of the Trust over 2012-13 involved several changes from the previous year, with: Ald Phillip Cocker replacing Ald Sexton as the representative of the Hobart City Council; Ald Haydyn Nielsen replacing Ald Peter Ridler as the representative of the Glenorchy City Council; and Ms Rita Warrenner (Product Development Consultant, Tourism Tasmania) replacing Mr Tony Mayell as the representative of the Director of Tourism Tasmania.

Over 2012-13, the Trust consisted of:

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| <i>Chairperson</i> | Dr Christine Mucha |
| <i>Nominee of Director-General of Lands</i> | Dr John Whittington |
| <i>Representative of Glenorchy City Council</i> | Alderman Peter Ridler <i>To 31/12/2012</i> |
| | Alderman Haydyn Nielsen <i>From 1/1/2013</i> |
| <i>Representative of Hobart City Council</i> | Alderman Bill Harvey <i>Deputy Chairperson</i> |
| <i>Representative of Hobart City Council</i> | Alderman Dr Peter Sexton <i>Deputy Chairperson</i> <i>To 31/12/2012</i> |
| | Alderman Phillip Cocker <i>From 1/1/2013</i> |
| <i>Representative of TasWater</i> | Mr Russell Fox |
| <i>Nominee of Director Parks and Wildlife Service</i> | Mr Ashley Rushton |
| <i>Nominee of Director Tourism Tasmania</i> | Mr Tony Mayell <i>To 31/12/2012</i> |
| | Ms Rita Warrenner <i>From 1/1/2013</i> |

The full membership and attendance schedule of Trust members throughout the year are provided in Appendices 2 and 3. It is noted that the frequency of meetings over the year was greater than usual due to the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan.

Wellington Park Office

The Trust is supported by the Wellington Park Office. The Office plays an important role in preparing planning strategies and protocols, facilitating regional projects, co-ordinating the management actions carried out by Trust member agencies, and ensuring a regional and co-operative approach to land management within the Park. All of the staff work varying degrees of part-time.

Staff in the Office consists of:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mr. Michael Easton | <i>Manager</i> |
| Mr Ben Masterman | <i>Ranger</i> |
| Ms. Anne McConnell | <i>Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator</i> |
| Mr. Axel von Krusenstierna | <i>Fire Management Co-ordinator Project Officer (Wellington to Wilderness Multi-day Recreation Track)</i> |
| Ms. Catherine Nicholson | <i>Project Planner (Review of Management Plan)</i> |

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

General administrative and technical support, and office space is provided to the Trust by the Hobart City Council, while the Ranger is supported by the Parks and Wildlife Service, resulting in significant cost savings for the Trust. Technical support for the Trust's geographical information system is provided by the Glenorchy City Council and DPIPW. The Office also is 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.

Technical and specialist advice and input is provided by staff from the membership bodies on the Trust and via the Trust's Management Advisory Committee, a statutory committee formed via s 12 of the Act.

The Trust has established Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with relevant Trust member agencies formalising administrative, strategic and financial contributions to the Trust to assist in the co-ordination of management throughout the Park. The Fire Management Co-ordinator,

Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator and Ranger positions are funded via these agreements. The MoUs demonstrate the strong commitment of member agencies to the implementation of the Management Plan, and are scheduled for review in the 2013-14 financial year.

The Trust's Project Planner was employed for one month to finalise the review the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005* and the position was funded via a grant from the State Government. The Project Officer for the Wellington to Wilderness Multi-day Recreation Track is funded by the Australian Government as part of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement.

Community and Agency Contributions

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

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

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

Major Initiative 2012 – 2013

Wellington to Wilderness Multi-day Recreation Track Feasibility Study

The feasibility study is one of a number of projects to receive Commonwealth funding as part of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement with the aim of building regional economic diversity and community resilience. The Trust undertook to facilitate the study at the request of the State Government, based upon its ability to undertake the relevant assessments and project management expertise. The project is overseen by a project steering committee, consisting of representatives from: Parks and Wildlife Service; Forestry Tasmania; Environment Tasmania; Hobart City Council; the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts; and the and the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (Australian Government).

The project is being assisted by a working group that includes: local government; tourism groups; major landowners along the route (Hobart City Council, Forestry Tasmania, and the Parks and Wildlife Service); community and interest groups (Tasmania Trail Association; West Wellington Protection Group; National Parks Association; Tasmania Conservation Trust; and Environment Tasmania); members of the three key recreation groups (horse riders, mountain bikers and bushwalkers); and local residents who have a detailed knowledge of the trails, tracks and attractions along the route.

The feasibility study is being carried out in two stages. The first stage was completion of a Concept Outline report with the assistance of the project working group. The Concept Outline envisaged five loop tracks designed as day trips for mountain bike and horse riders. The loops are linked by existing or new tracks to provide overnight and multiday options.

Based on the preliminary market analysis in the Concept Outline, the project steering committee decided to proceed to Stage 2 ie a full feasibility study, and adopted the working name 'Wellington to Wilderness Concept' for the track. Stage 2 included a more detailed analysis of the demand for the concept, its financial viability and socio-economic impacts and benefits as well as further refinement of the concept based on the finding of these analyses. On behalf of the Government, the Trust engaged TRC Tourism to carry out detailed financial and market analyses, and to refine the concept.

As at 30 June, the steering committee was considering a draft report prepared by TRC Tourism. The feasibility study is due for completion by 30 November 2013.

Management and Strategic Planning

Release of draft Wellington Park Management Plan 2012

A new draft Management Plan was released for public review and comment in August 2012. The draft Management Plan represents the outcome of an extensive review of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005*, commenced in late 2010 and which involved significant external input both from the community and expert consultants. The public engagement undertaken throughout the review has included: identification and analysis of key issues (refer Annual Report 2010-11); external management reviews and the release of an Issues Discussion Paper (refer Annual Report 2011-12); and now the release of the new draft Management Plan.

The draft Management Plan was released on 28 August 2012 for nine weeks of public review, in accordance with the processes contained in Act. The draft Management Plan was made available on the Trust's website, and hard copies were distributed to relevant municipal council's for public display. The Trust also forwarded cd's containing the Plan to a mailing list of community members unable to access the Plan on the website.

The Trust received 264 representations on the draft management Plan, representing the high level of community interest in the process and the future management of the Park. In accordance with the Act, the Trust considered the above issues and submitted a report on its proposed response to the issues to the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The report was submitted to the Commission on 3 May 2013. The Commission will undertake an independent review of the Trust's proposed responses, and report its findings back to the Trust, following which the Trust can finalise the draft Plan for submission to the Governor.

A summary of the Trust's proposed response to key issues raised in the representations is outlined below.

As at 30 June, the Commission was still reviewing the Trust's report and the public representations.

Commercial Development and the Cable-car

- The Trust seeks to take an 'enabling' approach, whereby use and development that is permitted in the Plan may be considered and assessed by the Trust and the relevant Planning Authority.
- The draft Plan provides for commercial use and development in both the Springs and Pinnacle areas. This expands the potential area from that of the existing Management Plan.
- The Plan does not specifically advocate a cable-car (or similar transport modes), but rather provides for proposals conceived by independent parties to be assessed in accordance with the procedures contained in the Plan.
- In reviewing the issue, the Trust has maintained its desire for the Plan to allow consideration of a cable-car and associated development at the Pinnacle. Any proposal would be assessed in accordance with the performance standards outlined in chapters 4, 4A & 4B of the Plan, and also require the approval of the relevant land-owning agency.
- As with all proposals for use and development, any proposal for the Pinnacle or Springs will require the land owner consent of the Hobart City Council prior to lodging a development application.
- Once a development application is lodged, it will be considered in accordance with the standards provided in the Management Plan. These standards provide for a performance-based approach, and seek to ensure all use and development minimises any adverse impact upon the values of the Park.
 - The standards contain Performance Criteria that the development must meet – these are subjective and based upon minimising any adverse impact upon the values of the Park.
 - One way of meeting the Performance Criteria is outlined in the Acceptable Solutions in the standards. These are objective, and if the development meets all relevant Acceptable Solutions, then it must be approved by the Planning Authority (with conditions).

Approval Processes

- This is a key aspect of the Plan, given the application of two pieces of controlling legislation: the Act and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA).
- The Plan is structured to provide clarity between the two approval processes however some complexity is inevitable, and reflects the complex and values-laden nature of management of natural areas. The dual assessment approach maintains both the Trust's role in approving use and development (as the strategic management authority for the Park), and the public accessibility and engagement that LUPAA provides.
- The Trust proposes to retain the rigour of the performance standards against which any proposals are tested – this provides a performance-based approach to assessment of use and development, and ensures a best practice methodology for testing development proposals and the minimisation of adverse impact upon Park values.

Recreation Access

- A key issue identified in representations is the continuation of current prohibitions on access and facilities within the Restricted Areas, particularly in the Glenorchy management area.
- While the protection of drinking water catchment values is a key responsibility under the Act, the Trust proposes to amend the draft Plan to allow for consideration of new recreation assets e.g. bike and walking tracks within the Drinking Water Catchment Zone, provided they comply with the objectives of the zone and the relevant performance standards contained in the Plan.
- Other recreation issues related to the potential increase in dog walking and horse riding access, and the provision of more multiple-use opportunities for mountain bikers. The Trust feels it has provided the right balance between providing for such access and minimising any adverse impact upon Park values.

Protection of Natural and Cultural Values

- Representations noted particular concern over the draft Plan's provision for new use and development to be considered, particularly at the Pinnacle, and the potential impact of this upon Park values.
- The Trust believes that the objectives of the management zones established by the Plan and the performance standards contained within the relevant chapters will provide adequate safeguard to ensure adverse impact is avoided or minimised when considering new uses and developments.
- The Plan introduces new protections and management approaches to areas of landscape and visual sensitivity, and, as with all of the natural and cultural values of the Park, seeks to provide for the protection of these values while also allowing for the expansion of visitor opportunities and experiences.

Adaptive Management

- The Plan provides for a strengthening of monitoring and evaluation of management actions within the Park, and provides for an Adaptive Management approach to ensure that the Trust can respond to weaknesses in implementation of the Plan.

Commercial Visitor Services

The Trust has continued to implement guidelines for the assessment and management of commercial operations in the Park, originally endorsed in 2007. The guidelines were prepared in accordance with s 6.3.19 of the Management Plan 2005, which required a policy that addressed: administration; fees and pricing; monitoring procedures; training; and advertising within the Park.

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

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

Further, the CVS requires all commercial operators to have appropriate tourism industry accreditation when offering tourism services; this does not apply to the Base Transport Service. The intent is to ensure a high quality and management and delivery of tourism services within the Park, and the approach is supported by the Tourism Industry Council, Tasmania.

As at 30 June 2013, there were 77 businesses conducting licensed commercial operations in the Park.

Fire Management

The Trust continued to co-ordinate the implementation of the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy (rev. 2006) (FMS). The Trust employs a part-time Fire Management Co-ordinator to work with respective land management agencies to ensure timely and appropriate management of vegetation and fire infrastructure, in accordance with the objectives of the FMS.

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

The Trust continued to share digital geographic data with DPIPW under the data sharing agreement agreed between the agencies 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.

Recent amendments to the *Fire Service Act 1979* have discontinued the existing Hobart Special Fire Area Committee and other fire management area committees, replacing them with a smaller number of regional fire management areas with new committees. The State Fire Management Council is responsible for the new committees and has recently appointed an executive officer to set them up and help run them. The Trust is represented on those committees covering the Park. The portion of the Park east of Jefferys Track will be in the fire management area committee that includes Hobart, Glenorchy, Clarence and part of Kingborough, Huon Valley and Derwent Valley Councils. The portion of the Park west of Jefferys Track will be in the fire management area that covers most of southern Tasmania.

As noted in earlier reports, the Trust has endorsed a policy to close the Park during periods of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger in the Hobart area; this extends the previous policy of closing the Park if there is a fire burning in the Park or likely to spread into the Park. The policy is being implemented by placing signs on the major entry points to the Park during the fire permit period warning visitors not to enter the Park on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger.

Bushfire in Wellington Park, February 2013

On 6 February a bushfire ('the Molesworth fire') started along Glen Dhu Road to the north of Wellington Park, entering Wellington Park in the vicinity of Collins Cap on 8 February. All walking tracks and fire trails west of Mount Wellington and the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park were immediately closed as the fire was not contained. The whole Park including Pinnacle Road was closed at 10am on Saturday 9 February following a request from the Tasmania Fire Service Incident Controller, given concern that the Park would be affected by dense smoke during that afternoon. The following day, Pinnacle Road, the eastern walking tracks, and the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park were re-opened. The rest of the Park was progressively re-opened over the next few weeks as the bushfire was brought under control, though tracks and trails affected by fire remained closed until safety checks and rehabilitation works were completed.

The bushfire reached its maximum extent in the Park on 12 February (refer map). The fire burnt approx 630ha within the Park (approx 3.5% of the area of the Park) but was very patchy.

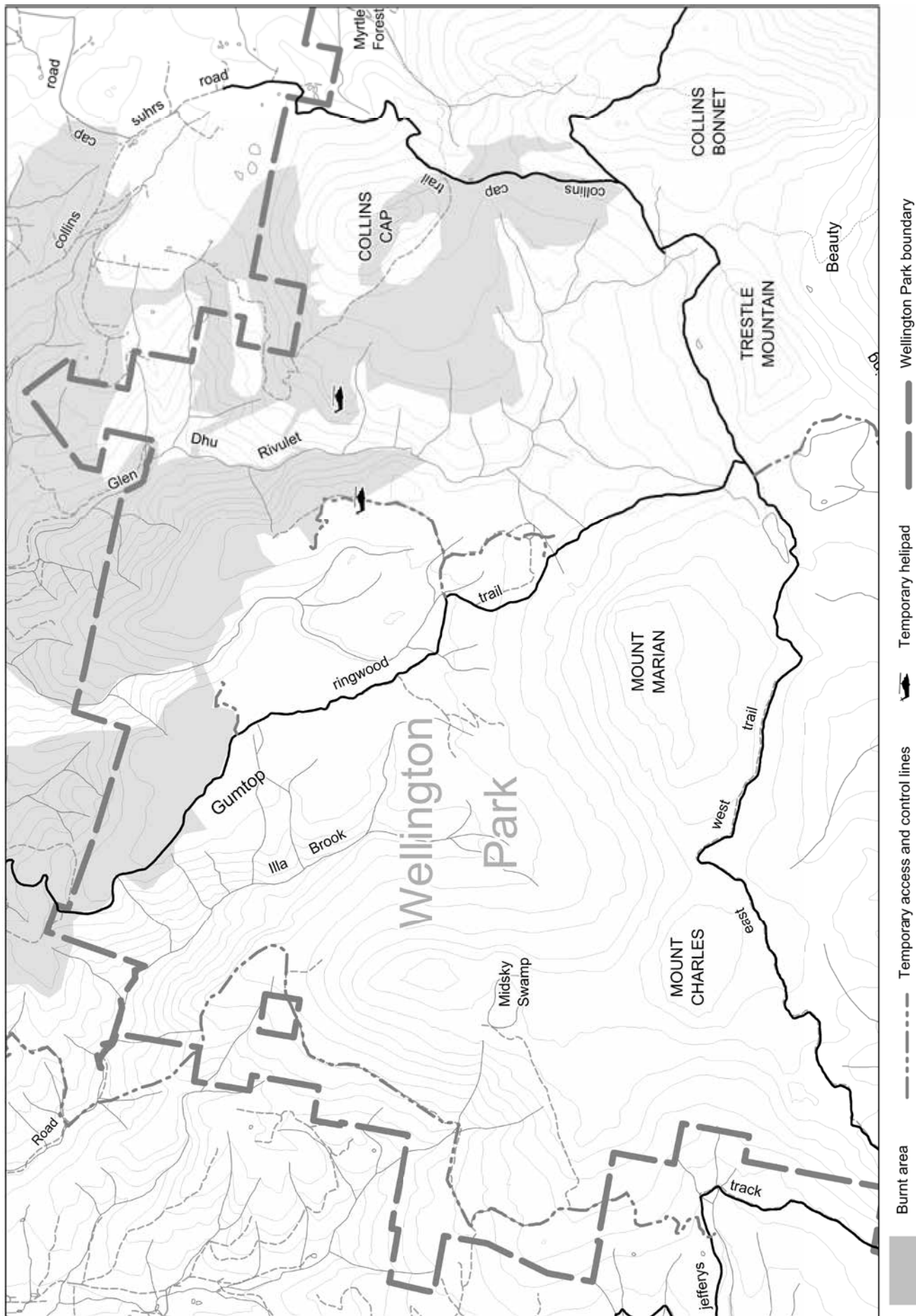
Remote Area Teams (RATs) from NSW and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service worked hard over the subsequent weeks to put out hot-spots (mainly smouldering logs, stumps and trees) within the overall fire boundary; these were detected from helicopter, either by visible smoke or through the use of an infra-red sensor. The RATs are specially trained personnel for fire fighting in areas that can't be reached by vehicles, and each hot-spot was dealt with by RATs assisted by water bombing from helicopters.

During the fire-fighting effort the Trust's Fire Management Coordinator acted as liaison between the Park management agencies and the Incident Management Team including up to date information on the fire trails and walking tracks in the Park.

As a contingency against the fire crossing control lines, excavators widened and cleared vegetation along Jefferys Track, the East-West fire trail, Ringwood fire trail, Collins Cap fire trail, and the upper part of Montrose fire trail to improve access for fire fighters, and to strengthen them should they have been required as control lines. A temporary trail was also constructed from Jefferys Track along the Wellington Park boundary to Illa Brook Road to protect dwellings in the area should the fire have jumped Ringwood fire trail. This mostly involved clearing old overgrown trails though some new trails were constructed. Two temporary helipads were also established.

After the fire all the temporary trails that had been used as control lines or constructed as fall back lines, and the temporary helipads, were rehabilitated and any damage to permanent fire trails repaired. Damage to Park infrastructure was minimal and it is expected that the vegetation burnt in the fire will fully recover in time.

The Trust acknowledges the magnificent leadership and co-ordination provided by the Tasmania Fire Service, supported by the Parks and Wildlife Service and other interstate personnel, during the Molesworth fire.



Regulations Awareness Programme

The Regulations Awareness Programme (RAP), now in its eleventh year, engages agency staff, other authorities and the community in the protection and promotion of the Park's values. The Trust has continued to encourage community involvement in management of the Park, and has maintained strong connections to various community groups and Park users. Ongoing support from Trust member agencies, Tasmania Police and the community, has been integral in raising community awareness of Park values and the *Wellington Park Regulations 2009*.

The Ranger's activities are guided by a steering committee consisting of representatives from land management agencies with responsibilities in the Park, and in accordance with the directions and priorities of the RAP Communications Plan. Ongoing awareness-raising activities include: on-ground education; making contact with user groups and clubs; maintenance of the Wellington Park website and updating promotional brochures; distributing regulatory information; preparing media articles and radio interviews; attendance at community events; organising Park promotional and educational opportunities; Authorised Officer training and co-ordination; and responding to public enquiries.

Reaching out to young people as fledgling users of the Park is an important focus of the RAP. The Trust continues its support of the Hobart City Council Bush Adventures Programme by consulting and jointly developing activities that educate and inform children and young people and their families about Park values, and deliver relevant regulatory messages. The Ranger has developed a RAP presentation aimed at Year 10-12 level school and college students. The presentation was delivered successfully at a number of high schools in the Hobart region in 2012-13 and will continue to be rolled out in schools and colleges around Hobart. It is hoped that by promoting awareness of Park values and encouraging respect for the regulations, we may assist young people in becoming responsible Park users. The Ranger has also visited a number of primary school audiences at the request of teachers who are focussing on Wellington Park in their curriculum.

The increasing popularity and usefulness of information technology and social media constitutes an opportunity as well as a risk. The Trust accordingly has adopted and adapted early, using blogs and Internet forums to communicate with mountain bike clubs and other user groups. These approaches allow the Trust to adopt

convenient and thorough educative and regulatory communications across a spectrum of Park users, be they first time, interstate or overseas visitors or seasoned locals.

Enforcement activities on the ground consisted of frequent patrols across the length and breadth of the Park, with focal points identified by reporting from agency field staff, Authorised Officers and Park neighbours. The Ranger assisted PWS staff in trialling remote sensing cameras targeting unauthorised vehicle use on closed roads in their management zone. No pre-planned 'stings' were undertaken in the 12-month period, as the numbers of relevant reported offences has remained low compared to previous years. Patrolling took place on foot, by vehicle and by mountain bike. Follow-up enforcement activity included:

- maintenance of the enforcement database;
- investigation of reported offences;
- communication with Hobart and Glenorchy police to assist in the tracking down of offenders where only partial identification has been obtained;
- distribution of caution letters with information sheets and maps;
- refresher training presentations to agency field staff and authorised officers;
- maintenance of communication with Park neighbours to assist with identifying and prosecuting offences.

A large number of Informal Cautions and Conditional Cautions (formerly Informal Cautions) were issued in response to first time dog and mountain bike related offenders. Offenders who have breached a regulation but satisfied the Ranger that discretion may be exercised are now issued with a Conditional Caution (in effect, a 'cancelled' Prescribed Infringement Notice). This has proven an effective compliance strategy as no repeat offence has been detected following this approach.

The Authorised Officer Guidelines were reviewed and adapted to reflect this strategy and to align with Parks and Wildlife Service compliance intervention procedures. The Trust has endorsed the revised guidelines.

The Ranger responded to previous dog-related offence data by improving signs and on-ground presence throughout the Hobart and Glenorchy management areas. There were 16 dog-related offences recorded 2012-13 (compared with 25 in 2011-12), representing a significant increase in awareness of and compliance with the *Regulations* relating to dogs.

Bike riding on walking tracks accounted for 11 offences (up from seven in 2011-12), all in the Hobart management area. The rise may be attributed to higher frequency monitoring of known 'hotspots' but also rider impatience: six of the offences were recorded on the Bracken Lane link below Radford's Track, identified as a high priority track segment in the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Masterplan (2010) and awaiting implementation. The Ranger will continue to inform the community via interaction with users in the Park, RAP presentations and media communications, and ongoing monitoring will occur at known and potential hotspots.

Forty offences relate to illegal trailbiking in the Glenorchy and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas (an increase from 21 in 2011-12), 18 of which occurred in the Tolosa Mountain Bike area alone. The most significant contributing factor to the increased incidence of offences is the weakening of barriers – due to vandalism and erosion – in the Glenochy area, however a similar situation applies in the more remote PWS managed area. Vandalism includes: gates and locks being cut; creation of bypasses around gates; and the cutting of vegetation. Management agencies have been quick to respond to cut gates, however limited resource availability has resulted in delays to works and thus continued illegal vehicle access. Surfacing of the Glenorchy fire trails (completed in early 2013) is showing some signs of deterioration from trailbike use, and vegetation surrounding gates which have been forcibly bypassed is in need of rehabilitation. Other instances of vandalism include damage and defacing of Park signs and gates at entry points.

Over the year, the Ranger spent approximately 396 hrs in the field and recorded a total of 68 offences. Regulatory actions included:

- 13 Informal Cautions
- 8 Conditional Cautions
- 12 events where communication with the offender was not possible
- Six Prescribed Infringement Notices.

Cultural Heritage Management

Aboriginal Heritage

The Trust has continued to work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) where opportunities arise.

A key initiative undertaken by the State Government was the announcement of the Aboriginal Dual Naming Policy in March 2013. Tasmania is the first state in Australia to introduce a dual naming policy, which seeks to recognise the Aboriginal community's rightful status as the first inhabitants of this land and celebrating their living culture, traditions and language. The policy will see Indigenous names given to geographic features and places that don't already have a European name, and see the names introduced to already named areas and features, alongside the European name.

In relation to the Park, the TAC submitted 'kunanyi' as the Palawa kani name for Mount Wellington. The application was supported by the Trust, and, as at 30 June, the application was being considered by the Nomenclature Board.

The Trust also commenced developing a *Framework for Aboriginal Heritage Management* for the Park. This initiative recognises the importance of the Trust's obligation to preserve and protect features of Aboriginal interest within the Park – this relates to both the spiritual significance of the Park and the protection of any sites or features of Aboriginal inhabitation. It is noted that, since the Park was created in 1993, there has been no consistent program or strategy established for the identification and management of Aboriginal values within the Park, and the Trust desires to take a more pro-active approach to the management of these values.

The initial stage includes a review of past and existing Aboriginal management in Wellington Park, and an exploration of potential avenues for future community engagement and collaborative management. It is anticipated that the results of this initial work will provide a foundation for future consultation with the Aboriginal community.

Historic Heritage

The major heritage projects in 2012-13 were the development of design guidelines for visitor infrastructure for the Hobart Mountain Water Supply System, and the Historic Tracks and Huts Project. Both projects have been funded by the State Government Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund.

The Mountain Water Supply System Design Guidelines is a joint Trust and Hobart City Council Project, prepared as an external consultancy. The project commenced in early 2013, and aims to ensure that: the Water Supply System is presented as a recognisable single heritage entity; and that the recreational and interpretive infrastructure associated with the System (in particular Pipeline Track) is in keeping with, and sympathetic to the System's heritage values.

The preparation of the Guidelines implements a key recommendation of the Mountain Water Supply System Conservation Plan. The Guidelines will assist land managers to understand, manage, interpret and present the Water Supply System as a single entity while also recognising key aspects of the cultural significance of the system and its bushland setting. The Design Guidelines will be used by management agencies (primarily the Hobart City Council and TasWater) to guide the on-ground management of old System infrastructure and the construction of new infrastructure.

The Trust has continued to facilitate the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group to ensure a co-ordinated and strategic approach to the management of the System. Membership of the group currently includes representatives from the Trust, Hobart City Council, TasWater and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania.

The Historic Tracks and Huts Project, commenced in 2011, has now been completed to the stage of a final revised draft report, released for stakeholder comment in early 2013. The aim of this project is to achieve a better understanding of this important recreation heritage, and to achieve better heritage conservation management and interpretation of the tracks and huts. The report indicates that a number of the historic scenic tourism and recreation tracks and huts have State-level significance, while some tracks (and suites of tracks) and huts have national-level significance.

Engagement with the community continues to be a key aspect of cultural heritage management given the local community's demonstrated interest in the history and heritage of Wellington Park, particularly the Mountain. Key outcomes from community engagement in 2012-13 included: the locating of Clematis Hut, one of the most ornate of the rustic recreation huts (c.1880–1910); and the purchase of an 1894 medallion associated with the history of scenic tourism on Mount Wellington (refer front and inside cover of this report). Medallions of this type are quite rare, and this medallion is the only known one of its type for Tasmania. The Trust's Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator has also responded to a small number of information and management related queries from the community about historic heritage in the Park or adjacent.

The Trust continued to provide practical historic heritage advice and support to the land and resource management agencies. This took the form of discussions, assessments and field inspections in relation to: a small landslip along the Mountain Water Supply System; replacement of the Twin Bridges on the Mountain Water Supply System; the proposed upgrade and monitoring of sections of the Pipeline Track for multiple use; the proposed upgrade of Radfords Track to better manage multiple-use; the Cathedral Rock Track upgrade; and options for a new downhill mountain bike track (the Chalet to Junction Cabin). As a result of the latter assessment, evidence of the New Town Red Paint Track (c. 1860) has been found above Pinnacle Road.

Heritage advice was also provided to the Glenorchy City Council in relation to a new proposed mountain bike track as part of the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park. Provision of this advice required historical background research (undertaken as a consultancy) and a field survey of the route. This study located a small number of new historic sites and features related to the late 1800 – early 1900 rural history of the area.

Another important heritage management role of the Trust is to maintain and distribute heritage site data to relevant land management agencies. A major upgrade of site data was commenced, which will eventuate in a new Historic Heritage GIS layer in 2014. This information provides important management and conservation advice, as evidenced in the information provided to the Tasmania Fire Service as part of the control and management of the Molesworth fire. An 'Historic Heritage Collections' database was also established in 2012-13, allowing information to be stored on the small number of artefacts retained by the Trust for their protection.

Water Quality and Catchments

Management of the Park's vital drinking water catchments remained a priority for the Trust in the 2012-13 period. The catchments utilised for drinking water supply include:

- North West Bay River
- Northern Catchments (Knights Creek, Limekiln Dam, Merton Weir and Merton Dam)
- Southern Catchments (Pipeline track offtakes)
- Illa Brook (contributing to New Norfolk's drinking water supply)
- Rocky Creek (supplying Crabtree)
- Stevensons Creek (supplying Mountain River)

During the reporting period both the Limekiln and Illa Brook water supplies were offline due to water quality issues related to local geology.

The Park supplies approximately 20% of the greater Hobart's drinking water, and provides all of the water supplied to Crabtree and Mountain River. The Trust has worked closely with TasWater to strategically manage the catchments for the long term benefit of the community.

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

A 5-year review of the Strategy has been completed, with priority issues now being investigated, including:

- Access to drinking water catchments, human activities, and the proximity of intakes to access points
- Lack of storage and detention time before water consumption;
- Domestic, feral and native fauna;
- Ongoing agency coordination;
- Environmental flows; and
- Landslips and other natural sources of sediment.

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

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

- Stabilization of landslip zones on the Pipeline Track and associated track work, resulting in the opening of the Track to North West Bay Weir.
- Participation in the development of design guidelines for the Mountain Water Supply System.
- Water asset maintenance;
- Continued delivery of education programmes; catchment condition inspections; and water quality monitoring.

The Regulatory Awareness Programme 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 Programme is strongly supported by TasWater.

Development Planning

Springs Site Development

The Trust continued to work with the Hobart City Council (as the land owner of the Springs site) to develop the Springs site. The Trust has previously provided a planning permit for the development of a visitor centre, restaurant, modular education room and public facilities at the Springs.

As noted in earlier reports, the holder of the planning permit, Sultan Holdings, obtained an extension to the permit to May 2014. However there was no action taken to implement the permit, resulting in continued frustration for the Trust and Council, given the value of the Springs as a key recreation node within the Park.

Given the inactivity on the site, the Council considered options to upgrade toilet, picnic and BBQ facilities in the area in lieu of the proposed major development, however as at 30 June 2013, no further development of facilities had occurred.

Project Approvals

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

The Trust has approved one project proposal within the Park over the year. The project related to the repair and remedial works to sections of the Pipeline Track which had collapsed, exposing water supply pipes emanating from the North-West Bay River catchments. There were no applications for Letters of Authority pursuant to s 52A of the LUPAA, allowing development applications to be submitted to the relevant Planning Authority. The Trust did not refuse any applications received in 2012–13 for use and development in the Park.

Other Activities

Recreation

Bush Walking

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

The tracks are classed in accordance with the Australian Walking Track Standard, and are maintained by the relevant land management agencies via their respective asset maintenance systems and budget priorities.

During the year, the Trust undertook a comprehensive revision of its Bushwalking Information Sheet, following consultation with community stakeholders. The new sheet will provide a greater level of bush walking information, including a map encompassing a larger area of the Park, including the Pinnacle. Other key additions include five recommended walks with track notes, and bus-route information. These will be distributed via the website, and the Trust's information stands in Service Tasmania, the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre, and the Ferntree Tavern.

Bike Riding

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

The Trust has facilitated and subsequently endorsed the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan (2012). The aim of the plan is to create a regional network of bike trails and infrastructure in the south of the State. The Trust participates in a working group overseeing

the implementation of the Master Plan, and assists management agencies in developing responses to the Plan's recommendations. The Trust provides an agency update to the working group and is represented by the Ranger at its bi-annual meetings.

The Trust has continued to be an active member of the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Association Inc. The Constitution of the Association provides for a Management Committee consisting of representatives from the local biking community, the Trust, Glenorchy City Council and Cycling South.

Horse Riding

The Trust continues to provide opportunities for horse riding within the Park, however access is by permit only. This approach resolves the need for specialised horse access gates, which may provide openings for other unwanted access e.g. trail bikes. The Trust has delegated the management of the permit system to the Parks and Wildlife Service, as per the recreational vehicle permit system. Short term permits are available for one-off use, whilst long term permits may be obtained for regular users. Riding opportunities and a code of conduct are contained in the Horse Riding Information Sheet, endorsed by the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association. During the year a total of five long term horse riding permits were issued, all in the Collinsvale area.

Four Wheel Driving

The Park offers substantial opportunities for four wheel driving access by permit. The all-day journey along the East West fire 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 Trust has continued to be represented on the Recreational Vehicle Working Group, an agency and community group convened by the PWS, to seek a regional approach to trail management and to ensure that the procedures outlined in the *Policy for the use of Recreational Vehicles on State-Owned Lands in Tasmania* are followed in closing illegal trails.

The Park's recreational vehicle permit system is managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service under delegated authority, and trails are closed during wet periods and winter months to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the trail surface. This reporting period the East West fire trail was open to recreational vehicles in July 2012, then October 2012 – January 2013 and again from March–June 2013. Access was temporarily prohibited during the Molesworth bushfire in February 2013 and subsequent rehabilitation period. Over the year, 29 permits were issued for a total of 88 vehicles (compared to 27 for a total of 77 vehicles in 2011-12). Three permits were for interstate vehicle groups, with the remainder being issued to Tasmanian users. Additionally, 16 vehicle permits were issued to people with special needs requiring access to the Myrtle Forest picnic areas shelter.

Rock Climbing

Rock climbing continued to occur in many locations within the Park, most notably on the Organ Pipes on the eastern face of Mountain Wellington. Climbing is usually undertaken on an individual basis, however loose affiliations remain from the Climber's Club of Tasmania.

This year, the Trust, in association with the Hobart City Council, finalised improvements to walking track access and signs to the climbing sites within the Organ Pipes area. This has resulted in better access for local and visiting climbers, and better identification of climbs for emergency access.

Interpretation

The Trust continues to encourage interpretive activities through Hobart City Council's Bush Adventures Program. The Ranger assisted in the planning and development of a number of sessions for all ages, with a focus on informative and interactive educational activities. Importantly, these events provided opportunities for local children to engage with the Park and to form an appreciation of the area for the future.

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

Marketing and Promotion

Park activity and information sheets were updated and distributed in the field upon request or in response to offences. The Trust has continued to maintain two customised information display stands, located at the Hobart Service Tasmania shop and Ferntree Tavern. Maps and Information Sheets are also distributed by the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre in Davey Street.

After evaluating the effectiveness of the display stands and reviewing the existing information sheets, the Trust undertook a review of the Bushwalking Information Sheet and the Wellington Park Information Sheet. The Ranger sought input from community stakeholders - notably the operators of the Ferntree Tavern – and new designs were in development by June 2013. The new brochures will be in circulation by September 2013.

Community Consultation and Education

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

The Trust has established and facilitates a number of internal reference committees and working groups to implement its participatory planning approach, and also is represented on numerous external community committees. Most notable this year was consultation undertaken in relation to the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan – further detail on this process is contained earlier in this report.

The Historic Track & Hut Network Project is another key example of the participatory approach, with comment sought from a range of stakeholder groups, via meetings and information talks about the project.

The Trust's Ranger has also continued educating the community of Park values through both liaising with Park users on-ground and via radio and print media. Community education has also been initiated through the ongoing community involvement in the RAP and through the Wellington Park Wildlife programme, which enlists members of the community to submit data on wildlife sightings in the Park.

On-Ground Management

On-ground works within the Park are largely the responsibility of the land owning agencies, whilst various other agencies own and maintain assets relevant to their functions e.g. TasWater own and maintain water supply infrastructure. 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 *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005* divides the Park into three on-ground management zones (refer *Appendix 1*). The Trust, via the Management Plan, provides a means for ensuring that all works undertaken within the Park are consistent with the purposes for which the Park is set aside.

Operational Procedures

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

These procedures are included in management agency standard operating procedures and Project Briefs for external contractors.

Recreation Tracks

Recreation track development and maintenance is carried out by member agencies in accordance with the Wellington Park Walking Track Strategy (2003), and Wellington Park Bike Strategy (2006).

The Hobart City Council undertook an upgrade of 4.5km of walking tracks used by rock climbers to access climbing sites on the Organ Pipes. The upgrade included rationalisation of existing tracks to ensure access is safe and sustainable.

Fire Management

A detailed review of the Molesworth fire that occurred in February 2013 is provided earlier in this report.

General fire management activities are carried out by member agencies in accordance with the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy (2006) (FMS). The FMS aims to protect life and property, and ensure the sustainability of natural systems and the Park's natural and cultural values.

Seven burns were planned for 2012-13, subject to weather conditions. These included: four burns in the Glenorchy management area; one in the Hobart management area; and two on land adjoining the Park. The Hobart City Council completed one management burn (WP29) in November 2012 and partially burnt one further vegetation management unit in May 2013.

Member agencies have carried out maintenance work on the fire trails within the Park including repair of eroded sections, drainage improvements and clearing of encroaching vegetation, however sections of some key trails, particularly Big Bend fire tail and the East-West fire trail remain substandard and require further upgrading when funds become available. Glenorchy City Council carried out upgrades of Priest and Merton fire trails, and Hobart City Council completed maintenance of all the fire trails and firebreaks in its section of the Park.

Access to fire trails in the Park is controlled by locked gates. A security key system allows the emergency services and management agencies 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. An audit of all locks on both Wellington Park and private gates has been completed and a revised GIS database with the location of gates with Wellington Park locks, and the keys that will open the locks, sent to the management agencies.

Weed Management

All management agencies have continued in their efforts to reduce the incursion and spread of weeds through the Park. Large scale weeding works are approved by the Trust via the Project Proposal Form 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 GCC management area, with substantial improvements being made in the last year. The main areas of Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) have been treated and the focus has now shifted to removing scattered trees and saplings that have spread from the main infestations. Spanish Heath has been targeted in the Merton area and on Goat Hills but substantial infestations still remain. Removal of mature gorse blackberry and cotoneaster in the Inglewood Road is nearly complete though follow up control of seedlings will be required for many years.

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

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

Weed control is also undertaken by a number of community Landcare groups, including groups located at Fern Tree and Kangaroo Valley, and a Park-wide group focusing on remote weed populations. The Wellington Park Bushcare Group continued their long running projects to eradicate gorse in the part of the Park near Inglewood Road. They have also been targeting Spanish heath on Goat Hills and the Merton area.

Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Vegetation Action Plan

During the year, the Glenorchy City Council engaged consultants to prepare a vegetation action plan for the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park (near Tolosa Park) and surrounding areas. The Plan focuses on weed management and the provision of sustainable mountain biking facilities.

The Plan includes an assessment of the natural values of the area, and considers management issues such as bushfire risk and soil erosion. Key findings of the Plan include:

- The spread of weeds from current heavily infested areas is relatively limited and controllable, however that eradication is unlikely to be feasible in the short or medium, due to budget constraints.
- Some higher priority native vegetation values, particularly species of *Epacris*, require a higher level of attention in management.
- A major source of weed management issues in the area arises off-site, particularly in the Upper Merton area, Knights Creek Reservoir quarry, and along the eastern edge of the Area downstream from Limekiln Reservoir.
- Major corridors for the spread of weeds along tracks and streamlines are priorities for preventative management and spot control where needed.

Pinnacle Road Snow Management

The management of Pinnacle Road during snow periods is undertaken by the Hobart City Council, in accordance with the Trust's Pinnacle Road Snow Management Strategy (originally adopted in 2002 and reviewed annually). The Council provides outstanding support for road and traffic management issues during road closures, and is itself supported by Tasmania Police.

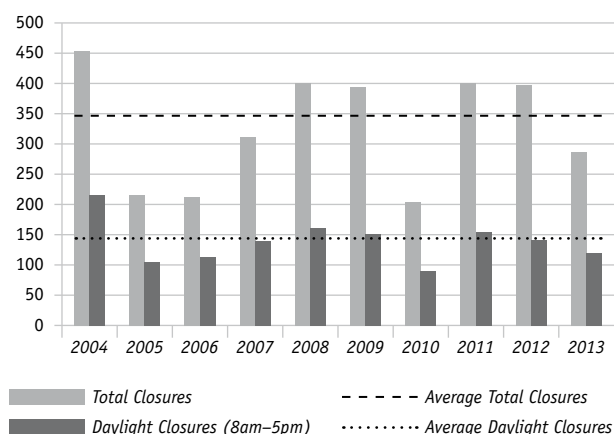
The Snow Management Strategy aims to provide a workable compromise between the needs of management agencies to have the Road open as quickly and as safely as possible, and the desires of the community to access snow play areas.

A key focus is the improvement of available information regarding road conditions and the reasoning behind management decisions, and the need to ensure visitors can plan ahead and be prepared for extreme conditions. Information is available from: the Council's website; the Pinnacle Road Information Line; the electronic variable message sign (on Huon Road); and media announcements. The Council has established a dedicated information page within its website – the page 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 digital images from two cameras positioned in the Pinnacle area.

For the year 1 July 2012 - 30 June 2013, there were 28 days (33 in 2011-12) when the road was closed for a period of greater than one hour, including five occasions (12 in 2011-12) when it was closed for an entire day. Closures amounted to a total of 100 daylight hours (8am–5pm) (167 in 2011-12) or 278.5 hrs (458 in 2011-12) if including overnight periods.

A summary of road closure data is provided in the following graph.

Closures (by year): 2004–2013



Permits

Commercial Licences

The Trust has continued its relationship with the Commercial Visitor Service system (CVS), enabling commercial operators to have one licence to cover all lands managed by the Trust, PWS and Forestry Tasmania.

As at 30 June 2013, there were 77 commercial operators providing tourism and recreational services within the Park.

Regulatory

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

In accordance with the Management Plan, the Trust has delegated the issue of permits for four wheel drive vehicles and horse riding on permitted trails within the Park to the PWS.

Over the year, the Trust issued: six permits for scientific research (two for fauna research and four for flora research); three permits for miscellaneous activities e.g. events; seven permits for commercial filming activities; and 32 permits for recreational activities (including 29 for recreational vehicle access).

The Trust has developed standard “conditions of use” to control use of the Trust’s GIS database by third parties. There are separate “conditions of use” forms for academic research and commercial use.

Administration

During the period, the Wellington Park Act 1993 was administered by the Honourable Brian Wightman, Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, and is located within the DPIPWE.

The membership of the Trust is outlined in the Act. The Chairperson for the Trust is an independent appointment made by the responsible Minister in accordance with the Act. Dr Christine Mucha continued in the position, and was reappointed to a further two-year term from 1 June 2013. Alderman Dr Peter Sexton (HCC) was Deputy Chairperson until his retirement from the Trust on 31 December 2012, whereby Alderman Bill Harvey was appointed Deputy Chairperson by the Minister.

The membership of the Trust over 2012-13 involved several changes from the previous year, with: Ald Phillip Cocker replacing Ald Sexton as the representative of the Hobart City Council; Ald Haydyn Nielsen replacing Ald Peter Ridler as the representative of the Glenorchy City Council; and Ms Rita Warrener (Product Development Consultant, Tourism Tasmania) replacing Mr Tony Mayell as the representative of the Director of Tourism Tasmania. The membership and attendance schedule of Trust members throughout the year is listed in Appendix 2 & 3.

General administrative and technical support, and office space has been provided to the Trust's Manager, Fire Management Co-ordinator, Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator and various project officers by the Hobart City Council, while the Ranger is housed and supported by the Parks and Wildlife Service, resulting in significant cost savings for the Trust. Technical support for the Trust's geographical information system was also provided by the Glenorchy City Council and DPIPWE.

Committee Membership

The Trust, via the Manager or project officers, was a member of the following external committees: Hobart Special Fire Area Committee; Commercial Visitor Services steering committee; Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Association Inc.; and the Recreational Vehicle Working Group. The Manager was also a member of the steering committee for the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan, and chairs the steering committee for the West Wellington Multi-day Track Feasibility Study.

The Manager also facilitated various internal reference groups including: Walking Track Working Group; Regulations Awareness Programme steering committee; Management Advisory Committee; Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee; and the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group.

Partnership Agreements

The Trust has established partnership agreements with key member agencies to ensure the ongoing management of the Park and the Wellington Park Office. The agreements take the form of five-year Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), and are designed to cover administrative, strategic and funding support for the Trust.

The Trust has established MoUs with TasWater, Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, and the Parks and Wildlife Service. The MoUs specifically provide for the employment of project-based officers to develop planning policy and to initiate implementation of related actions. Over time the MoUs have provided for the employment of a Fire Management Co-ordinator, Ranger, and Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator. In-kind contributions include technical and strategic support from member agencies.

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

Legislative Controls

Wellington Park Act 1993

The Wellington Park 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.

Wellington Park Regulations 2009

The Wellington Park Regulations are provided for under s 79 of the Act, to support effective implementation of the management plan and to govern on-ground activities within the Park.

The Regulations take precedence over the numerous by-laws and regulations that currently apply over the land tenures in the Park. The Trust employs a Ranger to oversee the Regulations Awareness Programme throughout the Park. The Ranger works with Authorised Officers (appointed under the Act) and other field staff from Trust member agencies to promote the co-operative relationship between the Trust and its on-ground managers.

Wellington Park Management Plan 2005

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

This year, the Trust completed its review of the 2005 Management Plan, and released a new draft Management Plan for public review and comment in August 2012 (reported above). The Trust intends to have the draft Management Plan finalised by December 2013.

The Wellington Park Management Trust

Section 10 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* dictates the composition of the Trust, comprising an independent Chairperson together with: the Director-General of Lands (or his nominee); the Directors of both the Parks and Wildlife Service and Tourism Tasmania (or their nominees); two representatives drawn from the Hobart City Council; and one representative each from the Glenorchy City Council and TasWater.

Identification of Trust members and their positions held as at 30 June 2012 is included as *Appendix 2*. An Attendance Record for Trust members to meetings of the Trust is included in *Appendix 3*.

Statutory Function and Objectives

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

- 5(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.

The objectives and function of the Trust as set out in Part 3, s 11 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.

Assisting Bodies

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

The Trust relies upon a Management Advisory Committee to consider matters affecting policy and cooperative management in the Park, and to otherwise act as a working group overseeing the preparation of strategies resulting from the Wellington Park Management Plan. The committee consists of technical officers and planners from member agencies, and is an invaluable conduit for the views and aspirations of the various Park landholders.

Other issue-specific working groups and steering committees are formed on a needs basis by the Manager. These include the: Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee; Walking Track Working Group; Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Association Inc.; Regulations Awareness Programme Steering Committee; and Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group.

Trust Resources

The Trust is served by one full time staff member in its Manager, based at Hobart City Council offices. The Trust also employs part-time Fire Management and Cultural Heritage Co-ordinators (both based at the Hobart City Council) and a Ranger (based at the Parks and Wildlife Service). The Trust has employed a Project Planner to co-ordinate the review of the Wellington Park Management Plan, and also facilitated the employment of a Project Officer to prepare the feasibility study into the Wellington to Wilderness Multi-day Recreation Track concept.

Technical and specialist advice and input is provided by staff from the membership bodies on the Trust and via the Trust's Management Advisory Committee, a statutory committee formed via s 12 of the Act.

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

on held cash, and administrative components of various grants.

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

The Trust has Memoranda of Understanding with TasWater, Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, and the Parks and Wildlife Service formalising administrative, strategic and financial contributions to the Trust to assist in the co-ordination of management throughout the Park. The Fire Management Co-ordinator, Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator and Ranger positions are funded via these agreements. The MoUs demonstrate the strong commitment of member agencies to the implementation of the Management Plan.

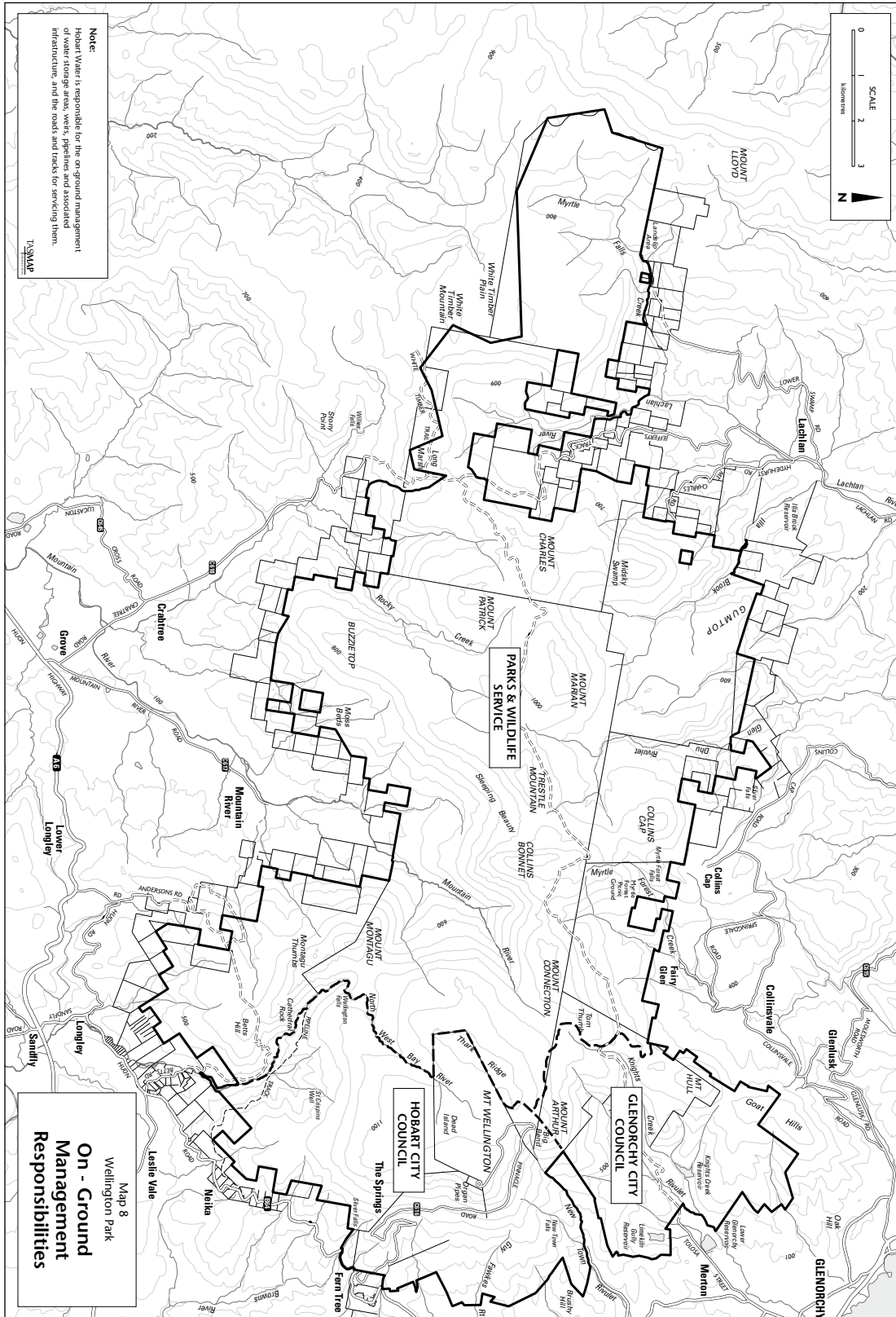
The Hobart City Council supplies considerable administrative, technical and operational support, with the bulk of Office staff being based on its premises, whilst the Parks and Wildlife Service provides similar support to the Ranger. The Glenorchy City Council supplies technical support for the Trust's geographical information system, 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.

Financial Information

Details of the Trust's financial operations are attached as *Appendix 4* hereto in the form of an Audit Report as required by pursuant to the *Audit Act 2008*.

Appendix 1

Wellington Park – On Ground Management Areas



Appendix 2

Membership of the Wellington Park Management Trust

1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

| <i>MEMBER</i> | <i>DEPUTY</i> |
|---|---|
| Chairperson Dr. Christine Mucha | Alderman Dr. Peter Sexton <i>(Expired 31/12/2012)</i> |
| | Alderman Bill Harvey <i>(From 1/1/2013)</i> |
| Director-General of Lands Dr. John Whittington Deputy Secretary <i>(Nominee of Director-General of Lands)</i> | Ms. Penny Wells General Manager Resource Management and Conservation |
| Glenorchy City Council Alderman Peter Ridler | Mr. Greg French Manager Environment and Development Services |
| Hobart City Council Alderman Bill Harvey | Alderman Phillip Cocker <i>(Expired 31/12/2012)</i> |
| Alderman Peter Sexton <i>(Expired 31/12/2012)</i> | Alderman Phillip Cocker <i>(Expired 31/12/2012)</i> |
| TasWater Mr. Russell Fox Executive Manager Asset and Service Strategy | Mr. Ian Dunbabin Executive Manager Service Delivery |
| Director Parks and Wildlife Service Mr. Ashley Rushton Regional Manager South <i>(Nominee of Director Parks and Wildlife Service)</i> | Mr. Mark Pharaoh Parks and Reserves Manager |
| Director Tourism Tasmania Mr Tony Mayell Chief Executive Officer <i>(Expired 31/12/2012)</i> | Dr Claire Ellis Consultant <i>(1/3–31/12/2012)</i> |
| Ms Rita Warrener <i>(From 1/1/2013)</i> (Nominee of Director Tourism Tasmania) | Ms Gill Parssey <i>(From 1/1/2013)</i> |

Note: *Terms of members are for three years, and are configured to ensure that appointments are carried out in blocks every 18 months.*

Appendix 3

Attendance Record

1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

| <i>MEMBER</i> | <i>Meetings Attended</i> | <i>Scheduled Meetings During Membership</i> |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Chairperson | | |
| Dr. Christine Mucha* | 7 | 7 |
| Director-General of Lands | | |
| Dr. John Whittington | 6 | 7 |
| Ms Penny Wells (<i>Deputy</i>) | 1 | |
| Glenorchy City Council | | |
| Alderman Peter Ridler** (<i>Expired 31/12/2012</i>) | 4 | 4 |
| Alderman Haydyn Nielsen** (<i>From 1/1/2013</i>) | 3 | 3 |
| Hobart City Council | | |
| Alderman Bill Harvey** | 6 | 7 |
| Alderman Peter Sexton** (<i>Expired 31/12/2012</i>) | 0 | 4 |
| Ald Philip Cocker** (<i>Deputy: expired 31/12/2012</i>) | 2 | |
| Ald Philip Cocker** (<i>From 1/1/2013</i>) | 2 | 3 |
| TasWater | | |
| Mr. Russell Fox | 6 | 7 |
| Mr. Ian Dunbabin (<i>Deputy</i>) | 1 | |
| Director Parks and Wildlife Service | | |
| Mr. Ashley Rushton | 3 | 7 |
| Mr. Mark Pharaoh (<i>Deputy</i>) | 2 | |
| Director Tourism Tasmania | | |
| Mr Tony Mayell (<i>Expired 31/12/2012</i>) | 0 | 3 |
| Dr Claire Ellis (<i>Deputy: expired 31/12/2012</i>) | 1 | |
| Ms Rita Warrener (<i>From 1/1/2013</i>) | 3 | 3 |

* Chairperson paid annual honorarium

** Member paid sitting fee based upon attendance

Appendix 4

Financial Statements 2012 – 2013



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 Postal Address: GPO Box 851, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001
 Phone: 03 6226 0100 | Fax: 03 6226 0199
 Email: admin@audit.tas.gov.au
 Web: www.audit.tas.gov.au

Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Parliament of Tasmania

Wellington Park Management Trust

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2013

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013 and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the chairperson of the Trust.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the Trust's financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended; and
- (b) is in accordance with the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

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

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

...1 of 2

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

Strive | Lead | Excel | To Make a Difference

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

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

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of State Entities but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Tasmanian Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

Tasmanian Audit Office



H M Blake
Auditor-General

HOBART
29 September 2013

...2 of 2

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

Strive | Lead | Excel | To Make a Difference

Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30th June 2013

| | Note | 2012/13 \$ | 2011/12 \$ |
|---|------|------------------|----------------|
| REVENUE | | | |
| Grants - Commonwealth Government | 6 | - | 223,563 |
| Grants - State Government | 6 | 110,000 | 160,000 |
| Grants - Other | 6 | 110,469 | 126,659 |
| Interest | | 21,106 | 24,971 |
| Fines | | 390 | 130 |
| Other | | 4,072 | 7,145 |
| Total Revenue | | 246,037 | 542,468 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Park Administration | | | |
| Advertising | | 1,096 | - |
| Audit Fees | | 4,280 | 4,160 |
| Chairman Honorarium | | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Depreciation | | 151 | 208 |
| Employee Costs | | 110,710 | 125,473 |
| Fringe Benefits Tax | | 2,166 | 3,118 |
| Miscellaneous | | 5,934 | 12,062 |
| Sitting Fees | | 1,700 | 1,900 |
| Stationery | | 3,027 | 3,074 |
| Vehicle Expenses | | 5,796 | 5,294 |
| Cultural Heritage Officer | | 21,344 | 23,710 |
| Fire Management | | 25,180 | 20,573 |
| Regulations Awareness | | 57,982 | 63,422 |
| The Romance of Mount Wellington Book | | - | 245 |
| Mount Wellington DVD | | 830 | - |
| | | 248,196 | 271,239 |
| Management Strategies | | | |
| Cultural Heritage Consultancy | | 1,700 | - |
| Grant Consultancy | | 1,000 | - |
| Management Plan Review | | 11,844 | 95,617 |
| Regional Mountain Bike Masterplan | | - | 19,020 |
| Multi-Day Walk | | 89,018 | 1,502 |
| | | 103,562 | 116,139 |
| Park Management | | | |
| Interpretation | | 2,700 | 1,724 |
| Mount Wellington Book | | 280 | 980 |
| Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund Project | | 30,000 | 12,050 |
| | | 32,980 | 14,754 |
| Total Expenses | | 384,738 | 402,132 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | | (138,701) | 140,336 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - |
| Comprehensive Result | | (138,701) | 140,336 |

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

Statement of Changes In Equity As At 30th June 2013

| | Note | 2012/13 \$ | 2011/12 \$ |
|--------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Balance at beginning of period | | 561,200 | 420,864 |
| Comprehensive Result | | (138,701) | 140,336 |
| Balance at end of period | | 422,499 | 561,200 |

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

Statement of Financial Position As At 30th June 2013

| | Note | 2012/13 \$ | 2011/12 \$ |
|-------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current | | | |
| Cash | 7 | 483,853 | 637,520 |
| Stock on Hand | | 6,160 | 6,440 |
| Receivables | | 4,174 | 28,784 |
| | | 494,187 | 672,744 |
| Non-Current | | | |
| Office Equipment at Cost | | 744 | 744 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | | 459 | 308 |
| | | 285 | 436 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 494,472 | 673,180 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current | | | |
| Employee Benefits | | 13,060 | 21,733 |
| Payables | | 8,979 | 42,967 |
| | | 22,039 | 64,700 |
| Non-Current | | | |
| Employee Benefits | | 49,934 | 47,280 |
| | | 49,934 | 47,280 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 71,973 | 111,980 |
| NET ASSETS | | 422,499 | 561,200 |
| EQUITY | | | |
| Retained Earnings | | 422,499 | 561,200 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | 422,499 | 561,200 |

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

Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30th June 2013

| | Note | 2012/13 \$ | 2011/12 \$ |
|--|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Receipts | | | |
| Grants - Commonwealth Government | | - | 243,563 |
| Grants - State Government | | 110,000 | 165,000 |
| Grants - Other | | 140,847 | 112,636 |
| Interest | | 21,320 | 31,497 |
| Other | | 13,651 | 6,429 |
| | | <u>285,818</u> | <u>559,125</u> |
| Payments | | | |
| Employee Costs | | 262,526 | 295,270 |
| Consultancy Fees | | 99,683 | 57,697 |
| Other | | 77,276 | 53,369 |
| | | <u>439,485</u> | <u>406,336</u> |
| NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | 4 | (153,667) | 152,789 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Proceeds from: | | | |
| Sales of Plant and Equipment | | - | - |
| | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Payments for : | | | |
| Equipment purchases | | - | - |
| | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| NET CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | - | - |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Proceeds from borrowings | | - | - |
| Repayment of borrowings | | - | - |
| NET CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | - | - |
| NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD | | (153,667) | 152,789 |
| Opening Cash Balance | | 637,520 | 484,731 |
| Closing Cash Balance | | <u>483,853</u> | <u>637,520</u> |

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

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

1. OBJECTIVE

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

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

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

The Park was proclaimed under specific legislation due to its complexities in land tenure and ownership. At present, Wellington Park comprises twelve separate parcels of land with classifications and ownership ranging from Crown land, freehold land (held by the two city councils of Hobart and Glenorchy) and land vested in these councils for water supply purposes. TasWater also has a statutory responsibility for bulk water supply to the Greater Hobart area and maintains infrastructure within the Park associated with this role. (Effective 1st July 2013 TasWater took over the water and sewerage services and assets previously operated by TasWater). Electricity and telecommunications suppliers also maintain infrastructure within the Park associated with their role.

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

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

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

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

In the current year, the Trust has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period.

Certain new accounting standards and amendments were available for early adoption but have not been applied by the Trust in the current reporting period. Other new accounting standards and amendments have been issued but are not due to be applied until future accounting periods. The Trust is of the view that these new accounting standards and amendments will have no material impact on the amounts recognised in the financial report.

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

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

b) Revenue

Revenue is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Trust, and the revenue can be reliably measured. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues. In 2012/13 Other Revenue consisted of DVD and Book Sales, Reimbursements, Permits and Licence Fees.

c) Expenses

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

d) Cash

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

e) Stock

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

f) Office Equipment

Office equipment is valued at cost and mainly consists of furniture and computer equipment. This equipment has been estimated to have a useful life of six years, with no residual value at the end of that period. 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, long service leave and sick leave. The provision has been calculated at nominal amounts based on current salary rates.

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 exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

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.

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

| | 2012/13 | 2011/12 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Surplus / (Deficit) | (138,701) | 140,336 |
| Add back Depreciation | 151 | 208 |
| (Increase) / Decrease in Receivables | 24,610 | (20,824) |
| (Increase) / Decrease in Stock | 280 | 980 |
| Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits | (6,019) | 4,728 |
| Increase / (Decrease) in Payables | (33,988) | 27,361 |
| Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities | (153,667) | 152,789 |

5. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TRUST MEMBER AGENCIES

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

6. GRANTS

| | 2012/13 | 2011/12 |
|---|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Grants - Commonwealth Government | | |
| Multi-Day Walk | - | 200,000 |
| BMP Water Holes | - | 17,063 |
| BMP Jefferys Track | - | 6,500 |
| | - | 223,563 |
| Grants - State Government | | |
| Park Administration | 110,000 | 110,000 |
| Management Plan Review | - | 50,000 |
| | 110,000 | 160,000 |
| Grants - Other | | |
| Fire Management Officer | 18,962 | 18,570 |
| Regulations Awareness Officer | 63,928 | 62,614 |
| Landscape Assessment | - | 3,000 |
| Website Development | 6,665 | 6,528 |
| Cultural Heritage Officer | 14,946 | 30,783 |
| Interpretation | 5,968 | 5,164 |
| | 110,469 | 126,659 |

7. RESTRICTED ASSETS

The Trust has received a number of conditional grants. At 30 June 2013, the Trust is required to expend \$316,150 of its cash balance in the manner specified by the terms of these grants. Of this balance \$183,950 relates to the Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund and \$109,480 to the Feasibility Study into a multi-day Recreation Track, with \$24,000 of the Feasibility Study to be retained by the Trust as management fees.

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Financial Risk Management

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

Credit Risk

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

Market Risk

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

An increase in variable rates of 100 basis points at the reporting date would result in a profit and an increase to equity of \$4,838 (2012 \$6,375). A decrease in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would result in a loss and a decrease to equity of \$4,838 (2012 \$6,375). This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2012.

Liquidity Risk

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

b) Net Fair Value

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

9. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

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

10. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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

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 2013 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: 13 August 2013



Wellington Park Management Trust

Telephone: 03 6238 2176

Email: info@wellingtonpark.org.au

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GPO Box 503

Hobart 7001

Tasmania

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www.wellingtonpark.org.au



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.