

Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | 2013 – 2014



The Year at a Glance: 2013–2014

Planning Achievements

- Completion and approval of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* which came into effect on 1 January 2014. The new 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 revised Management Plan was submitted to the Governor for approval following the Trust's consideration of the 264 representations received following exhibition of the draft Plan, and review of the Trust's proposed response to the representations by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.
- Completion of a feasibility study into a multi-day recreation track leading from Hobart to the southwest wilderness (Wellington to Wilderness Concept). The study was undertaken on behalf of the Australian and Tasmanian State Governments, and investigated the potential for a multiple-use walking and recreation track from Hobart to the Tasmania Wilderness World Heritage Area with links to Maydena and Judbury. The economic and market analyses undertaken by consultants TRC Tourism found that the original concept would not be economically viable but recommended that a 30 to 40 km mountain bike track in Wellington Park would be viable, particularly if it was of sufficient standard to achieve 'Epic' status. The Trust is undertaking a more detailed assessment of this recommendation.
- Revision of the Wellington Park Signage Manual. The manual was last revised in 2005 and there was a need to introduce new signs to cover mountain bike riding in the Park and to bring warning signs into line with national standards. The revision was carried out by a working group comprising the Park's management agencies and the Trust.
- Completion of the Mountain Water Supply System Design Guidelines, a joint Trust and Hobart City Council project and prepared as an external consultancy. The design guidelines were a key recommendation of the Mountain Water Supply System Conservation Plan.

New Planning Initiatives

- Preparation of a master plan for the Fern Tree Entry Node area in collaboration with Hobart City Council. Preparation of master plans for all major Park entry areas is recommended in the new Management Plan and Hobart City Council had a need to upgrade and replace facilities and infrastructure in Fern Tree Park. The master plan will cover the Fern Tree Park, Fern Tree Bower and Silver Falls areas. Consultants have been appointed to prepare the master plan.

Personnel

- Michael Easton, who had been the Trust Manager for 15 years, left the Trust at the end of 2013. The Trust's Fire Management Coordinator, Axel von Krusenstierna took over as Acting Manager. The Manager's position was publicly advertised and at the conclusion of the selection process Mr von Krusenstierna was appointed Trust Manager on 24 February 2014.
- The Trust has prepared a suite of employment policies to allow it to employ staff directly, rather than through Hobart City Council's Human Resources system.

Operations

- Repairs and upgrading of Chapel Fire Trail.
- Replacement of wood-fired barbecues at The Springs with gas-fired units.
- A major renovation of the observation shelter at the Pinnacle including a new floor, heated seating, new interpretation panels and installation of coin operated binoculars.
- Installation of chicanes on Radfords Track to reduce the speed of mountain bikes.
- Realignment of the beginners track in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park and repairs to the North South Track.

Community Involvement

- Further development of an engagement framework for communications with the Aboriginal community. This project seeks to ensure ongoing long-term and meaningful engagement with Aboriginal communities and groups, including the investigation of the cultural and spiritual significance of Wellington Park and its natural features.
- Ongoing community involvement in the Regulations Awareness Program and educational activities, including promotional events, interpretation walks and school presentations.
- Planning support and assistance to the Wellington Park Bushcare Group.
- Continued support for the Hobart City Council Bush Adventures Program, 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. It includes representatives of the Park's management agencies as well as TasNetworks, TasWater, the Wellington Park Bushcare Group, and the Tasmania Fire Service.
- Establishment of a Heritage Volunteer Network comprising community members with a keen and active interest in the history and heritage of Wellington Park, but with a focus on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. The formation of such a group was suggested by the now members as a way of sharing information and collectively providing feedback and heritage information to the Trust. The group, which has an interest in historic heritage, has a Coordinator and is currently developing practice guidelines.

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 kunanyi / 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.

TasWater has a statutory responsibility for bulk water supply to the greater metropolitan area and, whilst continuing to maintain infrastructure within the Park, contributes significantly as a land manager to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water catchments. 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 was revised as part of the review of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005*, and incorporated into the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* as:

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

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

Mission

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

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

New name for Mount Wellington – now kunanyi / Mount Wellington

As an outcome of the State Government's Aboriginal Dual Naming Policy, adopted in late 2013, Mount Wellington, along with a small number of other Tasmanian places, has now formally been renamed 'kunanyi / Mount Wellington'. 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.

Trust 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 Bill Harvey (HCC) continued in the role of Deputy Chairperson through the year following his appointment by the Minister in December 2012.

There was one change in the membership of the Trust during 2013-14 with Mr Cam Crawford (General Manager, Strategy and Stakeholder Management) replacing Mr Russell Fox as the representative of TasWater. Mr Fox has been a member of the Trust since 2010, and the Trust sincerely thanks Mr Fox for his contributions and leadership over that time.

Over 2013-14, the Trust consisted of:

<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 Haydyn Nielsen
<i>Representative of Hobart City Council</i>	Alderman Bill Harvey <i>Deputy Chairperson</i>
<i>Representative of Hobart City Council</i>	Alderman Philip Cocker
<i>Representative of TasWater</i>	Mr Russell Fox <i>(resigned 30/11/2013)</i>
	Mr Cam Crawford <i>(observer from 1/12/13, member from 1/7/14)</i>
<i>Nominee of Director Parks and Wildlife Service</i>	Mr Ashley Rushton
<i>Nominee of Director Tourism Tasmania</i>	Ms Rita Warrenner

The full membership and attendance schedule of Trust members throughout the year are provided in Appendices 2 and 3.

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. Except for the Manager, staff work varying degrees of part-time.

During 2013/14 staff in the Office consisted of:

Mr. Michael Easton	<i>Manager till 13 December 2013</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 and Project Officer to 13 December 2013 Acting Manager from 16 December 2013 Manager from 24 February 2014</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.

The Project Officer for the Wellington to Wilderness Concept Multi-day Recreation Track was funded by the Commonwealth 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 Initiatives 2013 – 2014

Fern Tree Entry Node Master Plan

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

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

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

The master plan will address the site's issues and challenges and propose design solutions that will enable the Park to be accessed and enjoyed by its various user groups while maintaining Wellington Park's values. It will guide future development for the next ten years.

'Epic' Mountain Bike Track

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

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

To assist the working group determine a viable route, the Trust engaged consultants Solve Spatial to model potential routes for the track using a GIS model that can plot a route that maintains the grade and other criteria set for the track but avoids constraints such as boggy ground and steep slopes. Initial modelling has been completed and is being evaluated by the working group.

Management and Strategic Planning

New Wellington Park Management Plan 2013

A new Management Plan for Wellington Park was approved by the Governor in December 2013 and came into effect on 1 January 2014. The new Management Plan represents the outcome of an extensive review of the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005*, commenced in late 2010, which involved significant external input both from the community and expert consultants. The public engagement undertaken throughout the review 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 release of a draft Management Plan for nine weeks of public review, in accordance with the processes contained in the Act (refer Annual Report 2012-13).

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 for review on 3 May 2013. The Commission's review role is limited to considering the Trust's response to the representations received on the draft Management Plan. The Commission is not empowered to approve, amend or refuse the draft Plan.

The Commission undertook an independent review of the Trust's proposed responses and reported its findings to the Trust on 4 December 2013. The Commission's report included 12 recommendations for further changes to the draft Management Plan. These were considered by the Trust and some further amendments made to the draft Management Plan in response to the Commission's recommendations. The new Management Plan was approved by His Excellency The Governor on 13 December 2013 and was effective on 1 January 2014.

Wellington to Wilderness Concept Multi-day Recreation Track Feasibility Study

The feasibility study was 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 was 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 (Commonwealth Government).

The project was assisted by a working group that included: 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 had a detailed knowledge of the trails, tracks and attractions along the route.

The feasibility study was carried out in 2 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 economic 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. The final report was completed in November 2013.

The socio-economic analysis by TRC Tourism found that the original concept of a linear, multi-use, track from Hobart to Maydena would not be viable due to the lack of attractions along the route, and the difficulty it would have competing with existing long-distance tracks. The study concluded that it would not deliver a significant net benefits to the Tasmanian community and was therefore not a project worthy of investment.

However the feasibility study did find that 2 other projects within the corridor could be viable:

1. A 30 to 40 km mountain bike track around Mount Wellington built to a standard that could qualify for 'Epic ride' status.
2. A network of mountain bike trails on the Maydena Range and Styx Valley, but only when developed in conjunction with another tourist development that would attract visitors to Maydena.

Of these only the 'Epic ride' would be viable as a stand-alone project. The mountain bike trails on the Maydena Range were considered by the consultant to be insufficient in themselves to attract enough usage to make them financially viable. The Trust is undertaking further detailed assessment of the 'Epic' mountain bike track in Wellington Park (see report under "Major Initiatives").

Wellington Park Signage Manual

As noted in the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013*, the Wellington Park Signage Manual "has guided the establishment of a corporate image for the Trust and the Park." The manual was last revised in 2005 and its revision was recommended in the Management Plan. The revision was carried out by a working group comprising representatives of Glenorchy City Council, Hobart City Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service as well as the Trust Manager and Ranger and completed in July 2014.

The revised Manual includes new mountain bike symbols, a simplified color scheme, new sign templates and guidelines for varying interpretation signs for specific purposes. All the hazard warning and regulatory symbols

have been revised to bring them into line with national standards. The manual also introduced an integrated grading system for walking and mountain bike tracks and new symbols for these gradings.

Commercial Visitor Services

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 and rock climbing tours); and Transport Licences (base level transit operations). The Transport licence class is further divided into two sub-classes: Tourism Transport Services (where the operator offers an interpretive experience and is aimed at the tourism market); and Base Transport Services (where transport only is provided e.g. charter groups). During the financial year the Trust assisted the CVS in a major revision of the licence template.

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 high quality management and delivery of tourism services within the Park, and is supported by the Tourism Industry Council, Tasmania.

As at 30 June 2014, there were 79 businesses licensed to conduct 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). Until the end of 2013 the Trust employed 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. In February 2014 the former Fire Management Co-ordinator was appointed the Trust Manager and has continued to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy from that position.

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, TasNetworks and the Wellington Park Bushcare Group. The MCC provides a forum for information sharing, and allows agencies to plan co-operatively for fire management and operational issues. A summary of the minutes of each MCC meeting is placed on the Trust's website to inform the community of completed and proposed fire management works in the Park.

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

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.

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

Trust on both committees and is currently the chairman of the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee.

The Trust has a policy of closing the Park during periods of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger in the Hobart area. The policy is being implemented by closing Pinnacle Road as required and placing signs on the major entry points to the Park during the fire permit period warning visitors not to enter the Park on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger. There was one Park closure triggered by this policy in January 2014.

Regulations Awareness Program

The Regulations Awareness Program (RAP), now in its twelfth 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 prepares and delivers a range of activities promoting awareness of the Park's values, and compliance with the regulations. The program is devised with guidance and assistance from representatives of 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; disseminating regulatory and educational messages to all users including agency field staff, advocacy groups, community user groups and clubs; maintenance of the Wellington Park website and updating promotional brochures; preparing media articles and radio interviews; attendance at community events; organising Park promotional and educational opportunities; Authorised Officer training and co-ordination; and responding to public enquiries.

Reaching out to young people as fledgling users of the Park is an important focus of the RAP. The Trust continues its support of the Hobart City Council Bush Adventures Program 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 prepared a RAP presentation aimed at Year 10-12 level school and college

students, as well as simplified modules for younger aged school audiences for use both in the classroom and in the field. The presentation has been delivered successfully at a growing number of high schools in the Hobart region in 2013-14, is continually being updated, 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 rationale behind targeting years 10-12 particularly is that at this age young people are 'spreading their wings', developing recreational interests such as mountain biking, and forming groups or joining clubs, and acquiring motor vehicles and licences that allow them the freedom to travel and explore and pursue their interests further afield. It is hoped that by preparing them with good information, issues and impacts can be prevented or minimised.

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

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 Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenorchy Council staff in trialling remote sensing cameras targeting unauthorised vehicle use on closed roads in their management zones. 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; and
- maintenance of communication with Park neighbours to assist with identifying and prosecuting offences.

A large number of cautions were issued in response to first time dog and mountain bike related offences. Offenders who have breached a regulation but satisfied the Ranger that discretion may be exercised are now issued with a Conditional Caution (in effect, a 'cancelled' Prescribed Infringement Notice). 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.

Dog-related offence data from previous years indicated a need for improved information and communication with dog walkers. This was addressed in early 2013 through increased signage, on-ground monitoring, more effective use of the Trust's website, and continued distribution of dog information brochures. There were 7 dog-related offences detected in 2013-14 compared with 16 in 2012-13 and 25 in 2011-12, suggesting a gradual improvement in users' awareness of and compliance with dog regulations.

There were 3 instances of Mountain bike riding detected on walking tracks in 2013-14, down from 5 in 2012-13, all in the Hobart management area. This reduction may be due to the fact that the Trust has actively engaged with the mountain bike riding community to try to reduce illegal riding. 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. The discovery and closing off of two informal mountain biking tracks, while no new riding opportunities have been created within the Park, has the potential to frustrate riders. Maintaining monitoring of tracks and communication with riders thus continues to be vital to maintaining compliance in this area.

Twenty-nine offences relating to unauthorised vehicle use were detected in the Glenorchy and Parks and Wildlife Service management areas (down from forty in 2012-13). Vandalism of barriers to allow access to trailbike, quadbikes and four wheel drive vehicles, continues to be an issue in the Glenorchy area. The Ranger maintains efficient and effective communication with management agencies and the police, all of whom continue to respond swiftly to incidents as resourcing allows.

Instances of vandalism include damage and defacing of Park signs and gates at entry points, and graffiti. All such activity is reported to management agencies for immediate action be it cleaning, repair or replacement.

Over the year, the Ranger spent approximately 546 hrs in the field and recorded a total of 52 offences. Regulatory actions included:

- 15 Informal Cautions
- 3 Conditional Cautions
- 15 events where communication with the offender was not possible
- One Prescribed Infringement Notice.

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 have arisen. As an outcome of the State Government's Aboriginal Dual Naming Policy in late 2013, Mount Wellington, along with a small number of other Tasmanian places, has now formally been renamed 'kunanyi / Mount Wellington'. 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 provides for the Indigenous naming of geographic features and places that don't already have a European name, and of already named areas and features, with the Indigenous name in tandem with the European name. 'kunanyi' was submitted by the TAC as the Palawa kani name for Mount Wellington.

The Trust is also pursuing development of a 'Framework for Aboriginal Heritage Management for the Park'. This initiative aims to provide a more pro-active and participatory approach to the management of Aboriginal values. It also 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 – as well as the importance of Aboriginal consultation. The initial stage involving an in-house review of past and existing Aboriginal management and exploring potential issues, opportunities and approaches to both management and

development of the framework is now complete, and it is anticipated that 2014-15 will see substantive Aboriginal community and Aboriginal heritage organisation consultation, which is stage 2 of the development of the framework.

Historic Heritage

Major heritage projects which were progressed in 2013-14 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, a joint Trust and Hobart City Council Project and prepared as an external consultancy, were completed in late 2013. The Guidelines aim 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, and were a key recommendation of the Mountain Water Supply System Conservation Plan.

The Historic Tracks and Huts Project is aimed at achieve a better understanding of this important recreation heritage on kunanyi / Mount Wellington to achieve better heritage conservation management and interpretation of this heritage. This is a significant heritage project in that these historic tracks and huts form around 65% of the known historic heritage on the Mountain, and a number of these have State-level significance, while some tracks (and suites of tracks) and huts have national-level significance. The project, which commenced in 2011, is still to be completed although all the detailed site documentation is now completed and public comment on a final draft report has been received and analysed. Due to a need for more consultation around some key management issues, the project will now be completed in 2 stages, initially as a heritage assessment, and following further agency and community consultation, as two conservation management plans – one for the historic track network and one for the suite of historic huts.

Given the coordinating role of the Trust, engagement with the land management agencies and the community has continued to be a core component of the heritage program. As part of this role:

- The Trust has continued to facilitate the Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group to ensure a co-ordinated and strategic approach to the management of the System. Membership of the group currently includes representatives from the Trust, Hobart City Council, TasWater and Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania.
- A 'Heritage Volunteer Network' comprising Hobartians with a keen and active interest in the history and heritage of kunanyi / Mount Wellington was established in May 2014. The formation of such a group was suggested by the now members, with the aim of members sharing information and collectively providing feedback and heritage information to the Trust. The group, which has an interest in historic heritage, has a Coordinator and is currently developing practice guidelines.
- 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. Areas in which advice has been provided includes sympathetic visitor facilities at the Springs; scoping for the Fern Tree Entry Node master planning; and the management of bicycle use in the Park.

The Cultural Heritage Coordinator has also provided heritage advice to the Trust in relation to a number of use and development matters, including in relation to Project Proposal Forms (and more recently Park Activity Assessments). Matters on which heritage advice has been provided include:

- the proposed development at The Springs;
- clean up of slash (under power lines) at The Springs;
- a proposal for a private commercial Aboriginal cultural tour in the Park; and
- the introduction and management of bicycle use on recreational tracks in the Park.

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 has commenced and it is anticipated that this will result in an updated, and much more reliable Historic Heritage GIS layer. This is a major project as it will incorporate the considerable body of new information arising from all the heritage assessment projects undertaken since c.2007, as well as data provided from accidental finds, site inspections and from the Heritage Volunteer Network.

Water Quality and Catchments

Management of the Park's vital drinking water catchments remained a priority for the Trust in the 2013-14 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 (back up 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 and revised in 2009, continues to guide strategic and on-ground actions undertaken by TasWater and other relevant agencies. The strategy provides strategic and on-ground recommendations to ensure the future best practice management of the drinking water catchments, and to ensure that supplies of high quality drinking water harvested from Wellington Park can be sustained for the long-term benefit of the community.

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

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

- monitoring of landslip zones on the Pipeline Track;
- participation in the development of design guidelines for the Mountain Water Supply System;
- water asset maintenance;
- removal of pampas grass around the Knights Creek Reservoir; and
- continued delivery of education programs; catchment condition inspections; and water quality monitoring.

The Regulatory Awareness Program has continued to play a vital role in educating the public and other Wellington Park users about which activities are permissible in the various drinking water catchment areas. The Program 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 improve facilities at The Springs. The Trust and Hobart City Council had previously provided the permits for the development of a visitor centre, restaurant, modular education room and public facilities at The Springs. The planning permit had been extended to May 2014 but could not be extended further.

In March 2014 Sultan Holdings, the holder of the planning permit, was offered a State government grant of \$500,000 to assist with public infrastructure works associated with the visitor centre project. However, on 14 April 2014 Sultan Holdings advised the Trust and Hobart City Council that it would not proceed with the project.

Subsequently, the Trust, with the support of Hobart City Council, resolved to revise the master plan for The Springs to incorporate changes in the Management Plan and ensure development of facilities at The Springs complements developments at other visitor nodes such as Fern Tree Park and the pinnacle. A draft scoping document for this has been prepared as a basis for preparation of a consultants brief.

The *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* considers that: "The Springs remains the most appropriate location for a visitor centre and should be the focal point for visitor services and facilities; this approach reflects the current policy position of the Hobart City Council, which seeks to develop visitor facilities and services at The Springs before considering major developments elsewhere in the Park." Hobart City Council has recently reaffirmed this policy position.

Hobart City Council, with the support of the Trust is planning a range of interim measures to improve visitor facilities at The Springs. These include a new access toilet, refurbishment of existing facilities, improved seating and space for a mobile food and drink outlet. New gas-fired barbeques have already been installed. Council will also undertake an expression of interest process for the operation of a coffee van at The Springs.

Pinnacle Specific Area

The *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* provides that commercial uses and developments may be considered in The Springs and Pinnacle Specific Areas in relation to:

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

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

At its meeting on 7 July 2014 the Trust resolved to initiate the process to revise the Management Plan to include the additional area requested by the MWCC within the PSA. This process is set out in the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and commenced in August 2014.

Project Approvals

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

The Trust approved the following project proposals within the Park over the year:

- Repairs and upgrading of Chapel Fire Trail.
- Replacement of wood-fired barbecues at The Springs with gas-fired units.
- A major renovation of the observation shelter at the Pinnacle including a new floor, heated seating, new interpretation panels and installation of coin operated binoculars.
- Installation of chicanes on Radfords Track to reduce the speed of mountain bikes.
- Realignment of the beginner track and repairs to the North South Track in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

The Trust did not refuse any applications received in 2013–14 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, has continued the implementation of the Walking Track Strategy, endorsed by the Trust in June 2003.

The revised signage manual introduced an integrated grading system for walking and mountain bike tracks that follows the system used on the greater Hobart Trails website.

A new edition of the Wellington Park Recreation Map was released by Tasmaps in early 2014 incorporating edits and additions supplied by the Trust. The Trust also reprinted (with minor updates and corrections) its popular Bushwalking Information Sheet. This is available on the Wellington Park website, and the Trust's information stands in Service Tasmania, the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre, and the Ferntree Tavern.

Bike Riding

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

The Trust has facilitated and subsequently endorsed the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan (2011). The aim of the plan is to create a regional network of bike trails and infrastructure in the south of the State. The Trust participates in a working group overseeing the implementation of the master plan, and is represented by the Ranger at the Implementation Committee's quarterly meetings. The Trust also currently assists management

agencies in developing responses to the master plan's recommendations.

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

In conjunction with this, Hobart City Council is assessing the impacts (including social impacts) of converting Old Farm Track from shared use (walking and mountain biking) to single use (mountain bike only).

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.

Four Wheel Driving

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

The Park's recreational vehicle permit system is managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service under delegated authority, 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 Trail was open to recreational vehicles from December 2013 to June 2014. Over the year, thirty-one permits were issued for a total of one hundred and three vehicles (including one Charity event involving fifty vehicles). Five permits were for interstate vehicle groups, with the remainder being issued to Tasmanian users, including one commercial tour. 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 kunanyi / Mountain Wellington and to a lesser extent at the Lost World on Mount Arthur. Climbing is usually undertaken on an individual basis, however loose affiliations remain from the Climber's Club of Tasmania and licences have been issued to allow commercial climbing and abseiling tours within the Park.

Interpretation

The Trust continues to encourage interpretive activities through Hobart City Council's Bush Adventures Program. The Ranger 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, the Ranger will continue to develop interesting activities and opportunities in the Hobart and Glenorchy management areas to raise community awareness of Wellington Park's unique values.

Marketing and Promotion

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

The 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.

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.

The Trust's Ranger has also continued educating the community about Park values by liaising with Park users on-ground and via radio, print and electronic media. Community education has also been initiated through the ongoing community involvement in the RAP and through the Wellington Park Wildlife program, 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 and TasNetworks own and maintain electricity transmission lines that run through the Park. Section 27(1) of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* stipulates:

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

The *Wellington Park Management Plan 2013* 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).

During 2013-14 Glenorchy City Council undertook an upgrade of a section of the North South Track as well as a beginner level track in the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.

Fire Management

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 2013-14, subject to weather conditions. These included; 4 burns in the Glenorchy management area; one in the Hobart management area; and 2 on land adjoining the Park. The Tasmania Fire Service, with the assistance of Glenorchy City Council completed 2 burns (WP15 and 20) in December 2013. The remainder are awaiting suitable weather.

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 Trail and the East-West Trail remain substandard and require further upgrading when funds become available. Glenorchy City Council carried out upgrades of Merton and Knights Creek fire trails, and Hobart City Council completed maintenance of all the fire trails and firebreaks in its section of the Park. Glenorchy City Council has replaced many of the signs on the fire trails on Goat Hills with new signs that accord with the revised signage manual for 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. Damage to gates has been an on-going problem with the gates at the western end of the East West Trail needing replacement and the one on Priest Fire Trail at the Park boundary requiring repair.

Weed Management

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

The main focus for weed control continues to be the Glenorchy Council management area, with substantial improvements being made in the last year particularly the treatment of infestations of Spanish heath in the Merton area and on Goat Hills and removal of scattered *Pinus radiata* saplings. Initial removal of mature gorse blackberry and cotoneaster in the Inglewood Road area is nearly complete and the focus has shifted to controlling seedlings in the treated areas. TasWater has removed pampas grass growing around the Knights Creek Reservoir

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

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

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 and Spanish heath on Goat Hills and the Merton area.

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.

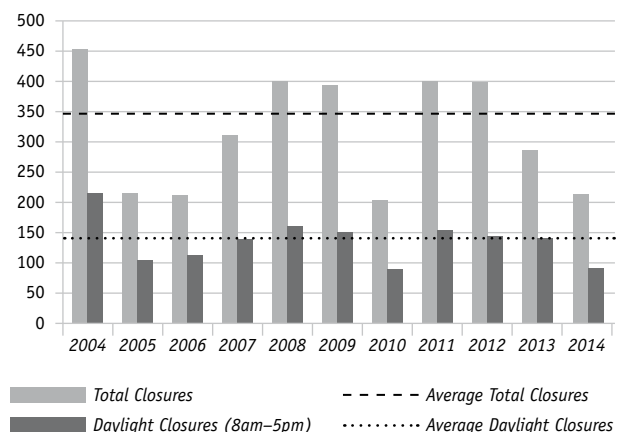
The Snow Management Strategy aims to provide a workable compromise between the needs of management agencies to have the Road open as quickly and as safely as possible, and the desires of the community to access snow play areas.

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 message sign (on Huon Road); and media announcements. Hobart 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 2013 - 30 June 2014, there were 31 days (28 in 2012-13) when Pinnacle road was closed for a period of greater than one hour, including five occasions (5 in 2012-13) when it was closed for an entire day. Closures amounted to a total of 121 daylight hours (8am-5pm) (100 in 2012-13) or 291 hrs (278.5 in 2012-13) if including overnight periods.

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

Closures (by year): 2004–2014



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 2014, there were 79 commercial operators licensed to provide 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 Parks and Wildlife Service.

Over the year, the Trust issued; 10 permits for scientific research (one for fauna research and 9 for flora research); 5 permits for miscellaneous activities e.g. events; nine permits for commercial filming activities; and 38 permits for recreational activities (including 31 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 2013-14, the *Wellington Park Act 1993* was administered by the Honourable Brian Wightman, Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage until the State Government elections in March 2014, and then by the Honourable Matthew Groom, Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, 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 Bill Harvey (HCC) continued in the role of Deputy Chairperson through the year following his appointment by the Minister in December 2012.

There was one change in the membership of the Trust during 2013-14 with Mr Cam Crawford (General Manager, Strategy and Stakeholder Management) replacing Mr Russell Fox as the representative of TasWater. 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 other staff, was a member of the following external committees: Commercial Visitor Services steering committee; Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park Association Inc.; and the steering committee for the Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan. The Manager chaired the Hobart Fire Management Area Committee and the steering committee for the Wellington to Wilderness Concept Multi-day Track Feasibility Study.

The Manager also facilitated various internal reference groups including: Walking Track Working Group; Regulations Awareness Program steering committee; Management Advisory Committee; Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee; Mountain Water Supply Heritage Working Group, and the Signage Manual 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. The Trust is developing an MoU with TasNetworks to provide for mutual cooperation in the management of TasNetworks assets within the Park

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 Program 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

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.

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

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)

The interrelationship between the Wellington Park Act 1993 and LUPAA was formalised in 2003. This included a requirement that any application for a LUPAA permit in the Park must be accompanied by the written permission of the Trust to lodge the application (s 52A). In December 2013 Parliament approved an amendment of s 52A to remove the requirement for any application for a LUPAA permit to have the written permission of the Trust.

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 2013 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 Program Steering Committee; Signage Manual Working Group 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 a part-time Cultural Heritage Co-ordinator (based at the Hobart City Council) and a Ranger (based at the Parks and Wildlife Service). The Trust also employed a Fire Management Coordinator till the end of 2013. The former Fire Management Coordinator is now the Manager and is currently filling both roles.

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 (MoU) 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 MoUs with TasWater, Hobart City Council and the Parks and Wildlife Service expired on 30 June 2014. The MoU with TasWater has been renewed and new MoUs with Hobart City Council and the Parks and Wildlife Service are being negotiated.

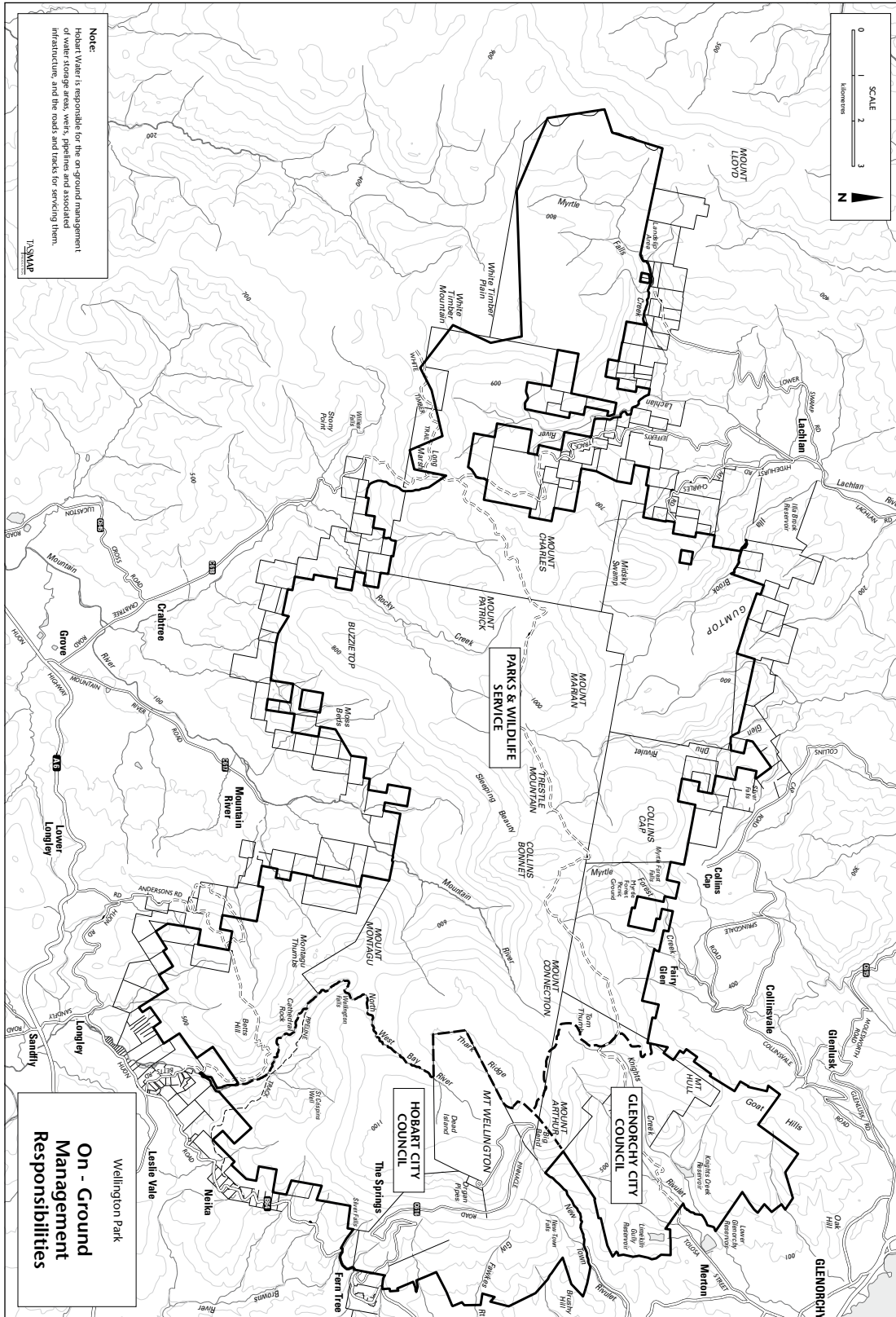
The Hobart City Council supplies considerable administrative, technical and operational support, with the bulk of Office staff being based on its premises, whilst the Parks and Wildlife Service provides similar support to the Ranger. The Glenorchy City Council supplies technical support for the Trust's 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 the *Audit Act 2008*.

Appendix 1

Wellington Park – On Ground Management Areas



Appendix 2

Membership of the Wellington Park Management Trust

1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014

MEMBER	DEPUTY
Chairperson Dr. Christine Mucha	Alderman Bill Harvey
Director-General of Lands Dr. John Whittington Deputy Secretary (Acting Secretary from April 2014) <i>(Nominee of Director-General of Lands)</i>	Ms. Penny Wells General Manager Resource Management and Conservation <i>(Expired 30/6/2014)</i>
Glenorchy City Council Alderman Haydyn Nielsen <i>(Nominee of Glenorchy City Council)</i>	Mr. Greg French Manager Environment and Development Services
Hobart City Council Alderman Bill Harvey <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	None nominated
Alderman Phillip Cocker <i>(Nominee of Hobart City Council)</i>	None nominated
TasWater Mr. Russell Fox Executive Manager Asset and Service Strategy <i>(Resigned 30/11/2013)</i>	Mr. Ian Dunbabin Executive Manager Service Delivery <i>(Resigned 30/11/2013)</i>
Mr Cam Crawford General Manager, Strategy and Stakeholder Management <i>(From 1/7/2014)</i>	Mr Lance Stapleton Executive Manager Service Delivery <i>(From 1/7/2014)</i>
Director Parks and Wildlife Service Mr. Ashley Rushton Regional Manager South <i>(Nominee of Director Parks and Wildlife Service)</i>	Mr. Mark Pharaoh Parks and Reserves Manager, Southern Region
Director Tourism Tasmania Ms Rita Warrener Regional Tourism Coordinator – South + Product and Planning <i>(Nominee of Director Tourism Tasmania)</i>	Ms Gill Parssey Manager, Tourism Product and Planning

Note: Terms of members are for three years, and are configured to ensure that appointments are carried out in blocks every 18 months. There was a delay in the confirmation of the appointment of Mr Cam Crawford and Mr Lance Stapleton as TasWater nominees and the appointments did not take effect till 1/7/14. Up till that time Mr Crawford attended meetings as an observer.

Appendix 3

Attendance Record

1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014

<i>MEMBER</i>	<i>Meetings Attended</i>	<i>Scheduled Meetings During Membership</i>
Chairperson		
Dr Christine Mucha *	6	6
Director-General of Lands		
Dr John Whittington	5	6
Ms Penny Wells (<i>Deputy</i>)	0	
Glenorchy City Council		
Alderman Haydyn Nielsen **	4	6
Mr Greg French (<i>Deputy</i>)	2	
Hobart City Council		
Ald Bill Harvey **	6	6
Ald Philip Cocker **	5	6
Southern Water		
Mr Russell Fox (<i>resigned 30/11/13</i>)	2	2
Mr Cam Crawford (<i>from 1/12/13</i>)	3	4
Mr Lance Stapleton (<i>Deputy from 1/12/13</i>)	0	
Mr Ian Dunbabin (<i>Deputy, resigned 30/11/13</i>)	0	
Director Parks and Wildlife Service		
Mr Ashley Rushton	3	6
Mr Mark Pharaoh (<i>Deputy</i>)	3	
Director Tourism Tasmania		
Ms Rita Warrener	6	6
Ms Gill Parssey (<i>Deputy</i>)	0	

* Chairperson paid an annual honorarium

** Member paid a sitting fee based upon attendance

Appendix 4

Financial Statements 2013 – 2014



Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Tasmanian Parliament

Wellington Park Management Trust

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2014

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014 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 of compliance by the Chairperson.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the Trust's financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 30 June 2014, and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

The Responsibility of the Chairperson for the Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, I considered internal control relevant to the Chairperson's 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 Chairperson, 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
- 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
23 September 2014

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Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30th June 2014

	Note	2013/14 \$	2012/13 \$
REVENUE			
Grants - Commonwealth Government	6	-	-
Grants - State Government	6	110,000	110,000
Grants - Other	6	146,514	110,469
Interest		12,023	21,106
Fines		510	390
Other		8,994	4,072
Total Revenue		278,041	246,037
EXPENSES			
Park Administration			
Advertising		2,253	1,096
Audit Fees		5,990	4,280
Chairman Honorarium		8,000	8,000
Depreciation		126	151
Employee Costs		69,344	110,710
Fringe Benefits Tax		5,828	2,166
Miscellaneous		15,422	5,934
Sitting Fees		1,382	1,700
Stationery		3,115	3,027
Vehicle Expenses		5,439	5,796
Cultural Heritage Officer		23,445	21,344
Fire Management		29,720	25,180
Regulations Awareness		53,484	57,982
The Romance of Mount Wellington Book		-	-
Mount Wellington DVD		127	830
		223,675	248,196
Management Strategies			
Cultural Heritage Consultancy		-	1,700
Grant Consultancy		-	1,000
Management Plan Review		35	11,844
Fern Tree Master Plan		2,365	-
Multi-Day Walk		62,628	89,018
		65,028	103,562
Park Management			
Interpretation		5,080	2,700
Mount Wellington Book		(670)	280
Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund Project		107,000	30,000
		111,410	32,980
Total Expenses		400,113	384,738
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		(122,072)	(138,701)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Comprehensive Result		(122,072)	(138,701)

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

Statement of Changes In Equity As At 30th June 2014

	Note	2013/14 \$	2012/13 \$
Balance at beginning of period		422,499	561,200
Comprehensive Result		(122,072)	(138,701)
Balance at end of period		300,427	422,499

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

Statement of Financial Position As At 30th June 2014

	Note	2013/14 \$	2012/13 \$
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash	7	312,671	483,853
Stock on Hand		6,930	6,160
Receivables		842	4,174
		<u>320,443</u>	<u>494,187</u>
Non-Current			
Office Equipment at Cost		476	744
Less Accumulated Depreciation		317	459
		<u>159</u>	<u>285</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		320,602	494,472
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Employee Benefits		3,682	13,060
Payables		9,518	8,979
		<u>13,200</u>	<u>22,039</u>
Non-Current			
Employee Benefits		6,975	49,934
		<u>6,975</u>	<u>49,934</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		20,175	71,973
NET ASSETS		300,427	422,499
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		300,427	422,499
TOTAL EQUITY		300,427	422,499

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

Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30th June 2014

	Note	2013/14 \$	2012/13 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Grants - Commonwealth Government		-	-
Grants - State Government		110,000	110,000
Grants - Other		154,695	140,847
Interest		12,598	21,320
Other		26,580	13,651
		<u>303,873</u>	<u>285,818</u>
Payments			
Employee and Contracted Services Costs		311,951	362,209
Other	4	163,104	77,276
		<u>475,055</u>	<u>439,485</u>
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	4	(171,182)	153,667
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		(171,182)	(153,667)
Opening Cash Balance		483,853	637,520
Closing Cash Balance		<u>312,671</u>	<u>483,853</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 2014

1. OBJECTIVE

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

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

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

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

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

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

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

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

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 2013/14 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

	2013/14	2012/13
	\$	\$
Surplus / (Deficit)	(122,072)	(138,701)
Add back Depreciation	126	151
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	3,332	24,610
(Increase) / Decrease in Stock	(770)	280
Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits	(52,337)	(6,019)
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	539	(33,988)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	(171,182)	(153,667)

In 2013/14 there has been a significant decrease in the Trust's provision for Employee Benefits. The majority of this change is associated with the resignation, during the year, of the person who was previously employed in the role of Manager - Wellington Park Management Trust.

In 2013/14 the Trust contributed a payment of \$104,000 to the Hobart City Council towards the Twin Bridges Pipeline Track Project. This is reflected in an increase in the Trust's Cash Flows associated with Payments to Others which has increased from \$77,276 in 2012/13 to \$163,104 in 2013/14.

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

	2013/14 \$	2012/13 \$
Grants - Commonwealth Government		
Multi-Day Walk	-	-
Grants - State Government		
Park Administration	110,000	110,000
	<u>110,000</u>	<u>110,000</u>
Grants - Other		
Fire Management Officer	19,131	18,962
Regulations Awareness Officer	64,504	63,928
Website Development	6,726	6,665
Cultural Heritage Officer	25,130	14,946
Interpretation	6,023	5,968
Springs Master Plan	15,000	-
Fern Tree Master Plan	10,000	-
	<u>146,514</u>	<u>110,469</u>

7. RESTRICTED ASSETS

The Trust has received a number of conditional grants. At 30 June 2014, the Trust is required to expend \$151,883 of its cash balance in the manner specified by the terms of these grants. Of this balance \$76,950 relates to the Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund the grant for which was originally received in 2009/10 and \$22,852 to the Feasibility Study into a multi-day Recreation Track for which funding was initially provided in 2011/12.

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 \$3,126 (2013 \$4,838). A decrease in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would result in a loss and a decrease to equity of \$3,126 (2013 \$4,838). This analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis for 2013.

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 2014 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: 15 August 2014



Vision

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

Mission

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

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

Cover image: Junction Cabin, Wellington Park