

TNPA NEWS

Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc.

Newsletter No 1 Summer 2003

NATIONAL PARKS OR THEME PARKS?

Robin Gray believed damming the Franklin River was the right thing to do for Tasmania in the 1980's. Jim Bacon believes building tourism accommodation developments inside our national parks is the right thing for Tasmania now.

Those who fought to save the Franklin did so on environmental grounds but could clearly see that it was also in Tasmania's best interest for the sustainable long term development of our tourism industry. They have been proven right and all of us, and all future Tasmanian's and visitors to our state, will be forever in their debt.

The Tasmanian National Parks Association opposes commercial tourism developments inside our national parks on environmental grounds, but believes it is also again clearly in Tasmania's best interests for the sustainable long term development of our tourism industry.

National parks are areas set aside for nature conservation. They are set aside specifically to preclude human interference and destruction of the natural environment. They are set-aside as areas where nature and our native wildlife have priority. They are set aside specifically to preclude such things as commercial tourism developments like the one currently proposed for Pumphouse Point.

Have we lost sight of what our national parks are for if we set them aside as national parks, but then allow all the things like buildings, roads, infrastructure, heavy traffic etc we set aside to preclude, to happen anyway.

Tourists aren't interested in coming to Tasmania to visit pseudo national parks or theme parks, they want to visit, see and experience real national parks. Please let us not destroy that experience for the benefit of a tiny minority. Our national parks are a vital part of what makes Tasmania attractive to visitors and they have a vital role to play in helping to provide the visitor to the State with a happy satisfying and enjoyable experience. A woman from the Czech Republic said to me not long ago while standing on the shore of Lake St Clair "This is the most beautiful lake I have ever seen". She then added while shaking her head with obvious sadness, "In Europe it would have buildings all around it".

We have already set fantastic precedents here in Tasmania, building our developments and infrastructure outside our national parks, both at Strahan and Cradle Valley. Let us continue to follow this very successful formula. Not only will this protect the integrity of our national parks, it will ensure the sustainable long term development of our tourism industry and the benefits and jobs that all Tasmanian's, present and future, have the right to share in.

Robin Gray believed the development of hydro electricity power stations, at the cost of our natural environment, was best for Tasmania.

He was wrong.

Jim Bacon believes building commercial tourism developments in our National Parks, at the cost of our natural environment, is best for Tasmania.

He is wrong.



Since this letter was published in *The Mercury*, 30 December 2002, I have received an incredible and overwhelming response, mostly local of course, but some even from interstate. I certainly never realised how widely 'letters to the editor' were read and discussed.

I would like to thank everyone for the fantastic support we have received. It is very much appreciated and it is very reassuring to know we have so much. In fact I have even stopped lying awake at night wondering if I was going insane because something that just seemed so incredibly

obvious wasn't so to everybody else. Well, I certainly know that is not the case anymore!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a bit more about our opposition to developments such as Pumphouse Point but firstly I would just like to point out that the TNPA, like all other National Parks Associations around Australia, is made up of pretty normal 'middle of the road people' people who simply share a love of our wonderful national parks and as a group hopefully have some input into how they're run.

In a free and democratic society it is not only healthy but also essential that we have interest or lobby groups that are totally independent of Government and the TNPA has been formed to be specifically that, a vehicle for the people, to have an input into how our national parks are managed.

We believe the over-riding primary purpose of national parks is nature conservation; in fact surely that's a 'given' in anybody's language.

We also believe that our national parks belong to everybody, they are not the Government's to give away.

Aims of the Tasmanian National Park Association:

- To preserve the natural and cultural values of National Parks.
- To maintain conservation as a primary role of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- To secure the reservation of suitable areas as National Parks.
- To encourage community involvement in National Park Management.
- To promote effective legislation for our National Parks.
- To increase community awareness of the value and importance of National Parks.

Greg Wood
TNPA spokesperson

► We also strongly believe that no one should be locked out of any part of any of our national parks, especially some of the most beautiful and accessible locations, because they've been locked away for the exclusive use of only a tiny minority who have the wealth to afford it. Unlike Visitor Centres run by our Parks & wildlife Service that are there to enhance the visitor experience of the majority, Pumphouse point and similar developments will degrade the visitor experience of the majority for the benefit of a minority.

Pumphouse Point sets a precedent, in this day and age and where no previous commercial development operated before it became a national park, of giving over a part of one of our magnificent national parks to a commercial developer to build an enormous development with all the devastating associated impacts for the sole use of a privileged few. Sure, the developer will argue that the public will all be welcome to visit and use parts of this new development and public access will not be restricted, but we all know what the reality will be.

To the few who keep repeating that it's a 'degraded site' we wonder why, if it's such a 'degraded site', would anyone want to spend millions of dollars building a development there?

The truth of the matter is that Pumphouse Point is one of the most stunningly beautiful sites in the World Heritage Area and an area alive with wildlife. One can watch platypus swim underneath and our endangered Wedgetail Eagle fly overhead, it abounds with small mammals and reptiles and the bird and aquatic life is as rich, if not richer, as anywhere in the World Heritage Area.

So far I have not heard one mention of what will happen to this plethora of wildlife. Perhaps they don't care, we do.

We believe this is what national parks are for.

Greg Wood

What's been going on in the last year for the TNPA?

Hello there TNPA member and other interested parties. We welcome you to the organisation and thank you for your support. Here is a newsletter to fill you in on our progress to date. In future we hope to release a newsletter on a quarterly basis. The Tasmanian National Park Association was officially launched in September 2001. Since then we have been a voice for Parks on a range of issues, most recently concerning the increasing focus on tourism within our National Parks at the expense of the conservation values inherent in the National Park system.

A lot has been going on since September 2001 but the following provides some snippets for you in a rough chronological order.

We were fortunate to gain a twelve month grant from the Conservation Alliance (see story to come) which enabled us to receive the first installment of \$3500 in March last year. Using the funds provided by the Conservation Alliance we are

able to campaign more effectively and generally become a stronger voice within the Tasmanian Community.

TNPA member Robert Campbell was elected to the Bushwalking and Track Review Committee, who advise the Environment Minister on track management issues relating to National Parks. TNPA representatives have also met with our previous Environment Minister David Llewelyn.

The TNPA spokesperson Greg Wood attended the Over Land Track seminar in May 2002. He also attended the 'With Every Step' seminar hosted by the National Parks Advisory Council. The overwhelming message that Greg received at seminars was one of conservation concerns within our National Parks.

We have had introductory meetings with a number of government agencies and nature based organisations, developed our own web site (www.tnpa.asn.au) and set up an administrative office and contacts (email admin@tnpa.asn.au)

We also held our first AGM followed by a public meeting attending by around 30 people to discuss issues impacting on Tasmania's National Parks.

The biggest issue by far was that of the recent amalgamation of Parks and Wildlife with the Tourism Department. It is now separated from Nature Conservation at DPIWE (Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment) where Parks & Wildlife had previously been. Many of the people employed by these departments had been unable to speak publicly about the issue and Greg received a lot of communication regarding this. These concerns were raised at a meeting with Jeff Kelly from the Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts. People were appreciative that the TNPA could be a voice for their concerns.

TNPA member and wilderness photographer Chris Bell was instrumental in helping Parks and Wildlife decide not to build a communications tower on Mount Olympus, which would have been a huge visual scar to the Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park. Thank you Chris!

In October 2002 the TNPA decided to use some of its funds to employ Jacqui Fletcher and Heather Kirkpatrick on a part-time basis as campaigners. This has already shown what a difference it makes having people working away on issues every week. A huge thank you to all those who have carried the organisation through before then, whilst working full-time, having babies, building houses etc.

Submissions by the TNPA have been made opposing developments on a proposed car park at Dove Lake at Cradle Mountain, and the more recent proposed development at Pumphouse Point in the Lake St. Clair National Park and World Heritage Area.

The Pumphouse Point campaign is consuming most of our time and we are trying to encourage the developer Michael Doherty to site his development just outside the National Park. Spokesperson Greg Wood and Tasmanian Premier Jim Bacon recently discussed this issue of developments within National Parks with Tim Cox on ABC radio. This is our big campaign focus this summer. With Planter Beach, Pumphouse Point and Maria Island developments all in the pipeline it is keeping us very busy.

We are also building momentum on our campaign; 'National

Parks for Nature Conservation. Retaining the values of National Parks by supporting accommodation developments outside their boundaries'.

DON'T MISS

the Hobart Town Hall Public Meeting
on Friday 31st January 12.30-1.30pm

National Parks for Nature Conservation
Retaining the values of National Parks by supporting
accommodation developments outside their boundaries.

This is our first big public event for 2003 and we need 300 people to fill the Town Hall. So spread the word and if you can help on the day or beforehand please contact us via phone or email.

Please advise us if you have any email contact lists that we could send details of this meeting to.

Feel welcome to come along to any of our meetings. You should begin to receive notice of regular meetings via our email network but in the meantime let us know you're interested and we will be in touch.

Have a great summer!

Heather Kirkpatrick

Jacqui Fletcher (campaigners)

P.S. Check out our new website! <http://www.tnpa.asn.au>

Success in protecting the summit of Mount Olympus from an imposing communicating tower

Last year, members of TNPA were alerted to a proposed 'communications facility' on the highly visible summit of Mt. Olympus, lying within Cradle Mountain – Lake St. Clair National Park. Alarm bells started ringing! Further investigation revealed the 'facility' included a 2.4 metre-square shed - similar to the highly visible building on the summit of Mount King William 1. There had been little community consultation.

The rationale for the proposed facility on Mt Olympus is to gain further communications coverage in the southern end of the park in times of fire and Search and Rescue. Whilst TNPA obviously has no problems per se with this logic, the fact remains that the mechanism that has worked admirably in the past (setting up temporary relay bases in times of emergency) has also had no impact on the wilderness/natural values of our

landscapes. This is what TNPA suggests is more appropriate for our wilderness areas.

A delegation of TNPA members including Chris Bell recently met with the General Manager of Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service expressing our opposition to this facility which will only degrade this mountain/wilderness landscape. Parks and Wildlife re-assessed the priority of the proposed facility in light of public opposition and have decided not to build it. Well done Chris and the TNPA!

High time for walking track quotas in the Western Arthurs

I had the pleasure of spending the 2001-2002 summer working as a Track Ranger in the Western Arthur Range. The scenery is amongst the best in the state without doubt. The experience of being there is very powerful. The wild scenes that nature has created are absolutely amazing. Hanging lakes, serrated ridges and precipitous cliffs greet you constantly along the traverse of the range.

On a daily basis however I was constantly reminded of the fact that this place was being loved to death. Increasing numbers of feet are causing erosion, track widening and braiding. I found group sizes up to sixteen out there, and one group had even chosen to camp in a fenced off rehabilitation zone, destroying years of vegetation recovery. They justified their presence by the crowded campsites, saying there was nowhere else to go! Around 20% of walkers carried no toilet trowel and many were misinformed or under-skilled about the seriousness of the trip.

Yes the word is definitely out! The Western Arthurs is well known and increasing numbers of walkers are visiting. I believe that the bottom line is that this fragile alpine environment simply cannot sustain it. Having seen the range some years previous, I was absolutely horrified at the accelerated signs of human impact.

I believe that campaigning for restricted numbers of people via the introduction of a permit-quota system for Tasmania's more sensitive areas, ought to be a high priority for the

Thank you

The TNPA gratefully acknowledges the support of The Conservation Alliance Inc.



www.conservation-alliance.org.au

Thank you also to Conservation Volunteers Australia for their kind support in making their offices available for monthly meetings.

Tasmanian National Parks Association. My experiences support that the greater majority of people want to preserve the values of such a place, and do support limitations on numbers overall and also group size.

A permit/quota system would allow some form of contact to be made with every walker heading into a sensitive area. Parks and Wildlife could ensure they have Minimum Impact Bushwalking knowledge, and also specific local management issues. I met a Queensland

Park Ranger who explained that Permits are given for Lamington, Hinchinbrook and Carnarvon Gorge National Parks corresponding to no more than the number of tent sites at a given area (track management factors also considered here).

Permits make not only sense in terms of environmental sustainability but potentially economically as well. Many mainland and overseas visitors were surprised at how low the Parks fees were, and would be prepared to pay more, if they knew the money went back into Parks. Fees per night could be increased, even if we have an exemption, or reduced fees for residents as is the example in Queensland.

Let's work on this issue so future generations will have something to feel proud of.

Heather Kirkpatrick

TNPA requests re-siting of Doherty's Pumphouse Point proposal outside WHA/ national park

The TNPA encourages Michael Doherty to site his sixty bed accommodation development outside the Cradle-Lake St Clair National Park and have recommended three alternative sites in the Lake St Clair area for his proposal (presently planned for Pumphouse Point on the southern shores of Lake St Clair). Michael has done this with his recent Cradle Valley development, and proposed St Helens development and we congratulate him on this. Michael ought to do the same here! Cradle Valley, Coles Bay and Strahan are all great examples of how development outside National Parks are a success, in fact the key to success, leaving National Parks for nature conservation!!

Apart from the fact that we are firmly opposed to developments such as this within National Parks, we have also found a number of issues with the plans that were submitted to the Central Highlands Council. The key issues include:

- The vertical scale on the plan was only half of what its true height should be.
- There is no westerly elevation shown of the development which is the direction that 95% of visitors to the area would see it from. The easterly elevation shown in the plans would only be seen by a few fly fishermen wading around the Lake St Clair Lagoon.

- The proposed gateway might give the public the impression that they are approaching private land instead of a National Park.
- Access to the flume would be restricted, a popular platypus viewing and wildlife viewing area.
- The 100 seat boat that Doherty intends to operate on Lake St Clair. The 100 seat boat would be a large visual scar on the lake, and also add to the impact at the mouth of the Narcissus River that is being caused by the present 40 seat boat.

The proposed site of development Pumphouse Point is not only within National Park boundaries but the World Heritage Area. The universally significant values that had this area included in the WHA were its glacially formed sand dunes, moorlands and wetlands, plus a rich concentration of wildlife including two threatened species the wedge tailed eagle and the swift parrot.

Please write/ send a fax or letter to Michael Doherty ASAP and ask him to please re-site his proposal outside the National Park boundaries, as it is vital that we keep Parks for nature conservation.

Michael Doherty
PO Box 413, Launceston
Tasmania 7250
Fax: (03) 6334 8696

Please also send a copy to Premier Jim Bacon who is now Minister responsible for Parks and Wildlife:

Premier Jim Bacon
GPO Box 123, Hobart Tas 7001
Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au
Fax: (03) 6234 1572

PS. Letters tend to be more effective than email.

For more information contact: Greg Wood

TNPA Spokesperson on 0408 127 809

We successfully received a Conservation Alliance grant

We gratefully received a grant of \$3500 from the Conservation Alliance back on March 2002 which has enabled the TNPA to really move along as an organisation. We look forward to receiving another \$3500 from the \$7000 in total approved, six months down the track. We have included some background information here on the Conservation Alliance.

The Conservation Alliance is a non-profit environmental organisation with a membership consisting of companies in the outdoor industry which derive more than fifty per cent on their income from self-propelled adventure activities and which are committed to supporting the protection of the environment.

The Conservation Alliance solicits worthwhile projects by maintaining a network of independent advisors who can provide it with information on innovative and worthwhile projects being carried out in Australia, New Zealand or elsewhere in the Asia Pacific region.

Each company commits itself to contributing 0.1 percent of its turnover to a fund to support environmental projects, with a minimum donation of \$1,000 and a maximum donation of \$10,000.

The funds are used to assist projects which meet the objectives of the Conservation Alliance which are:

- To support campaigns, projects and organisations working for the protection or proper management of natural resources and environment within Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region.
- To ensure the protection of wilderness, natural areas, and biodiversity from threatening processes.
- To ensure the good management of natural areas to maintain their environmental values and opportunities for low impact self-reliant activities.

Members of the Conservation Alliance include:

<i>One Planet</i>	<i>Black Wolf</i>
<i>INOVS</i>	<i>MacPac Wilderness Equipment</i>
<i>Main Peak</i>	<i>Perception Kayaks Australia</i>
<i>REI</i>	<i>Snowgum</i>
<i>Wilderness Photo</i>	<i>Wild Horizons/Polaris</i>
<i>Wild Publications</i>	<i>WL Gore and Associates (Goretex)</i>

The Conservation Alliance is also supported by *Outdoor Australia Magazine*.

TNPA Membership

If you know anyone who would like to become a member of the TNPA here is the membership form. We will be doing a big membership push this summer so please spread the word.

Have your say... join up with the TNPA!

- ☐ New membership
☐ Renewal

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Membership Fees

- ☐ Waged \$40
☐ Unwaged \$20
☐ Family \$60

All donations gratefully accepted



Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc

ALERT! Imminent developments in Tasmanian National Parks and World Heritage area

Article for March edition of *Wild Magazine*

Tasmanian National Parks are under threat of accommodation developments inside not only national park boundaries but also the World Heritage Area. A swift move was made by the Bacon Labor Government immediately post its re-election when it removed the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Division from the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) and placed it under the Tourism Department, with the Nature Conservation Branch remaining at DPIWE. This has caused great concern within the community.

Currently Tasmanian National Parks are being targeted as areas for exclusive tourism developments. A proposal for Planters Beach in the South West National Park has been given approval. The development of eighty cabins, a tavern, and spa baths in the sand dunes, extends the road which currently finishes at Cockle Creek a further 800m into the Park. Despite strong opposition from both the Aboriginal Community and the conservation movement the Planning Tribunal gave it the go ahead and the WHA Management Plan was specifically altered to allow this! The developer is yet to begin works on the ground and meanwhile the campaign continues...

The latest development (that has Council approval, but awaiting Ministerial approval) intends to use the stunningly beautiful Pumphouse Point site on the southern shores of Lake St Clair, within both the Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park and World Heritage Area boundaries. Developer Michael Doherty intends to build a sixty bedroom accommodation complex, bistro bar, restaurant and boat jetty for the 100 seat boat he intends to motor on Lake St Clair

The development site has precious glacially formed sand dunes, moorland and wetland habitats as well as threatened (Tasmania's own Wedge Tail Eagle and the Swift Parrot) and newly discovered species in the area. Again, this approval contradicts the World Heritage Area Management Plan objectives.

As a supporter of the values of wilderness, you can make a difference. Please encourage our premier to say no to the Pumphouse point development, and other developments within National Parks. Please encourage the developer Doherty to re-site outside the National Park, an option he is considering. Please write/ fax to:

Premier Jim Bacon
GPO Box 123,
Hobart 7001
Fax (03) 62 341 572
Ph(03) 6233 3464

Michael Doherty
PO Box 413,
Launceston.Tas 7250
Fax (03) 6334 8696
Phone(03) 6334 8867

Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Bushwalking and Track Review

Tasmanian National Parks, which includes the Tasmanian World Heritage Area (WHA) are renowned internationally for the opportunities they provide for world class bushwalking experiences. As a long established use, bushwalking is an important part of many Tasmanian's lifestyles and heritage and is an important component of the WHA. As managers of the WHA, the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) is charged with balancing recreation with its obligation to identify, protect, conserve and rehabilitate the WHA's natural, cultural and other values.

Concerns over the sustainability of bushwalking in the WHA emerged over a decade ago. The impact of bushwalking in a small proportion of the WHA, particularly at high altitudes, has negatively affected some of the area's internationally significant values, such as aesthetic naturalness and vegetation of Gondwanian origin.

The need to manage the impacts of bushwalking led to the PWS to develop the Walking Track Management Strategy in 1994. The strategy has resulted in remedial work on a number of tracks in National Parks and established a track monitoring program. The strategy also recommended the introduction of a permit system to monitor and, where necessary, regulate use. This mechanism was opposed by Tasmanian walking organisations and many others due to concerns over cost, effectiveness and the imposition it posed on walker's traditional freedoms.

To address these concerns, in 1999 the Government established the Track Assessment Group which was given the task of developing a solution to the environmental impact problem that was workable, cost effective, environmentally effective and was supported by walkers. After seeking public input, the TAG delivered their final report, *A way through the wilderness: An approach for a socially, environmentally and economically acceptable solution to problems of environmental degradation in the Tasmanian World Heritage Area*, in January 2001. This report recommended the adoption of a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) approach to the management of tracks in the WHA.

The LAC concept, developed in the US, is based on the realisation that all recreation use has some impact on the

environment in which it takes place. Even low levels of recreation cause some impact. The core question then, is not what level of recreation is appropriate, but rather what amount of impact is to be accepted. Based on this premise, the LAC process aims to develop a plan that allows managers to determine how much recreational impact a particular area can tolerate; then changing the management approach in an area once impact levels have reached a pre-determined limit of acceptable change.

With the acceptance of the recommendation of the TAG report, the PWS has initiated a LAC-based Bushwalking and Track Review (BATR). To assist the PWS in the conduct of the BATR process, a panel of stakeholder representatives was formed and met for the first time during March 2002. The TNPA was successful in nominating to fill the conservation member position on this panel. Stakeholder involvement is vital to ensuring an open and transparent process and to this end individuals are encouraged to comment on draft reports which will be made available to the public and to attend the Open Forums that will be conducted during the review.

The BATR process is being undertaken in two stages; firstly, a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) framing process, and secondly, the assessment of specific priority areas. For this second stage, two priority areas have been identified for initial examination - the Western Arthurs and the Franklands. The first stage - the development of vision of the variety of overnight walking opportunities that are to be provided and managed within the WHA - was undertaken during 2002 and will provide the context within which the reviews of the priority areas will be considered.

The document Overnight Bushwalking Opportunities in the Tasmanian Wilderness, which was compiled as part of the first stage of the BATR process, is available from Service Tasmania for the nominal cost of \$5.50. It can also be obtained as a free download on the Internet via logging onto the PWS website at www.parks.tas.gov.au and following the links to "Services and Management" / "Bushwalking and Track Review (BATR)"

With the completion of the first stage, the BATR panel will undertake the review of the two priority areas during 2003. This will be a critical phase, as the panel will need to review and, where appropriate, recommend alternative management actions that will be required to prevent the continued and longer-term degradation of the bushwalking tracks within Tasmania's National Parks. I envisage a vigorous debate on all topics including acceptable track conditions through to the possible need for permits and quotas where Limits of Acceptable Change have been or may be exceeded in the future.

For those wishing to know more about the BATR process, and who would like to provide input into the process, are encouraged to contact Robert Campbell (ph. 6229 1839 or email Robert.Campbell@csiro.au). Also, please pass on this message to any others who you think may be interested.



Mission Statement of the Tasmanian National Park Association:

To preserve and expand Tasmanian National Parks, and to ensure appropriate management of their natural and cultural values.

A quote from Gustav Weindorfer:

When Gustav Weindorfer first climbed to the summit of Cradle Mountain in 1910, he proclaimed 'This must be a national park for the people for all time...'

Visit Tasmania's magnificent National Parks and have the best of both worlds!?

Here in Tasmania we allow developers to build accommodation, restaurants, conference facilities or whatever right inside our National Parks. That's right, you can enjoy Tasmania's outstanding natural features in our World famous National Parks and find restaurants and accommodation wherever you go.

You might not see much wildlife and it may be a bit busy and noisy
but you can sleep in a comfortable bed and find a restaurant
right in the middle of the wilderness!

You see here in Tasmania we've solved what you may think
is a contradiction in terms, we still *call* them National Parks but we *allow*
developments to go ahead inside them anyway.

It's easy... we're not stupid in Tasmania!

So enjoy the best of both worlds here in beautiful unspoilt Tasmania!

P.S. Don't Believe what people tell you we definitely got rid of all those pesky Tigers.



President's message

After returning from the Pyrenees on the Spanish/French border recently I am more than ever convinced that we need to be vigilant in Tasmania in ensuring the island does not end up as degraded as elsewhere in our world – such as the Pyrenees. The amount of unfettered ski development – to name one activity in the Pyrenees – has to be seen to be believed; there are no controls on the infrastructure being allowed and the industry has severely degraded what was otherwise a wild landscape. We have been fortunate enough in Tasmania that we haven't suffered from the inappropriate and destructive developments that have altered forever the face of Europe. The ugly face of development, however, is no longer being confined to 'elsewhere' but is arriving on Tasmania's doorstep and our parks need all the support they can get. The planned tourist resort at Pumphouse Point (together

with its associated 70-seat capacity launch), proposed resorts at Fortescue Bay, Maria Island and Cockle Creek and totally inappropriate residential developments at Lake Lea should be enough to forewarn us of the face of the future.

Our opposition to the proposed tourist developments is not about being 'against everything' but rather is about us being astute enough to visualise what COLLECTIVELY all these intrusions – however benign in some instances – will mean for our state in 15 years time.

And it is not always developers that need restraining: the new 60-bed hut at Pelion in Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair NP is a case in point. Leaving aside the issue of controlling the ever-increasing numbers through this World Heritage park and the questionable building of more huts, the siting and size of Pelion hut – and the associated infrastructure (helipad, fuel drums, extra tent platforms! etc) is land management at its worst. The brief of any national parks service concerning any infrastructure within any national park should be MINIMAL disturbance to the naturalness of the land – something completely ignored this time by the parks service. TNPA needs to be vigilant in ensuring all private development remain OUTSIDE our parks, and that all tourist developments elsewhere are in keeping with maintaining the natural integrity of what remains of the natural world.

Tasmanian National Parks Association Inc contact details:

Postal address: GPO Box 2188, Hobart Tasmania 7001

Email: admin@tnpa.asn.au

Website: www.tnpa.asn.au

Chris Bell